



Glacier National Park

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPGROUND EVALUATIONS

for Spike Camps, Gypsy Camps and other administrative designated camps

(Rev. 5/02)

General - Glacier National Park's backcountry campground evaluation system has been developed to provide a meaningful record of conditions and levels of resource impacts and degradation to these areas. There is a continuing need to identify problems regarding facility deficiencies, to monitor areas for success or failure of past rehabilitation efforts, and to evaluate carrying capacities in accordance with "limits of acceptable change" concepts. It is very important to collect accurate and consistent information for at each of our backcountry campgrounds on an annual basis, so that we have a historical record of changes, management actions and developing maintenance needs.

Scheduling of Evaluations - Backcountry campground evaluations are listed in Glacier's annual Wilderness Implementation Schedule (WIS), as a Project Code 1 (Mandatory) assignment. Backcountry Rangers working in the Wilderness Management Section are responsible for completing all backcountry campground evaluations in their assigned area.

Evaluations may be initiated and completed anytime throughout the course of the summer.

The integrity of our backcountry campground system is dependent on thoroughness, accuracy and consistency. The evaluation form must be completed legibly, on site. Rangers conducting these evaluations should be meticulous with measurements and should plan on devoting many hours looking for and completing each area evaluation. It is strongly recommended that two people conduct each evaluation but this may not be possible all the time.

Condition Ratings - The evaluation system uses standard weighted factor values which are incorporated into a rating system (good, fair, poor) for the overall condition of campground facilities and site impacts.

Desired Conditions - Our "limits of acceptable change" standard for both the facility ratings and site impact ratings is established at 80% of the campgrounds with a "good" rating and 20% of the campgrounds with a "fair" rating. When conditions exceed these standards, efforts for repair and rehabilitation or closure will be initiated.

Routing Completed Evaluations - Evaluation forms should be routed to the appropriate District Backcountry Coordinator upon completion. During the winter, the Wilderness Manager and Backcountry Coordinators will enter the data and analyze the conditions. A written campground evaluation summary will be prepared. Analysis of the campground evaluations may lead to further management action and CRMPS project recommendations. Facility repairs and improvements and campground design adjustments will be incorporated into the WIS for the following summer.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPGROUND SITE IMPACT RATING

<p>Bare Ground - Using a english tape measure and the 2 point transect, determine the size of area where the ground is devoid of vegetation, litter, or other organic matter. Include areas of heavily compacted soil covered with unconsolidated litter. Record your measurements on the attached work sheets (Appendix C). Do not enter anything in the columns. (average length and width measurement)</p>				
Site	Measurement	1 < 225 sq.ft.	2 225-400 sq.ft	3 > 400 sq.ft.
Campsite # 1				
Campsite # 2				
Campsite # 3				
Campsite # 4				
Campsite # 5				
Campsite # 6				
Campsite # 7				
Sliding Scale		1 = < 50 s.f./campsite	2 = 50-75 s.f./campsite	3 = > 75 s.f./campsite
Food Prep Area				
Food Hanging Device				
Sliding Scale		400 sq. ft	600 sq. ft	> 600 sq.ft
Hitchrail				

Root Exposure - Count the number of individual trees with unnatural root exposures resulting from use. Enter the number in each category under the appropriate column. Add up the slight, moderate, and severe tree and check the applicable total column. Refer to Appendix B for root exposure assessment examples.

Site		1 0-2 total no severe	2 3-10 total, or at least 1 severe	3 10 +
Campsite # 1				
Campsite # 2				
Campsite # 3				
Campsite # 4				
Campsite # 5				
Campsite # 6				
Campsite # 7				
Food Prep Area(s)				
Food Hanging Device(s)				
Hitchrail(s)				