

Background

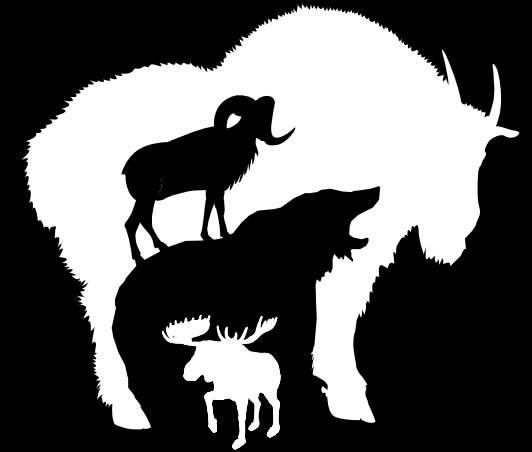
The Many Glacier area contains outstanding wildlife habitat –riparian woodlands, sedge meadows, and wetlands. It is a landscape where three valleys meet, forming a crossroad for many different wildlife species. These valleys provide natural travel corridors for bighorn sheep, grizzly bears, moose, and mountain goats. The Many Glacier Valley is also one of the park's most popular destinations for visitors, offering a variety of experiences including hiking, boating, horseback riding, picnicking, overnight accommodations, restaurants, and bus tours. Many Glacier is also well known for excellent and accessible wildlife viewing and photography.



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U.S. Department of the Interior
Glacier National Park
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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glacier National Park
Montana



Wildlife Viewing Plan

Many Glacier Valley

Public Scoping
November 2009



Need for Plan

The Many Glacier road bisects the travel corridors of bears, bighorn sheep, and other animals inhabiting the area and provides outstanding opportunities to view wildlife. Increasing visitor traffic, large bear jams, and other safety concerns, combined with new knowledge and understanding about how wildlife travel through and within the Many Glacier area, has resulted in the need to look for ways to protect wildlife while continuing to provide visitors with quality and safe wildlife viewing opportunities. Human activity that is too close can disrupt wildlife feeding, caring for young, or moving through an area. This leads to increased human-animal interactions and these close encounters can lead to excessive habituation or conditioning. The National Park Service is mandated to both protect natural resources and provide safe and enjoyable opportunities for park visitors. Therefore, the park is developing a plan for the Many Glacier developed area that will provide safe and accessible wildlife viewing opportunities for visitors and better protect wildlife.

Objectives of Plan

Provide park visitors with a quality and safe wildlife viewing experience.

Reduce opportunities for wildlife to become habituated along the Many Glacier road corridor.

Minimize stress to wildlife crossing the Many Glacier Road.

Ideas Being Considered

Provide wildlife viewing brochures and exhibits at selected pullouts along the Many Glacier Road.

Enlarge existing pullouts or add new ones that offer safe locations to view wildlife.

Reduce the size or remove pullouts in known wildlife crossing areas or locations that place visitors in unsafe situations.

Lower speeds along entire road or in some sections.

Construct viewing platforms at one pullout along road and in the Swiftcurrent Motel Parking lot.

Provide wildlife viewing interpretive programs along the road.

Resources to Consider

The following resources could be affected:

- Visitor Experience
- Viewsheds
- Wildlife
- Historic Structures
- Cultural Landscapes
- Soils and Vegetation

Your Participation

Because of your interest in Glacier National Park, we are informing you about this upcoming planning effort and requesting your comments. Scoping is the first step involving the public. Please send us your comments and concerns on the objectives, ideas being considered, and resources that could be affected. No public meetings are scheduled for this scoping period. We will review your comments to ensure we are addressing all of the possible resource issues and alternatives. There will be another opportunity for your review and comment when the plan and environmental assessment is completed and released.

Please place any comments you have at this time at our online site at:
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/glac>

Or send them by mail to:

Superintendent, Glacier National Park,

*Please provide comments by
November 30, 2009*

