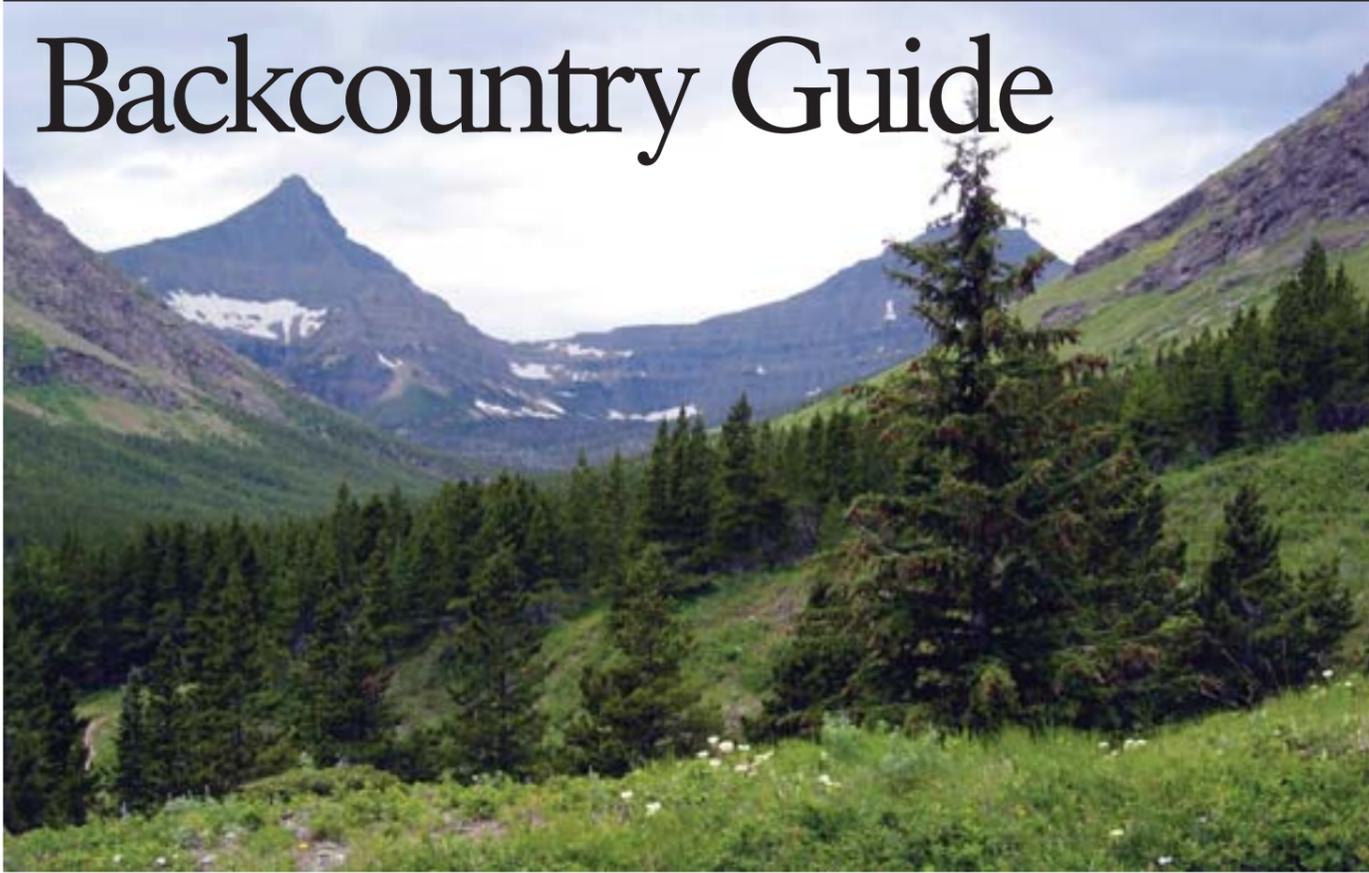




Backcountry Guide



New Application Procedures
See Page 6 for Details.



photos by David Restivo

Dramatic vistas and delicate beauty combine to make Glacier's backcountry a hiker's paradise. clockwise from the top left Flinch Peak, beargrass, between Dawson and Pitamakan Passes, No Name Lake Campground

Glacier's Backcountry

GLACIER REPRESENTS THE CORE OF A VAST TRACT of wildlands often referred to as the “crown of the continent.” More than 95% of Glacier’s 1,013,000-plus acres is proposed for inclusion in the national Wilderness Preservation System. It is the policy of the National Park Service to manage proposed wilderness areas in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964 in order to protect wilderness values and characteristics until such time as Congress acts.

The fundamental tenets of the Wilderness Act most visible to backcountry visitors include:

- *Prohibition of motorized equipment and mechanized transport, including bicycles and canoe carts, in the backcountry (except during emergencies or to meet the minimum requirements for the administration of the area).*
- *Retention of the land’s primeval character and influence without permanent improvements (except for those authorized NPS administrative facilities essential to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area and its historic structures).*

During the summer camping season (May 1 to November 20), most backcountry travelers using Glacier’s extensive trail system are required to camp in designated backcountry campgrounds. This policy is validated by recreation ecology research that indicates widespread resource impacts can be minimized in popular areas by concentrating use in designated sites.

You will find little evidence of human impacts or development in Glacier’s pristine, off-trail areas. These vast areas offer greater solitude and challenge, but are extremely rugged, with greater inherent risks and infrequent ranger patrols. While off-trail hiking may be permissible, it is recommended only for very experienced, skilled backcountry travelers.

Glacier’s backcountry has grown in popularity over the years, resulting in cumulative impacts upon the park’s sensitive natural resources. High levels of backcountry use are typically concentrated in July and August, heightening the need for visitor stewardship and sound backcountry management practices.



photos by Joe Manley and Brad Blickhan

To help plan your trip into Glacier’s backcountry visit www.nps.gov/glac/activities/bcguide1.htm for additional information.

On the Trail

SETTING OUT

Check that you have all your gear. Take a moment to read trailhead signs. They contain important information.

Allow plenty of time for your trip. Consider distance, elevation, weight carried, physical condition, weather, and hours of daylight remaining. Early morning starts are recommended. Snow covers some trails well into July, so be prepared to do some route finding. Set a pace that all party members can handle.

PRACTICE GOOD STEWARDSHIP

Help minimize impacts to fragile soil and vegetation. Stay on the trail and hike single file. Do not walk off-trail when the tread is muddy. Wear gaiters if mud is deep. Shortcutting switchbacks is destructive and illegal. Pick up litter found along the way. Select resilient areas such as rocks or snow for rest breaks and other stops.

For sanitation along the trail where toilets are not available, carry a trowel and bury feces in a cathole, 6-8" deep in organic soil, at least 200 ft. from water. Fill and disguise hole and pack out paper. Urinate on durable surfaces that will not be damaged by animals digging for salts and minerals found in urine.

Horses have the right-of-way. If you meet riders, step off trail, on the downhill side, and stand quietly until they pass.

AT CAMP

Campgrounds have tent sites, pit toilets, food hanging or storage devices, and food preparation areas. Tents must be pitched within designated tent sites. Do not pitch tents on undisturbed vegetation, dig or trench around a tent, or pound nails in trees.



Hikers in a field of glacier lilies



photo by Joe Manley

Remember! Your's may not be the only footprints you see along the trail.

Fires are allowed in some campgrounds. If permitted, build fires only in designated pits. Collect only dead and down wood. Keep fires small and completely within fire pits. Be sure the fire is out cold before you leave. You may burn paper refuse at sites where fires are allowed, but do not burn plastic, foil, or food.

Properly store all food, cookware, toiletries, and garbage using the designated food storage device. A rope at least 25 feet long is required. Store other gear in your tent. Cook and eat only in the designated food preparation area. Avoid odorous foods and plan meals so there are no leftovers. Never cook or eat in your tent. Do not wash yourself, clothes, or dishes directly in a lake or stream. Strain food scraps from gray water and pack them out with your garbage. Scatter the gray water at least 100 feet from camp, lakes, and streams so that it will filter into the soil. Use biodegradable soap, if any. Pack out all garbage. Do not throw garbage or food scraps in the pit toilets; doing so may attract bears, and shortens the useful life of the pit toilet.

Please be considerate of others and keep noise or loud conversation to a minimum.

Deer, goats, porcupines, and other animals are attracted by sweat and urine. They can destroy vegetation, campsites, clothes, boots, and camping gear in search of salt and other sweaty gear. Urinate only in the pit toilets. When pit toilets are unavailable, urinate on rocks, gravel, or snow to prevent digging by animals. Some campgrounds have been abused in the past, and efforts have been made to restore them. Please use only established trails and avoid revegetated areas or blocked social trails to aid in recovery.

Plan Ahead

Proper planning and preparation is the key to a successful trip. Read the detailed information in this publication. Carefully consider daily distances and elevation changes (both up and down). Make sure that the degree of difficulty of your itinerary is compatible with all members of your party. As a general rule, carrying a heavy pack for more than 10 miles and a 2,500 foot elevation change would constitute an extremely rigorous day.

We are unable to provide detailed trip planning services over the phone. It is your responsibility to plan and prepare your outing. Hiking and camping guidebooks and topographic maps are available for reference at Visitor Centers and Ranger Stations. They are also available for purchase through Glacier Natural History Association's in-park bookstores, by mail order (see back page), and at many outdoor retail stores.



Indian paintbrush

Backpacking and Bears

Hiking in Bear Country

Don't Surprise Bears! Bears will usually move out of the way if they hear people approaching, so make noise. Most bells are not enough. Calling out and clapping hands loudly at regular intervals are better ways to make your presence known. Hiking quietly endangers you, the bear, and other hikers.

A bear constantly surprised by quiet hikers may become habituated to close human contact and less likely to avoid people. This sets up a dangerous situation for both visitors and bears.



Grizzly bear

Don't Make Assumptions! You can't predict when and where bears might be encountered. Don't assume you don't have to make noise on a well-used trail. Some of the most frequently used trails in the park are surrounded by excellent bear habitat. People have been charged and injured by bears fleeing from silent hikers who surprised them along the trail. Even if other hikers haven't seen bears recently, don't assume that bears aren't there.

Don't assume a bear's hearing is any better than your own. Some trail conditions make it hard for bears to see, hear, or smell approaching hikers. Be particularly careful by streams, against the wind, or in dense vegetation. A blind corner or a rise in the trail also requires special attention.

Don't Approach Bears! Bears spend a lot of time eating, so avoid hiking in obvious feeding areas like berry patches, cow parsnip thickets, or fields of glacier lilies. Keep children close by. Hike in groups and avoid hiking early in the morning, late in the day, or after dark.

Never intentionally get close to a bear. Individual bears have their own personal space requirements which vary depending on their mood. Each will react differently and its behavior can't be predicted. All bears are dangerous and should be respected equally.

If You Encounter a Bear

What do you do if you run into a bear? There is no easy answer. Like people, bears react differently to each situation. The best thing you can do is to follow all the suggestions for hiking and camping in bear country. Avoid encounters by being alert and making noise.

Bears may appear tolerant of people and then attack without warning. A bear's body language can help determine its mood. In general, bears show agitation by swaying their heads, huffing, and clacking their teeth. Lowered head and laid-back ears also indicate aggression. Bears may stand on their hind legs or approach to get a better view, but these actions are not necessarily signs of aggression. The bear may not have identified you as a person and is unable to smell or hear you from a distance.

Most bear attacks are defensive reactions and occur because people surprise bears. If you surprise a bear here are a few guidelines that may help.

- Talk quietly; the time to make loud noise is before you encounter a bear. Try to detour around the bear if possible.
- Do not run! Back away slowly, but stop if it seems to agitate the bear.
- Assume a nonthreatening posture. Turn sideways, or bend at the knees to appear smaller.
- Use peripheral vision. Bears may interpret direct eye contact as threatening.

- Keep your pack on for protection in case of an attack.
- If a bear attacks and you have pepper spray, use it!
- If the bear makes contact, protect your chest and abdomen by falling to the ground on your stomach, or assuming a fetal position to reduce the severity of an attack. Cover the back of your neck with your hands. Do not move until you are certain the bear has left.

In rare cases predatory attacks by bears may occur.

These encounters can be very serious because it often means the bear is looking for food and preying on you. If a bear stalks you and then attacks, or if a bear attacks at night, you need to react differently than in a defensive attack.

- Don't play dead! Try to escape, preferably to a building, car, or up a tree.
- If you cannot escape, or if the bear follows, use pepper spray, or shout and try to intimidate the bear with a branch or rock.
- Fight back! Do whatever it takes to let the bear know you are not easy prey.

Backcountry Hazards

Accept the Risks

Risk is inherent with backcountry travel in Glacier and there is no guarantee for your safety. Significant hazards that you may have to contend with include stream and river crossings, steep snowfields, precipitous cliffs and ledges, unstable sedimentary rock, dangerous wildlife, and ever-changing weather, including sudden snowstorms and lightning.

While the National Park Service is renowned for its search-and-rescue capabilities, these services are often hours, if not days, away. The following factors commonly result in backcountry emergencies in Glacier:

- Failure to plan ahead and prepare
- Solo backcountry travel
- Inadequate footwear, clothing, or equipment
- Lack of skill or fitness level for type of terrain or outing
- Impaired or poor judgment, sometimes induced by fatigue, exhaustion, or hypothermia
- Unsafe behavior in bear country
- Failure to let family and/or friends know of your specific plans or route

SNOW & WATER HAZARDS

Trail status reports are available online at www.nps.gov/glac/activities/trails.htm and at Backcountry Permit issuing stations. This report notes current snow and water hazards, and the schedule of bridge installation throughout the park. The most significant snow and water hazards are noted on the map on pages 4 and 5, at permit issuing stations, and on newer *Trails Illustrated/National Geographic Topographic Map of Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Park*.

WATER TREATMENT

The protozoan *Giardia lamblia* may be present in lakes and streams. When ingested, their reproductive cysts may cause an intestinal disorder that appears weeks after your trip. The easiest method of effective water treatment is to boil water for one minute (up to three minutes at higher elevations) or use a filter capable of removing particles as small as 1 micron.

HYPOTHERMIA

Be prepared for sudden weather changes. Cool, wet, and windy conditions can cause hypothermia. Hypothermia is a progressive lowering of the body's core temperature causing physical collapse and diminished mental capacity. Prevent hypothermia by using rain gear before you become wet. Minimize wind exposure and if your clothes become wet, replace them with dry ones. Avoid sweating in cold weather by dressing in layers, rather than a single bulky garment. On warm sunny days watch for signs of heat exhaustion. Stay well-hydrated in all conditions.

SOLO TRAVEL

Solo travel in the backcountry is not recommended. The best insurance for a safe and enjoyable trip rests with your ability to exercise good judgment, avoid unnecessary risks, and assume responsibility for your own safety while visiting Glacier's backcountry.

Trip Essentials

The following items should be carried on every trip into Glacier's backcountry.

- Topographic maps
- Compass
- First Aid Kit
- Enough food (low-odor)
- Tent
- Sleeping bag and pad
- Appropriate footwear
- Appropriate clothing (layering concept is best)
- Rain jacket and pants
- Lightweight campshoes
- A weatherproof food & garbage hanging bag
- 25 feet of rope for hanging food and garbage
- Mesh or small strainer (for removing food scraps from gray water)
- Water container and water purifier, filter and/or treatment tablets
- Lightweight campstove and adequate fuel
- Emergency signalling device
- Insect repellent
- Trowel for human waste disposal



Several trails in the park require stream crossings

Stock Use

Horses, mules, burros, and llamas are permitted on most of Glacier's trails, but are prohibited off trail. Most of Glacier's backcountry campgrounds are open for stock use. Grazing is prohibited. Feed (hay cubes, oats, pellets, sweet feed, etc.) must be packed in, securely stored, and certified as weed-seed free. Spilled or leftover feed must be cleaned up and packed out. Obtain the *Private Stock Use* handout for more details.

Backpacking and Bears

Pepper Spray

This aerosol pepper derivative triggers temporarily incapacitating discomfort in bears. It is a non-toxic and non-lethal means of deterring bears.

There have been cases where pepper spray apparently repelled aggressive or attacking bears and accounts where it has not worked as well as expected. Factors influencing effectiveness include distance, wind, rainy weather, temperature extremes, and product shelf life.

If you decide to carry spray, use it only in situations where aggressive bear behavior justifies its use. Pepper spray is intended to be sprayed into the face of an oncoming bear. It is not intended to act as a repellent. Do not spray gear or around camp with pepper spray.

Under no circumstances should pepper spray create a false sense of security or serve as a substitute for standard safety precautions in bear country.

Be aware that you may not be able to cross the U.S./Canada border with some brands of pepper spray. Canadian Customs will allow the importations of USEPA-approved bear spray into Canada. Specifications state that the bear spray must have USEPA on the label.

Feminine Hygiene and Bears

Stay clean, but avoid scented soaps, deodorants, and cosmetics. Although evidence is inconclusive, sexual activity or a woman's menstrual period may attract bears. Many women have traveled into Glacier's backcountry safely, during their menstrual cycle, by keeping themselves as clean and odor-free as possible. The premise is to keep a clean camp. Used feminine products should never be thrown into the backcountry pit toilets!

Many women fill a heavy duty Ziploc bag with some baking soda, put used feminine products inside, and then put that bag inside one or two more heavy duty Ziploc bags. Never keep this bag inside your tent and always hang it with food, garbage, and other scented items, from the food hanging device.



Blond colored black bear

What Kind of Bear is That?

Grizzly Bear

Color

Range from blond to nearly black, sometimes have silver-tipped guard hairs that give them a "grizzled" appearance.

Physical Features

Grizzly bears often have a dished-in face and a large hump of heavy muscle above the shoulders. Their claws are around four inches (10 cm) long.



Black Bear

Color

Color is not a reliable indicator of species. Contrary to their name, black bears also come in brown, cinnamon, and blond.

Physical Features

Facial profile is straighter from tip of nose to ears, without the dished-in look. Lack the hump of a grizzly and have shorter claws, generally around one and a half inches (4 cm) long.



A fed bear is a dead bear! Bears that obtain human food may have to be destroyed. Don't leave any food, packs, or garbage unattended, even for a few minutes.

Backcountry Campground Information and Route Planning Map

Backcountry Camping Policies

The maximum overnight party size allowed is 12 persons. Each backcountry campground has between 2 and 8 campsites. Each campsite is limited to a maximum of four people and two small 2-4 person tents. Parties of 1-4 people will need one campsite, parties of 5-8 people will need two campsites, and parties of 9-12 people will need three campsites.

The national *Leave No Trace* program encourages small group size. This also increases your chances of obtaining your itinerary. It typically is difficult for large groups to obtain an adequate number of campsites. If a large group cannot be broken up, we will accommodate a limited number of advance reservations for large groups, based on the following criteria:

- Large groups requiring three campsites (9-12 persons) may submit an advance reservation application through the normal established procedures
- Five large groups will be accommodated if campsites are available. The 50%, or majority, campsite quota for advance reservations will be waived for these five groups.

In the spirit of fairness, only one large group from the same school or institution will be accommodated.

Backcountry Use Regulations

The following regulations apply to all backcountry use (day-use and overnight camping):

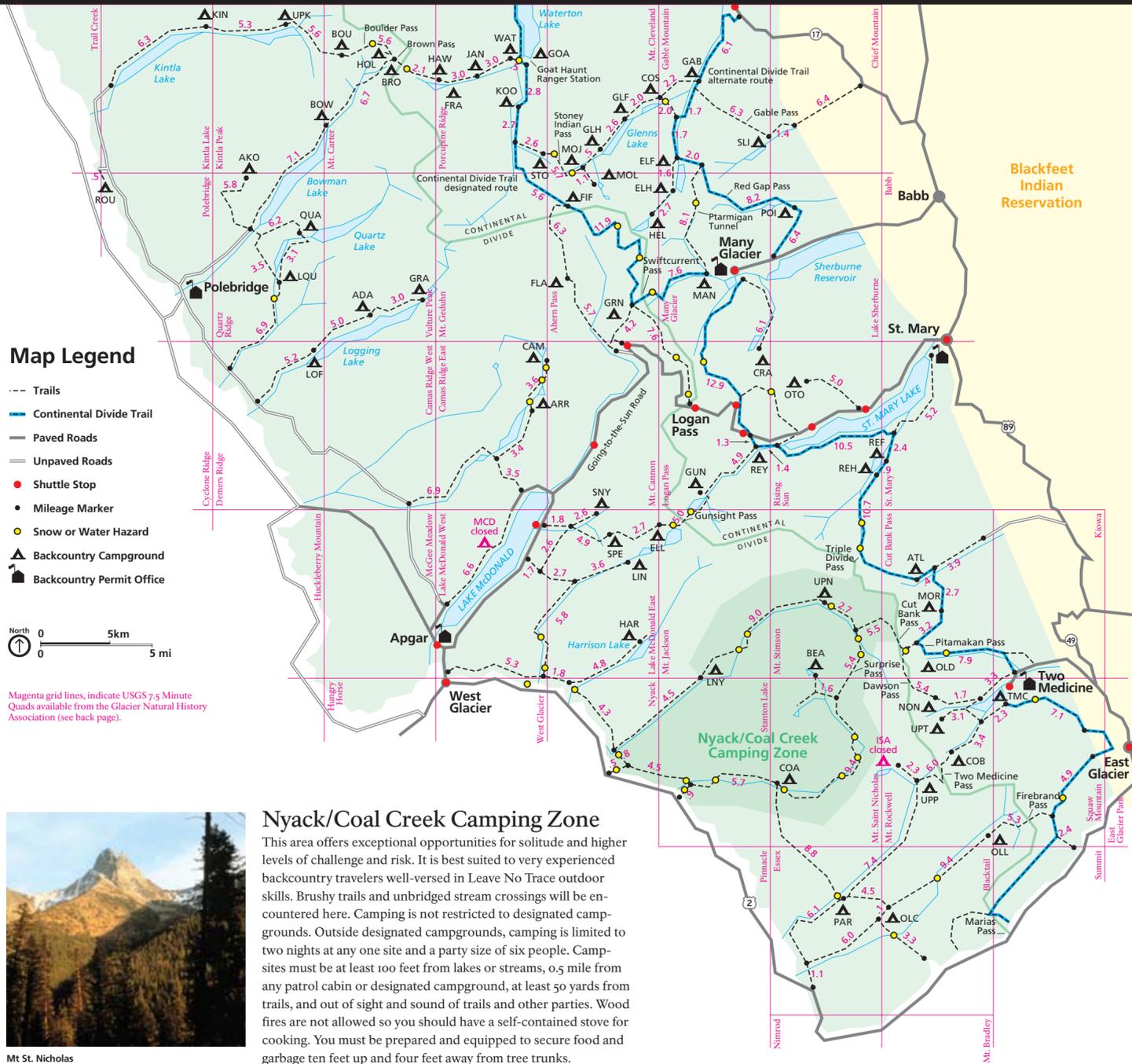
- Pets, firearms, motorboats, snowmobiles, and wheeled vehicles (including bicycles and canoe carts) are prohibited.
- All natural features are protected. Fish and edible berries may be harvested for personal consumption only. Check park regulations, or ask a park ranger, for limits. Picking mushrooms is prohibited.
- Hunting and trapping are prohibited.
- Wood fires are permitted in designated fire pits only.
- Pack out all refuse, including uneaten food and scraps.
- Stock use is restricted to designated trails and campgrounds.
- Grazing stock is prohibited.
- Feeding, disturbing, or harassing wildlife is unsafe and illegal.
- Fishing does not require a license. Obtain the Fishing Regulations handout when you pick up your permit.
- Shortcutting switchbacks is unsafe, destructive, and illegal.
- Human waste must be deposited in a toilet. In the absence of a toilet, deposit feces in a 6-8 inch deep "cathole" at least 200 feet from water sources and pack out toilet paper.
- Commercial use (including guiding and outfitting) is prohibited, unless authorized by a concession permit or commercial use license.

Backcountry Accessibility

To meet the needs of special populations, wheelchairs and trained aid dogs are appropriate accommodations in the backcountry. While aid dogs are discouraged, due to potential hazardous interactions with bears, they are permitted.

Entry and Exit Information for Goat Haunt

The northern access to Glacier's backcountry from Canada is through Goat Haunt, a Class B Port of Entry into the United States at the southern end of Water Lake. As such, only U.S. and Canadian Legal Residents may enter and exit through Goat Haunt. Foreign Nationals may not enter the U.S. through Goat Haunt. All hikers entering the U.S. at through this part of Glacier must check in with the Port of Entry staff at the Goat Haunt Ranger Station. Goat Haunt Port of Entry is open from 0900 to 1730 hours each day. All individuals arriving at Goat Haunt and applying for admission to the United States must possess proof of US or Canadian citizenship. United States Resident Aliens must be in possession of their Resident Alien Card. Passports, naturalization certificates or birth certificates are acceptable proof of citizenship but must be presented with a government issued photo ID card. Any person arriving at Goat Haunt, either by foot or by boat, who does not have proper proof of citizenship will immediately be sent back to Canada by the Immigration/Park Rangers.



Mt St. Nicholas

Nyack/Coal Creek Camping Zone

This area offers exceptional opportunities for solitude and higher levels of challenge and risk. It is best suited to very experienced backcountry travelers well-versed in Leave No Trace outdoor skills. Brushy trails and unbridged stream crossings will be encountered here. Camping is not restricted to designated campgrounds. Outside designated campgrounds, camping is limited to two nights at any one site and a party size of six people. Campsites must be at least 100 feet from lakes or streams, 0.5 mile from any patrol cabin or designated campground, at least 50 yards from trails, and out of sight and sound of trails and other parties. Wood fires are not allowed so you should have a self-contained stove for cooking. You must be prepared and equipped to secure food and garbage ten feet up and four feet away from tree trunks.

Campground Status

Glacier's designated backcountry campgrounds are managed under the following campground status categories:

Open - the snowpack has melted and the campground is not water-saturated, the food hanging device and pit toilet are serviceable.
Closed - campground is legally closed by Superintendent's order due to hazardous or emergency conditions.

Winter - the campground is 100% snow covered, requiring snow camping skills and techniques. The pit toilet has been dug out and is serviceable. Campers must have rigging to properly hang food and garbage. Use is limited to one party (maximum of six persons) per night.

Not Available - the campground is particularly vulnerable to resource impacts and not available because of one or more of the following conditions: partial snow cover, freshly emerging vegetation, standing water and saturated soil, pit toilet is not serviceable.

Trail Closures

Hazardous or emergency conditions (fires, bears, landslides, etc...) may make it necessary to close a trail segment. These closures may effect your planned itinerary. Backcountry rangers will make an effort to contact you on the trail to let you know your options and assist with route changes. Glacier is a big park and it may take a while for everyone to be contacted. Do not enter any closed trail, even if it was part of your planned itinerary.

Camping in Undesignated Sites

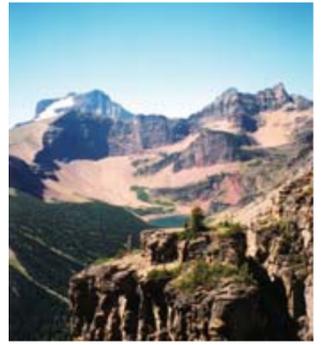
Backcountry travelers wishing to explore remote, off-trail routes in Glacier may request a permit to camp in an undesignated campsite. This special privilege is subject to approval on a case-by-case basis. Stringent policies and regulations associated with Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics and the protection of resource and social values govern the approval process. Advance reservations are not available for undesignated campsites.

Continental Divide Trail

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT), follows a 3,100 mile route from Canada to Mexico. A 10 mile segment runs through Glacier. The designated CDT route, and an early/late season alternate route, are marked in blue on the map. Glacier frequently presents obstacles to CDT hikers in the spring and early summer in the form of steep snowfields, high-water crossings, and campgrounds under snow. Some CDT hikers avoid this by hiking Glacier as a separate segment in the middle of the summer or as the last segment of their trip in the Fall. CDT hikers entering Glacier at Marias Pass, or the Canadian Border, should write for additional information.

Recreation on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation

A Conservation/Recreation Use Permit (available at East Side Permit Offices) is required for all recreational activities, off paved roads, on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation. A separate permit is required for fishing on the reservation. For further information call Blackfoot Fish and Wildlife at: (406) 338-7207.



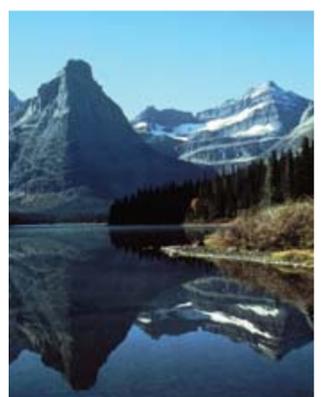
Otokomi Lake from Otokomi Mountain



Hole in the Wall



Red Eagle Lake



Glens Lake

Campground Information

The **Reservation Info** column, in the list to the right, lists the total number of sites (first number), the number of sites that may be reserved in advance (second number), and the first date that the campground is available by reservation. **For example:** Sperry is 4 - 2 - 8/1. The campground has four sites, two of which may be reserved in advance, but not for dates prior to August 1.

Do not submit a reservation request to use any campground with dates prior to those listed. These dates represent the approximate time of year that the campground is snow free and available for backcountry camping.

The number in the **Stock** column indicates the number of head of stock permitted overnight.

Items in the **Special** column are explained in the list at the far right.

Code	Campground	Reservation Info	Stock	Special
ADA	Adair	4 - 2 - 6/15	8	
AKO	Akokala Lake	3 - 2 - 6/15	0	●
ARR	Arrow Lake	2 - 1 - 6/15	8	●
ATL	Atlantic Creek	4 - 2 - 6/15	8	
BEA	Beaver Woman Lake	2 - 2 - 7/15	10	●
BOU	Boulder Pass	3 - 2 - 8/1	0	●
BOW	Bowman Lake HD	6 - 3 - 6/15	8	●
BRO	Brown Pass	3 - 2 - 7/15	0	●
CAM	Camas Lake	2 - 1 - 7/15	0	●
COA	Coal Creek	2 - 2 - 6/15	10	●
COB	Cobalt Lake	2 - 2 - 8/1	0	● ①
COS	Cosley Lake	4 - 2 - 6/15	8	●
CRA	Cracker Lake	3 - 2 - 6/15	0	●
ELF	Elizabeth Lake FT	5 - 3 - 6/15	8	● ①
ELH	Elizabeth Lake HD	4 - 2 - 6/15	8	● ②
ELL	Lake Ellen Wilson	4 - 2 - 8/1	8	● ①
FIF	Fifty Mountain	5 - 3 - 8/1	8	●
FLA	Flattop	3 - 2 - 8/15	8	●
FRA	Lake Francis	2 - 1 - 6/15	0	● ①
GAB	Gable Creek	4 - 2 - 6/15	8	●
GLF	Glenns Lake FT	4 - 2 - 6/15	8	●
GLH	Glenns Lake HD	3 - 2 - 6/15	0	●
GOA	Goat Haunt Shelters	7 - 4 - 6/15	0	☆

Code	Campground	Reservation Info	Stock	Special
GRA	Grace Lake	3 - 2 - 7/1	0	
GRN	Granite Park	4 - 2 - 7/15	0	● ① ☆
GUN	Gunsight Lake	7 - 4 - 7/1	8	●
HAR	Harrison Lake	3 - 2 - 6/15	8	●
HAW	Hawksbill	2 - 2 - 6/15	0	●
HEL	Helen Lake	2 - 1 - 7/1	0	●
HOL	Hole in the Wall	5 - 3 - 8/1	0	● ①
ISA	Lake Isabel	not available due to fires of 2003		
JAN	Lake Janet	2 - 1 - 6/15	8	●
KIN	Kintla Lake HD	6 - 3 - 6/15	8	●
KOO	Kootenai Lake	4 - 2 - 6/15	8	●
LIN	Lincoln Lake	3 - 2 - 7/1	8	●
LNK	Lower Nyack	3 - 2 - 7/15	10	●
LOF	Logging Lake FT	3 - 2 - 6/15	0	●
LQU	Lower Quartz Lake	4 - 2 - 6/15	8	●
MAN	Many Glacier CG	2 - 1 - 6/15	0	● ① ☆
MCD	McDonald Lake	not available due to fires of 2003		
MOJ	Mokowanis Junction	5 - 3 - 6/15	8	●
MOL	Mokowanis Lake	2 - 2 - 7/1	0	●
MOR	Morning Star Lake	3 - 2 - 7/15	0	●
NON	No Name Lake	3 - 2 - 7/15	0	● ①
OLD	Oldman Lake	4 - 2 - 7/15	8	● ①
OLC	Ole Creek	3 - 2 - 6/15	8	●

Code	Campground	Reservation Info	Stock	Special
OLL	Ole Lake	2 - 2 - 6/15	8	
OTO	Otokomi Lake	3 - 2 - 7/15	0	●
PAR	Park Creek	3 - 2 - 6/15	8	●
POI	Poia Lake	4 - 2 - 6/15	8	●
QUA	Quartz Lake	3 - 2 - 6/15	0	●
REF	Red Eagle Lake FT	4 - 2 - 6/15	0	●
REH	Red Eagle Lake HD	4 - 2 - 6/15	8	●
REY	Reynolds Creek	2 - 2 - 6/15	8	● ☆
ROU	Round Prairie	3 - 2 - 6/15	0	● ☆
SLI	Slide Lake	4 - 2 - 6/15	8	●
SNY	Snyder Lake	3 - 2 - 6/15	8	●
SPE	Sperry	4 - 2 - 8/1	0	● ①
STO	Stoney Indian Lake	4 - 2 - 8/1	0	● ①
TMC	Two Medicine CG	2 - 1 - 6/15	8	● ① ☆
UPK	Upper Kintla Lake	4 - 2 - 6/15	0	●
UPN	Upper Nyack	3 - 2 - 7/15	10	●
UPP	Upper Park Creek	3 - 2 - 6/15	8	●
UPT	Upper Two Med. Lake	4 - 2 - 7/15	0	● ①
WAT	Waterton River	5 - 3 - 6/15	8	●

Special Conditions

- Limited fuel, no wood fires.
- ① One night limit in July and August.
- ② Two night limit at Elizabeth Lake Head.
- ◆ Access by motorized watercraft prohibited.
- ☆ **Goat Haunt Shelters** are three-sided camping structures near the boat dock at the head of the lake.
- ☆ **Many Glacier and Two Medicine Auto Campgrounds** are reservable on extended itineraries of three or more nights. These campsites are not available on the first night of an itinerary if the trip begins at Many Glacier or Two Medicine.
- ☆ **Granite Park**, in July and August, must be part of an extended itinerary of two or more nights in backcountry campsites.
- ☆ **Reynolds Creek** must be reserved as an extended itinerary of three or more nights in backcountry campsites. Reynolds Creek may not be the first night of a trip that starts on the Going-to-the-Sun Road, or the last night of a trip that ends on the Going-to-the-Sun Road.
- ☆ **Round Prairie Campground** provides three campsites, two of which are reserved for river floaters each night.

Note: After 3 pm unreserved campsites at Granite Park, Reynolds Creek, and Round Prairie are available on a walk-in basis for that night only.

Campgrounds highlighted in blue typically fill first.

Obtaining Your Backcountry Use Permit

Permit Fees

The following per person per night fees are charged on permits issued between June 1 and September 30

- Age 17 and over \$4.00
- Age 9 through 16 \$2.00
- Age 8 and under free
- Golden Age & Golden Access cardholders \$2.00
- **Season Pass** **\$50.00***

*Valid for one year from date of issue, and covers per night camping fees for the person named on the pass. It does not cover advance reservation fees.

Reservation Fees

Backcountry trips starting between June 15 and October 31 may be reserved in advance. A fee of \$20.00 per trip is charged, in addition to per person per night fees.

No reservation fee is charged for walk-in permits, obtained less than one day prior to the start of the trip, however per person per night fees are charged.

A BACKCOUNTRY USE PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR ALL overnight camping, and must be in your possession while in the backcountry. They are valid only for the dates, locations, and party size specified. Permits will be issued only to someone going on the trip, and not to any third parties. Reservations are held only until roam the day of the trip.

Permits may be obtained by stopping in at any of the designated backcountry permit issuing stations listed below. All permits must be picked up in person no sooner than one day in advance of your departure. The advance reservation fee (\$20) will not be charged when you request a permit less than one day in advance, however per person per night fees are charged.

- **Apgar Backcountry Permit Center**
(open daily from May 1 through October 31) Permits will only be issued up to ½ hour before the center closes. When the Apgar Backcountry Permit Center has closed for the season permits are available at Park Headquarters on weekdays and at the Apgar Visitor Center on weekends.
- **St. Mary Visitor Center**
(open daily from late May through September)
- **Many Glacier** (open late May to mid-September)
- **Two Medicine and Polebridge Ranger Stations**
(open daily from early June through mid-September)
- **Waterton Lakes National Park Visitor Reception Centre** (open daily from early June through mid-September) accepts payment by credit card only (no cash). Waterton staff are only authorized to issue trips that start at Chief Mt. or Goat Haunt.

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS

Advance reservations (requests made more than one day prior to the start of the trip) may be requested for any of Glacier's backcountry campgrounds. Advance reservation applications are accepted for trips that begin June 15 through October 31.

NEW APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR SUMMER SEASON - 2004

Applications may be submitted starting April 1, 2004. Glacier National Park staff will begin filling application requests on April 15, 2004. All applications received between April 1 and April 15 will be sorted randomly before processing begins. Applications received after April 15 will be processed in the order they are received.

Applications may be submitted via regular mail, overnight mail or FAX. **Phone or e-mail applications are not accepted.** Walk-in requests for reservations may be made starting May 1, 2004, at open permit stations.

Advance reservation applications will be accepted on the official form only (additional copies may be obtained by mail or downloaded from the park website). A fee of \$20 must be submitted with each application. This fee may be submitted via personal check, money order, or credit card only. Reservation requests arriving without the fee payment, or unable to be filled, will have their payment returned or their credit card will not be charged. **Do not**

include per person per night fees with your reservation request. They will be collected when you pick up your permit.

We strongly encourage you to develop a second itinerary that may explore some less popular areas, in the event that your first choice is not available. Successful applicants will receive a confirmation letter by mail or by email if you have provided an email address on the application form. The subject line in our email confirmation follows the format *Glacier National Park Backcountry Permit - "Last Name of Trip Leader"*. The \$20 reservation fee will be deposited upon confirmation of a reservation.

Due to unpredictable campground opening dates, each campground has an "earliest available date" that applies to advance reservation itineraries. These dates are noted on pages 4 & 5. Although all advance reservation applications may be submitted starting April 1, 2004, do not submit one that requests a campground with opening dates prior to those specified on Pages 4&5. In a typical summer the opening dates specified represent the time of year the campground is snow free and available for backcountry campers. If backcountry campgrounds emerge from snow-cover early, these campgrounds are placed in an "open" status prior to the specified dates, and are made available on both a walk-in and reservation basis. In some years there is more snow than usual and campgrounds may not open by the dates listed or reserved. In those cases, reserved itineraries will be modified when you pick up your permit at a permit issuing station.

ADVANCE RESERVATION CHANGES

Requests to change confirmed advance reservations will not be accepted via phone. You have the following options:

- Call and cancel your reservation (406-888-7900) and submit a new application. You will be charged a \$20 fee for any successive advance reservation processed.
- Try to change your itinerary at the time of permit issuance. There is no charge for changing a permit itinerary at the time of issuance.

REFUND/CANCELLATION POLICIES

We do not offer refunds for advance reservation application fees. It is a processing fee and covers time and materials involved in the advance reservation process. Refunds for campground fees are not provided in cases of officially closed trails, weather, or late season snow conditions. In those cases, permit issuing staff will work to provide alternate itineraries of a similar nature.

In the event that your plans change and you cannot use any, or part, of your backcountry permit or reservation, you are encouraged to call (406-888-7900) to cancel your trip. A refund will not be provided, but you will allow other campers access to those sites.

I NEED MORE INFORMATION!

Check the park website (www.nps.gov/glac/activity.htm) for additional information. From March 15 to October 31, staff will be available, between noon and 4:30pm, at 406-888-7859 if you need information or have a question. If you leave a message, please allow 24 hours for a response.

Winter Permits

During the winter backcountry camping season (November 20 through April 30), Backcountry Use Permits may be requested and approved in person or by telephone, up to seven days in advance. Approved permits must be picked up in person. There are no fees for winter Backcountry Use Permits. All parties will receive the weekly avalanche and other pertinent advisories and regulations.

Winter permits may be obtained at the following locations:

- Apgar Visitor Center (406-888-7939) on weekends and some holidays
- Park Headquarters (406-888-7800) on weekdays

If you call ahead and make prior arrangements you can also pick up a permit at the following ranger stations:

- St. Mary (406-732-7715)
- East Glacier (406-226-4473)
- Polebridge (406-888-7842)



Bullhead Lake from Swiftcurrent Pass



Haystack Butte from the Highline Trail - just one of many spectacular trails accessible by Glacier's Shuttle System.

photos by Bill Hayden

Leave No Trace

Challenge, adventure, a sense of discovery, and solitude can be part of your backcountry experience. But in order to ensure that Glacier's backcountry remains unimpaired for future generations, visitors must be motivated by an ethic that compels responsibility toward the resource. It is the task of every backcountry visitor to learn and practice *Leave No Trace* skills and ethics.

Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics is a national program promoting responsible outdoor recreation and stewardship of our public lands. The National Park Service is a partner in this program, along with other federal land management agencies.

Practice the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace

PLAN AHEAD AND PREPARE

- Know and respect regulations and the risks inherent in backcountry travel.
- Select terrain, mileage, and elevation changes everyone in your group can handle.
- Carry adequate food, water, clothing, and the trip essentials (page 2).

TRAVEL AND CAMP ON DURABLE SURFACES

- Camp in designated campsites to limit impacts.
- Stay on maintained trails and walk single file down the middle of the trail, even when muddy.
- Shortcutting switchbacks is destructive and illegal.
- If you travel off trail, walk abreast and select the most durable route. Avoid fragile vegetation and saturated soils. Choose durable surfaces such as rock, snow, gravel, or dry grasses for all activities.

LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

- All natural and cultural resources are protected by law, with the exception of berries and fish for personal consumption only.
- Never make alterations to tent sites or natural features.
- Avoid new impacts to rehabilitated areas and blocked social trails.

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF WASTE

- Keep Glacier litter free: pack it in - pack it out!
- Never bury food or garbage - pack it out.
- Use toilets when available for both urine and feces.
- In lieu of toilets, deposit feces in a cathole, 6-8" deep in organic soil, at least 200 ft. from water. Fill and disguise hole and pack out paper.
- Urinate on durable surfaces to reduce vegetation damage from salt-craving wildlife.

MINIMIZE CAMPFIRE IMPACTS

- Self-contained camp stoves are the least impact.
- Fires are restricted to designated fire pits only.
- When permitted, collect down and dead wood only (size of wrist) and keep fires small and totally contained in fire pit.

RESPECT WILDLIFE

- Enjoy wildlife at a distance. Photograph with telephoto lens.
- Never intentionally approach, feed, or harass wildlife.
- Secure food and garbage properly. Remember - a fed bear is a dead bear.

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS

- Avoid conflicts with other types of users.
- Keep group size small.
- Minimize noise in camp.



Bummer! Joe didn't read all the instructions and his application was returned unprocessed!

Application Checklist

Before mailing your application have you?

- Reviewed the information and instructions carefully?
- Cross-referenced availability dates and special conditions noted on pages 4 & 5?
- Checked <http://www.nps.gov/glac/activities/bcguide1.htm> for the availability of backcountry sites?
- Fully completed the application? Incomplete applications will be returned.
- Highlighted your route (using a dark marker) on the map on the back side of the application?
- Enclose \$20 fee (U. S. funds), for each trip request, payable to:

Glacier National Park Backcountry Reservations?
Glacier National Park
West Glacier, MT 59936
406-888-5819 (FAX)



Enjoying Glacier's backcountry

photo by Erin Aageson

Permit #	Last Name	Date Written and Initials
Office Use Only	Office Use Only	Office Use Only

Trip Leader Information

(please print)

Name _____
 Address _____

 City _____
 State and Zip _____
 Daytime Phone # _____
 Evening Phone # _____
 email address _____

Method of Payment (\$20.00 U.S. Funds)

- Check Mastercard
 Money Order Discover
 Visa American Express

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Name on Card (please print) _____

Signature of Cardholder _____

Number of Campers _____

Number of Stock _____

Number of Watercraft _____

There is a maximum stay of 3 nights in any one campground in the backcountry.

Requested Trip Itinerary - 1st choice

(please print)

Day	Date	Code	Campground Name
Example	8/16	CRA	Cracker lake
Night 1	_____	_____	_____
Night 2	_____	_____	_____
Night 3	_____	_____	_____
Night 4	_____	_____	_____
Night 5	_____	_____	_____
Night 6	_____	_____	_____
Night 7	_____	_____	_____
Night 8	_____	_____	_____
Night 9	_____	_____	_____
Night 10	_____	_____	_____
Night 11	_____	_____	_____
Night 12	_____	_____	_____
Night 13	_____	_____	_____
Night 14	_____	_____	_____
Campground you want the most. _____			

What If Your First or Second Choice of Itinerary is not Available?

Will you accept different start and end dates?
 Yes _____ No _____
 Earliest Date You Can Enter the Backcountry _____
 Last Night You Can Stay in the Backcountry _____

Will you accept minor changes on your first or second choice itinerary...for example: different campgrounds, reverse route, etc...specify campground most wanted above!

Yes _____ No _____

Requested Trip Itinerary - 2nd choice

(please print)

Day	Date	Code	Campground Name
Example	8/16	POI	Poia lake
Night 1	_____	_____	_____
Night 2	_____	_____	_____
Night 3	_____	_____	_____
Night 4	_____	_____	_____
Night 5	_____	_____	_____
Night 6	_____	_____	_____
Night 7	_____	_____	_____
Night 8	_____	_____	_____
Night 9	_____	_____	_____
Night 10	_____	_____	_____
Night 11	_____	_____	_____
Night 12	_____	_____	_____
Night 13	_____	_____	_____
Night 14	_____	_____	_____
Campground you want the most. _____			

In order to secure a backcountry trip, will you accept a completely different itinerary for the dates you have listed.
 Yes _____ No _____

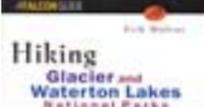
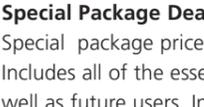
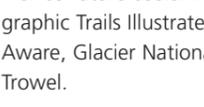
Comments...for example: max. number of miles per day, max elevation gain per day, etc _____

Helpful Publications

PRE-PLANNING IS ESSENTIAL TO A SUCCESSFUL BACKCOUNTRY EXPERIENCE. Hiking books and maps are an excellent way of preparing for your trip. The Glacier Natural History Association is a nonprofit organization working with the National Park Service to assist Glacier's educational and interpretive activities, cultural programs, and special projects. They stock a number of publications that are excellent pre-planning guides. Any of the publications listed are highly recommended, and may be purchased in person or through the mail. To order by phone or to obtain a complete catalog of publications, contact:

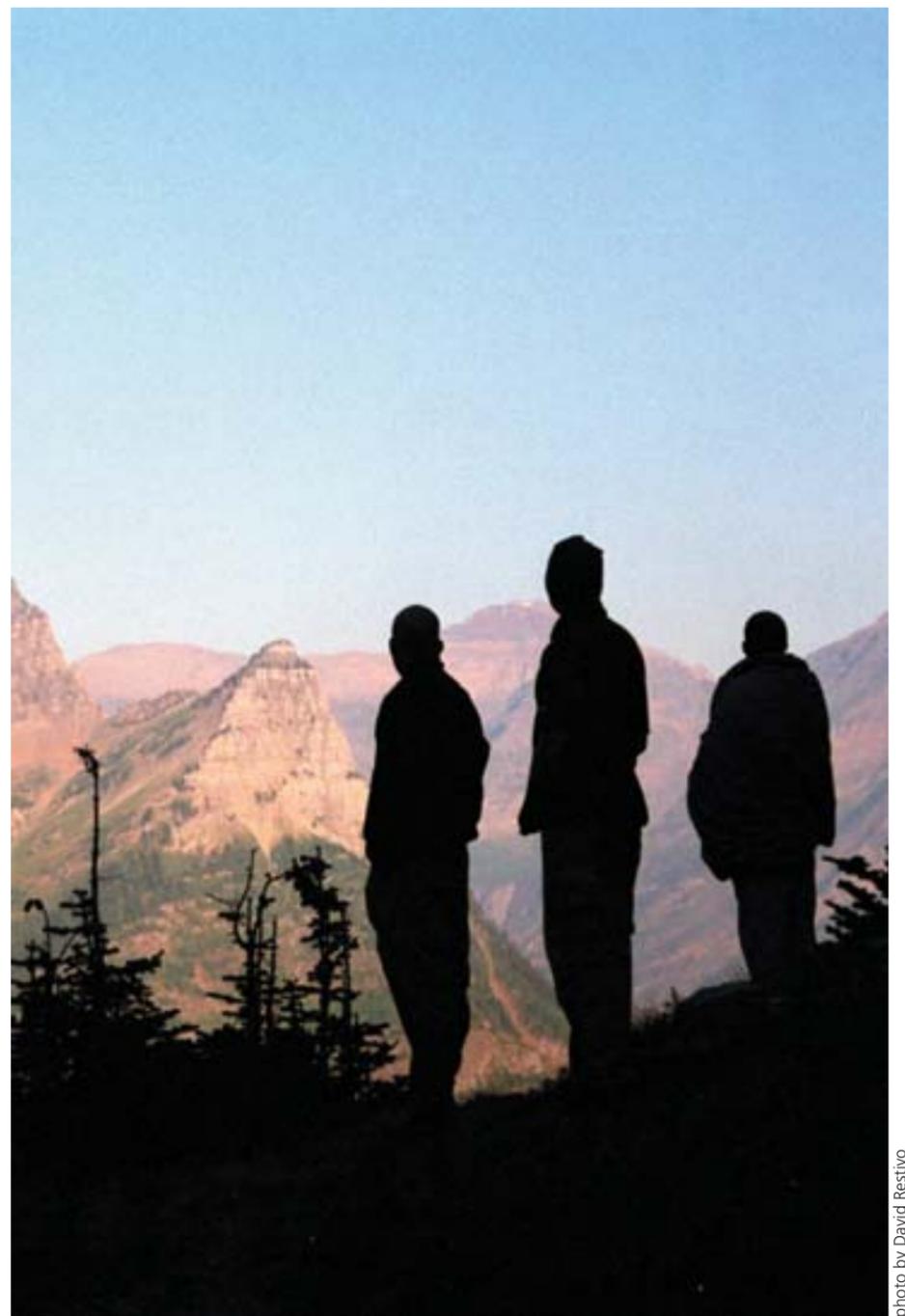
Glacier Natural History Association, Box 310, West Glacier, MT 59936
<http://www.glacierassociation.org>
 gnha@glacierassociation.org - (406) 888-5756

Suggested Publications to Assist in Trip Planning

	Hiker's Guide to Glacier National Park \$10.95 Glacier Natural History Association
	Hiking Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks \$14.95 Erik Molvar
	National Geographic Trails Illustrated Topographic Map of Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Park \$9.95 National Geographic
	Bear Aware \$7.95 Bill Schneider
	Leave No Trace Trowel \$2.50 Northwest Interpretive Association
	Bear Attacks: Their Causes and Avoidances \$16.95 Stephen Herrero
	A Climber's Guide to Glacier National Park \$12.95 J. Gordon Edwards
	U. S. G. S. Topographic Map of Glacier (1998) \$10.00 U. S. Geological Survey
	U. S. Geological Survey Topographic Quad Maps \$6.00 U. S. Geological Survey

Special Package Deal - Backcountry Users Package \$29.95

Special package price, regularly a \$44.00 value!
 Includes all of the essentials needed to make your backcountry stay in Glacier enjoyable for you as well as future users. Includes: Hiking Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Parks, National Geographic Trails Illustrated Topographic Map of Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Park, Bear Aware, Glacier National Park Nature Guide, Wilderness First Aid, and a handy Leave No Trace Trowel.



Once in a lifetime vistas, like this view near Stoney Indian Pass, are commonplace in Glacier's backcountry.

photo by David Restivo

A few more things!

Trip Leader Name

Using the map, highlight your route with a dark colored marker. Backcountry permit staff will use it to help identify your planned itinerary and your entry and exit point.

Please be patient!

Because of the volume of mail and faxes we receive, you should not expect to hear back from us for at least 2-4 weeks. We will try to contact you via standard mail or email (if provided) to confirm your trip request.

Due to staffing limitations, we cannot provide information regarding your application online, or over the phone. Thank you for your consideration.

Additional Information

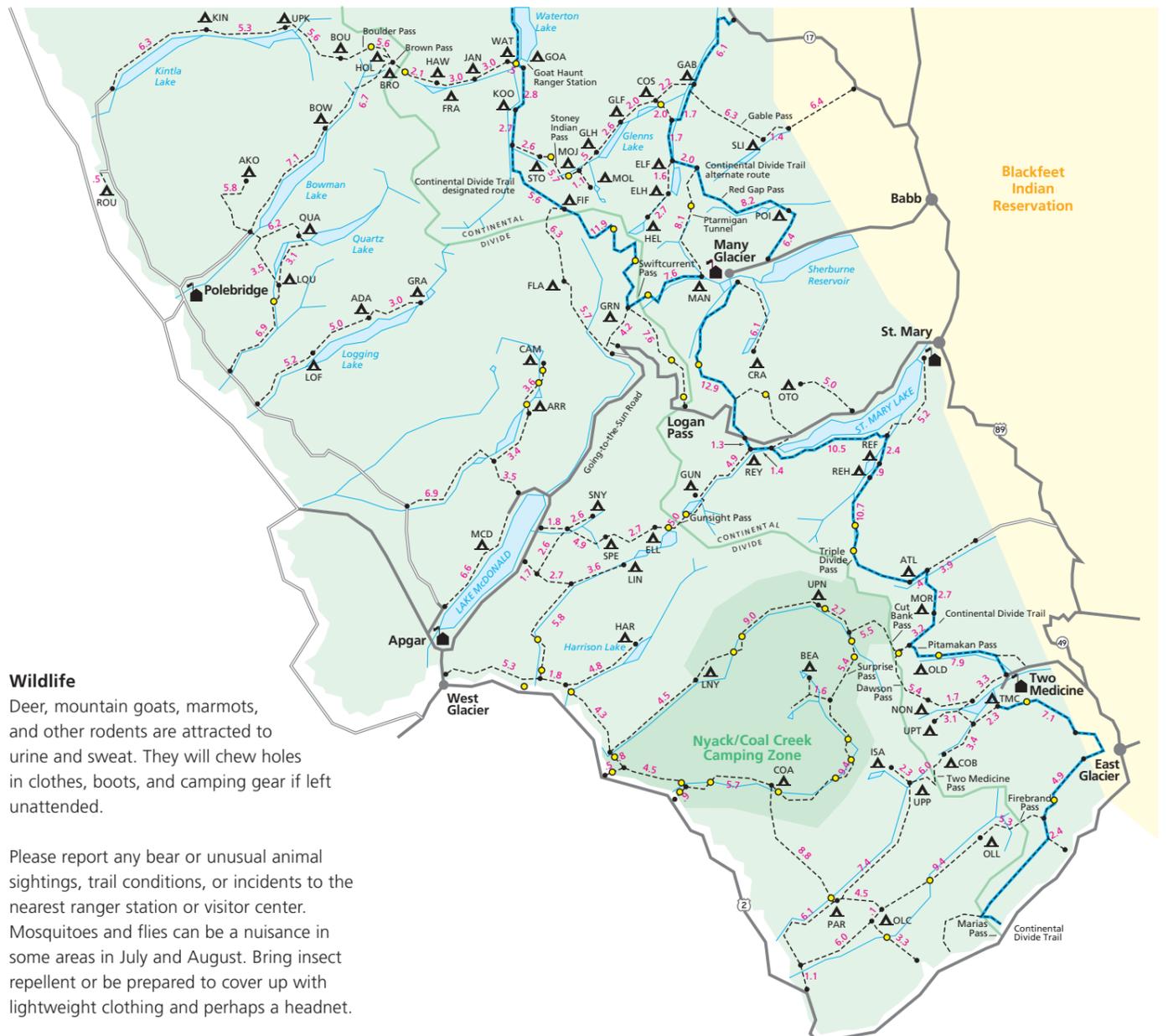
Bear-Resistant Food Containers

Bear-resistant food containers are available at most permit issuing stations for undesignated camping parties to check out, free of charge. These high impact resistant cylinders offer an excellent option for proper food storage, and are required in areas where options for proper food hanging are limited (near or above treeline, on mountain peaks, etc.).

Preserving the Backcountry

If you find litter in the backcountry, please pack it out. If you cannot pack it out, please notify park rangers where it is.

It is illegal to collect any natural or cultural resources, please leave all natural objects and cultural artifacts where you find them.



Wildlife

Deer, mountain goats, marmots, and other rodents are attracted to urine and sweat. They will chew holes in clothes, boots, and camping gear if left unattended.

Please report any bear or unusual animal sightings, trail conditions, or incidents to the nearest ranger station or visitor center. Mosquitoes and flies can be a nuisance in some areas in July and August. Bring insect repellent or be prepared to cover up with lightweight clothing and perhaps a headnet.

Thank you for helping to protect Glacier's backcountry and your National Park.