



# Going-to-the-Sun Road

## Corridor Management Plan/ Environmental Assessment

Glacier National Park

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park

Public Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 2019



# Purpose and Need



## Purpose –

- Identify a suite of strategies and actions to manage transportation, visitation and visitor use, trail use and access throughout the corridor.

## Need –

- The plan is needed to address a range of changing conditions and challenges with the GTSR corridor associated with unprecedented visitation levels and dynamic use patterns.
- These include: roadway gridlock and parking lot congestion; visitor safety issues; natural and cultural resource impacts and heavy stress on park facilities, services and operations.







# Issues



- Visitation Increases
- Vehicle Congestion
- Alternative Transportation
- Natural Resources
- Trail Use
- Historic Significance





# Alternatives



## A- No Action

### B –Adaptive Management Approach to Address Visitation Levels (**Preferred Alternative**)

**Possible Actions** within the GTSR corridor and during peak season subject to funding and triggers:

- Expand shuttle system with additional buses, extended hours and six new stops.
- Extend Visitor Center hours.
- Construct new 100 car parking lot on the west side and increase parking at St. Mary VC and 1913 Ranger Station.
- Manage trail use levels during peak season to provide a range of visitor experiences and for visitor safety. (Ex. Highline, Siyeh and Gunsight).







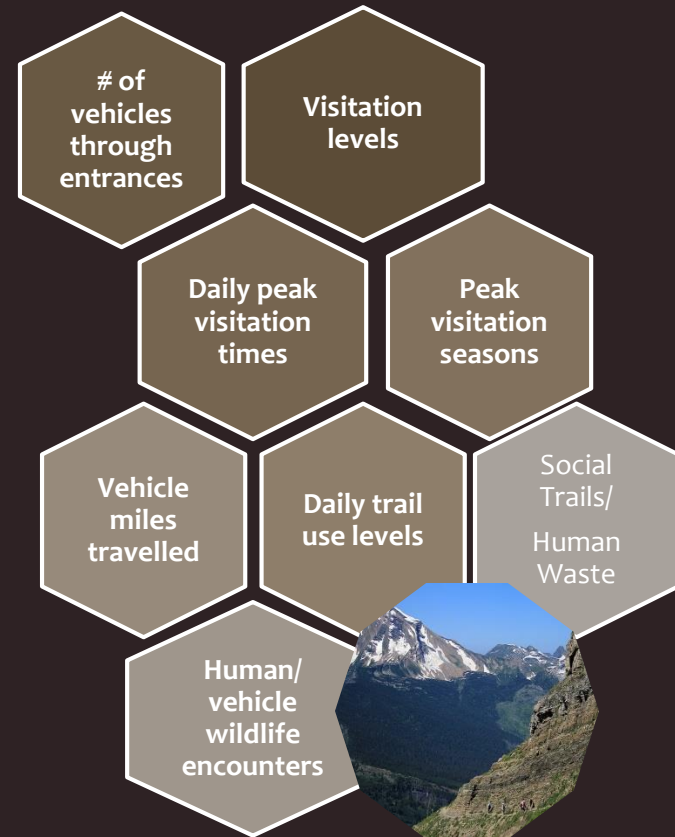
# Preferred Alternative Continued



- Add five miles of hiking trails, 1.5 miles of bike trails, and pit toilets on popular trails.
- Require parking permits for a portion of parking lots at Logan Pass, and St. Mary Virginia Falls.
- Prohibit overnight parking.
- Convert portion of Avalanche Campground to day use parking.
- Enhance bicycle opportunities.



# Indicators





# Analyses Completed



- **Transportation/Shuttle**

- Transportation Analysis
- Shuttle System Mini - Value Analysis
- Travel Model on GTSR
- Carnegie Mellon Students Analysis of Parking and Hiker Shuttle
- Lease v Purchase Fleet Analysis

- **Visitation, Visitor Experience, Parking, Climate Change**

- Research on use at key parking lots and hiking trails (2005-2014)
- Visitor Surveys on experiences and management options.
- Visitation Trend Analysis
- Visitation Trends in Response to Climate Change





## Visitation 2019



















# Recreational Access Display (RAD)

Camping  West Side									East Side 				
Campground	Apgar	Avalanche	Bowman Lake	Fish Creek	Kintla Lake	Logging Creek	Quartz Creek	Sprague Creek	Cut Bank	Many Glacier	Rising Sun	St. Mary	Two Medicine
Current Status	Full	Full	Open	Full	Full	Primitive	Primitive	Full	Primitive	Full	Full	Full	Full
Filled Yesterday	01:19 pm	02:31 pm		02:31 pm	05:11 pm			11:09 am	12:38 pm	01:32 pm	09:44 am	07:30 am	11:00 am

West Side Weather 			Logan Pass Weather 			East Side Weather 		
Today Rain: 30%		Chance Showers T-Storms	Today Rain: 50%		Chance Showers T-Storms	Today Rain: 20%		Slight Chance Showers T-Storms
Tuesday Rain: 40%		Chance Rain Showers then Chance Showers T-Storms	Tuesday Rain: 80%		T-storms	Tuesday Rain: 60%		Showers T-Storms Likely
July 4th Rain: 0%		Mostly Sunny	July 4th Rain: 20%		Slight Chance Rain Showers then Mostly Sunny	July 4th Rain: 0%		Mostly Sunny

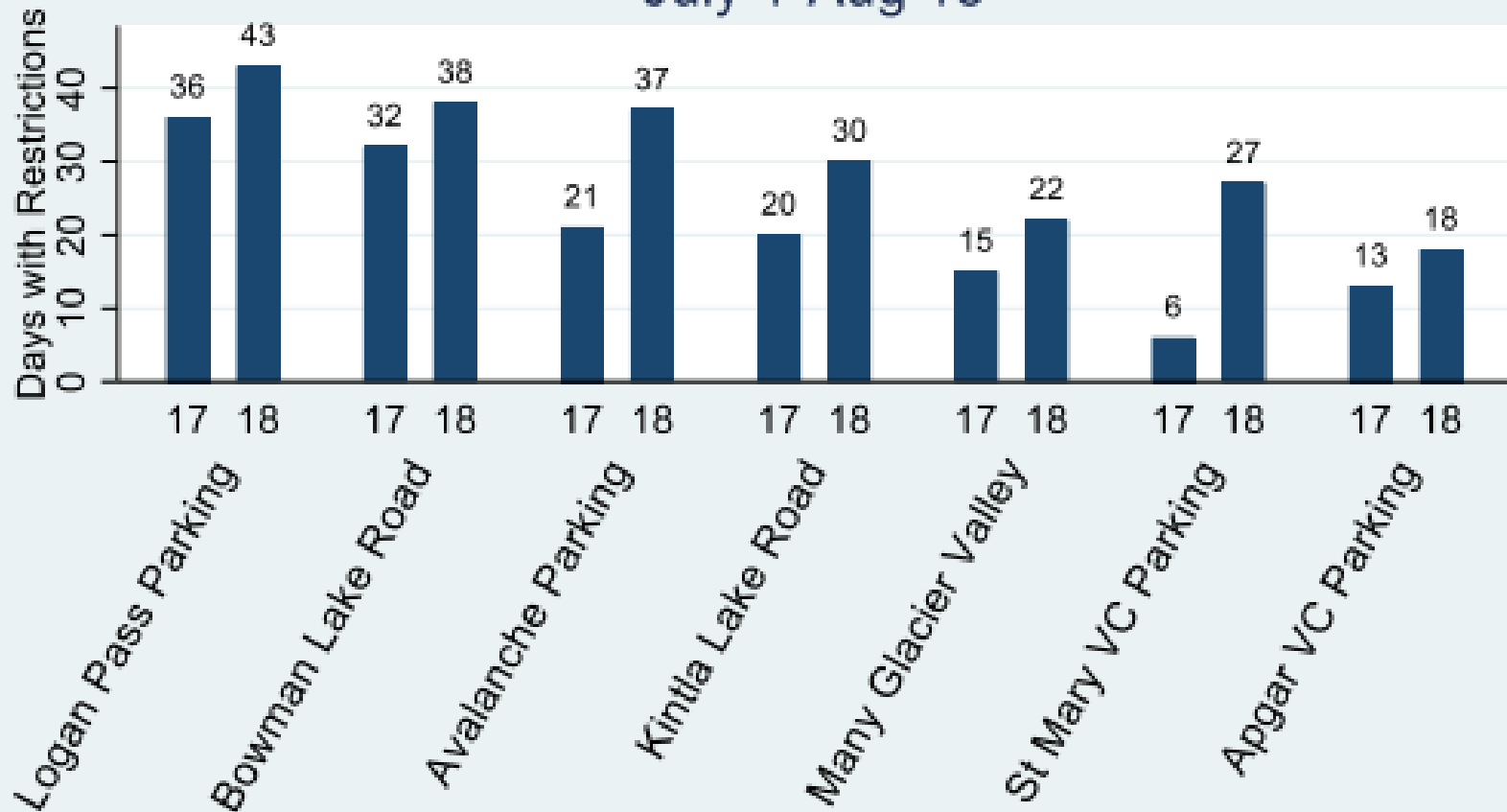
  

Congestion  Parking Status							Vehicle Access Restrictions 		
Parking Lot	Avalanche Creek	Bowman Lake	Logan Pass	Many Glacier	St. Mary Visitor Center	Two Medicine	Many Glacier	North Fork	Two Medicine
Current Status	Full	Full	Full	No Report	Full	No Report	None	In Effect	None

able at Logan Pass. - Be prepared. Stay hydrated. Know your limitations. Make good decisions. Respect wildlife.



## Glacier National Park Crowding Restrictions or Parking Closure 2017 vs 2018 July 1-Aug 18



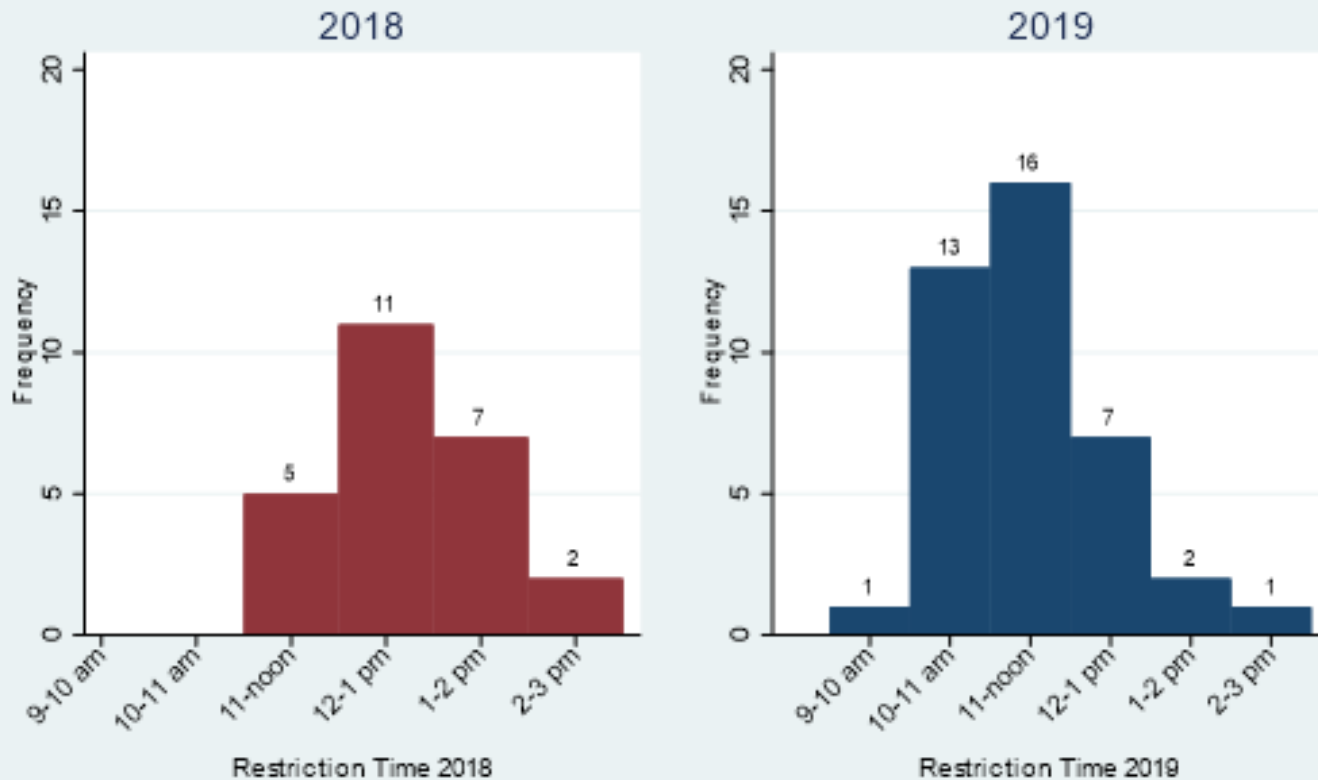
Note: Data reflects postings on Glacier's Twitter of parking lot or road closures or other restrictions due to crowding. Data from July 1 through August 18 for each year.





# Many Glacier Valley Restrictions

Many Glacier 2018 and 2019  
Start Time of Congestion Restriction



Note: July 1 - August 20 for each year



# SUMMER VISITATION



## GLAC % Change Over Previous Year

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Yell 2019
May	20%	32%	-3%	10%	-14%	2%
June	24%	17%	28%	-10%	-2%	-9%
July	-1.50%	19%	23%	-10%	-3%	0%
August	-1.40%	27%	21%	-26%	15%	1%
September	0	33%	-19%	11%		
October	-2%	37%	11%	10%		
November	24%	58%	-50%	32%		
December	18%	-4%	3%	41%		
Year to Date	1.30%	24%	13%	-10%	2%	-1%



# What Are We Seeing with Peak Month Visitation?

Year	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total
2019	167,403	544,088	879,711	771,874					2,447,377
2018	195,116	556,304	905,959	667,688	434,600	91,973	20,657	18,781	2,965,309
2017	177,787	620,962	1,009,665	908,479	389,137	84,469	15,594	13,268	3,305,512
2016	183,925	485,017	818,481	748,565	482,592	75,797	30,823	12,877	2,946,681
2015	134,741	414,671	689,064	579,007	351,388	71,297	19,505	13,357	2,366,056
2014	112,187	334,074	699,650	675,119	353,497	72,694	15,706	11,367	2,338,528



DEADLY TRADE:  
RHINO HORNS

NEW MUSEUM SHOWCASES  
AFRICAN AMERICAN LIVES

CHANGING FACE  
OF EUROPE

OCTOBER 2016

# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

## BACK TO NATURE

The Selfie Generation Gets Outside



Who's  
Coming to  
Glacier?

Preventative  
Search and  
Rescue  
(PSAR)

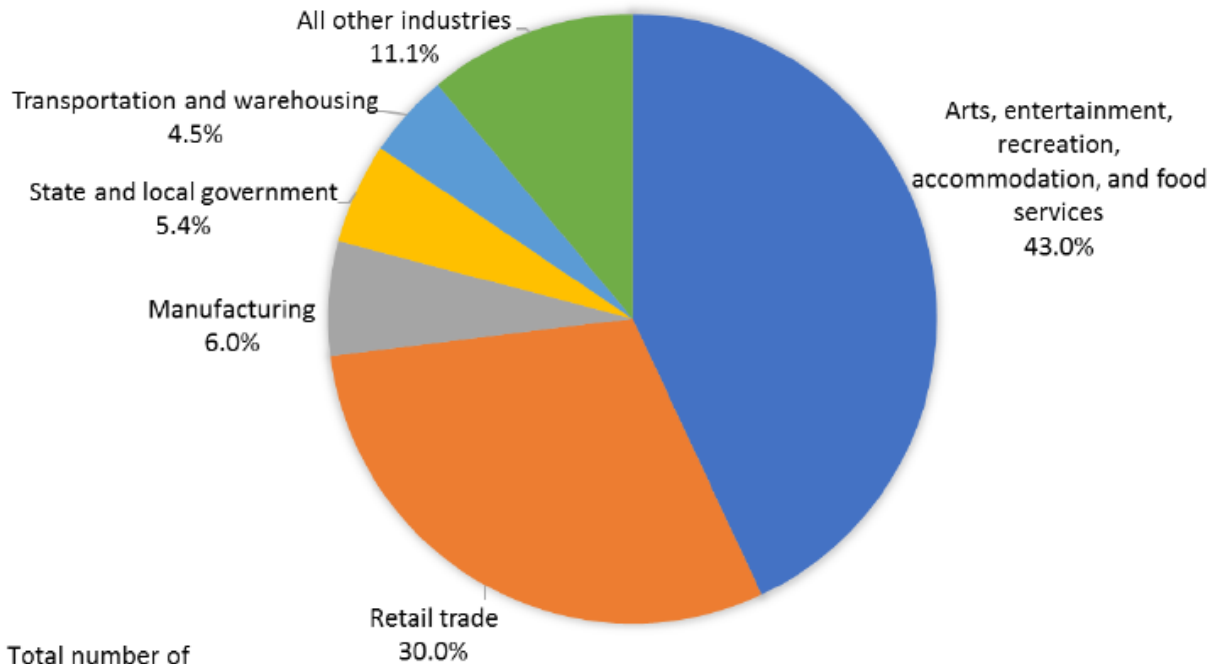




# Sweet Spot: Demand for Outdoor Recreation



Industry Composition of Outdoor Recreation Employment, 2016



Total number of employees = 4.55 million





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## Access or accidents: National Park Service expansion of electric bikes draws criticism

[Ledyard King, USA TODAY](#) Published 2:22 p.m. ET Aug. 31, 2019



Glacier National Park  
Montana

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## GOING-TO-THE-SUN ROAD CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT



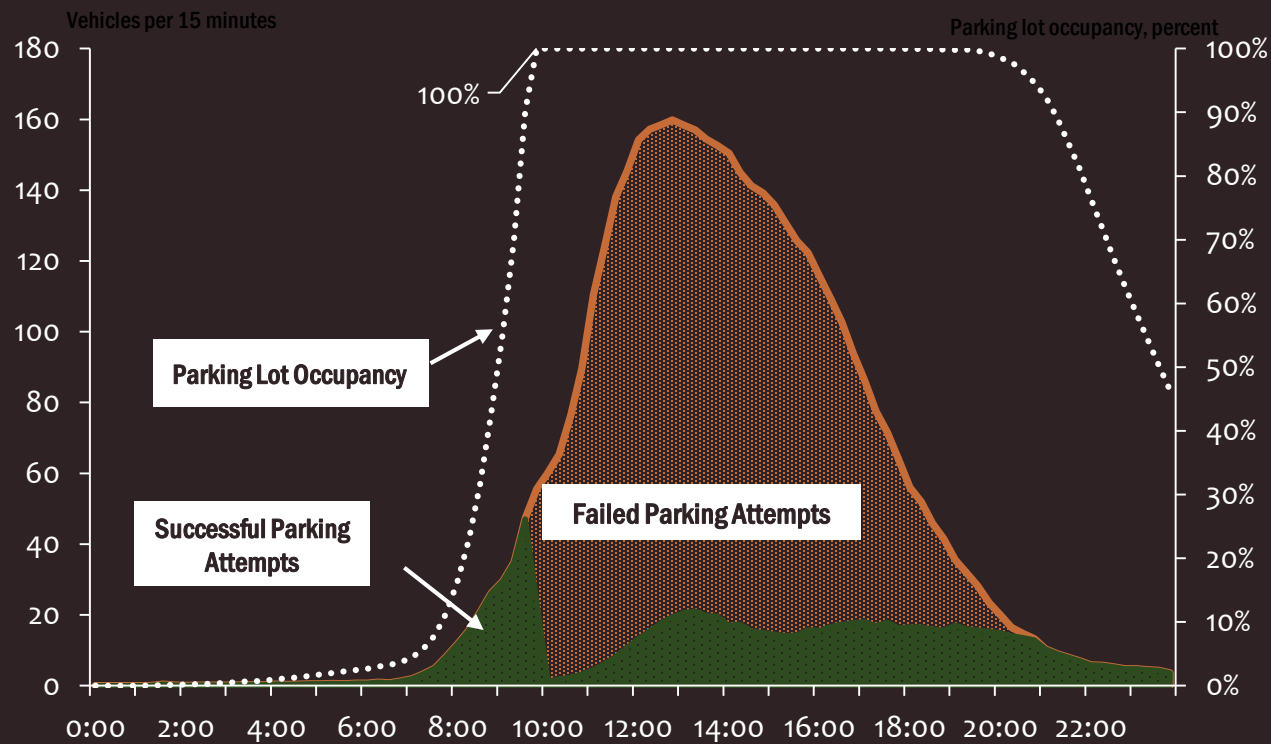
September 2019





## Logan Pass Filled by 9:30am, Peak Congestion at 1p

Simulation  
Example from  
2017 CMU I  
project



Thank you.  
Questions?

