



## **PUBLIC SCOPING** for an environmental assessment on a proposal to: **Update Glacier National Park's Fire Management Plan**

**Background**—The National Park Service (NPS) is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to update a long-term Fire Management Plan (FMP) for Glacier National Park. The park's FMP was last updated in 2003 ([https://parkplanning.nps.gov/FMP\\_2003](https://parkplanning.nps.gov/FMP_2003)).

As part of its mission, the NPS Wildland Fire Program manages wildland fire and fuel treatments to protect the public, park communities, and infrastructure; conserve natural and cultural resources; and maintain and restore natural ecosystem processes. The 2006 NPS Management Policies require each park unit with burnable vegetation to have an approved FMP.

An updated FMP is needed to ensure Glacier's fire management guidelines are consistent with current conditions and the latest NPS guidance, and to continue to provide for firefighter and public safety, protect park values and resources, and remain consistent with the park's resource management objectives.

**Proposal**— The proposed plan would provide a framework and parkwide guidelines for the management of all wildfires, regardless of cause, size, or complexity. The plan would provide guidance on the use of prescribed fire and non-fire fuels treatments to reduce hazardous fuel loading and accomplish resource protection objectives. The plan would provide for firefighter and public safety, consider the ecological benefits of wildland fire, and remain consistent with Glacier's resource management goals.

### **Objectives**

- Update Glacier's outdated 2003 FMP
- Protect human health and safety, property, and infrastructure
- Promote conditions that maintain fire-resilient landscapes in a changing climate
- Protect natural and cultural resources, including species federally listed under the Endangered Species Act, and ethnographic resources through engagement with area tribes
- Maintain communication and engagement with the public, bordering agencies, and tribes on fire-related issues and activities

### **Issues and Concerns**

- Protection of human health and safety, property and infrastructure
- Climate change
- Natural ecosystem processes
- Aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention
- Vegetation management, including control of non-native invasive plants
- Impacts to wilderness character
- Impacts on water quality and aquatic species
- Impacts to ESA-listed whitebark pine
- Effects to bordering entities and jurisdictions

### **Alternatives Identified to Date**

- **Alternative A (Proposed Action)**— update Glacier National Park's FMP to provide comprehensive guidance for wildland fire preparedness and management, the use of prescribed fire, and non-fire fuel treatments.
- **Alternative B (No Action)**—under no action, the NPS would not update Glacier's FMP and would continue with the current management direction.

The proposed action is only an initial proposal; no decision to implement any action can be made until the NEPA process, including consideration of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, is complete.

### **Public Comments During Scoping**

Your comments will help identify issues, concerns, and other alternatives to evaluate in the EA. There will be another opportunity to comment when the EA is completed.

Please post comments online to the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at:

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/FMP2024>

Or mail comments to:

**Superintendent, Glacier National Park**

**Attn: Fire Management Plan EA**

**PO Box 1**

**West Glacier, MT 59936**

*Comments by email or phone will not be accepted.*

Please provide comments by:

**March 27, 2024**