



2026

FUNDING NEEDS

WILDERNESS WILDLIFE WONDER

NAVIGATING A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

We are at a pivotal crossroads. Cuts within the National Park Service and uncertainty about future operational priorities threaten our shared work helping preserve, what Wallace Stegner famously called “the very best idea we ever had,” our national parks.

But here in Glacier, we are ready to respond.

Thanks to your continued generosity, the Glacier National Park Conservancy is in a strong position to face these challenges head-on. Already this year, our team, in close collaboration with Glacier National Park, has proven nimble, innovative, and unwavering in advancing our mission — even as we navigate a new operational landscape here in Glacier and across the National Park Service.

Moving forward, we must be ready to adapt and do more to protect this incredible landscape for future generations.

This work will not be easy, but meaningful challenges rarely are. It will call on us to be gracious and generous. It will require courage and a deep commitment from every one of us to build a sustainable future for this treasured place.

We are rising to this challenge and invite you to join us.

In this Funding Needs Guide, we share a story of growth and resilience. We reflect on where we have been, where we are today, and the future we are building together — a future that

preserves the vast Wilderness, majestic Wildlife, and awe-inspiring Wonder of Glacier National Park. To realize this vision, we need your support. This year, we aim to provide \$4.39 million in philanthropic support for critical park projects, but we cannot do it without you.

WHERE WE CAME FROM

In 2013, the Glacier Conservancy was founded through the merger of the Glacier Fund and the Glacier National History Association, creating a unified nonprofit partner to increase impact. That first year, we granted just over \$850,000 to the park, providing a 6% boost to the federal appropriation for Glacier Park of \$14 million.





"The brook would lose its song
if we removed the rocks."

Wallace Stegner



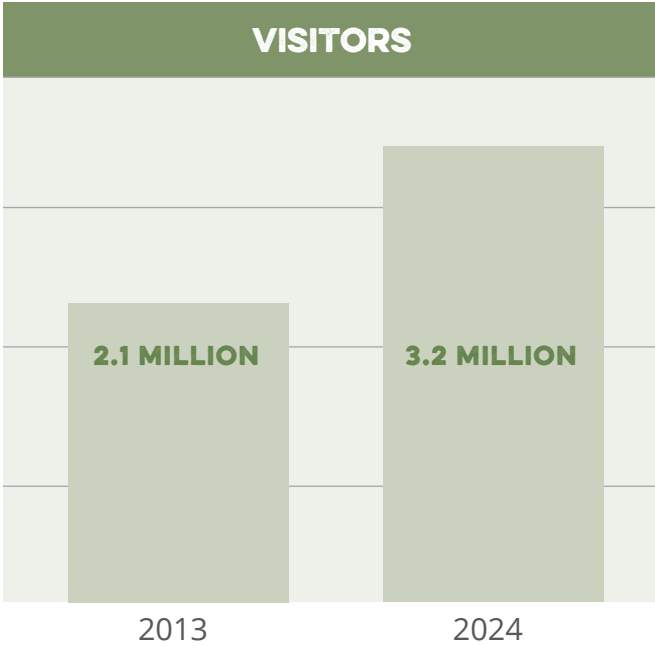
Sunset on Going-to-the-Sun Road / Kim Mulholland

WHERE WE ARE TODAY

Today, Glacier’s visitation has surged by over 50% — from 2.1 million in 2013 to 3.2 million in 2024 — yet its federal operating budget has grown by only 14%, to just over \$16 million. This year, with your help, private philanthropy has provided more than \$4 million in annual support for the third year in a row. That translates to an impactful 25% lift to the park’s operating budget.

As our partnership grew, we recognized the importance of anticipating future needs. In 2019, we created a Future Parks Projects Fund, a rainy-day reserve that proved essential during the pandemic.

At the same time, we collaborated with park leadership about how to transition our partnership into one that continued to meet current needs across the park while pursuing long-range, broad landscape initiatives. Together, we identified Wilderness, Wildlife, and Wonder as three initiatives core to the Conservancy’s



mission “to protect and preserve Glacier for future generations” and the National Park Service’s mission “to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.”



WHERE WE ARE HEADED

Our vision is bold: a sustainable funding model that meets urgent needs while preparing for transformative, long-range projects. It represents the next step in the growth of our partnership and our core work of helping preserve and protect Glacier National Park for future generations.

With your continued support, we will build a sustainable funding structure to meet changing and growing park needs, including an anticipated future capital campaign to meet the long-term goals identified in our collaborative plan.

This year, we are asking you to be part of that next step by helping us reach our \$4.39 million goal to support people, projects, and programs across Glacier. We are creating a meaningful path to long-term sustainability that we could not have imagined a decade ago. With your support, we cannot only see this exciting future but can make it a reality.



Lacy Kowalski
Associate Director of
Programs and Policy

Stacy Dubuc
Director of
Development

Doug Mitchell
Executive Director

PRESERVING WILDERNESS

Honoring the Past and Future

The stillness and calm of the early morning in Glacier National Park are powerful. It is impossible not to be moved by the majesty of this special place, to treasure the simple act and privilege of being in the wilderness.

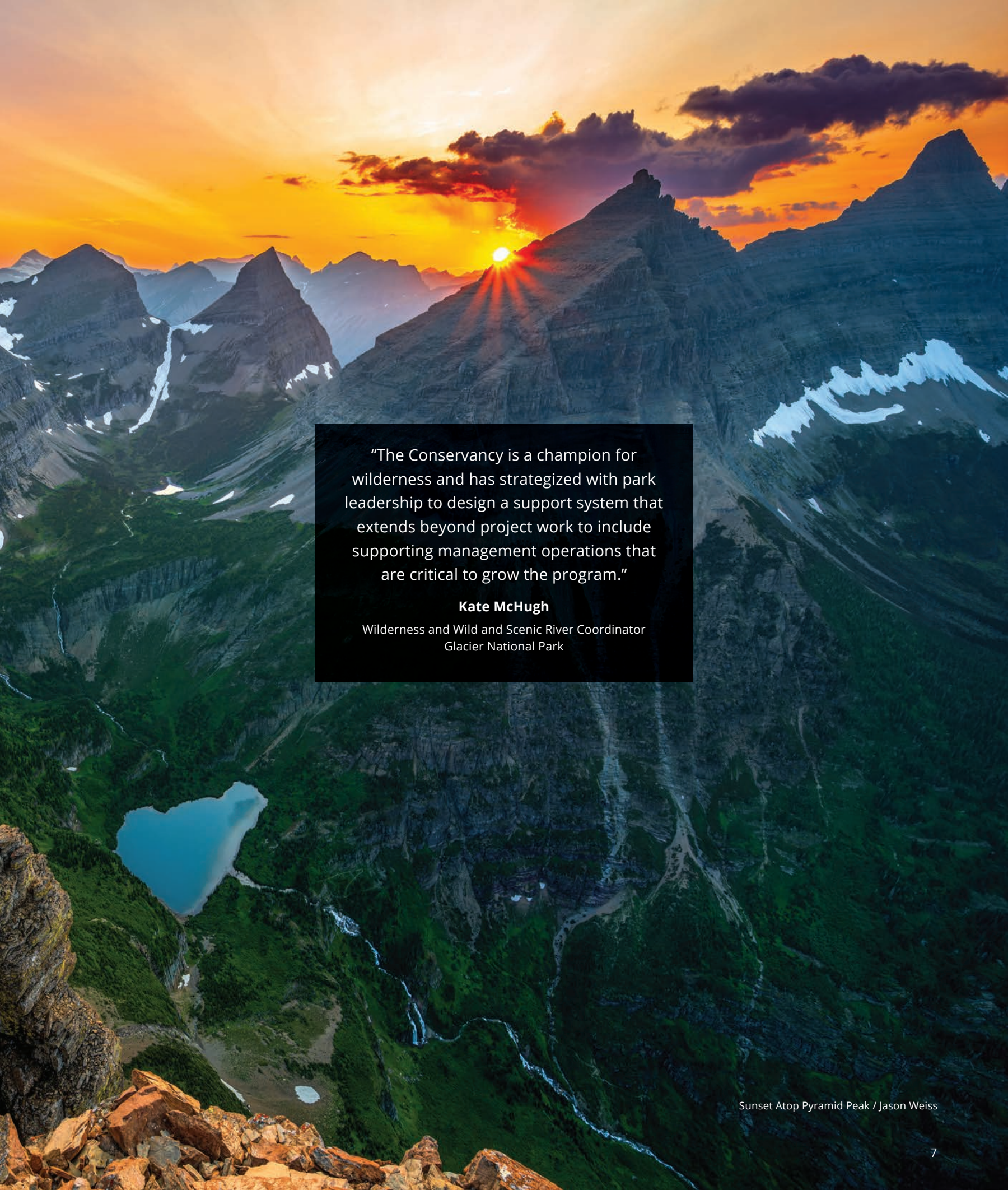
Glacier remains one of the most intact ecosystems in the United States, with nearly all of its one million acres managed as wilderness. For thousands of years the Blackfeet, Salish, Pend d'Oreille, and Kootenai people have all called this area home and have treated the land as a living entity whose well-being was and is a shared community responsibility.

Preserving wilderness for future generations requires a different kind of thinking and a different kind of investment. It requires us to look beyond today or tomorrow, and to think about forever. Ensuring future visitors can have the same sense of wonder we are fortunate to experience requires a long-term commitment to the permanent preservation of this remarkable landscape and the resources necessary to fulfill that promise.

From Passion to Preservation

Every year, thanks to your support, the Glacier Conservancy invests significant funding in Glacier's wilderness initiatives, from trail repair and habitat conservation to wilderness restoration and on-the-ground staffing that make this essential work possible.

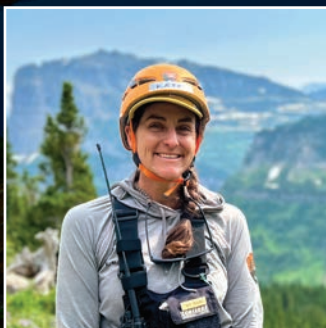


A full-page background image showing a sunset over a mountain range. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow across the sky and illuminating the peaks of the mountains. The mountains are rugged and covered in patches of snow. In the foreground, a small, clear blue lake is nestled in a valley, surrounded by green vegetation and rocky slopes. The overall scene is majestic and serene.

"The Conservancy is a champion for wilderness and has strategized with park leadership to design a support system that extends beyond project work to include supporting management operations that are critical to grow the program."

Kate McHugh

Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River Coordinator
Glacier National Park



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THE PATH TO KEEPING GLACIER WILD

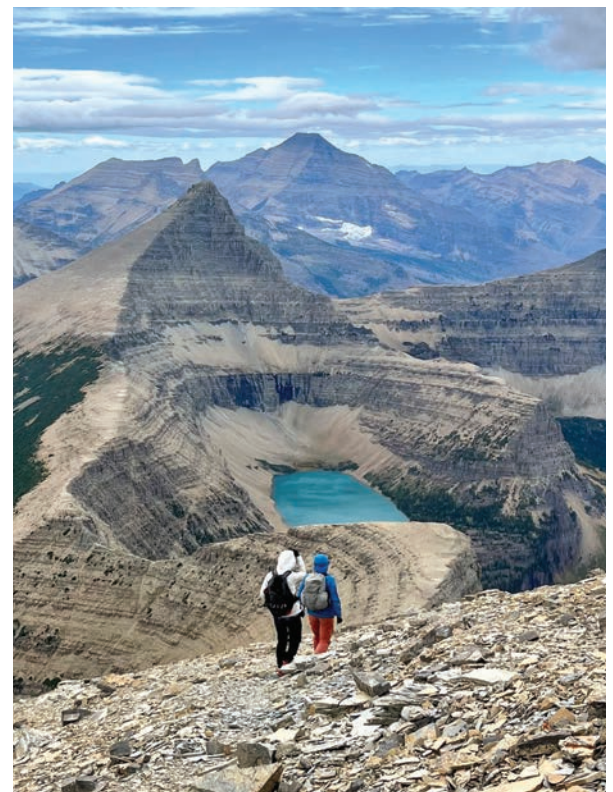
"The first priority is preserving and restoring wilderness character. Glacier's wilderness program already has a strong foundation in wilderness preservation and monitoring thanks to support from the Conservancy. We must continue to focus on the future of wilderness preservation to anticipate and manage threats. Another goal is building a sustainable program and retaining talented employees. Leveraging the passions and talents of a diverse team is the most effective way to boost capacity for preserving Glacier's wilderness. Finally, fostering strong partnerships within and outside of the park is key to supporting the wilderness program and managing resources that extend beyond Glacier's boundaries."



This year alone, Glacier Conservancy donors are funding over \$1 million in wilderness-related projects taking place right now across the park. Ongoing support is critical to ensuring these efforts continue and that this extraordinary wilderness remains protected for generations to come.

The Conservancy's funding supplements the core resources provided every year by the National Park Service. This successful partnership continues to grow, but faces challenges without permanent funding to ensure support for continued investments in sustaining wilderness protection.

The stillness, calm, and majesty we enjoy today can be a part of this landscape forever. We are called to be stewards of this special place and now have the privilege and responsibility to pay forward generations by investing in the future of Glacier.



Rising Wolf Skyline / Gavin Jones



Moose Standoff / Jordan Lefler

PROTECTING WILDLIFE

A Glimpse of the Wild

You stop breathing. A moose and its calf stand belly deep in the crystal clear water of Swiftcurrent Lake having a morning snack. You take stock of your location, look again to make sure what you are seeing is real, and marvel at the magnificence of nature in its purest form.

Experiences like this transform us. Wildlife encounters, whether with a moose, a mountain goat, a bear, or a bald eagle, expand our sense of wonder and remind us of our responsibility as

stewards of these wild places. What tomorrow looks like depends on what we do today, and preserving Glacier's wildlife populations requires research, innovation, and commitment.

Glacier's iconic megafauna is one of the top attractions to the park's over 3 million annual visitors. Protecting these animals and their habitat for future generations is a monumental task that depends on philanthropic investment to support the work of the park's world-class scientists.



"Perhaps our greatest national heritage is nature itself, with all its complexity and its abundance of life, which, when combined with great scenic beauty as it is in the national parks, becomes of unlimited value."

George Meléndez Wright

Fauna of the National Parks of the United States, 1934

Science and Stewardship Require Your Support

Since its inception in 2013, the Glacier Conservancy has funded groundbreaking research on bats, birds, bears, goats, sheep, fish, pikas, lynx, and more, along with support for native plants and critical habitat restoration efforts. Many of these initiatives span years and need your continued support as we deepen our commitment to this work in 2026 and beyond. This work has not only made its way into national scientific journals, but informs management decisions in Glacier to help protect wildlife and maintain their habitat.

As we consider the future of Glacier's wildlife, one theme keeps emerging: wildlife needs connectivity to continue to thrive under the significant visitor and population pressure they are facing. Here in

Glacier, we're working with partners to lead this effort, envisioning a future where wildlife can thrive beyond park borders across vast, protected ecosystems.

Securing a Thriving Future

Wildlife in Glacier National Park plays a central role in the larger Crown of the Continent ecosystem. The chance to witness these animals in their natural habitat is awe-inspiring — but their future depends on us. Ensuring that future generations have the same opportunity to marvel at these animals demands serious commitment and philanthropic investment. With your support, we can protect the wildlife that makes Glacier extraordinary – for today, and for generations to come.

TAKING WILDLIFE RESEARCH TO NEW HEIGHTS

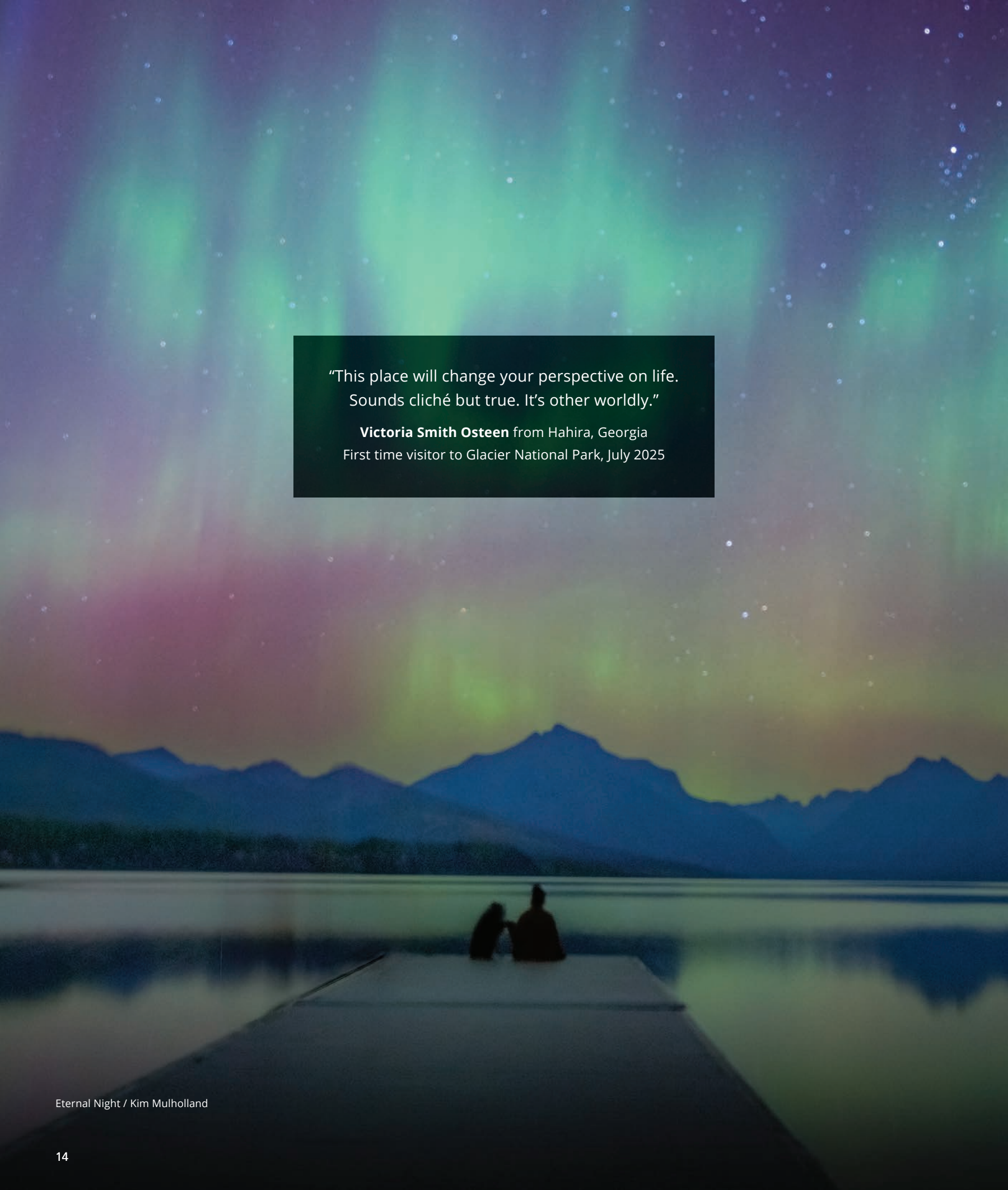


Mark Biel

Natural Resources
Program Manager
Glacier National Park

"The Glacier National Park Conservancy has been instrumental in providing support for numerous wildlife management and research projects. The Conservancy is helping park biologists to better understand and manage the natural resources that we are tasked with managing for the American public. This support gives us the ability to hire seasonal staff to work on the projects as well as funding research projects that provide science-based data with which we base management decisions. It is safe to say that without the financial support the Conservancy brings to the table, that many of these projects would never have gotten off the ground."





"This place will change your perspective on life.
Sounds cliché but true. It's other worldly."

Victoria Smith Osteen from Hahira, Georgia
First time visitor to Glacier National Park, July 2025



EMBRACING WONDER

Glacier National Park is a landscape of superlatives, where visitors from all over come not only for the stunning wilderness and iconic wildlife, but also to experience the wonder of the inspiring, educational, and engaging programs that bring the park to life.

For more than a decade, the Conservancy has been committed to funding curriculum-based education, interpretation, citizen science, and community engagement that ignite curiosity and foster future park stewards.

Whether it's your first visit or your hundredth, Glacier offers visitors of all ages and interests opportunities to experience Glacier's wonder through numerous programs and activities.

Preserving Iconic Places

With fields of native wildflowers set against Reynolds and Clements Mountains towering in the background, Logan Pass is one of the most iconic, highly-visited, and fragile areas of the park. Interpretive park rangers are a beacon of knowledge, assisting visitors, providing safety information, and sharing insights into the harsh, but spectacularly beautiful habitat, as well as the animals who live there. Conservancy-funded interpretive rangers at Logan Pass, Many Glacier, and Goat Haunt facilitate inspiring and enriching experiences and help preserve and protect Glacier for generations to come.

Programs that Inspire

Now in its 43rd season, the Native America Speaks program connects visitors with local tribal members who share their rich history and culture through singing, storytelling, presentations, and hands-on learning. At night, Glacier's pristine dark skies are the stars of the show as visitors marvel at the cosmos through the Half the Park Happens After Dark program. Local students discover the magic of Glacier through ranger-led snowshoe adventures, hikes to Avalanche Lake, or explorations in Two Medicine — while students from across the country participate in interactive distance learning programs. Each year, more than 20,000 children (and those young at heart!) earn their Junior Ranger badge, sparking a lifelong appreciation for the natural world.

Science in Action

Citizen scientists and Montana Conservation Corps members make a lasting impact in Glacier through transformative field experiences, where they collect data on the park's flora and fauna, habitat shifts, and effects of visitation. Their efforts inform park management needs while fostering science literacy and a deeper understanding of our natural world.

Through collaborations with Montana Conservation Corps and Piikuni Lands Service Corps, young people dedicate hours of service to support critical park projects and help steward this vast landscape for current and future generations of visitors. Participants learn leadership, teamwork, and essential job skills while working on invasive weed control, fuels reduction, trail maintenance, citizen science data collection, and other critical park projects.

None of this would be possible without you. Your generous support funds programs that inspire visitors, fosters current and future park stewards, expands partnerships, and promotes research and learning. Together we can preserve the wonder of Glacier, ensuring this awe-inspiring place remains for future generations.

PIIKUNI LANDS SERVICE CORPS



"A big part of connecting to the land was knowing that our ancestors were also stewards of this land since time immemorial."

Shelbi St Goddard

Piikuni Lands Service Corps Coordinator
Montana Conservation Corps





David M. Roemer
Superintendent
Glacier National Park

"The enduring partnership between the Conservancy and Glacier National Park continues to be our strength, providing the support and energy to continually improve and grow in core program areas that contribute to our park mission. The Conservancy continues to be the difference-maker that helps the park to achieve success on the ground today, and preserve wilderness, wildlife, and wonder for future generations."



YOUR DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Mt. Brown Lookout / Eric Godin

As a donor to the Glacier National Park Conservancy, you help preserve and protect the wilderness, wildlife, and wonder of this special place for future generations. Your gift today will make a lasting difference. Thank you.

For more details or to make your gift through a donor-advised fund, stock, or IRA, please contact:

Stacy Dubuc, Director of Development
Phone: 406.892.3250 ext. 821
Email: stacy@glacier.org

P.O. Box 2749
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
Tax ID: 56-2579734



Make a gift to preserve and protect Glacier.
Scan the QR code to donate online at **glacier.org/preserve** or by using the enclosed envelope. You can designate your gift to support a specific project that is significant to you.



TOGETHER WE ARE PROTECTING GLACIER NATIONAL PARK



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Cover Photo: Fireweed / Jason Weiss

A FOREVER LEGACY

Your legacy gift to the Glacier Conservancy is an impactful way to protect the park you love for future generations.

Including Glacier Conservancy as a charitable beneficiary in your estate will make a lasting difference for the wilderness, wildlife, and wonder of this special place.

[GLACIER.ORG/PLANMYGIFT](https://glacier.org/planmygift)

Meteor and Northern Lights, Lake McDonald / Effie Benjamin