

## Issues to Consider

- Visitor and employee safety.
- Impacts to cultural resources and the Avalanche Campground Historic District.
- The Avalanche area's cultural significance to the Kootenai Tribe.
- Impacts to natural resources, including native vegetation, soils, and wildlife.
- Impacts to park operations.
- Impacts to visual resources.
- The presence of hazardous materials, including asbestos and lead based paints.

## Public Comments During Scoping

Your comments will help identify other issues to consider. If an EA is prepared, there will be another opportunity for you to comment. Please post your scoping comments online at:

***[www.parkplanning.nps.gov/AvalancheRangerStation](http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/AvalancheRangerStation)***

or

Send scoping comments to:  
***Superintendent Glacier National Park  
Attn: Avalanche RS  
PO Box 128  
West Glacier, MT 59936  
Phone: 406-888-7901***

Please provide comments by  
**June 1, 2012**

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Glacier National Park  
P.O. Box 128  
West Glacier, MT 59936



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glacier National Park  
Montana



## PUBLIC SCOPING

For a proposal to  
**Remove the Avalanche  
Ranger Station**



Avalanche Ranger Station, NPS photo.

May 2012

## Background

Located on the west side of the Avalanche Campground entrance road, the Avalanche Ranger Station is in a severe state of deterioration. The ranger station was constructed in 1966 as part of a rehabilitation of the Avalanche Campground under the National Park Service (NPS) Mission 66 infrastructure development program. Once a visitor information contact office and residence for two park rangers, the Avalanche Ranger Station was closed in the mid-1990's. Planning began to convert the structure into a public restroom, but the plan was never completed. A restroom has since been built in the picnic area, campground hosts now provide information to campers, and the ranger station is no longer needed. The building is currently only used to store emergency equipment and campground supplies.

At 1377 square feet, the wood-frame structure is an outstanding example of Mission 66 architectural design and includes a distinctive, triangular gabled front porch roof. The ranger



Avalanche Ranger Station, Historic American Building Survey, photo by Kristi Hager.

station is a contributing property to the Avalanche Campground Historic District, which is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

A 120 square-foot shed located behind the ranger station is also severely deteriorated and currently in disuse. The shed was built to hold a generator and *is not* a contributing property to the Avalanche Campground Historic District.

The park is proposing to remove the Avalanche Ranger Station because it is in disuse, is a hazard to human safety, and maintaining or restoring a building that is no longer needed would not be cost effective. The adjacent shed would also be removed as well as a dirt service road, a propane tank, and adjoining sidewalks; the site would be restored with native vegetation.

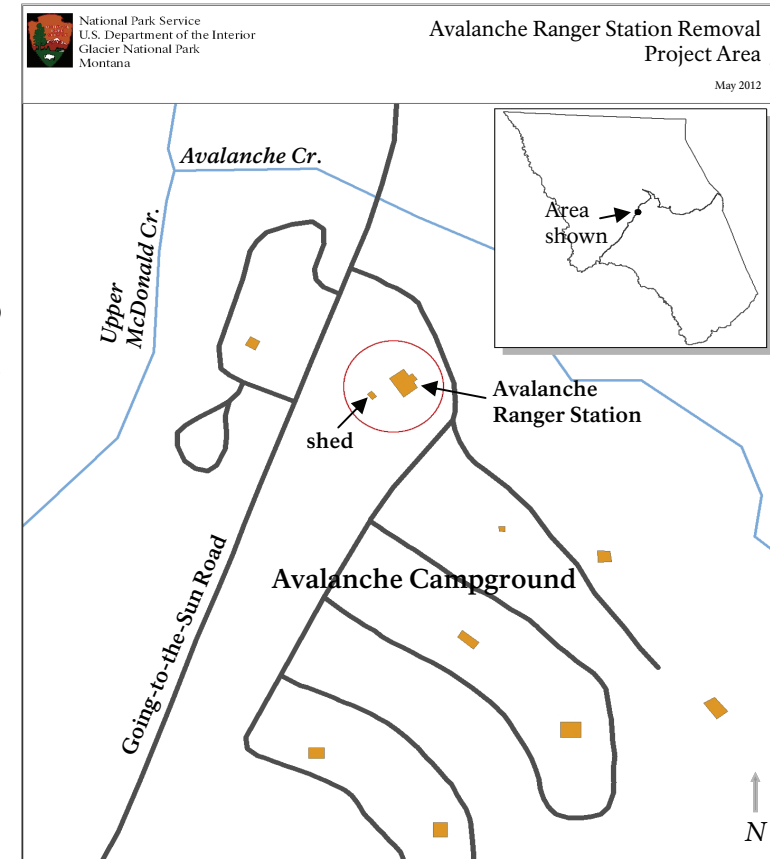
The Montana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has concurred with the park's determination that removing the ranger station would have an adverse effect on the Avalanche Campground Historic District but would not affect the campground's eligibility for listing on the NRHP. The park has prepared a Memorandum of Agreement with the SHPO to mitigate impacts to cultural resources by 1) recording the building to the standards of the Historic American Buildings Survey, 2) installing a wayside exhibit at or near the Avalanche Campground to interpret the campground's history and significance, and 3) salvaging usable architectural materials.

Removing the ranger station would only have minor adverse impacts to cultural resources since it would not affect the Avalanche Campground's eligibility for listing on the NRHP. Impacts to other park resources would also be minor or less. The park therefore believes the project could be covered under a categorical exclusion and

does not require the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA). The NPS is conducting scoping to determine if there is any new information or additional concerns that the park is not aware of which might result in the need for an EA. Scoping is also underway so the public can comment on the adverse effect determination under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as well as the proposed mitigation measures.

## Objectives

- Reduce the costs, impacts, and visual intrusions of keeping unused, severely deteriorated structures on the landscape.
- Eliminate a safety hazard.
- Mitigate adverse effects to cultural resources.



Location of the Avalanche Ranger Station (map is not to scale).