



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Glacier National Park
West Glacier, Montana 59936



L76, GLAC-09-078

February 17, 2009

Dear Friends:

This letter is to provide updated information to members of the interested public regarding the status of the proposed closure of Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) at Glacier National Park (GNP).

Initially, GNP had proposed to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) and initiated public scoping to look at alternatives encompassing a total of six mines and eight mine features located within Glacier National Park. A newsletter describing the issues and initial alternatives was released in August 2009. However, after conducting field surveys and further defining the proposed action, GNP has decided to close only one site, the Van Pelt #1 shaft, with a grate or bat-accessible gate, using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funding. For the remaining sites no action is proposed except for placement of signs indicating the site is an abandoned mine site. Continuation of routine monitoring would occur.

The proposed closure at Van Pelt is expected to take approximately one day and will require the use of a helicopter to transport materials and equipment to the site and remove the equipment at the completion of construction, for a total of 40 minutes flight time. Given the limited scope of the action and the minimal impacts, GNP has determined that the proposed action will result in no measurable effects on the environment and that a Categorical Exclusion (CE) is the appropriate document to meet requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act per Director's Order 12, Section 3.4(C), Actions Related to Development, No. 17, Construction of fencing enclosures or boundary fencing posing no effect on wildlife migrations. The CE is available at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>, project #26285.

Glacier National Park is conducting public review on the enclosed proposed CE to provide the public an opportunity to review the park's decision. The CE is available for a 30-day review, after which time, the CE will be signed and the project will be scheduled for implementation.

Please provide any comments on PEPC at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>, project #26285 or send written comments to Glacier National Park, Attn: Abandoned Mine Lands Project, PO Box 128, West Glacier, MT 59936

Sincerely,

Chas Cartwright
Superintendent

