



Glacier National Park © NPS

FACT SHEET

National Parks in Montana

Big Hole National Battlefield • Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area • Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site • Glacier National Park • Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site • Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail • Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument • Nez Perce National Historical Park • Yellowstone National Park

Montana's national parks attract vacationers from around the world who come to see their magnificent scenic beauty and learn about their fascinating beauty. The parks are major economic assets for the state, with Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks alone attracting half of Montana's visitors every year.

Big Hole National Battlefield – A memorial to the people who fought and died here on August 9 and 10, 1877, during the Nez Perce War of 1877. In 1992, legislation created Big Hole National Battlefield and Nez Perce National Historical Park.

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area - Established by an Act of Congress on October 15, 1966, following the construction of the Yellowtail Dam by the Bureau of Reclamation. Bighorn Lake extends approximately 60 miles through Wyo-

ming and Montana, 55 miles of which are held within spectacular Bighorn Canyon. The Recreation Area is composed of 70,000+ acres, which straddles the northern Wyoming and southern Montana borders. The Afterbay Lake below the Yellowtail Dam is a good spot for trout fishing and wildlife viewing for ducks, geese and other animals.

Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site - John Jacob Astor's American Fur Company built Fort Union Trading Post in 1828 near the junction of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers. In its heyday, the post was a busy place and employed up to 100 people. It became the headquarters for trading buffalo hides and other furs with the Assiniboine, Crow, Cree, Ojibway, Blackfeet, and Hidatsa Tribes.

Glacier National Park - Glacier preserves over one million acres of forests, alpine meadows, and lakes. Its diverse habitats are home to over 70 species of mammals and over 260 species of birds. The spectacular glaciated landscape is a hikers paradise containing 700 miles of maintained trails that lead deep into one of the largest intact ecosystems in the lower 48 states. The park contains over 350 structures listed on the National Register of Historic Sites and six National Historic Landmarks. In 1932, Glacier and Waterton Lakes National Park, in



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Canada, were designated Wateron-Glacier International Peace Park.

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site - Commemorates the Western cattle industry from its 1850s inception through recent times. The park was enacted in 1972, and embraces 1,500 acres and 90 structures. The site is maintained today as a working ranch.

Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail - In 1804, Meriwether Lewis & William Clark began a voyage of discovery. They departed from Camp Wood located in what was to become Illinois. The President Jefferson had privately requested Congress to fund the expedition shortly before the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. They traveled over a three-year period through lands that later became 11 states. Most of the 3,700 mile-long trail follows the Missouri & Columbia Rivers.

Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument - Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument is the site of the June 25, 1876, battle between the U.S. Army's seventh cavalry, guided by Crow and Arikara scouts, and several bands of Lakota Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapaho.

Nez Perce National Historical Park - The 38 sites of Nez Perce National Historical Park are scattered across the states of Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Montana and have been designated to commemorate the stories and history of the Nimiipuu, or Nez Perce people, and their interaction with explorers, fur traders, missionaries, soldiers, settlers, gold miners, and farmers who moved through or into the area.

Yellowstone National Park - The world's first national park, established in 1872. Nearly 10,000 hot springs and geysers, such as Old Faithful, are evidence of one of the world's largest active volcanoes. These spectacular features bemused and befuddled the park's earliest visitors. Fur trappers' tales of cauldrons of bubbling mud and roaring geysers sending steaming plumes skyward made their way back east.

Key Issues Facing National Parks in Montana

Taking care of America's national parks should be a national priority. With the 100th birthday of the National Park System approaching in 2016, it is more important than ever to address the ongoing problems that our parks are facing. The National Park Service is suffering from an operations funding

shortfall now estimated at \$750 million annually. In addition, several billion dollars are needed to protect archaeological sites and historic buildings, and repair the extensive backlog of maintenance projects. Many park friends in Congress have spent years highlighting the fiscal crisis in America's national parks. The Administration and Congress responded in fiscal year 2008 with a \$122 million increase in the budget for park operations. This is a strong first step in our parks and improving the experiences of visitors. The FY 2008 budget also launched the National Park Centennial Challenge, which will help restore the parks for their 100th birthday and for generations to come. In addition to the operational shortfall, the National Park Service has a \$1.9 billion land acquisition backlog consisting of over 11,000 tracts of land and covering more than 1.8 million acres. In many instances, failure to acquire these lands makes operating the parks more complex and costly. Unfortunately, funding for national park federal land acquisition has declined dramatically in recent years, from \$130 million five years ago, to only \$21 million in the fiscal year 2009 request.

- There is currently no trail-wide inventory of the archaeological resources found along the Lewis & Clark Trail. As a result, it is impossible for trail staff to accurately assess the threats faces and to adequately protect them from destruction, desecration, looting, and vandalism.
- Glacier National Park's deferred maintenance backlog is \$280 million and is expected to increase. Because of chronic funding shortfalls, the park struggles to maintain the Going to the Sun road, and historic structures such as the famed Many Glacier Hotel need extensive repairs.
- NPCA estimates that federal funding now covers only about 70 percent of Yellowstone's fixed costs. Because of chronic funding shortfalls, Yellowstone National Park can no longer plow a portion of the Beartooth Highway in Wyoming, called the most scenic highway in America. Entrance fees have risen and Yellowstone has even begun charging the public to participate in some popular ranger-led day hikes.
- Fort Union Trading Post has a collection of 800,000 museum items with only one curator on staff to care for these treasures.

Park Visitation in Montana

In 2006, the national parks in Montana welcomed 3.9 million visitors.

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Budget Information

In fiscal year 2008, the operations funding for the national parks in Montana is \$56.1 million. For fiscal year 2009, the administration is proposing a 4 percent increase, which would bring operations funding to \$58.1 million.

Contact Information

For more information on the national parks in Montana, please contact NPCA Regional Director Tony Jewett at 406-495-1560 or NPCA Legislative Director Blake Selzer at 202-223-6722, ext. 250.

NPS Unit	FY03 Enacted	FY04 Enacted	FY05 Enacted	FY06 Enacted	FY07 Enacted	FY08 Enacted	FY 09 Requested	% Change FY07-08	% Change FY08-09
Big Hole NB	\$510	\$507	\$523	\$532	\$544	\$595	\$606	9	2
Bighorn Canyon NRA	\$2,627	\$2,616	\$3,078	\$3,140	\$3,211	\$3,375	\$3,464	5	3
Fort Union Trading Post NHS	\$632	\$631	\$649	\$664	\$680	\$702	\$850	3	21
Glacier NP	\$11,103	\$11,072	\$11,524	\$11,855	\$12,233	\$13,486	\$13,905	10	3
Grant-Khors Ranch NHS	\$1,052	\$1,048	\$1,224	\$1,248	\$1,275	\$1,343	\$1,499	5	12
Little Bighorn Battlefield NM	\$1,034	\$1,029	\$1,078	\$1,103	\$1,129	\$1,187	\$1,212	5	2
Nez Perce NHP	\$1,738	\$1,730	\$1,778	\$1,918	\$1,966	\$1,958	\$1,990	0	2
Yellowstone NP	\$27,669	\$28,093	\$29,868	\$30,605	\$31,431	\$33,489	\$34,601	7	3
All Montana parks					\$52,469	\$56,135	\$58,127	7	4

All dollar amounts in thousands



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