

# Glacier National Park- Centennial 2010 Comments



## Listening Sessions, August 18 –October 23, 2008

The Glacier National Park Centennial Program set out to engage people in Glacier's Centennial in 2008, via a series of Centennial Listening Sessions. A core group of volunteers worked together to listen to and brainstorm with local communities, visitors, and park staff. In a 65 day period the group hosted 8 listening sessions and spoke to over 300 individuals. In addition, the Centennial Program has been presented to an additional 2, 500 people- totaling over 2,800 people in just 2 months time. Finally, in addition to these in person meetings, we also took a poll of ideas via the website- for which has had over 40,000 hits.

The information below is data that was collected over this timeframe. This information is for anyone's use and is organized by the three questions that we posed pertaining to engagement, events/programs, and projects and by theme. If you would like to implement an idea that is found on this list and host it as an official centennial event or program, please apply to do so. You can find the applications on the [Glacier National Park Centennial website](#).

### ENGAGEMENT; what do you love about Glacier? What inspires you about the centennial?

- Quietness of Glacier
- Good fishing in high lakes
- Scenery
- Hiking with my family- especially the Going-to-the-Sun hikes along the corridor
- Hiking in quiet areas- old trails that are no longer maintained
- Seeing wildlife every time we go; marmots who chirp
- Love Many Glacier Valley
- Glacier means so much to me and my family
- Water
- Wildlife
- Wilderness
- Very intimate
- Spicy smell of the air
- Solitude/wildlife experiences
- Personifies the NPS
- Quintessential National Park
- Intact carnivores (you could be eaten here!)
- The lushness
- The plentiful water
- Everything!
- Has created great memories
- My wife
- It is the laboratory of the natural process...when driving the Going-to-the-Sun Road you can see a snow field melting into a waterfall, flowing as a stream into the lake, being able to see that progression was part of my first impression
- Wildlife
- Bold and big- everything is! From the colors of the rocks to the way the storms roll in and how the mountains come out of nowhere out of the plains- it is powerful!
- Incredible flowers- diversity alpine/prairie
- History of the people who made the park
- Going-to-the-Sun Road

- The abundant wildlife
- Lakes and Hiking
- The Serenity
- Highline Trail
- Shangri La
- Logan Pass
- Lake McDonald Lodge
- Iceberg Lake- best hike in the park!
- Great idea to celebrate the centennial!
- What isn't to celebrate?
- Long live glacier!
- Hiking, Backpacking, Camping
- Pristine Environment- relaxing, great place to unwind
- Food for the Soul
- Wildness
- Flowers
- Shuttle
- The critters
- Everything
- Biodiversity
- How do you pick what you love most about Glacier?
- Indian Paint Brush
- Jr. Ranger Program
- 1<sup>st</sup> time visitor- Love it all!
- Solitude
- Ranger led hikes!
- Rich History
- Remoteness
- Going-to-the-Sun Road
- Friendly Rangers
- Backcountry
- Evening Programs
- Walking around the lakes

## EVENTS; what events would you like to see in 2010?

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### *Glacier National Park should include Reunions...*

- All-employee reunion
- Alumni Reunions!
- Staff reunions
- Jammer Reunion
- BBQ in the park for staff
- End of the summer season party in lodges
- Christmas party in lodges

### *Glacier National Park should include Art/Music events...*

- HD theater presentation on various aspects of Glacier- natural sounds, no music
- Bring back the classical music that used to perform in the park- Anderberg
- One Day Paint Out
- Photo Contest
- 99<sup>th</sup> Ace of Cakes- food network, cut by Doug Follett
- Jonas Brothers- Sign them up!
- Glacier Symphony
- Outdoor performances- musical; circa 1910- invite local choral groups
- Poster contest for kids- like the postcard contest
- Symphony concert- with CD to follow
- Celebrate Art of the Park
- Bring back musicals in the hotels
- Glacier Symphony
- Weekend Music Festival in the region for the park's birthday
- Bring back Musicals in the hotels, again
- Unique Music in hotel lobbies
- Amateur Photo Contest

### *Glacier National Park should include Native American Events...*

- Special food events sharing local foods from the tribes, peace park, etc
- Native American Games and Music
- 2010 parade in the park with native Americans

### *Glacier National Park should include International Events...*

- Invite 100 local school kids to do something special (spend the day as an international friend with kids from Waterton touring the park?), serve as an ambassador for the day, serve along side workers in the park, singing groups, clean trails, paint mural?
- Swearing-in Day in the park for international/new citizens
- Bring back Peace Days!
- Special International Peace Park Event
- Mongolians come for the 100<sup>th</sup> - special event with Canada, too

### *Glacier National Park should include Quiet Event Days...*

- Peace and Quiet Day—no cars, motorcycles, helicopters
- Day of Slowness- for Wilderness
- Hiker/Biker Day- close Going-to-the-Sun Road for a day to vehicles

### *Glacier National Park should include Dignitary events...*

- Invite President Obama to the park in 2010

- Honor Doug Follett- 50 years in 2009
- Glacier National Park should include special Locals events...*
- Special tribute to the locals who love it long after the tourists have left
  - Host a local's special event on May 11, 2010

*Glacier National Park should include Special Trips/Tours...*

- Red Bus Centennial Crown Tour
- Family Fishing trips
- Red Bus entourage on the morning show
- Motor Tour with Collector Cars
- 100 mile hike program- connecting campsites and or lodges/inns
  - 4 various levels of fitness ability
  - Benefit walk/hike with sponsorships; for a specific project in the park
  - Stickers/T-shirts, etc
- Centurions Recognition Program

*Other*

- Anything on the East Side- not all events at HQ! Such as community bike rides, guest speakers, alumni hikes, St. Mary Kite Festival
- Dinner Impossible
- HGTV- Dirty Jobs
- Columbia Falls Heritage Days could have the centennial theme for 2010
- Film Festival- with the old films made in the park
- Great Northern Railway Historical Society will have their annual meeting in Glacier in 2010
- Peace Garden Event; "Parks for Peace"—Imagination Celebration Program
- Events on trains- interp on trains: Traingers? Charter trains
- Concessionaires- bring back show biz; welcome at trains, many glacier entertainment
- Ian B. Tibbet recognition
- Bring back former superintendents to celebrate/honor
- Bike Rally
- Glacier Olympics
- Film Festival (those that were filmed in the park)
- Bikers for Glacier Weekend; both motor and cyclists
- Birthday Bash with big cake
- Increase Amtrak for 2010- via promotional trips; special train cars from East and West Glacier
- Fireworks- outside the park
- Film Festival- drive in style at Logan Pass, St. Mary Visitor Center, and in the valley; featuring Glacier Park films
- Nature Playground- tree house
- 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday- 'Park Day'
  - Purpose: to engage people in 2010 (locals- intro to local events), kick-off event (official)- MHS exhibit, Whitefish winter carnival, Belton New Years; time to inform people of: events- rack card for 2010, retail items show cased, eNewsletter, showcase potential projects; donation boxes?; fake cake- with donation slot?
    - Sites: Lake McDonald Lawn
    - Rising Sun
    - Glacier Park Lodge Lawn
- Yesteryear Parade with vintage vehicles, living history/dress up
- Polebridge Costume Party from past parades
- West Glacier Parade (similar to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July at Polebridge?)

- 8 nights on own tour of the lodges- 2 nights at each hotel; pre-blocked package to purchase so we can spend 2 nights at hotel consecutively

### PROGRAMS; what programs would you like to see in 2010?

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*Glacier National Park should enhance Kid/Youth/Family friendly Programs...*

- Project Camp (Camping Adventures with My Parents); to support children and nature initiative
- Kid friendly programs
- Drop off spot for kids- so kids can do their thing (like in the discovery cabin) and parents can go for longer hikes
- Education program between east and west side kids- they are pen pals and then they take the train to meet in the park
- Training Families to camp; go into hotels and teach people how to front country camp- go into front country and teach people how to backcountry camp
- Ride-alongs with rangers- engage the local youth
- Kids showcased in kiosks—local school kids with glacier focused art projects
- “Jason Project”- Robert Ballard- bringing national/international students/people to this area to work on projects
- Special issue of Jr. Ranger Program; Reflect on change over time- 100 year span- and what it will be like when these kids are adults
- Wildlife Educational workshops- learn more about wildlife in a hands on manner
- Kids Contest- 100 ideas on how to save/protect the park
- Kiosks in the park with kid projects on the centennial
- Revitalize Jr. Ranger Program
- Youth Hikes
- Increase hours of discovery cabin (check out MT FWP in Kalispell for displays)
- Mentor Program with local kids/teens with park employees- cross divisional (native plant nursery, maintenance, LE, Backcountry Rangers)
- Kid Ambassador Program; kid to kid (find a local kid that loves/cares about the park and team them up with another kid in the community)
- Kid Nature Appreciation Programs
- ‘Kids Only’ Korner in the hotels and chalets—touch me table with skulls/skins, etc
- “Kids Only” spot on the website

Glacier National Park should provide *Ranger Guided Programs:*

*More...*

- More guided hikes offered and more frequently
- Increase roving of staff/volunteers- go to where the people are with informal interpretation at overlooks/pullouts/trails: More park staff visibility
- Reach out to other nationalities by telling the local stories of immigrants
- Put more “hats” on the ground- “Nature with a Naturalist”
- More Interpretive Programs offered
- More Ranger Guided Hiking tours
- More Campfire talks and evening programs
- More of ranger presence in the backcountry
- More ‘short’ ranger talks (like Goodbye to the Glaciers)- table talks, map talks
- More interpretive programs in all of the hotels- including Glacier Park Lodge and Izaak Walton Inn
- Restore ranger-guided overnights to Granite and Sperry
- Slide shows at Apgar amphitheater (restore the amphitheater)

- More Bear Rangers and Watchable Wildlife programs
- Keep long day hikes

*Historic Districts/People/Living History...*

- Preserving and presenting the history of the area
- Synapse of historic characters from each district in the park
- Dave Dahlen to come back and do the “Old Ranger Program”
- Living History of the people who were here in the early 1900s
- Enhance and interpret Historic Districts; West Glacier-Headquarters-Apgar
- Reinstigate some old naturalist programs- Chalet hikes, eco-treks
- History of the Circle of structures that represent the park- native Americans, Railroads, miners, native Americans, border, etc
- Centennial themed evening programs
- Historic Interpretive walks through historic districts—Centennial Walks
- Share/Bring out living history/oral history tapes to be on display at Visitor Centers
- History of the structures and districts; more tours of the hotels
- Glacier Ghost Stories
- Geocache- park history, flora, fauna, culture, geography
- Geocache with historical information in the park
- ‘Centennial’ Historic Art Walks
- Photo Show of historical figures (Logan, Cosley, Hilemann, Russell, Vaught, Rinehardt, Grant, etc)
- Buffalo Soldiers as surveyors? Interpret this history?

*New Program Ideas...*

- Guided Hikes from the chalets
- Night Sky programs and events
- Superintendent leads a hike for the summer
- Backcountry Horse Camps with guided trips- and including the chalets
- Enhance Wilderness Program- for staff and visitors; raise awareness, discuss meanings, bring this into our discussion of history of the park
- Centurion Recognition program
- Show winter pictures during the summer season- special winter presentation/program?
- Music Programs (Historical series; 20s, War Era, etc)
- Art Days- Encouraging painting outside
- Displays of local art
- Teepee’s and Dancers at Glacier Park Lodge daily for authentic, historical experience
- Evening/Fire Side programs at Glacier Park Lodge
- ‘A Day in the Life of a Ranger’- from a Law Enforcement Ranger’s Perspective
- Native American walk to sacred dancing grounds
- Longer ‘Native American Speaks’ programs
- Living History exhibit at 1913 Ranger Station

*Glacier National Park should provide Science-Based Programs...*

- 100 years of science/research in Glacier
- Science and History Day
- The Next 100 Years- panel discussion; learn from the past, future challenges—kids/young people are invited via an essay contest
- Climate Change Conference with Al Gore and Leo Dicaprio

*Glacier National Park should work with various Park Partners for Centennial Programs...*

- Enhance Rails to Trails Program

- Reach out to our park partners/support our partners in delivering programs- more Montana House programs, etc
- Living History with Glacier Legends- Sha Riordan (actress)
- Tour of historic buildings with expert historians, landscape architects, antiques, etc
- Native American presentations- spiritual, cultural, crafts, exhibits
- Speakers Series at the Montana House—to share historical experiences, etc
- Story Telling sessions at local places- Montana House, Two Med camp store, etc
- 'Growing up on Lake McDonald'- a private landowner program/tour
- More Rails to Trails Programs

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## PROJECTS; what projects do you think Glacier should work as a part of the centennial?

### *Glacier National Park should work on the Going-to-the-Sun Road/Roads/Shuttle...*

- Securing the funding for and completing Going-to-the-Sun Road rehab
- Fix the shuttle system by the centennial
- Minimize Road Construction by the Centennial; for the centennial
- Fix/Up grade Inside North Fork Road- and fix/upgrade up to Kintla
- Beautify Park entrances (East and West)
- Make sure the park looks spectacular in 2010- no construction in 2010
- Ensure that shuttle system continues and can accommodate future needs
- Free bus rides to the park from the neighboring communities
- Better public transit beyond GTSR- extend to Many Glacier and Two Medicine
- Extend Transit into surrounding communities
- Transit lines should coincide with colors on buses
- Repair Many Glacier Road
- Long-term Shuttle System
- Fee for transit- to extend it to other valleys (mg, eg, tm); and into gateway communities
- Mandatory Shuttle- like Denali
- Increase entrance fees to pay for longer use (extend season) of shuttle
- Beautify Entrance station tunnels
- Fix East Glacier Road coming into the park
- New transit system connecting the park to the valleys
- Park and Rides- more in gateway communities
- Mass transit offered? Shuttles from the valley? Snow bus? Eagle Transit? Amtrak- Rail Link (similar to Missoula with Dennis Washington)
- Red Buses to pick up visitors from the valley
- Extend red bike program to the public (gear or no gears)
- Amtrak to offer a shuttle from station to Apgar Transit Center
- Map at Belton station showing where trails and shuttles are from West Glacier to Apgar

### *Glacier National Park should work on Structures...*

- More compost toilets
- New septic system at Granite
- Finish rehab of the MG hotel
- Reintroduce the water tower at Granite (bladder)
- Complete Blackfeet Encampment at St. Mary VC
- A new west side visitor center
- Progress on West side visitor center
- Restore old structures; backcountry cabins and lookouts
- Complete West Side Visitor Center

- Replace Apgar Amphitheater
- Display Science Building Basement
- Move Visitor Center to Apgar Transit Center
- Restore Heaven's Peak Lookout
- Many Glacier Road Rehab
- Restore Many Glacier Chalet
- Coordinate reservation systems between chalets and hotels
- Build another St. Mary/Sun Point Chalet
- Upgrade guest facilities- facilities are run down and in need of improvement- especially Swiftcurrent Motor Inn
- Better access to floors and guest areas in hotels and at Logan Pass- elevators and ramps NPS
- Upgrade park motels, inns, lodges
- Increase accessibility (handicap); and increase awareness of options
- Reestablish trail to Heaven's Peak Lookout and fix the lookout

*Glacier National Park should work on Trails...*

- Big Bend- add trail addition up to the High Line Trail
- For the sake of hikers, have no fly days for the helicopter flights
- Restore old trails in the park- get back to 1000 miles of trails
- More handicap accessible trails
- More backcountry campsites- Stoney Indian

*Glacier National Park should work on its International Peace Park designation...*

- Display sharing the Glacier/Waterton story of celebrating 100/115 years of preservation together
- Revitalize Waterton-Glacier IPP by:
  - Stop maintaining the swath
  - Reaffirm commitment on both sides of border
  - Open Goat Haunt to all
  - Introduce an integrated fee system
  - NPS returns to handling customs

*Glacier National Park should work on Volunteer Projects...*

- More service/volunteer project days! (like citizen science but with trails, weed management, etc)
- Help preserve artifacts- could be set up as a series of day-long volunteer work sessions
- Continue citizen science program- they engage people, practice science with equipment, and use of data
- Expand into a Citizen-Superintendent Program
- Sub district Trail Day- volunteers; use backcountry wish list
- Drop-In Volunteer Projects- what if I only had an hour but my family of 4 want to contribute our physical help
- VIP hosts is a good program- needs to be expanded and also provide more stipends

*Glacier National Park should work on Interpretation/Education projects...*

- Enhance wayside exhibits in the park; tell the why; rather than just "Stay Off" or "recycle plastic here"
- Road Guide Booklet with stops along the Going-to-the-Sun Road- see discontinued book with the Glacier Association (Wendy Hill)
- Develop a Railway Education Trunk
- Old Bells from mountain passes put on display
- Redo signs in the park- recreate old style to set the park back in the time for 2010
- Virtual Museum Tour (to help with VC Fund-raising)

- Kid essay contest on what glacier means to me—100 best in book or on display in the park
- Interpretation pamphlets for more hikes in the park (highline, Grinnell Glacier, etc)
- Centennial Guide- to share next year; what we are doing, what's going on in the park, how can I get involved, etc?
- Display for all museum archives/photos/clothing, etc- at the Hockaday? MHS?- and establish as a permanent exhibit in the park
- Keep focus on civil engineering projects- speak to their story with better exhibits
- Exposed time capsule

*Glacier National Park should work on Natural Resources projects...*

- Repeat Photography- 1910-2010 (glaciers, treeline, etc)
- Look at how climate change fits with long term geologic and ecologic history and changes- see Steve G.—“The Last of the Glaciers” film; or aerial photo
- Pamphlet that highlights species at risk (like bull trout hand out)—successes, how you can support their survival at Glacier
- Park-wide bioblitz; wildlife/species inventory
- Fund modeling programs that predict the future—see crown managers discussion ALCES
- Bioblitz- with focus on climate change impacts
- Pull knapweed along public areas and Visitor Centers

*Glacier National Park should work on Greening the Park and Region...*

- International-Region-wide Waste Management Project
- Off-set park operation emissions by 100% in 2010- and encourage other visitors to do their own as well—Do Your Part for Climate Friendly Parks
- Increase Recycling awareness among all employees in the park (NPS, Concessions, etc)
- Make simple environmental changes in your facilities- such as CFL at SMVC- “if ya’ preach it, do it!”
- State working together to create a full recycling plant in W. Montana

*Glacier National Park should work on Agency/Congressional Needs...*

- Lobby congress and the President to re-commit to the National Parks
- Wilderness Designation
- Wilderness Designation
- Special Flathead international MOU treaty protection
- Become a ‘dark skies park’
- Work with other parks and their anniversaries- Charter members of the NPS
- Work with the FAA for control of our AIR SPACE.
- Fully fund trail crew
- Wilderness Designation

*New Ideas*

- Fly a flag over the Capitol building on May 11, 1910- to raise awareness in DC that it is our Birthday!
- Multi-lingual (native and English) signage in the park (like for the Heaven’s Peak sign, etc)
- Ask the public who have visited GNP in the past to send you their favorite photos -- sort of a "visitor's visual history of Glacier National Park"
- Map with traditional names of peaks (native American names)
- History of Art in the Park; exhibit
- Floor fans for the community building
- Comprehensive Fire History of the past 100 years- and beyond- and what predictions will be for the next century

- Fundraise by selling rides on vintage red cars (Bruce Austin willing to do this with Cadillac and 1927 White)
- Enhance Sister-Park partnership
- CCC recognition/recreation/exhibit at Lake Sherburne, Oxbow camp, Walter Matthau, Bowman Lake Military Academy—Interpret these!!
- Wireless Internet throughout the park- rangers are not always available, a way to research the park
- Increase trail crew
- Plant a centennial garden in each community around the park and in the park
- Deep Room discounts at the end of the season
- US Congress must designate priority funding for renovation of Visitor facilities and find matching corporate funding
- NPCA Magazine in hotel guestrooms
- Centennial Registry- for gifts that we need; items, projects, etc
- Drop off your present for Glacier- kids give a gift to the park? Volunteer hours? With a special display in the park—'Local kids give gift of peace to the park'; peace crane project?
- 100 candles for the cake? By local schools with significance themes?