

Top Ten Reasons to Designate Wilderness in Glacier National Park

- **Legacy**

Formal wilderness designation is the perfect gift for the park's upcoming Centennial. While the park and surrounding communities will certainly benefit from Centennial celebrations, the gift of wilderness is an enduring legacy.

- **Forever**

Wilderness designation affords permanent protection. The administrative protection offered by Recommended Wilderness is only temporary in nature and can be undone. Wilderness designation assures permanent protection as wild.

- **Spotlight**

Recognize the park's universally appreciated wilderness/backcountry resources. There is no debate concerning the international and national significance of the park's wilderness resources/values. Let the world know by bestowing the valued title, "Wilderness."

- **People**

Wilderness is specifically "for the use and enjoyment of American people... as wilderness." Formal wilderness designation will not change how people presently experience and enjoy the park, and will ensure unparalleled opportunities now and in the future for wild experiences.

- **Certainty**

Wilderness designation provides future managers with the tools to ensure the unmodified landscape receives the highest level of protection. The management sideboards offered by formal wilderness designation do not unduly constrain the judgment of future Superintendents for management of the entire park, but do prevent potential undesirable new development in the North Fork or other wild parts of the park.

- **Wild**

Essential management activities such as fire suppression, chalet maintenance, and trail upkeep will continue, and be conducted in a manner mindful of wilderness values. Exceptions to the norm are permitted in cases of emergency.

- **Accomplish**

Wilderness designation will complete unfinished business. The recommendation to designate most of Glacier National Park as wilderness was forwarded by President Nixon to Congress 35 years ago. Formal wilderness designation would fulfill the intent of Congress expressed in the Wilderness Act and affirmed in the 1974 Wilderness Plan and 1999 General Management Plan.

- **Fulfill**

There are 60 designated wilderness areas within the National Park System and the National Park Service manages more wilderness acres than any other federal land management agency. Many people think Glacier already has designated wilderness, and are surprised that this wild, undeveloped landscape is not wilderness. Wilderness designation at GLAC will complement wilderness designation at numerous other National Park units and fulfill expectations.

- **Landscape**

Wilderness designation will match Waterton Lakes National Park's recent wilderness designation, protecting ecosystems and wilderness values at a landscape scale. The United States must show good faith in how we manage and protect federal lands on our side of the border, especially to maintain credibility when working with Canada regarding mining development in the upper Flathead drainage.

- **Reserve**

Glacier National Park's wild lands are critical points of reference representing ecosystems with little modern human influence that have increasing value in a rapidly changing world. Wilderness designation advances mindful science and favors minimal human intervention, keeping wilderness as a reserve for the future.