

## Project Title: GYRITS – Automated Vehicle Identification System

### Objective:

To test an automated vehicle identification system at two entrances of Yellowstone National Park, and evaluate its effectiveness in reducing motorist delays at the gates.

### Background:

Currently, all vehicles entering YNP must stop at an entrance station. If the motorist is an employee, the attendant checks for the appropriate sticker on the vehicle windshield and then allows the employee to pass. If the motorists are tourists, the attendant sells an entrance pass and provides them with information regarding safety, facility availability and attractions. The goal of this project is to reduce the wait time for employees and other pass holders, and also to increase the amount of time entrance staff can spend advising tourists.



### Project Components:

System Installation -- Motorists using the AVI system will attach an electronic tag to their vehicle. When they approach the entrance, they will be directed to a designated AVI lane, where an antenna will read the identification number on the tag. The computer at the entrance station will access the account for that tag and authorize entrance. If cleared, the driver will receive a signal to proceed.

In the first phase of implementation, YNP will test this system at the North Entrance, near Gardiner, Montana, and the Northeast Entrance, near Cooke City, Montana. The first group to receive the electronic tags will be permanent YNP employees.

Evaluation -- WTI measured pre-installation delay times last summer. This summer, WTI will measure post-installation delay times and conduct user interviews.

Future Expansions – There are tentative plans for expanding the system to the West Entrance near West Yellowstone. Additionally the AVI users may be expanded to include vendors and annual pass holders.

### Project Partners:

US Federal Highway Administration, Montana Department of Transportation, US Department of the Interior (Yellowstone National Park)

