
How should Glacier National Park manage NPS owned structures on the shore of Lake McDonald?

Background

During the first half of the twentieth century, much of the land on the shore of Lake McDonald was developed as recreational camps and homesteads. Visitors from near and far were drawn to the pristine wilderness lake ringed by the magnificent snow-covered peaks of the Rocky Mountains. Some of these visitors bought property and built cabins on Lake McDonald. Many of these cabins have come into park ownership. Each of these historic cabins is a story from our past, of the pioneer spirit that lived within Glacier National Park. As a group they document the recreational patterns of the American public.

Glacier National Park now owns 21 cabins on Lake McDonald. Nineteen of these cabins are historic. Eight of these historic structures are currently occupied by the previous owners under a life estate agreement. The park uses one cabin for the Artist-in-Residence program and two cabins are used as housing by the park concessioner. There are a number of other cabins on Lake McDonald that are privately owned.

Purpose and Need for a Plan

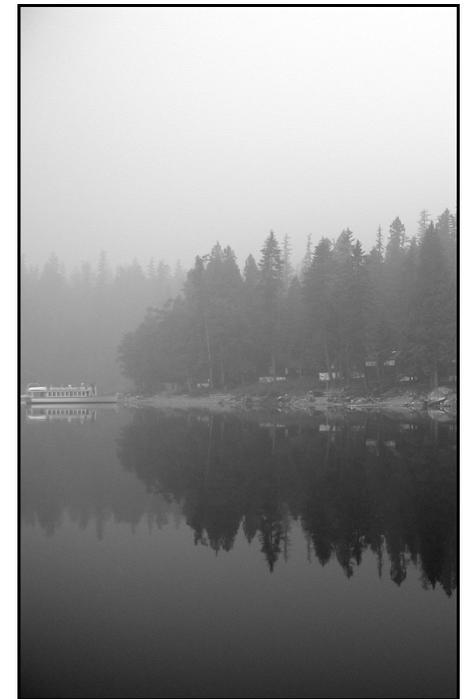
The park is preparing a plan and environmental assessment (EA) to explore alternatives for the management of cabins/structures owned by the NPS on Lake McDonald. The plan would determine which of these structures should be preserved, how the preserved structures would be used, and which structures would be removed. The plan would also provide guidance on cabins/structures that could be acquired by the NPS in the future.

Concerns/Issues

- Preservation of historic structures and cultural landscapes eligible for the National Register of Historic Places
- Limited NPS funds for structure preservation, rehabilitation and maintenance
- Viewsheds— both natural and cultural landscapes
- Wildlife habitat on Lake McDonald
- Water quality of Lake McDonald

Alternatives Identified to Date

- Limited maintenance of structure to preserve the visual historic landscape
- NPS or concession rehabilitation and use of structure
- Long-term public lease of structure-rehabilitation and maintenance by lessees
- Remove structure and restore site to natural condition
- No Action



NPS photo

Your Participation

Scoping is the first step involving the public in the planning and environmental assessment process. Due to your interest in Glacier National Park, we are informing you about this upcoming planning effort and requesting your comments. A public open house will be held August 25 in the Community Building at West Glacier from 5-7pm. Park staff will be present to listen to your concerns and or comments and answer questions. Or send your comments and concerns by August 31 on the objectives, alternatives, and resources that could be affected. We will review your comments to ensure we are addressing all the possible resource issues and alternatives. There will be another opportunity for your review and comment when the plan/environmental assessment is completed and released.

Share your Comments

www.parkplanning.nps.gov/glac

Attend the Public Open House:

August 25, 5-7pm

West Glacier Community Building

or

Mail your comments to:

*Superintendent, Glacier National Park
Lake McDonald Cabin Management Plan*

PO Box 128

West Glacier, MT 59936

Phone: 406-888-7901

COMMENTS DUE

AUGUST 31, 2010

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™



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

PUBLIC SCOPING NOTICE

Lake McDonald Cabin Management Plan

Environmental Assessment



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