

PUBLIC SCOPING

for proposed

Installation of New Electric Line and Replacement of the Telephone Line to Kelly's Camp

Background

Kelly's Camp is a group of private lands on the west shore of Lake McDonald near the end of the North McDonald Road. There are currently 14 landowners in that area. Kelly's Camp was originally built by Frank and Emmeline Kelly in 1894. In the 1920's, the Kellys developed a cabin resort for the increasing park visitor traffic through the McDonald Valley. When the Going-to-the-Sun Road was completed, a road was built to Kelly's Camp, allowing the resort to serve auto travelers. The summer tourist cabin resort was operated by family members through the 1960's.

The resort had telephone service but used hydroelectric generators powered by Kelly Creek to provide electricity. After the resort closed, the cabins were purchased by previous resort visitors, who continued to rely on hydroelectric generators for their electrical needs. Individual landowners each had their own septic systems.

In 2018, the Howe Ridge Fire burned the Kelly's Camp area, including almost all of the structures (both NPS owned and privately owned). The private land owners intend to rebuild beginning in 2019.

The landowners have requested that Glacier National Park allow an extension of the underground electrical lines from NPS owned Wheeler Camp (where the electrical lines currently end) to Kelly's Camp, and restoration of the telephone line.

Proposal

Flathead Electric would install an underground single phase primary 7,200 volt power cable and conduit at a depth of up to 52 inches for approximately 13,000 feet. About 94% would be installed along the North McDonald Road in the ditch line, 3% along other park roadways and 3% on private property. About 40 concrete vaults would be installed along the road for pull points, cabinets and transformers. Telephone line would be laid in the same trench. This would provide power and restore telephone to 14 private parcels at Kelly's Camp.

Objectives

- Restore telephone service.
- Provide electrical power to 14 private parcels.
- Remove adverse effects to natural soundscapes and fish passage (including westslope cutthroat trout) from hydroelectric generators. Improve stream function and aquatic systems by removing hydroelectric infrastructure.

Environmental Impacts

The National Historic Preservation Act

The electric and phone lines would be installed in already disturbed areas. The project would result in negligible to minor impacts on cultural resources due to visibility of the vaults. Archeological monitoring would be required throughout the project. Under Section 106, the project would result in a "no adverse effect to historic properties."

The National Environmental Policy Act

The project would result in negligible to minor adverse impacts on vegetation and soils from ground disturbance. Revegetation would be conducted if necessary. The park would require that all equipment and vehicles be cleaned before they enter the park to reduce the spread of invasive species. The park has determined that the project could be categorically excluded and would not require the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA). Public scoping is being conducted to determine if there is any new information or additional concerns that the park is not aware of that might result in the need for an EA.

How to Submit Comments

Please post your comments online at:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/Kellyscamp2019>

Or send comments to:

Superintendent, Glacier National Park

Attn: Kelly's Camp 2019

PO Box 128

West Glacier, MT 59936

Phone: 406-888-7901

Please provide comments by

April 1, 2019