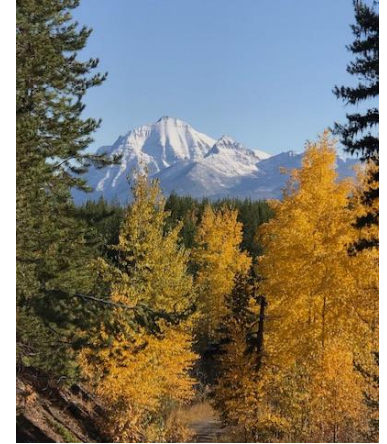


Glacier Gateway Project

LWCF Proposal for land acquisition near Polebridge, MT

Sponsored by The Vital Ground Foundation and the U.S. National Forest

The United States Forest Service, working collaboratively with the Vital Ground Foundation, is proposing to acquire two properties totaling approximately 23 acres using Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) in the North Fork Valley adjacent to Glacier National Park. The proposed acquisition will connect adjacent public lands managed by the Flathead National Forest along the designated Wild and Scenic North Fork of the Flathead River in Polebridge, Montana.



Public Benefits of the Project Include:

- Community Benefits
 - Protection of rural character, heritage and quality of life in the North Fork Valley.
- Economic Benefits
 - Protection of the scenic resources critical to the tourism sector of the economy from visitation to Glacier National Park and Northwest Montana.
 - Support of local timber production through forest management activities.
- Recreation and Access to Public Lands
 - Additional opportunities for sportsman to access public lands.
 - Increased access to the North Fork of the Flathead River, a designated Wild and Scenic River, for fishing and water based recreation.
 - Opportunity for a non-motorized travel route from the community of Polebridge to Glacier National Park.
- Watershed Protection
 - Protection of cold water habitat that supports bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout.
 - Protection of water quality and quantity locally and throughout the Columbia River Basin.
- Wildlife Habitat
 - Protection of rich wildlife habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial species.
 - This area supports one of the highest densities of grizzly bears in the lower 48 states, and three other threatened species: Canada Lynx, Clark's Nutcracker and Western Toad.

Land and Water Conservation Funds come from federal offshore drilling fees which are set aside in order to protect important land, water, and recreation areas for all Americans.



Glacier Gateway Project- Polebridge, Montana 2019 LWCF Proposal

