

## **National Park Service Proposes New Limits on Snowmobile Entry into Yellowstone National Park**

On November 13, the Office of Advocacy (Advocacy) filed comments with the National Park Service regarding its proposed rule on winter visitation and recreational snowmobile use in Yellowstone National Park. A complete copy of Advocacy's comments may be accessed at: [www.sba.gov/advo](http://www.sba.gov/advo).

- On November 5, 2008, the National Park Service published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) revising its daily snowmobile entry limits for Yellowstone National Park. The proposed rule sets the daily limits for snowmobile entry into Yellowstone at 318 entries per day for the 2008-2011 winter seasons.
- Due to a recent court decision vacating the Park Service's previous daily entry limit of 540 snowmobiles, no snowmobiles will be allowed entry into the park this winter unless the Park Service finalizes a regulation with a lower limit prior to the start of the 2008-2009 winter season.
- Advocacy commended the Park Service for acting quickly to ensure that small businesses operating snowmobile tours in Yellowstone will be granted continued access to the park during the upcoming winter season. Advocacy expressed concerns that the new limit is lower than the previous year and will have a significant negative impact on small snowmobile tour operators.
- Because of the significant costs associated with decreasing the limit from 540 to 318 daily snowmobile entries, Advocacy urged the Park Service to refrain from implementing the proposed entry limits beyond the 2008-2009 season and consider more alternatives before finalizing rules that would apply to later seasons.

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