

Sylvan Pass Study Group Agreement
June 3, 2008 – 3:30 p.m.

The Sylvan Pass Study Group recommends to the Intermountain Regional Director of the National Park Service that the November 2007 Record of Decision on Winter Use in Yellowstone National Park be amended to keep Sylvan Pass open in future winter use seasons to motorized and non-motorized oversnow travel between December 22 and March 1. The group recommends continued use of a combination of avalanche mitigation techniques, including forecasting and helicopter and howitzer dispensed explosives.

This recommendation to operate within a defined core season will reduce risk, improve safety, and maximize visitor access.

The Sylvan Pass Study group reached agreement based on the following guiding principles:

- 1) That the safety of visitors, guides and National Park Service employees is the first priority in any avalanche mitigation operation on Sylvan Pass.
- 2) That snowmobile and snowcoach motorized oversnow winter use access should be as regular and predictable as possible given weather constraints.
- 3) That regular communications between Yellowstone National Park, the city of Cody, Park County, the state of Wyoming and the Cody community is a key ingredient of any future winter operations on Sylvan Pass.

The city of Cody, Park County, and the state of Wyoming agree, in good faith, to work cooperatively to explore funding of safety and access improvements.

The members of the Sylvan Pass Study group agree to establish consistent ongoing communications regarding Sylvan Pass winter use operations.

The National Park Service agrees to make funding for safety and access improvements on Sylvan Pass a priority.

Suzanne Lewis, Yellowstone National Park
John Sacklin, Yellowstone National Park
Pat Childers, Wyoming Legislature
Colin Simpson, Wyoming Legislature
Tim French, Park County
Roger Sedam, City of Cody
Jenni Rosencranse, City of Cody
Mark Toft, State of Wyoming
Rick Frost, Facilitator
Carl Moore, Facilitator