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PSC WAITING FOR COST INFORMATION ABOUT ADDING  
GARDINER & WEST YELLOWSTONE TO BOZEMAN LOCAL CALLING AREA

The state Public Service Commission has received more than 100 letters from residents of the Yellowstone Park and Bozeman areas concerning whether or not to add Gardiner, West Yellowstone and the Yellowstone Park area to the Bozeman/Livingston local calling region.

"The commission is aware of the high level of interest in this matter and is working to have a final decision early this summer," according to PSC chairman Dave Fisher. "We will continue to make every effort to inform the public of future proceedings and to provide ample opportunity for public participation."

In January the PSC gave US West Communications 90 days to determine what it would cost and what affected customers' telephone rates would be under three different options: 1) preserving the existing Yellowstone expanded local calling region; 2) returning the exchanges within the Yellowstone region to their previous calling arrangement; or 3) combining the Yellowstone region with the Bozeman/Livingston expanded local calling region. US West has until April 15 to file the requested cost information.

Upon receipt of that information, the PSC will analyze it in order to determine whether or not the current calling arrangement in the Yellowstone region should be changed in any way or terminated. If the costs are not prohibitive, the calling areas may be combined and calls from the Yellowstone Park area, Gardiner and West Yellowstone to Livingston and Bozeman would then be local.

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