National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glacier National Park
International Peace Park
Biosphere Reserve
World Heritage Site

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Glacier National Park Information Sheet

2009 Citizen Science Projects

High Country Citizen Science: Monitoring Mountain Goats, Clark's Nutcrackers, and Pikas in Glacier National Park

Concern is growing about wildlife in Glacier National Park's alpine and subalpine areas. High county habitats are highly vulnerable to impacts from climate change and invasions of insects and plant diseases. Mountain goat and pika population declines have been documented in areas outside of Glacier. Whitebark pine, a primary food source for Clark's Nutcrackers, is declining range wide and is clinging to existence in Glacier. Yet, little is known about the status of each of these wildlife species in Glacier. Citizen scientists provide information on the abundance and distribution of mountain goats, pikas and Clark's Nutcrackers in Glacier's backcountry. Contact: Jami_Belt@nps.gov .

Citizen Science: Monitoring Non- native Invasive Plants in Glacier National Park's Backcountry

A major threat to native plant communities in Glacier National Park is the invasion of non-native plants. This problem is particularly disturbing when the intrusion occurs in the backcountry. Citizen scientists learn to identify five non- native species and how to map their locations while hiking on park trails. Contact: Melissa_Sladek@nps.gov .

Citizen Science: Monitoring Common Loons in Glacier National Park

Glacier National Park harbors about 20 percent of Montana's breeding Common Loons, a Montana Species of Concern. Since 2005, citizen scientists in Glacier have conducted over 1,000 surveys on 88 of Glacier's lakes and have documented new information regarding chick mortality, nest site locations, and hatch and migration dates. In 2009, the program focuses on loon citizen scientists who are returning to the program from previous years. Contact: Melissa_Peterson@partner.nps.gov .

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