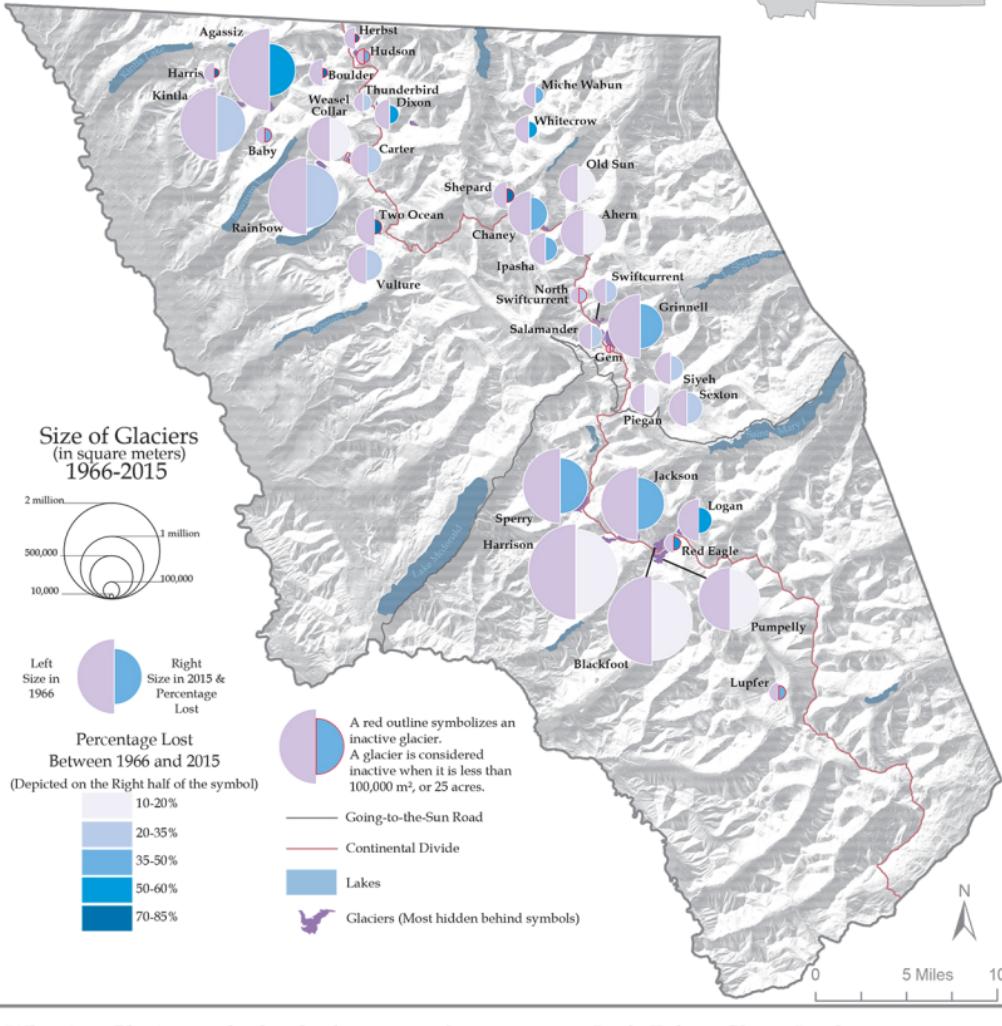


Melting Glaciers in Glacier National Park



MONTANA



What is a Glacier, and why do they matter?

A glacier is a slowly moving mass of ice formed by the accumulation and compaction of snow on mountains. They form when winter snowfall exceeds summer melting. A glacier will retreat when the melting outpaces accumulation of new snow.

In 1850, Glacier National Park had over 150 glaciers. Today, just 37 remain, and only 26 of those are considered active (>25 acres). Every year they continue to melt due to global temperatures rising. Research suggests that if these current trends continue, all of the glaciers in the park will be gone by 2030.

Other than losing tourism and revenue for the park, shrinking glaciers also have an impact on the local ecosystem. Every summer when the glaciers start their melting period, their water cools down streams and lakes. Without glacial melt water, the summer temperatures of the park's water will increase, and will cause temperature sensitive aquatic species to live under stressful conditions, possibly causing the local population to go extinct, thus disrupting the entire foodchain.

Let's Take a Closer Look...

