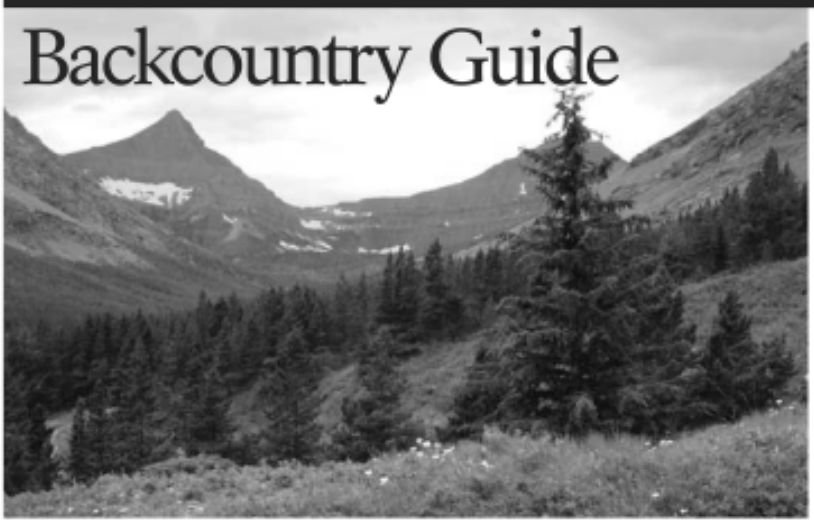
8. Backcountry Brochures – "Backcountry Guide," Glacier National Park

Glacier

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Backcountry Guide



New Application Procedures
See Page 6 for Details.

Dramatic vistas and delicate beauty combine to make Glacier's backcountry a hiker's paradise. *clockwise from the top left Fifteen 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.

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

8. Backcountry Brochures – "Backcountry Guide," Glacier National Park

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 non profit 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.

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.

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406-888-5819 (FAX) - http://www.nps.gov/glac/activities/bcguide1.htm