

## **Glacier superintendent emphasizes primitive values of west side of park**

**Posted April 12, 2009**—For Glacier National Park, overall road use and its effects on the primitive nature of the park trump extensive improvements to the outside North Fork Road, the North Fork Landowners' Association Road Committee learned at an April 6 meeting with park Superintendent Chas Cartwright.

Cartwright told committee members Margaret Heaphy, Steve Berg, Ed Heger and Betsy Holycross that air and water quality are regularly monitored along the North, Middle and South forks, and that there are no discernible bad effects to air or water quality from road dust. The park's primary concerns, Cartwright said, are air pollutants from vehicle emissions, power plants, wood stoves and industrial sources.

Cartwright made clear the connection between road improvements, especially paving, and an increase in adverse impacts on the primitive values of the North Fork portion of the park. The park strongly recommends that the outside North Fork Road not be paved, including the nine-mile stretch downstream from Camas. He added, however, that the park plan does not oppose basic environmentally sensitive dust-palliative measures or other road improvements such as basic crown and ditch work, graveling, selective road narrowing, and more aggressive speed enforcement.

For a summary of the committee's meeting with Cartwright, [click here](#).