

Jerry O'Neal National Park Service Student Fellowship Report:

Exploring Knowledge, Perceptions and Benefits of the Peace Park Designation in Glacier National Park



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Executive Summary

Peace parks and other transboundary initiatives are being developed at increased rate with claims that they not only improve biodiversity conservation, but also promote a culture of peace and cooperation.

This study examined the case of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park (WGIPP), the first peace park that was established in 1932 at the border of Canada and the United States. Unlike many other peace parks, it was created along the longest undefended border between two countries that have experienced peaceful relationship for many decades. The WGIPP model involves considerable cooperation and integration of activities related to research, environmental education and interpretation, wildlife and visitor management, and public safety. This model is considered to be quite successful and works well for two parks. But what are the implications of this model for the international network of transboundary protected areas? What can it offer to the rest of the world to enhance protection of natural resources and improve human well-being and world peace?

WGIPP gave a start to the peace parks model and became a forerunner in this process in 1932. Today there are hundreds of examples of transboundary cooperation, ranging from informal agreements to governmental treaties. The peace park concept is one of the most dynamic, exciting and multi-faceted approaches among these initiatives. However, there is very little understanding and lack of scientific evidence about the perceptions and values of a special “peace park” status among different stakeholders, and full potential and benefits of the peace park designations around the world are not always recognized and used.

In order to enhance potential benefits of the peace park designation in WGIPP and beyond, a better and more integrated understanding of the meaning and possible benefits of this status, challenges and opportunities associated with it, and its implications for the broader community of park managers, visitors, local residents and other stakeholders at local to global scales is needed. The current research aims to fulfill this niche; its primary focus is a deeper analysis of the value of peace designation in Glacier NP.

This exploratory research attempts to (1) identify and describe visitors’ knowledge and perceptions of the peace park designation and assess the impact of this status on expectations and experience; (2) identify and describe park managers’ and Rotary members’ experience in transboundary conservation, existing challenges, perceptions of the special peace park status of WGIPP and its possible impact on their work; (3) define perceptions of the peace meaning in general, in relation to park; (4) identify and assess respondents’ perceptions of possible benefits and opportunities associated with the peace park status and ways to enhance these benefits; (5) provide respondents’ recommendations for better management of the studied transboundary peace park; and (6) define current and potential influence of WGIPP on other transboundary conservation efforts around the world. Various factors that influence current knowledge and perceptions of the peace park designation, connections, common patterns and trends are also discussed.

Data collection and analysis for this study were guided by the method of Grounded Theory. Sixty-seven in-depth interviews with Glacier National Park visitors, managers and Rotary members in Many Glacier, Bowman Lake and Avalanche areas were conducted. Interviews were tape-recorded, transcribed, and analyzed using a system of coding. Through this process, a number of themes and subthemes related to peace meaning, benefits, opportunities and challenges associated with the peace designation have emerged; they are discussed in rich detail in the Study Findings chapter of the attached report. The final chapter provides some management implications and specific recommendations, and suggests further research.

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Acronyms used:

IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature
 NGO – Non-Government Organization
 NP – National Park
 NPS – National Park Service
 PA – Protected area
 TBCA – Transboundary Conservation Area
 TBPA – Transboundary Protected Area
 UNEP – United Nations Environmental Program
 WCPA – World Commission on Protected Areas
 WGIPP – Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park

Chapter I: Introduction

Background

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park (WGIPP) was designated on June 18, 1932 “to commemorate the long history of peace and friendship between Canada and the United States, and to emphasize both natural and cultural links” (Sandwith et al. 2001). Two national parks (NP) share a common landscape, and the dedicated Peace Park’s “outstanding scenic values, diverse wildlife populations, sparkling waters, remarkable historic and cultural heritage, and largely intact ecological processes make it one of the continent’s most valued treasures” (State of the Parks 2002).

It is believed that the first proponents of the international park idea were George “Kootenai” Brown and Henry “Death-on-the-Trail” Reynolds. They suggested that the two parks be joined. George “Kootenai” Brown was a long-time local settler in Waterton, who was appointed forest ranger-in-charge in April 1910, becoming the park’s first on-site manager. In Glacier, William Logan, a former military man, became superintendent. Logan was responsible for contracting Albert Henry “Death on the Trail” Reynolds as a ranger in charge of a section of Glacier adjacent to Waterton (Morrison 2007).

“It wasn’t long before Brown and Reynolds became compatriots, comparing notes, seeking one another’s advice and assistance, and socializing, when possible. During the long winter months, they had plenty of time to consider the philosophical aspects of their jobs and discuss topics of interest. They agreed on many things and both thought the presence of the international boundary between the two parks was artificial.” (Morrison 2007).

The idea of the international park was, therefore, first driven by park rangers, but the real push and facilitation of the process was done by a non-government organization – Rotary International (Mihalic 2012).

The Cardston Rotary Club in Alberta called an annual small get-together of Alberta and Montana Rotarians on July 4-5, 1931 at the Prince of the Wales Hotel in Waterton, and according to the historical records, that was the first time when discussions on the creation of a

world-wide International Peace movement, and establishment of WGIPP arose (Glacier NP archives 2015, Morrison 2007). That meeting led to the adoption of a resolution, which called for petitions to the proper authorities for the establishment of an International Peace Park. One of the key people in this process was the Anglican Rev. Samuel H. Middleton, who just days before the gathering had been inaugurated as the third president of the Cardston Rotary Club. Middleton was the principal of St Paul's Indian School and pastor of Waterton's new All-Saints Anglican Church. He was the one who drafted a resolution, and was later pushing the idea forward.

That resolution was a call to action. Rotarians from both sides started by immediately contacting their elected federal representatives (Brig. General J.S. Steward from Alberta, and Rep. Scott Leavitt from Montana) under the umbrella of the newly formed International Peace Park Committee that consisted of 19 members from Alberta and Montana. Both sides began to lobby their prospective Government, and introduced bills for the establishment of the WGIPP.

An Act for establishment of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park was approved by the Senate of the United States in March 1932. After some challenges, the bill was passed by the Canadian Government later in 1932. (Glacier NP archives 2015).

Both national groups, because of the commitment and enthusiasm of their leaders, therefore, succeeded in their efforts, and made that initiative a reality. It happened in less than a year between the idea was born at the Prince of the Wales Hotel in Waterton Lakes NP and the two parks were proclaimed as Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park – a good lesson to learn for the whole world!

“It had been an admirable, if not amazing, accomplishment: the governments of Canada and the United States had acted effectively and quickly. It was only 11 months from the time the Rotarians had passed their resolution at the Prince of Wales Hotel to the passage of the bills”
(Morrison 2007).

WGIPP is often referred as the most successful example of the transboundary cooperation in the world. With such a short time to accomplish a major international task, it was a success from the very beginning. An interesting aspect here is that Rotarians that were standing

at the origins of the concept, were war veterans who placed a high value on peace, and maybe this fact also contributed to pushing the concept forward (Glacier NP archives 2015).

Another factor that probably has contributed to the successful implementation of the first peace park idea was the rise of the conservation movement in North America at the turn of the last century. In particular, due to the efforts of conservationists like John Muir and politicians like Theodore Roosevelt, conservation ideas gained more and more public support. North Americans were beginning to take a more aesthetic view of their surroundings, which also played the role in peace park designation.

The International Peace Park was dedicated in two ceremonies – in Canada and the USA. President Hoover, who signed the peace park legislation, communicated this message to the public at the first dedication event on 06/12/32:

“The dedication of the WGIPP” is a further gesture of goodwill that has so long blessed the relations with our Canadian neighbors and I am gratified by the hope and faith that it will forever be an appropriate symbol of permanent peace and friendship” (Morrison 2007).

It was a lot about peace, goodwill and friendship. Unlike many other peace parks that were established later around the world, WGIPP was created along the longest undefended border between two countries that have experienced peaceful relationship for many decades. There were some small occasional disputes, but in general it was peaceful since 1821 (International Peace Park 1981). It is definitely a unique character of WGIPP that in some way determined the path of the development and the nature of cooperation within it.

“Unlike peace parks in almost every other country, WGIPP was not created between the two countries with a conflict. There was a conflict between US and Canada many years ago, but for many decades there has been no conflict here. It was decades of peaceful relationship, and lots of interaction between people across the border”. (NPS official 2015)

While Waterton-Glacier was formally established, most of the cooperation happens on the informal level: it is not governed by written treaties or binding agreements. There is a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. National Park Service and Parks Canada (NPS 2017) with some general rules regarding cooperation between protected areas of both countries, and some specific agreements to implement a number of joint projects in WGIPP, but other than

that there are no written regulations (some administrative agreements for operational support to science and planning do exist – NPS official 2015). There are also no sanctions imposed for failure to cooperate (Tanner et al. 2007). However, informal cooperation is rather productive – the parks have joint research programs, collaborate in environmental education and interpretation, search and rescue, resource protection, and visitor management (Mihalic 2012).

In general, the so called “Waterton-Glacier model” is rather simple: each country maintains control over the day-to-day administration of its park while personnel work collaboratively on some scientific research and practical efforts to protect nature and manage visitors. National parks officials (leadership and operational teams) meet on a regular basis to share information about their activities, assess the results and make plans (Houston 2008).

The WGIPP model is considered to be quite successful and works well for two parks (Quinn 2012, Mihalic 2012). International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) calls WGIPP model a “laboratory for transboundary conservation” (Vasilijevic 2015). But what are the implications of this model for the international network of transboundary protected areas (TBPA)? What can it offer to the rest of the world to enhance protection of natural resources and improve human well-being and world peace?

WGIPP gave a start to the peace parks model and became a forerunner in this process in 1932. Today there are hundreds of examples of transboundary cooperation, ranging from informal agreements to government-to-government treaties (Vasijievic et al. 2015). The peace park concept is one of the most dynamic, exciting and multi-faceted approaches among these initiatives (Peace Park Foundation 2017). But there is very little understanding and lack of scientific evidence about the perceptions and benefits of a special “peace park” designation among different stakeholders, and the important question about the influence of WGIPP model on other transboundary conservation efforts is still unanswered. Current research attempts to gain more insight on these issues.

Problem Statement

During the summer of 2015, a preliminary analysis of historical documents in Glacier NP archives was conducted, and three in-depth interviews with U.S. National Park Service and Parks Canada officials were taken by the researcher to better understand the WGIPP model.

No evidence was found that WGIPP has had a direct impact on the establishment of other peace parks. However, the results of the study showed that (1) WGIPP has a symbolic meaning of peace and cooperation between Canada and the United States, and serves as an inspiration for other countries; (2) is perceived as a model and a learning platform by other transboundary protected areas, and sought out by other parks to exchange experience; (3) has a significant impact on collaboration within a broader region, and encourages cooperation beyond the boundaries of two parks (Nikolaeva 2015).

It was also revealed that Glacier park managers perceive WGIPP model as rather successful and productive, but at the same time they expressed concerns that the potential of the peace park designation is not fully used, and the benefits associated with it are not widely recognized and evaluated (NPS Official 2015). There are also challenges with recognizing the peace park potential in other transboundary PA around the world: Ali (2007) argues that major challenges remain in convincing governments of the value of peace parks as a means of conflict resolution and peace building, and Hammill and Besancon (2007) state that the potential of peace parks is not fully recognized in the world in general.

Several questions arise about the values and possible benefits of peace parks, and implications of such designation for various stakeholders at different scales. Can we define a clear value of the peace park designation and use it to maximize positive impacts of transboundary conservation initiatives? Can WGIPP have any impact on designation and management of other peace parks? Was it only a symbolic gesture in 1932? Was it purely a political issue? How its potential could be used to maximize positive impacts of peace park status in other countries and increase the effectiveness of transboundary conservation around the world?

The purpose of the current study is to gain a deeper understanding of the meaning and possible benefits of the “peace park” designation, challenges and opportunities associated with it, and its implications for the broader community of park managers, visitors, local residents and other stakeholders at local to global scales. An attempt is made to provide a deeper analysis of the symbolic value of peace and its impact on different aspects of environmental, social and economic performance.

It is especially important in regards to the NPS Centennial campaign. One of the values that Glacier NP brings to the system of U.S. national parks is connected with its peace park status (NPS official 2015). The centennial campaign in Glacier involved, among many other initiatives, conducting a workshop with practitioners from international TBPA and sharing experience related to the WGIPP model (Center...2017). The workshop took place in September 2016, and it was discussed that the best practice guidelines should be developed to be able to provide lessons and guidance for other TBPA on a variety of aspects related to establishment, management and monitoring of transboundary peace parks, as well as lessons learned when implementing different cooperative initiatives (NPS official 2015).

As noted earlier, currently the nature of cooperation within WGIPP is mostly informal and largely depends on personal relationships between park staff in two countries. In order to be able to serve as a model for the world, reach out to more peace parks around the globe and help them develop successful cooperation that brings environmental, social and economic benefits, there should be some written summary that explains how the model works (NPS official 2015). The best practice guidelines that Glacier NP plans to develop should serve this role. Current study should inform park managers on the number of issues related to peace park knowledge, perceptions of meanings, benefits, challenges and opportunities related to the designation from the perspective of Glacier park managers, visitors and Rotary members.

Report Organization

This report is presented in five chapters. Chapter one provided some background and context of the study – mainly describing the problems being addressed.

The second chapter will give an overview and present some studies that have been conducted about transboundary protected areas, and especially peace parks. At the end of this chapter main research questions will be outlined.

The third chapter will focus on methodology. It will describe the research approach, sampling frame and the processes of data collection and data analysis. The primary data collection method consisted of qualitative semi-structured field interviews with park visitors, managers and Rotary members that were conducted during July-September of the year 2016.

The study findings will be presented in the chapter four. The goal of this chapter is to (1) identify and describe visitors' knowledge and perceptions of the peace park designation and assess the impact of this status on expectations and experience; (2) identify and describe park managers' and Rotary members' experience in transboundary conservation, existing challenges, perceptions of the special peace park status of WGIPP and its possible impact on their work; (3) define perceptions of the peace meaning in general, in relation to park; (4) identify and assess respondents' perceptions of possible benefits and opportunities associated with the peace park status and ways to enhance these benefits; (5) provide respondents' recommendations on the ways to enhance the value of the peace park concept; and (6) define current and potential influence of WGIPP on other transboundary conservation efforts around the world. Various factors that influence current knowledge and perceptions of the peace park designation, connections, common patterns and trends will also be discussed.

The last chapter will summarize the implications of this study for park management and for future research. Social studies like this research are supposed to provide a scientific base for park planning and management, and the researcher's recommendations on possible actions aimed at enhancing peace park concept will be presented.

Chapter II: Literature Review

Selected studies about peace parks

Today there are more than 200 examples of transboundary cooperation around the world, with an increasing trend to establish transboundary cooperative initiatives (Vasilijevic et al. 2015, McCallum et al. 2014, Quinn 2012).

It has long been recognized that such cooperative initiatives provide many practical benefits – ecological, social, managerial, and political (Mittermeier et al. 2005, Vasilijevic et al. 2015). They better safeguard biodiversity, facilitate cultural exchanges, provide a cross-boundary pool of different expertise for problem solving, allow combination of resources to run the territory more efficiently, promote good political relations between neighboring states, and deliver a number of other benefits. They also provide opportunities to work at broader scales and achieve ecological integrity and regional integration.

The need for cooperation in relation to conservation issues has been emphasized by environmental experts, politicians and high officials in many countries. As a result, the number of TBPA has grown rapidly during the last several decades. Today “*transboundary conservation areas are being established on an unprecedented scale*” (Mittermeier et al. 2005). In 1988 only 59 places were identified in which two or more PA adjoined across international boundaries; the 2007 list of TBPA compiled by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre identified 227 TBPA complexes incorporating 3,043 individual protected areas or internationally designated sites covering more than 460 million hectares and these numbers continue to grow (Quinn 2012).

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recognizes three categories of transboundary conservation efforts, with a “Transboundary Protected Area” being one of them. It defines a TBPA as a “*clearly defined geographical space that includes protected areas that are ecologically connected across one or more international boundaries and involve some form of cooperation*” (Vasilijevic et al. 2015). Two other categories are called “*Transboundary*

Conservation Landscape and/or Seascape”, which refers to an ecologically connected area that includes both protected areas and multiple resource use areas and involves some form of cooperation, and “*Transboundary Migration Conservation Area*” that includes wildlife habitats in two or more countries that are necessary to sustain populations and migratory species and involve some form of cooperation (Vasilijevic et al. 2015).

Peace Parks (or Parks for Peace) are a special type of a transboundary conservation effort that are “*formally dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and to the promotion of peace and co-operation*”. (Sandwith et al. 2001). Thus, transboundary protected areas are further classified as Parks for Peace, when their mission extends to the promotion of peace and cooperation in addition to the protection of resource. In the latest IUCN edition, developed by the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Transboundary Conservation Specialist Group, it was added that “a Park for Peace” designation could be applied to all three types of transboundary conservation areas, not only TBPA (Vasilijevic et al. 2015). In any case, this definition emphasizes a clear peace purpose along with biodiversity purposes, and encourages friendship and reduction of tension in border regions.

The concept of peace parks challenges many deeply rooted historical assumptions about conservation zones, which have often been considered a source of conflict themselves due to the dispossession of land (Ali 2007). Protected areas, indeed, in many countries of the world often became a source of people-versus-nature conflict as local communities can lose their rights to use the land and its natural resources because of the conservation regulations. This is especially true for some developing countries where people rely most directly on access to natural resources for their survival and well-being, and where such phenomena as social inequality, poverty, contested resource rights, ethnic tensions, and colonial legacies occur (Hammill and Besancon 2007). Peace parks, vice versa, promote the idea that transboundary protected areas can be conducive to conflict resolution (Sandwith et al. 2001) and mitigate existing and potential

disputes (Ali 2007) – between communities across the borders, communities and PA, and between the countries.

Ali (2007) shows that even scarce environmental resources could sometimes lead to cooperation, resolution of conflict and peace building; actually cooperation can happen because of that resource scarcity, as environmental concerns have a potential to be transformed into cooperation between various political jurisdictions. Transboundary protected areas, therefore, can either be catalysts of conflict and fuel tensions (mainly when established in economically disadvantaged regions, where surrounding communities are heavily dependent on natural resources), or they can play a strategic role in mitigating conflicts, fostering cooperation and promote peace. Each situation is unique, and there are usually many factors, social and political forces that should be taken in consideration, but potentially peace parks can become a solution: they may catalyze the peaceful resolution of disputes, and facilitate the peace and goodwill shared between the nations, therefore playing an instrumental role in peacemaking and sustaining amity between communities (Ali 2007, Sandwith et al. 2001).

It is not surprisingly that TBPA are contrary phenomenon: they represent the confluence of several mutually reinforcing interests, namely those of biodiversity conservation, economic development, cultural integrity, and regional peace and security (Hammill and Besancon 2007). There are usually a number of different actors from various jurisdictions, often with competing demands for the resources, involved in the complex systems of transboundary efforts. The context where conservation and development interact is extraordinary complex in itself, but this level of complexity is exacerbated at international borders where protected areas meet and conflicts exists over the use of natural resources (Hammill and Besancon 2007).

Duffy (2007) argues that TBPA and peace parks in particular connect complex networks of people and institutions from international and state level agencies to local NGOs and rural communities. She suggests that today's rising interest in transfrontier conservation, including peace parks, can be attributed to changes in global politics. The end of the cold war and the

process of globalization has changed the international system so that new transnational networks of governance have developed; they are especially apparent in environmental area. We witness a shift from bi-polar system to more globalized world governance with a multicentric and networked international system; peace parks can be seen as a reflection of this shift, which brings new challenges and opportunities on multiple scales.

How exactly peace parks can contribute to a culture of peace and cooperation? In general, they can potentially resolve a conflict or maintain existing peace (Ali 2007). An interesting perspective on this was presented in Missoulia in 2002 by Michael Jamison, who quoted the words of Steve Thompson, Glacier Park field representative for the National Parks Conservation Association:

"There are really two kinds of peace parks," Thompson said. "There are parks like Waterton-Glacier, where you already have peaceful relations and you're attempting to maintain, celebrate and enrich those relations. And then there are places where you don't have peace, and you're trying to repair divisions and mend fences." (Missoulia 2002)

More specifically, peace parks can act as a symbol of ongoing cooperation between nations with a history of peace (like WGIPP); create an entry point for discussions between neighboring countries (as proposed in the peace park initiative between North and South Korea – Healy 2012); increase security and control over resources in border areas; create shared opportunities for ecotourism and sustainable development on a region-wide scale; encourage development of a rich and resilient web of relationships among PA managers and other stakeholders from the countries involved. Notably, the recent proliferation of transboundary initiatives has been generally welcomed as a sign of goodwill and cooperation, particularly in areas with relatively recent histories of conflict. (Hammill and Besancon 2007).

Ramutsindela (2007) argues that peace parks can infuse new meanings in borderland landscapes, and suggests that the underline motive behind the peace park initiative is therefore to re-define state borders as sources of peace rather than conflict. The aim is to change borders from their roles as physical barriers to “theaters of opportunities”; however, it is unclear at this time which processes can be put in place to make it happen, how peace-building would influence

other equally important meanings of national and subnational borders, and how different people might be affected.

In successful transboundary conservation efforts, institutions involved are seen as structures built on relationships. In such relationship-based model, relations between parties guide future actions as an embodied virtue, and actions arise not out of individual calculations, but rather in union with the other, which leads to cooperation, collaboration and possibly joint management. Instead of being a physical barrier, peace parks act as sites for collaborative exchange (Lejano 2007). Quinn (2012) emphasizes that tremendous benefits accrue from the development of professional and personal relationships across international borders, and the mutual respect and trust that are developed through such arrangements provide the necessary traction for implementation of management actions. WGIPP model is a classic example that demonstrates that the effectiveness of cooperation is largely rooted in personal relationships and friendships (Tanner et al. 2007, Mihalic 2012).

Due to the complex environment where transboundary protected areas, and especially peace parks operate, they are highly politicized creations; applying a scientific and politically neutral rationale to them is problematic (Duffy 2007). Ramutsindela (2007) argues that the borderlands as sites for peace do not necessarily diminish their roles as a locus of political struggles and contestation, which confirms the obvious: peace parks are neither formed in a political vacuum nor operated in smooth sociopolitical and economic milieus. Spenceley and Schoon (2007) stress the emphasized role of intergovernmental, governmental and NGO bodies to drive the emergence of TBPA. These institutions devise appropriate policies and form decision-making structures with management mechanisms.

Transboundary conservation and peace have gone global. WGIPP gave a start to the peace parks model and became a forerunner in this process in 1930s, but transboundary conservation has become especially important due to changes in the international system in the end of 1990s, when rapid expansion of transboundary initiatives in conservation became evident,

in parallel with the growth of designated protected areas at the national level (Vasilijevic et al. 2015). Peace parks, spanning two or more nations and managed cooperatively, can remind us of the possibilities of international goodwill and friendship so needed in our fragile world today. The emerging system of peace parks demonstrates that they have potential to bring people together to help protect natural and cultural heritage, provide opportunities for building peace, serve as a bridge between nations and a common ground where politicians can reach agreements about the importance of shared heritage, and deliver other social, environmental, managerial and political benefits. Yet, as Hammill and Besancon (2007) note, the potential of peace parks is not fully recognized and evaluated.

Implications and current research questions

In summary, a variety of studies on the origins and benefits of transboundary protected areas, and importance of peace parks have been conducted over the years. However, as mentioned earlier, full potential and benefits of the peace park designations around the world are not always recognized and used, and only very few studies documented and evaluated such benefits in selected locations (for example, assessment of a peace and conflict impact in the Virunga-Bwindi region by Hammill and Besanson conducted in 2007, or assessment of benefits of transboundary protected areas in the Americas and the Caribbean – McCallum et al. 2014). There was no such research in Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park until now.

In order to enhance potential benefits of the peace park designation in WGIPP and beyond, a better and more integrated understanding of the meaning and possible benefits of this status, challenges and opportunities associated with it, and its implications for the broader community of park managers, visitors, local residents and other stakeholders at local to global scales is needed. The current research aims to fulfill this niche; its primary focus is a deeper analysis of the value of peace designation in Glacier NP.

Based on the nature of the problems discussed above and the articulated need for research, the following research questions were selected to focus and guide the study:

- (1) What do visitors know about peace park designation in Glacier NP?
- (2) What do visitors expect from the peace park status and how does it affect their experience?
- (3) What is park managers' and Rotary members' experience with the peace park? Is there any impact of the designation on their work? Are there any challenges?
- (4) What does the word "peace" mean to different people in relation to peace park?
- (5) What are current perceptions of the peace park designation and associated benefits and opportunities from the perspective of visitors, park managers and Rotary members?
- (6) What are the ways to enhance the benefits of the peace park designation in WGIPP and beyond?
- (7) What is current and potential influence of WGIPP on other transboundary conservation efforts around the world?

The researcher hopes that the data provided in this report would help gain better understanding on possible impact of the "peace park" status on park management and planning as well as visitors' expectations and experiences. It will also help analyze the current and potential influence of WGIPP model on other transboundary conservation efforts around the world, and contribute to more successful management and governance of TBPA network.

Chapter III: Methodology

This chapter will provide details of the study area, explain the research approach, sampling frame, and describe the processes of data collection and data analysis.

Study Area

Interviews with visitors took place in three locations in Glacier National Park – Many Glacier, Bowman Lake and Avalanche areas. Researcher's goal was to target those park visitors who potentially had at least some knowledge about peace park and could provide thoughtful comments and ideas regarding potential benefits and opportunities associated with the peace park designation. The assumption was that in Many Glacier and Bowman Lake areas the percentage of such visitors could be higher due to the proximity to the Canadian border. Avalanche was chosen as a contrast destination within Glacier NP that is located relatively far from the border within the Going-to-the-Sun Road corridor to be able to make comparisons with the first two locations.

Park managers' interviews were taken in West Glacier at the park headquarters and Crown of the Continent Research Center, and in St Mary in the visitor center and Hudson Bay District Office. Rotary members were interviewed in Missoula.

Research Approach

This research is mostly exploratory in nature. Its aim is to explore and understand the knowledge and perceptions of a special "peace park" status of Glacier National Park. According to Babbie (2010), exploratory studies satisfy the researcher's desire for better understanding of a particular topic and yield new insights into it. In case of this research, an exploratory study is desired to lead to a better understanding of visitors' knowledge and perceptions of a special "peace park" status and benefits associated with it in different parts of the study area, and gain insights on perceptions of this designation and related benefits, challenges and opportunities from the perspective of park managers and Rotary members. Based on these explorations, several recommendations for park managers will be provided, which can then serve as a platform for management actions.

The idea was to understand the meaning of peace and explore potential benefits, challenges and opportunities of the peace park designation through the eyes of the respondents,

assess these findings and identify connections, distinctions, common patterns and trends. In order to reach these goals, an approach that would be open to a number of themes, subthemes and ideas that may emerge was needed, which would get to a deep understanding and thick description of the current and potential peace park benefits and ways to enhance them. The researcher concluded that qualitative research approach, and in particular the method of grounded theory was best suited for this. It encourages a comprehensiveness of perspectives to emerge, and provides an ability to develop a fuller understanding of the phenomenon and its different dimensions (Corbin and Strauss 2008).

The method of grounded theory was founded by two sociologists – Glasser and Strauss – who invented it for the purpose of building theory from data (Corbin and Strauss 2008). It is an alternative approach to hypothesis testing where theory is used to generate hypotheses that are tested through observations. Grounded theory, on the contrary, does not test pre-determined hypothesis, but rather is aimed at providing deeper understanding of the phenomena being studied by building theory that arises from analysis. Ideas emerge and develop from the data through comparative analysis and interpretation. It is a discovery-oriented process that is appropriate for exploratory studies.

This research approach implies that the researcher needs to be scientific and creative at the same time. Creativity is necessary to interpret data and come up with relevant themes, while the whole study needs to be guided by the general purpose and conceptual framework and be theory-laden. The grounded theory offers an inductive approach to social studies that attempts to “generate a theory from constant comparing of unfolding observations” (Babbie 2010). By analyzing patterns, themes and common categories discovered in observational data and by constant comparison it attempts to derive theories. In case of the current study the grounded theory guided the researcher to develop themes and subthemes related to peace park designation, benefits, challenges and opportunities associated with it from the qualitative data obtained during the in-depth field interviews with Glacier National Park visitors, managers and Rotary members.

Sampling Frame

Sampling in this study is the process of selecting interviewees; it allows representing the population which is being studied. As mentioned earlier, the goal of sampling for this research was to target those park visitors that potentially had at least some knowledge about peace park and could provide thoughtful comments regarding potential benefits, challenges and opportunities associated with the peace park designation. That determined the choice of the study area and three locations mentioned above for the interviews with visitors. In each of these locations, purposive sampling method was used, which is defined as “a type of nonprobability sampling in which the units to be observed are selected on the basis of the researcher’s judgment about which ones will be the most useful and representative” (Babbie 2010). The idea was to select a diverse sample of visitors in all three locations based on the activity type, age and type of group to collect various and diverse perspectives.

It is important to notice that the first interview question for a visitor was if he/she has heard that Glacier was a peace park. If a visitor approached for a possible interview has not heard anything about the peace park status, the researcher did not proceed with further questions. However, she kept track of everyone whom she approached, including those who have not heard about the peace park designation and those who refused to answer; the detailed summary of the sample is provided below in Table 1.

As for park managers and Rotary members, the goal was to interview respondents that had experience working with the peace park concept, so the snowball sampling method was used, when the new respondents were recommended by previous interviewees.

The researcher did not have specific number of visitors that she wanted to interview within a particular activity type, or particular group or area, but she tried to be inclusive and collect as many interviews as possible, and her decision to talk to every new interviewee was based on the understanding of the existing sample that she had at that time. For example, instead of talking to more hikers, at some point she decided that she needed to include perspectives of

those who backpacked, camped, drove or rode a motorcycle. In terms of the group types, interviewees included solo travelers, couples, groups of friends and families. She purposely approached people of different ages (age 18 and over). The researcher aimed at talking with visitors from different states, and although not specifically setting this objective, she wanted to include at least several international visitors. She came across visitors from Canada, Australia and Argentina that she interviewed. Overall, the researcher felt that each new interview contributed something to the study – whether it was a new theme to develop, or a support for the already discussed themes.

Data Collection

The primary data collection method used in this study was in-depth qualitative interviews with visitors, park managers and Rotary members.

All interviews with visitors were collected during daylight hours between 07/22/2016 and 08/11/2016. During this time 55 interviews were conducted either with one person or a party at a time: 30 in Many Glacier, 15 at Bowman Lake, and 10 in Avalanche area. Interviews lasted from 5 to 45 minutes, with the majority being between 10 and 20 minutes. On top of it, 37 other parties were approached, of which 32 have not heard anything about the peace park and could not participate in the interview process, and 5 parties refused. The breakdown of these numbers by location is provided in Table 1. The breakdown of parties interviewed by activity type, type of group, residency and age is provided in Figures 1-4.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Interviews taken</i>	<i>Have not heard about peace park</i>	<i>Refusals</i>
Many Glacier	30	14	4
Bowman Lake	15	12	0
Avalanche	10	6	1
Total	55	32	5

Table 1. The number of visitor interviews by location.

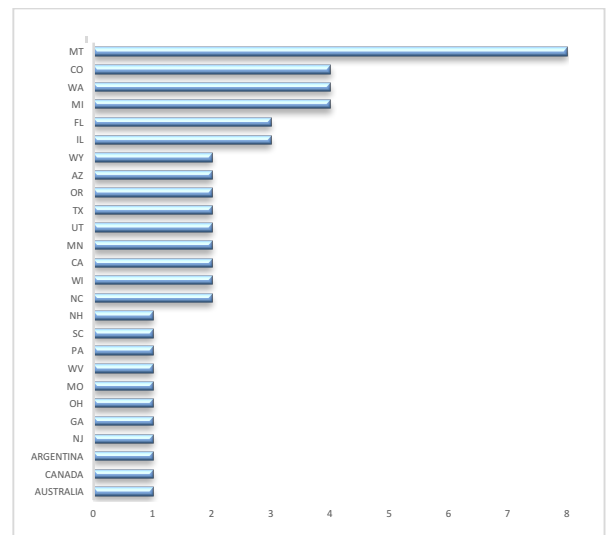
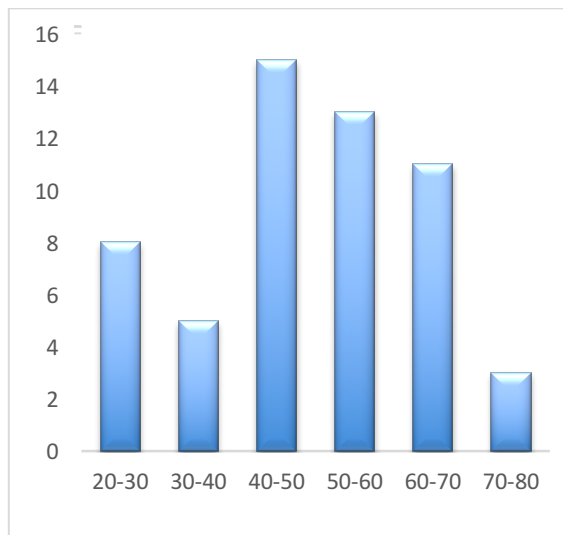


Figure 1. Approximate age of the interview participants (visitors) Figure 2. Residency of interview participants (visitors)

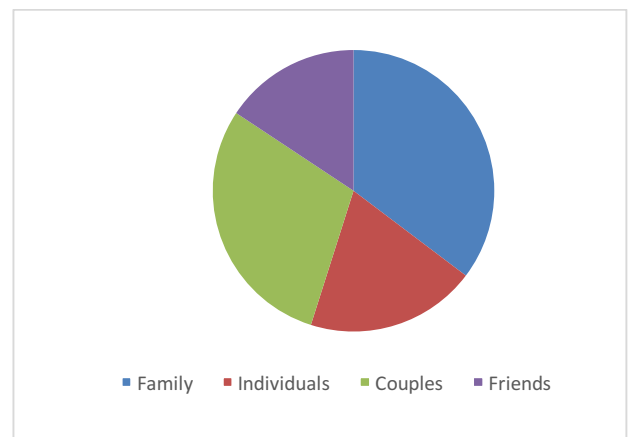
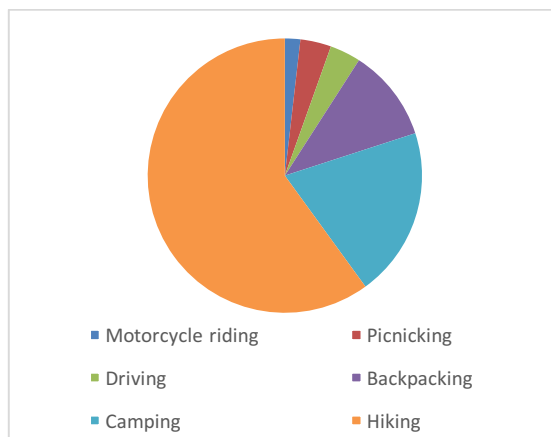


Figure 3. Activity of the interview participants (visitors)

Figure 4. Parties interviewed (visitors)

Interviews with ten park managers were conducted between 07/22/2016 and 08/12/2016, and two Rotary members were interviewed in September 2016. These interviews lasted from 15 to 50 minutes, with the majority being around 30 minutes.

In total, the researcher collected 67 interviews. This number is manageable to process while still provides enough information to have a comprehensive range of perspectives.

One of the goals of this study was to gain better understanding of knowledge and perceptions of a special peace park designation, associated benefits, challenges and opportunities, and include a wide variety of different perspectives. That is why, in order to be open to different thoughts and ideas and encourage open conversation, the researcher chose to

conduct semi-structured and rather flexible interviews with all respondents instead of following a single standardized set of questions. However, three separate interview guides for three categories of respondents identifying topics to be addressed and a series of possible questions for each topic were developed to ensure that interviews were systematic and focused on covering relevant information. Such interview guides were useful to start the conversation with respondents, guide the whole discussion, keep it focused, and ensure the topics of interest to the research were discussed.

The topics for the interview guides were determined through careful investigation of previous studies on peace parks and informed by the study objectives. They included questions about potential peace park benefits, benefit recipients, the meaning of peace, challenges and opportunities associated with the status, the need to highlight the concept more, specific recommendations, and etc. The interview guides are provided in the Appendix A, B and C.

Before conducting an interview with a visitor, the researcher introduced herself as a doctorate student from the University of Montana and explained the research project that she was implementing in Glacier NP. After that she asked their permission to tape record the interview so that it could be transcribed later. Nobody refused to be recorded. She also ensured that anonymity and confidentiality would be provided and never asked the real names of people.

With park managers and Rotary members, the situation was a little different. They knew the purpose of the study beforehand at the time when interview arrangements were made; their names were also known to the researcher. However, confidentiality for each interviewee was provided: no names are mentioned in this report. These interviews were tape recorded and transcribed later as well.

In general, the researcher saw her main role as an interviewer in 1) guiding the conversation; 2) providing comfortable atmosphere during the talk and encouraging openness and honesty in the responses; 3) clarifying all ambiguities that emerged during the interview; 4) making sure that she got the data relevant for the study.

Data Analysis

After the interviews were conducted, they were transcribed, and then the researcher listened to them again to ensure that the transcription was accurate and nothing was missing. Express Scribe computer program was used for transcribing, as it has an interface that allows listening to the interviews at a slower speed and has some other convenient options.

The next step was to read each interview very carefully and code it. Coding means “extracting concepts from raw data and developing them in terms of their properties and dimensions” (Corbin and Strauss 2008). The main idea of this process is to construct concepts (words that stand for ideas) out of data. Concepts can be of different levels, ranging from higher-level and more general (called categories/themes) to lower-level and more specific (sub-categories/sub-themes). While openly coding an interview, a researcher is supposed to open up the data to all potentials and possibilities contained within them: he/she scrutinizes the raw data in an attempt to understand the essence of what is being expressed by the words of the interviewees. All concepts, regardless of level, arise out of data. This is how the grounded theory works: detailed analysis of qualitative data and specific excerpts lead to theme development; themes are broad ideas that bring together common codes and their meanings (Corbin and Strauss 2008).

While working with each interview, first of all the researcher carefully and deeply analyzed every part of it and explored which ideas were contained there (the process called “data interpretation”). She worked with small sections of the interview one by one – either with parts of a sentence, the whole sentence, or a paragraph, depending on the context and the meaning of the data. Then, she gave these ideas conceptual names to represent the data. In other words, she tried to identify the essence or meaning of data, and name it.

For deep examination of data, coding and interpretation, the researcher used “NVivo” which allows working with a great amount of text and helps sorting it. As she conducted 67 interviews, it was helpful to organize the data in such a way that she could easily refer to

different codes/sub-codes, see the number of quotes from various interviews that speak about similar topics and have similar meanings, and have an opportunity to easily make changes in the structure of codes in the process of analysis if she found it necessary.

The researcher also created a summary table in Excel where she recorded the details of each respondent/party (when and where the interview was taken, number of people interviewed, approximate age, activity involved), and included a memo about each interview with the key highlights and thoughts about potential interpretation of the words of the respondents. Such organization of data helped a lot with interpretation and analysis.

The results of this analytical process and discussion about it will be provided in the next chapter. The last chapter will focus mainly on implications of this research for park managers.

Chapter IV: Study Findings

Overview

This chapter attempts to provide a rich a comprehensive story of visitors', park managers', and Rotary members' perspectives on the peace park designation in Glacier NP. It shows the diversity of perspectives and various themes that emerged from the analysis of the interviews and interpretation of the interview data, discusses common patterns and trends, and possible connections. It is organized by seven questions that guided the study.

Selection of quotes and their subsequent assignment to categories was based on the notion that a good qualitative study should meet three requirements: be rigorous, insightful and persuasive (Patterson and Williams, 2002). Given that, the available number of quotes, their importance in the light of the research questions raised earlier, and also the personal opinion of the researcher guided the decisions about the emerged dimensions.

Often themes emerged from the multiple excerpts regarding a particular issue, other times it was the perceived importance of a quote, or contradictory quotes, which brought up a new

dimension. In making excerpts' selection and combining them into broader dimensions the researcher was trying to uncover the questions that guided her study. It should be noted that the interpretation of data has been made through the lens of the researcher and her perception of the importance of these themes and their subsequent applicability for the park management. However, where possible she attempts to be clear about the process that she was going through while interpreting the data and drawing her conclusions: she includes several excerpts for almost each argument so that the reader could assess her interpretation and see a coherent pattern emerging; she includes contradictory quotes, where applicable, to represent all the views; and she provides quotes that can give an important insight even if the number of quotes about this issue is limited. The main idea of this chapter is to demonstrate key findings and provide insight on the knowledge, perceptions of a special "peace park" status of Glacier NP, and benefits, challenges and opportunities associated with this designation from the perspective of the respondents interviewed for this study.

Answers to the research questions

(1) What do visitors know about the peace park designation in Glacier NP?

According to the current sample, on average a little more than one third of visitors in Glacier NP have not heard that they were visiting a peace park (from 87 parties that were approached and agreed to be interviewed, 32 did not know that Glacier NP had the peace park designation, which is 36.8% - versus 63.2% that were aware about this fact). The difference between three locations is as follows: in Many Glacier awareness was the highest – 68% of visitors knew about the peace park designation, in comparison with 62.5% in Avalanche and 55.5% at Bowman Lake.

Researcher's assumption was that both Many Glacier and Bowman Lake areas would have higher percentage of visitors that had heard about the peace park status, in comparison with other locations, due to their proximity to Canada; that determined the choice of locations for this

study. Although at Many Glacier the awareness was rather high, at Bowman that was not confirmed by the current sample. There could be two reasons to explain this fact: although Canada is very close, there is no active border crossing close to Bowman Lake and visitors have limited opportunities to actually go to Waterton Lakes NP, if they only stay in that area. Then, many young people were approached at Bowman, in particular backpackers, and on average younger people were less aware about the peace park status than older generations. It should be noted that such distribution is true only for the current study sample, and could be different if a similar study is repeated.

The following quote by one of the visitors shows that the location indeed makes a difference in people's perceptions of the peace park idea:

"It's interesting because you do think more about the peace park when you are on this side over here, in Many Glacier. We are usually more by Lake McDonald, and it's like a whole different microcosm over there. So two parts of the park are really different."

Among those visitors that have heard at least something about the peace park designation in Glacier NP, three types of respondents could be identified, regardless of the location: (1) those that have heard something, but had very limited understanding what peace park was and which benefits it could provide – interviews with such visitors usually lasted 5-7 minutes, and after that they simply did not have anything to say other than they felt it was a good idea; (2) those that knew many details, including the process of peace park establishment, were rather interested in the concept and provided many ideas how the benefits could be enhanced– these interviews were the most informative and lasted from 20 to 45 minutes; and (3) the middle group that knew about the peace park status and concept and shared some ideas, but not as many as the second group. The number of respondents in these three groups were roughly equal.

All visitors were asked where and when they learned about the peace park designation. Several sources were named, including guidebooks, articles, websites, visitor centers and signs in the park. Some people have learned about that from a friend, knew it from being in the park

previously, or did not remember at all where they have heard about the peace park status. Below are some examples of quotes in relation to this question:

“It was when we got here, we found the Alberta visitor station, and I also found it online before we came here. My part was to do the logistical planning.”

“I did not know about that till I decided to prepare for this trip. And so I was reading about the area, and saw that it was a peace park between the two countries.”

“I read about it in Terry Tempest Williams’ book “The Hour of the Land”.

“I believe I read it before coming here, but definitely on the ranger’s talk. But there is no connection why we are here.”

“I live here. It’s kind of like I’ve heard it somewhere, but I don’t remember when.”

“I learned about that in 1986. I learned about it through the Student Conservation Association, SCA. I was a student volunteer in 1986 with the SCA, that’s why I am here, because it changed my life, to come to the park.”

“The first time we came here, it was probably like 5 or 6 years ago. We went up to Waterton and kind of learned that it was a combined peace park between Canada and the U.S.”

“We’ve been coming for Glacier for 25 years, we originally learned about it from visiting here, it wasn’t like we’ve heard about it in California or something like that.”

“I knew it was a peace park, you jogged my memory – oh yes, it is a peace park!”

Many visitors emphasized that although they have heard about the peace park designation, they were not really sure what it means:

“I guess I do not fully understand what the designation means, or what the goals are, and how it came about.”

“The word peace, that is all good. Like the connotations of peace, that’s the benefit I think. I don’t actually know anything detail wise about the peace park, how it got the designation, nothing. But I think it seems like a great idea.”

“To me it’s vague and squishy. I don’t understand why they did it, what the point is at all, because every park is peaceful and everyone knows that Canada exists because nobody wanted it. There was no war to create Canada, the English just said – go ahead and have it, we don’t care, take it! So there has always been peace in this region, there might have been wars with Native People, but briefly speaking, they are friendly neighbor to the North, and everywhere is peaceful with Canada!”

“I don’t think a lot of people understand that that’s the international peace park, or the significance of that.”

“I fully do not understand what the part of the peace park is, other than, I can’t remember when it was formed, but maybe it was right after war.”

“I’m not quite sure what it means to use the peace park here. I mean, we are totally excited that it’s connected to Canada, we plan to go up there, but I don’t know much about the whole peace designation.”

Several visitors had a wrong interpretation of the peace park: for example, they thought that only Canadian part had that status, or it was a smaller area along the border, or that it also involved Tribal Nations, or other interpretations:

“This is actually the Banff-Waterton International Peace Park. It’s Banff-Waterton, it’s the Canadian version, and the Waterton-Glacier is the American version, but they all are connected in this one corridor that allows wildlife to pass from North to South and South to North, and humans.”

“I was wondering if it would be a little bit downgraded from a national park. I know our country takes a really good care of the national parks, so I was wondering... because sometimes we’ve gone through places like Red Woods, where it was a state park, and a national park, and I thought it was not really up to a national park level. Glacier, I think, being a peace park, I don’t think we have lost anything, I think it’s an excellent park.”

“I thought that it referred to a World Heritage Site, you know, designated... I think UN established it, right? That happened to bridge two countries, so it has the international blessing for cooperation and protection.”

“For some reason I was thinking that... I didn’t realize all of Glacier was the peace park, for some reason I was thinking it was the Waterton portion in Canada, and my understanding is that it’s a peace park, that it’s the three nations – Canada, the U.S., and the Blackfeet nation.”

This lack of understanding is clearly connected with the lack of information about the peace park – both in Glacier NP and outside its boundaries. Visitors argued that although they may have seen a sign or read something about it, the concept is not promoted enough, it is hard to find information and any details about it, guides and rangers do not always mention that Glacier has a peace park status, which brings about confusion about the peace park idea and limited understanding what it means.

“I don’t think it is something that is really promoted – since it’s my, I don’t know, 8th or 9th time I’ve been here over the last couple of years, and I guess I remember seeing a sign somewhere at some point that mentioned that, but I don’t really have an idea what it is. So it’s not really prominent. I think they should advertise it more, put it in those pamphlets, even put in on these signs, especially when you are going into Waterton, and when Canadians are coming into our park, that this is a peace park.”

“So I took a Red Bus tour, and I didn’t hear anything about a peace park, even though we hear a lot about the park, but he didn’t talk about that at all.”

“This is the first time I’ve ever heard the term peace park, so just getting the information out there, might get people interested. I mean if people don’t even know that something exists, it’s hard to get people involved in any benefits it might accrue.”

“We did some research before we came out here in Glacier, I don’t remember seeing the term Peace park. We’ve looked at Glacier’s Park Services’ website, in other sites that specialize in hiking in Glacier. We might have missed it, but I don’t remember seeing anything like that.”

“Maybe a little more advertising will help. Because I have heard about that there was a peace park, but I really thought it was the part that was actually on the border, I didn’t realize it was the whole park.”

“It should be highlighted more. If you are going to have it designated as a peace park, then people should know about it, like I zipped in and out of one of the visitor centers today, and I didn’t see anything that said this was a peace park. And it didn’t that I looked super carefully, but it wasn’t like posted anywhere obvious to get my attention to get me to stop for 5 seconds so that I actually read more and find out more about it.”

“I just haven’t seen a whole lot about it, I guess I vaguely recall seeing something about peace park on a map or something like that. And it doesn’t go deeper than that because it does not really explain. I’d like to see a message I guess, or a mission statement, or something like that.”

“Like in the information booth, I could go walk over there again and look around and see if there is anything in there about peace park? Nothing, nothing really.”

“It is not really emphasized. Certainly not out of the park at all, you never hear about that other than in the park. There is not enough marketing to let people know that it’s here and why it’s here, so that would be my thought.”

Park managers agree that the peace park concept is not promoted enough, there is definitely a room for improvement in relation to interpretation, investigation of this concept and marketing; they also understand that many visitors are not aware of the peace park designation:

“We don’t do a lot of educating about it, I mean I know over on the East side there are probably a few more programs that deal with the idea of the peace park over there, talking to the visitors, and I know some of our publications talk about it, it’s one of our interpretive themes, but I am not sure it’s a theme that is discussed a lot.”

“We probably don’t make as big of a deal of it as we should. Other parks promote their designations more, and Glacier really does not.”

“I think we could do a lot more though; I think we need to strive to, perhaps investigate just how we can make this into something even more beneficial for the public and for the communities that surround the park. I think we’ve just barely touched the iceberg on how international peace park can help just visitors, the community surrounding the parks, I think we have a lot of work that we can do.”

There was an opinion both by visitors and managers that the peace park status is more visible in Canada:

“A lot of the visitors in Glacier National Park here in the U.S. won’t even aware that this was a peace park. When I got to Canada, however, we would lead the hike starting in Waterton in Canada, and a lot of the Canadians and the foreign visitors actually knew that was a peace park, but a lot of the U.S. folks did not. We didn’t stress that as much here in Glacier. In general, I would say, a lot of the Canadians, they know that it’s a peace park, but not so much in the U.S. But more and more people are, I started here in 1999, and as time goes on, the more I see, the more I talk about it, the more I ask, people are aware that it is a peace park.”

“I think, where I noticed it more, is coming in from Waterton. That’s where I saw it, that it was designated as a peace park between the two. But it’s not necessarily when you come into the park like from this side, I didn’t notice that.”

It should be noted that some visitors actually argued that the concept is quite visible in the park, if you are attentive. However, people do not always focus on that:

“In my mind it’s a little hard to overlook, because the Canadian flags are everywhere too, so I mean... you have to be actively not looking. Maybe that’s the thing. Maybe the nature is so beautiful, you are actually not looking at anything that’s human, you overlook all of the human aspects and just focus on the nature.”

“Well, I know about it because I read about it in their newspaper, and a lot of people, a lot of the ranger programs talk a little bit about it, if not completely about it – some programs are totally about that. And then once in a while it goes on one of the ranger-guided hikes just to kind of find out what people will say, and I think one of them was just talking about the peace park concept.”

Visitors were asked if the peace park concept should be promoted more, and although the majority of respondents were very confident that it should be highlighted a lot more than it actually is now, few people did not agree with this, mostly because of the financial reasons, high visitation that is already happening in Glacier NP, and some ideological considerations:

“I hesitate to say highlight it more, because if Canada side is quiet, I want it to stay quiet, there are too many people. This park is not designed well for the number of people that are here.”

“I guess to me part of going on vacation is to escape the 24-hour news and the politics and the business world, and part of it is just escaping all the “this is mine, this is yours”, just to be in the open and not have to worry about anything, we go on vacation to not worry about anything. They could promote it or mention it, but I am not going to pay a lot of attention to it, like I am intentionally not trying to keep up on the elections, I want to escape reality.”

“I think it’s good as long it’s done in a wise way, and we are from Illinois, and Illinois has way too many layers of government, and our taxes are high, we spend way too much money for the benefits that we get. So I am all for it as long as it helps preserve the park and keep it affordable and is done in an affordable manner, respecting the funds that are designated for use.”

“I don’t know that you would achieve much by emphasizing that aspect more. I would say there are better places to put their priorities than emphasize that. I don’t know what else they could do, if people don’t know about it now, I don’t think they are going to get their attention by hammering it, so... It’s just a word that has been so overused, and so abused, that people just

stopped thinking it, as a meaningful concept. And if does not mean anything to them, then they ignore it and go about their business.”

One park manager also expressed concerns that more promotion of the peace park concept may result in the visitation increase to Glacier and Waterton National Parks, and also questioned the fact that the park is ready for their higher expectations. However, he agreed that the whole concept may bring many important benefits and emphasized that there are other ways to spread the message about peace park status versus encouraging to visit it:

“Well, the boats up in Waterton are running at near capacity, every day, like full boats going down to Goat Hunt dropping people off, picking people up, all day long. Our visitor services here are stretched to a maximum, like we just had to put a bunch of porta potties outside. We cannot meet the demand of visitors that we are getting now, and I know Waterton is also very-very busy. But I always hesitate to invite a whole lot more people into a park if we are not truly ready for them, and I feel like that people that would come here to experience an international peace park, may have different expectations than our casual park visitor would about, you know, peace, peace and quiet really, is what maybe kind of their idea, and without doing some extra work to set their expectations, I hesitate to encouraging more and more people to come. But there are ways to spread this message about the peace park without ever telling people to go there. Like on our Facebook page, you would very rarely see anything about the peace park. You see lots of pretty pictures about the park, but you don’t see anything about the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park”.

(2) What do visitors expect from the peace park status and how does it influence their experience?

One of the questions that interested the researcher was if visitors had any expectations regarding the peace park status of Glacier NP when they planned their trips. There was only one respondent who said that she expected to see more international staff in Glacier because of the peace park designation:

“I kind of thought maybe I would meet more international staff. I mean we see a lot of people from foreign countries here, but we are not seeing a lot of the Canadians that I am recognizing. And maybe they are there, and I don’t realize who they are.”

All other interviewees did not have any specific expectations about the peace component, and were planning a trip and actually travelled to a national park, not to a peace park:

“I didn’t think about it before you asked me about peace park. We came out here to go hiking.”

“No, I didn’t have any specific limited expectations. It’s kind of an unusual phenomenon, peace, considering the United States is being in a war since its founding almost every 3 to 5 years, I participated in one of them.”

“It was mostly just going to Glacier. I came for the nature, not for the peace.”

“I mostly thought I was just going to a national park that happened to border on a park in Canada.”

“No, we just came because we like national parks. We go to a lot of national parks all over. So coming here was just... yeah, we did not expect anything out of the peace park, we just came because it was the national park.”

“Mostly I felt I was just going to a national park, mainly because I knew that as a U.S. citizen. Until I researched, I didn’t realize that we had the cooperation between both countries.”

“I did not notice anything different than other parks. It really actually doesn’t register too much like a peace park to me, you know, it’s more two national parks.”

“I saw it as an interesting item in a tour book, it really wasn’t something that I thought of as a reason to come, but being able to hear more why it was designated a peace park, what is the philosophy behind that, what it meant to provide people. I think there is an opportunity to tell the story. But putting it in the context of other peace parks, it’s something that could be interesting.”

“I am pretty sure that 99.99% of the people coming here do not come here because it’s a peace park, they come here because of the mountains, and the wildlife, and the isolation and the wilderness, you know, so in that sense I think the peace park designation gets a back seat, which is probably not a negative thing for that, it’s just that there is so much else here to focus on.”

What is the reason for such unanimity among visitors in regards to no expectations of the peace park component? The last quote provides some insight on it: there is so much else to focus on in Glacier! As will be discussed later, peace is sometimes associated with politics and social change, and it’s usually not on the agenda of visitors that come to a national park during their vacations. Then, many people don’t really understand the meaning of the peace park designation and the difference with a national park. It is quite an elusive, intangible, and rather complex concept which is difficult to fully understand and completely comprehend.

“The reason is because there is so much here, there is so much here! I think that’s a lot of it, you really do have to pick and choose what are the things you want to do, because again, it’s such a beautiful place. There is so much here, I think it gets lost a little bit with some of the other things. There are the top 50 things to do in Glacier National Park, and that’s way down the list, I am sorry to say, it’s really is.”

“I think people come to a park because they have sort of an idea that they are going to do some kind of recreation. Like they have a vacation on their mind, they don’t have like an agenda to do something for social change, they really just want to indulge their family in a vacation, and

that's not really on their plate. But I think that there is a trend toward tourism that does help, like there is ecotourism, people go on vacation and volunteer to do work, mission trips, and I think that if the park had more of a ... like if they got something online, it said Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park. And maybe it does, but maybe it needs to be more present, and then they would need to know what they were actually contributing to the idea of peace, when they were visiting the park."

"I cannot talk about other people, but in my opinion... I don't see the focus. You can tell me it's a very beautiful idea, but if you don't see concrete that comes with the idea, the idea is only an idea. I don't see anything that reflects the international peace park, I know that it's Glacier national park, and I go and I find everything that I expect to see in the park. But I don't see any evidence that international peace park is doing something above and beyond that the national park is doing."

"Because people only focus on the things that they were thinking of to begin with, when they are coming to a national park, and if they didn't know it was designated as a peace park, then it probably goes right over their head, they are thinking hiking, and where I am going to stay, is the campground full, and those kinds of specific things."

Visitors don't seem to think much about the peace component while they are on vacation in a beautiful place with so many things to do and explore; it almost feels like peace designation is a nice side benefit of Glacier NP:

"Because it's not the main point. It's a good point, and I think it's a great place to bring that concept forward, but people come here for something else."

"Well, I don't know, because many people come to the national park, and maybe that's the side benefit of it being a peace park, but I think largely people come here to hike, or camp, or fish, or enjoy nature, and that's the reason the park exists, is to care for our Earth and to care about it, so if that can be a point in common of the peace park."

The same opinion was brought by park managers:

"You know, there are so many other awesome things here. I mean, the Peace Garden in North Dakota, there is nothing else there, it's in the middle of nowhere, in the prairie, it does not have this kind of a place, so you are competing against all the other stories here and all the other amazing things, and so it's like people didn't come here to learn about a peace park, they came here to see a bear, or drive along the Going-to-the-Sun road. It's nice, but so what? That's kind of about it, it's nice. I wouldn't want to take away from those other things, but I still think we should be more unified that way and call ourselves a peace park all the time."

"I guess my opinion would be that we think Glacier is just so wonderful on its own that we don't stress the fact that it's also a peace park. I don't know how to explain it, but our national parks, we love our national parks, and we want to feel as though there is this autonomous place that belongs to us, as American citizens we pay our taxes, we support this, and so it's kind of like that alone is all we want to think about, but actually it's even greater than that, and so once we as managers start to really promote that, then the public will, I think, will go along with it."

"I don't think most people even think about it more than a fleeting moment. I don't think they really in their mind have conceptualized it necessarily and all the benefits that we've talked about. I certainly think there is always opportunity for education and interpretation."

"And people are not coming out here to go to the international peace park, very few. It happens that they find out about it, or they go to both parks and I guess they found out about it, but it is very few people who are like "I want to go to the world's first international park". Whereas there are a lot of people who are like "I want to go to the world's first national park, Yellowstone". OK, they've got that going. That is an attraction for them, and a benefit that they are the first national park, and that's why it is so busy there all the time. With the international peace park, have that same appeal – hmm, probably not, ever, it's never going to be better than being the first national park probably, better in a sense, you know..."

Association of peace parks with politics and government is another explanation of why people do not really care about this designation and not always interested to think about it.

"Well, I don't think they understand how it affects their life or how it impacts the resource that they are looking at right now, they just think "Oh, it's some government thing", you know, that a couple of government employees got together and shook hands across the border, and that's all it is, but I don't think they really realize how much information is shared across that boundary."

What would make people think more about the peace designation and realize how important is it? It is not enough just to call it a peace park, it should become a meaningful concept, something that evokes emotions and has an obvious connection to people's lives. Then, visitors should understand what this designation means and what is the difference with a national park, and it requires some effort.

"I personally believe that we should create an international peace park differently than a national park, which when we say international, something different happens, that is not the same as the rest of national parks, so you emphasize that you are going to a different place, when ethnic boundaries change because it's the international peace park, and it needs to be reflected in a way people go, so that they could say "Aha, now I understand what an international peace park is, and it's different than going to a lake".

In addition to lack of understanding about the importance of the peace park status, limited promotion and education, clear focus on many other things in Glacier, not obvious difference with just a national park, and association with politics, there is also another perspective that there is no money involved with peace, which detracts from the attractiveness of the concept:

"And the thing is, you can make no money of the peace, you know. And if you cannot make any money of it, it doesn't get up on the menu, we are so commercial."

(3) What is park managers' and Rotary members' experience with the peace park? Is there any impact of the designation on their work? Are there any challenges to cooperative efforts?

As mentioned earlier, while Waterton-Glacier was formally established, most of the cooperation happens on the informal level: it is not governed by written treaties or binding agreements. However, informal cooperation is rather productive – the parks have joint research programs, collaborate in environmental education and interpretation, search and rescue, vegetation restoration, and visitor management.

The employees of both parks believe that personal relationships between staff is what makes cooperation successful:

“Glacier’s superintendent and the superintendent of Waterton at that point became very good friends, and that was something that really enhanced the relationship as well. And I think that over the years that I’ve been here that’s one of the things that I’ve seen is that generally those two individuals, with one exception, really like each other, and get along well, you know, and enjoy, I think, being able to have a professional relationship like this between two parks. And I think it means a lot for them, that they recognize they are a part of this bigger piece of history, and are really setting the stage for the future.” (NPS official 2015)

“Personal relationship, and friendship - I think that’s part of it, for sure. And I saw that, you know, also at the division chief levels and lower that they get a lot of benefit out of working with each other across the border. And because it’s part of their, you know, this bigger significance of Glacier and Waterton – you know, it makes them feel good to do it.” (NPS official 2015)

Personal relationships between parks’ staff can be traced back to informal communication between Glacier NP rangers and Canadian wardens of Waterton Lakes NP, who have been working together to preserve the entire ecosystem of the Crown of the Continent. This cooperation between park staff, especially in the early years, led to close working relationships and solid personal friendships (Mihalic 2012).

Over the years there have been several cooperative initiatives between Waterton and Glacier NPs. These included joint operations, mutual aid, visitor management, interpretation, search and rescue, resource protection responsibilities, including fire management, occasional staff exchanges and other projects (Mihalic 2012, Tanner et al. 2007). For example, in the area of

environmental education and interpretation cooperative initiatives include Hands-Across-the-Border ceremony that is being held annually at the boundary makers, international peace park hike, led by one Canadian and one American park employee twice a week in summer time, and joint publication – the Waterton-Glacier-Guide, which is produced annually and provides basic visitor information to WGIPP and articles on current management issues and challenges (Tanner et al. 2007, Rotary International 2017, Nikolaeva 2015). In summer months both parks used to organize a weekly theatre program in the other park, and every Friday evening park interpreters used to travel between Glacier and Waterton Lakes to present a program to park visitors in Canada and USA respectively (it should be noted that due to the budget cuts these two programs have slowed down during the last several years). In 1985 the superintendents of both national parks held a 3-day “Superintendents Hike” to celebrate 75th anniversary of the establishment of Glacier which then became an annual event for several years that involved various stakeholders – local governments, NGOs, ranchers, local business people, politicians, etc (Tanner et al. 2007). The latest successful cooperative initiative related to the joint International Dark Sky Application – in 2016 Waterton-Glacier became the first International Transboundary Dark Sky Preserve (Glacier National Park Conservancy 2017, Interviews 2016).

Over the past several years WGIPP implemented a considerable cooperative program for invasive plant species, which includes the collection and propagation of native seed from a park greenhouse, in particular for the white bark pine. Parks also support one another in matters related to emergency response, such as search and rescue, or joint firefighting efforts (Tanner et al. 2007). Other cooperative initiatives include constant communication regarding public safety warnings, weather conditions, and trail closures (Nikolaeva 2015).

There have also been several single actions between two parks that were aimed at promotion of cooperation, and encouraging peace, goodwill and friendship between two countries – such as Peace Park Week that was organized by Rotarians and held in 1960-1962; Canada-U.S. Days of Peace and Friendship that took place in 1987; travelling exhibits on the

peace park, and some others (Morrison 2007). Usually those one-time events were timed to some sort of anniversaries.

Parks' employees believe that the most popular and well-attended cooperative initiatives are the weekly Interpretive Peace Park Hike that starts in the Waterton Lakes, crosses the international border and ends in Glacier, vegetation restoration programs, and cooperation in law enforcement (Nikolaeva 2015). Quotes below show park staff's enthusiasm about these projects:

"My experience starting out was, I was asked to lead the International Peace Park hike, and that was in 2007, and I was...I was thrilled! Actually it's fairly formal, we've been doing it for almost 30 years now, and it was set up through Rotarians of Canada and the U.S., and we do have people sign up for that. I guess it just started back in the day when they said "Hey, let's have the U.S. and the Canadian rangers lead this hike together". And then there is the ceremony at the border. Two times a week – Tuesdays and Fridays, we start late June and we do it through Labor Day. We have a Parks Canada ranger and a U.S. ranger, and one of our U.S. rangers. The visitors have already signed up and they know the information, they get a boat ticket before they come to the trailhead where we meet, and then we do an introduction, and ice-breaker, we talk about further theme of working together, of the peace park idea, and then we start the hike. The Canadian ranger starts, and I bring up the rear to the first stop, she does her talk, and then I take the lead and I make the next stop, and we just hopscotch that way until we get to the border, we do our ceremony, we have lunch, we do a few more stops, we get down to Goat Hunt, we go through customs, and then we take the boat back to Waterton, and that's what our day is."

"Whenever I've led a hike, or we meet and we shake hands across the border on our international peace park hike, and people look at each other in the eyes, and they tear up, because they say "Hey, we are right here on this border, and we are shaking hands across that border, and we can take that feeling of togetherness and take it wherever we live", and they feel really good about it, and it makes them think that we need to try to get along with our neighbors, whether it's the neighbor across the back yard, whether it's the neighbor in another country, we need to try to get along, they get that good feeling."

"When we started a vegetation map back in the late 90s, we...early on we were talking to, you know, the folks in Waterton, and that was on the Park Service list to get a vegetation map done, and they stepped right up and said "Hey, we'll kick in some funding, get aerial photography done here and do ours at the same time". So we created a seamless vegetation map for the peace park, and it was really neat: we did, especially in that early years of the project, we did a lot of work and had their survey, or a vegetation map, or in the field side by side with other. So, you know, as they look at the photographs, and then they look at what on the land, they would calibrate with each other to make sure they are interpreting things in a similar way. So that was one of the neatest projects I've got to work on."

"I worked in Glacier since 1995, which is part of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, and early on in that, when I got here, I worked a lot with two superintendents on what it meant to be a peace park. So we came up with some purpose and significance statements around that which ended up in general management plan, and then did some exploration of different things that we could be cooperating on. And there was some stuff that was already in place, but we were looking for other things. So for instance the fact that we do a combined newspaper now

that came out of that time, when we were like “OK, it’s a peace, maybe one of the things we should do was a combined newspaper”. So those kinds of things.”

As noted many visitors, the peace park concept is not promoted enough in Glacier NP, it is not really visible and evident in the park. The only exhibit that is entirely devoted to the peace park designation is located in Goat Haunt, one of the park’s most remote and tranquil locations. Many visitors arrive there by boat from Waterton Lakes National Park in Canada, but it is also possible to hike to this destination. Photos 1-2 show the Peace Park Pavilion in Goat Haunt.



Photos 1-2: Peace Park Pavilion in Glacier NP. Photos by Elena Nikolaeva.

This exhibit provides information about the history behind WGIPP, current cooperative projects, perceptions of peace meaning, heroes in peace movement around the world, management objectives of peace parks, and examples of transboundary cooperation initiatives in other world regions. Park managers that were directly involved in the development of this pavilion explain the idea behind it:

“The peace park for me is really important, and I sort of, when I got here, decided that we should emphasize it more than we are. So I’ve spent a lot of time learning about peace parks around the world actually, I work closely with Canadians on a regular basis for interpretive programs. And I’ve also designed all the exhibits at Goat Haunt, which are in our peace pavilion there, which are all about our peace park, as well as how that idea spread around the world, and why it can be threatened. So there is a whole series of big exhibits up there about that.”

It was emphasized several times during interviews that it is rather easy for Waterton and Glacier National Parks to work together and cooperate on certain issues. As mentioned earlier, on many aspects the countries are similar and get along well, there are no major political disputes, the border is peaceful, and they share a common landscape in WGIPP. It is logical that it is easier to implement some projects together, regardless of different jurisdictions.

“So it’s been different in working with an international peace park because, you know, sometimes it’s difficult enough to work when you have a shared country with another federal agency, so it’s the bureaucracies of dealing with another agency. But it has been surprisingly easy in this situation because the resources that we are managing to protect are the same across the boundary. It really is, even though there is a line on the landscape at the boundary, but as far as ecosystems, it’s an artificial line, and we really have the same shared values and the same goals for protection of those resources. So it’s been easy, and we have a very close relationship with the park management up in Waterton, and as we are making decisions that will impact, we have been able to share in those decision making.”

“Because we get along with Canada, you know, we are partners and have been, we have the world’s longest undefended border, it’s kind of easy for us to work together”

“It’s special as it was first, but we are actually one of the easiest, you know, and in some ways our issues are not as nearly as complex as what some other folks are dealing with.”

However, a number of challenges have been identified by both park managers and visitors regarding cooperation. First, the events of September 11, 2001 resulted in the increased US border security initiatives. It used to be an easy border to cross, but now all visitors are required to have passports, which prevents many of them from crossing

Challenges in regards to cooperation in Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park

1. Increased border security
2. Travel restrictions
3. Bureaucracy working across jurisdictions
4. Lack of funding
5. Time constraints
6. Two different fees
7. Not really integrated management

Table 2. Challenges to cooperation

the border. It also affected staff exchanges between two parks. Tanner et al. (2007) explored how the escalation of border security has affected the cooperative efforts of WGIPP and concluded that although 9/11 events have challenged cooperation, both parks demonstrated that it is possible to secure borders while simultaneously practicing transboundary conservation and fostering continued peace. Nonetheless, many park managers reported certain problems related to border security and necessity to deal with customs every time they travel between the parks, and many visitors emphasized that it adds frustration and detracts from their experience, as well as makes peace park less meaningful.

“I mean one thing that is a bit limiting is the cross border issues, of course, having to have a passport and all that. Anyone who did not plan and did not bring a passport, like me, cannot enjoy going across borders. Yeah, just being able to hop across borders, like it’s the same place,

and you are the same people, makes it more meaningful. Here you don't have that, but there is nothing that the park can do about that."

"If you go up into Canada, you have to have passport and stuff like that. And you also have a lot of rangers and people up there watching for drug smugglers and stuff, I don't know if they do it as much anymore. So you definitely do see a lot more law enforcement around these areas. And you are kind of like "Are we in a bad area? What's going on here?"

"The ecosystem does not end at the border, it's the same thing, and I think a lot of people, if they are travelling in the U.S., they are not going to come to Glacier and think to bring their passport with them, and then they cannot get in anyway. I mean after 9/11 you can't really make it easier, you can't say "Oh well, OK, you say you are visiting Glacier, and you say you are going to Waterton Lakes, yeah, you don't need a passport going through". I think that's the problem, that maybe people coming to Glacier might think "Oh, really? We could go to Waterton Lakes? It's a peace park, let's go there. Oh, I didn't bring my passport."

"When I was going across the border, the customs man was just so nasty that it ruined my day, so I just basically drove there, looked around, and I said I am not going to spend any money, because I was not treated very nice by the ambassador of their country at the border. He was representing the country."

"We are still increasing our security every year along the border. Those things that happened in other parts of the world threatened the peace of the peace park, that's kind of the message of that look. It used to be, you come down here, you don't need a passport, you could just go into the country, it was a real loose, friendly, peaceful border. Now it's not, and it's not because of anything we did at the park, it's because what happened in the rest of the world which affects it. So peace is something that needs to be promoted at the bigger picture of peace."

It should be noted that a couple of visitors argued that it was actually really easy to cross the border, and the peace park can be enjoyed both from the U.S. and Canadian side as long as people plan ahead and take their passports with you.

"I took a boat trip yesterday, I crossed the border at Goat Haunt, and came back across the border, so I did four of the fastest border crossings ever in the world, it's so cool! You just zip right through the border, you ask you where you are from, and that's it."

Another problem that limits cooperation between the U.S. and Canada in WGIPP is travel restrictions for park staff and bureaucracy:

"It's been harder and harder for us to cross the boundary just to do simple travel. So like next week we have our annual Waterton-Glacier science and history day, and so we figured out a way, we shortened the schedule to a six-hour program, and it's a three-hour drive, so we can drive up, have the program, drive back, and be back within a 12-hour slot, so it's not travel. Because as soon as it becomes travel, the paperwork and approvals, all become a lot more complex. Anyhow, it's been harder and harder just to cross.... Because we used to do an overnight, we'd come for an annual meeting that would start at noon on one day and would end at about noon the following day, so you'd have dinner together, they'd play floor hockey up there, they'd play basketball down here, you know, and have a little more social time as well. And with this whole, the administrative red tape has made those opportunities less, so now we'll

meet together at St Mary for just a short meeting, and that's it. So we have, I think we have missed a few years, so that's something that needs to be revived, I think."

"Sometimes they put travel restrictions and then we can't go across the border, so they kind of overlook some of those things that are really on a practical level we should not be restricted from crossing the border. But we kind of found ways to work with that, and sometimes, some of us who work a lot with managers in Canada, will take an annual leave, or they take leave or stuff to make things work, or sometimes we find a place to meet that everybody can meet and get back to their parks or wherever in the same day."

Limited funding and time constraints was another dominant theme that emerged:

"But I think, you know, the big barriers to working together are budgetary, Waterton, I guess, lost several positions.. I guess we can get people up there to participate, but it's kind of that mid-range working together that is so challenging just with not enough time, money, scheduling meetings, those kinds of things."

"So any effort to focus on the peace or try to highlight that, basically you are making a decision between other duties and the peace aspect, so it would be nice if the peace could stand on its own as a funding mechanism or a highlight, you know. Maybe in the future you could get NGO partners and those kinds of people to help focus on that, and that would be OK. Well, if I do that, then I am not going to have a grizzly bear survey, I mean making that tough choice. It would be nice if it augmented and I think that was the intent, but I think over time with budgets and things it just hasn't."

Both visitors and park managers agreed that having two different fees to visit Glacier and Waterton national parks, instead of having one pass to visit the International Peace Park, prevents people from enjoying both parks and does not contribute to the promotion of the peace park concept. However, both parks are working on it and there is a possibility that this issue will be resolved very soon. Moreover, next year Canada will have free entrance to all national parks to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday. According to one of the perspectives, this may change the way how visitors are thinking about the peace park concept in general.

"I think the other thing that prevents us from sharing this idea of the international peace with lot of our visitors is the fees that we have. You know, a visitor that's coming from Glacier who just spent \$80 on their pass to visit all the national parks, they often come in and ask us "Does this get me into Waterton?" And we say "no", then they are like "Oh, really? Should we go up there?" This fee certainly, I think, prevents us from fully helping visitors realize what this park is all about."

"I know Jeff Mow has been working with Ifan on looking at trying to do some kind of shared pass, I think at least for the visiting public, both Americans and Canadians, it would make things nicer."

"We are working on this one, but we should have one fee, the superintendents are actually working on that, we are very close. Because you'd be surprised, when we talk about the peace

park with visitors, one of the very first questions is “Oh, do I have to pay another fee to go in there?” Because they are thinking that in the international peace park, there should be just one. I know that’s a small thing, but from a visitor’s perspective it’s important. So I think it would actually do a lot, if we had a pass that was good for both parks, I think it would alone change how people are thinking about it.”

Lastly, it was noted that regardless of successful cooperation between the parks within the WGIPP model, there is not really a joint management, and both parks are not completely integrated, which bring about certain barriers and makes the peace park concept quite intangible.

“Visitors, I don’t think, get the peace park for a couple of reasons. One is... while we are an international peace park and we do cooperative on some things, like fires, we cooperate on those, search and rescue, we cooperate on those, we do interpretive programs together, but those are really small little things, we don’t really manage these two parks as one.”

“I think if you were to get a peace park, I think it’s inherent and there should be a lot of joint work, and you would think that Canada and the U.S. would do a lot. And we do some, but I wouldn’t call it a lot. I guess not like the superintendents sit together and develop a work plan for the year.”

Zbicz (1997) defines six levels of cooperation between adjoining PA ranging from zero (no cooperation) to five (full cooperation). Middle categories include communication, consultation, collaboration and coordination of planning respectively. The last level is ideal, it means integrated cooperative management (or at least on specific issues) with implied joint decision making and common goals. However, in real life it occurs very rarely: according to the survey of Zbics, only 8% of the PA pairs demonstrated full cooperation.

Vasiljević et al. (2015) argue that models of transboundary cooperation include 4 levels – communication or information sharing, consultation, coordinated action, and joint management. They stress that there is no implication that one model is superior or inferior to another; instead, the various models should be viewed as appropriate for different situations at different times. Cooperation should always be encouraged and the strongest appropriate cooperative arrangement model should be sought to achieve the best conservation outcome.

WGIPP falls into the third category – “coordinated action” – at least for some projects that parks implement together. Joint management of decisions would be the model, if both parks were truly integrated.

Elaborating on this topic of models of management, the question arises if Glacier NP should be managed differently in comparison with other national parks, taking into consideration its peace park status. Many respondents agreed that the peace status brings some responsibility, but there are certain rules and regulations that both countries need to follow regardless of the designation. There was also no consensus if special management is really needed for a peace park and if it would bring certain benefits. Mihalic (2012) argues that other than the original legislation, there is little guidance for superintendents in managing the park any differently than any other national park. Perspectives of current study participants' are presented below.

"Because we are all under the same mandate for the National Parks Service in protecting and preserving for future generations, and I think as far as like trying to manage it differently, that would be nice, but I don't see that being possible. And I don't really know if it would benefit that much, but it certainly would be something to look into"

"Yes, I mean any time a park has any sort of special designation, you've got to manage it different way. Maybe not managed differently, but different considerations."

"Coordinating a transboundary area adds complications, and it adds issues that we have to think about, that Yellowstone does not have to think about. Everything they manage is within their jurisdiction, and you could certainly draw the line across the top of the U.S. and say "Oh, we don't really manage anything up there, but we share a name, we share a goal, we share a designation", and that means that we do manage this idea of a peace park. And we are truly going to embrace and spread the message of peace, we have to cooperate somehow."

"I think with this designation comes some kind of responsibility to uphold the ideals of why it was designated."

"Because if it's a peace park, then it's different, something has to be different, and it needs to be reflected to people. I'd say it's a hard task, but people have to be thinking that this is different, this is not a regular national park, this is a peace park, so we cannot do the same thing here."

Knowing all these details about cooperation within the WGIPP, specific projects implemented together, the impact of the peace designation on the joint work, existing challenges and models of management, the next question that comes up exploring the peace park concept is about the role of Rotary International and their connections to WGIPP.

Rotary members were at the origins of the Waterton-Glacier International Peace park, they were the ones that really pushed the idea forward and made the peace park designation happen. By that act they wanted to build goodwill and peace in the world, and celebrate the

peaceful relations between Canada and the U.S. (Glacier NP archives 2015). It is hard to speculate what people meant by that concept in 1930s, what values and meanings they had in mind, which benefits they wanted to achieve. Little information other than the general idea of the peace park designation can be found in historic documents, but Rotary members today are still proud of the peace park idea and the legacy that early members left, excited that they were behind the very first peace park in the world, and want to make WGIPP purposeful.

“I think the Rotarian groups I’ve met with or seen at some of our events are still very excited about the idea, they are very proud that they were behind it, I think that’s a big legacy for their groups, especially for the local ones here. I think that’s really their focus there, just really love the fact that they were behind getting this first one created.”

“I’ve been involved with the peace park since 1994, and two years after I became a Rotarian, I found that this thing was fascinating! So I’ve been a part of it ever since, I’ve been on the board, the President, and other position. So my perspective when I got on the Board was to make it not just social gathering every year, but actually have some purpose, so we tried several different things to make it purposeful and made a list of specific projects we wanted to accomplish.”

“Jeff is a Rotarian, that’s one of the reasons he is pushing hard this concept. The relationship is getting stronger every year, because the Rotarians are convinced to do something that is beneficial for everyone, not just short-term projects. We ask superintendents regularly how we can help. We certainly don’t want to push attendance, there is already a lot, but we need more education, it has to be out there constantly.”

Throughout the years Rotarians wanted to see the concept of peace and goodwill between Canada and the United States kept alive as an example for other nations. They demonstrated it throughout annual events and various promotional activities of the peace park – the legacy and experience that we witness nowadays as well.

“Peace, goodwill, fellowship and friendship on a personal basis were demonstrated throughout annual events, whether the activity was a business meeting or part of the entertainment provided for Rotarians and their guests, such as boat trips, local road trips or other opportunities to enjoy the parks” (Morrison 2007).

Today Rotary Clubs worldwide are involved in the promotion of the peace park concept and do their best to foster peace on the planet: they helped spread the peace park idea born in Montana and Alberta to many remote corners of the globe. Missoulain (2002) quotes Jeff Laverdiera, Chair of the International Peace Park Committee for the Kalispell Rotary Club at that

time: “International peace is one of the main premises behind Rotary. We do whatever we can to foster peace”.

(4) What does the word “peace” mean to different people in relation to peace park?

All respondents – visitors, park managers and Rotary members – were asked what the word “peace” means to them when they think about a peace park. A wide variety of meanings were brought up, from peace that means “no war” to inner peace, peacefulness and quiet. All themes that emerged on peace meaning are presented in Table 3. The key findings here are that it actually means a lot of different things to different people, the connotation of peace can be defined across various scales and along some kind of a continuum, which has certain management implications: a variety of different messages should be used when targeting the audience, if we would like to enhance the peace concept and benefits associated with it.

Most people associate the word “peace” with cooperation, partnership, unity, peaceful relationships with another country, and ability to solve problems in a peaceful manner:

- “It highlights the idea of cooperation, and striving towards the common goal, conservation, and species protection.”*
- “I believe it means two nations trying to solve the problems that they encounter together in a peaceful manner.”*
- “I think about different countries working together with the same philosophy for ecology, same philosophy of protection of the environment and for the humans’ enjoyment”.*
- “It’s funny, but I have never really thought of it as far as conflict between two countries, I thought of it as peace park meaning more that we are cooperating to save land together, that was more my idea what it meant.”*

A variety of meanings associated with the word “peace” in relation to peace park	
1.	Cooperation, partnership, relationships
2.	Commonness, unity, good will
3.	Getting along, mutual respect
4.	Acceptance, co-existence, compassion
5.	Friendship
6.	Absence of war
7.	Effort to avoid conflict
8.	Peacefulness, quiet, solitude
9.	Peace with Native Americans
10.	Love
11.	Openness
12.	Happiness
13.	Safety
14.	International aspect
15.	Politics and government
16.	Necessity to bring passports
17.	Inner peace
18.	Broader peace, citizens of the world
19.	Symbolic thing

Table 3. Peace park meaning

"It really is a cooperation, I mean Canada and the United States have always worked together very well, even though we are idealistically long ways apart, some things are ahead of us, and some things are way behind us when it comes to resource management, but I really think it's the spirit of working together, learning from each other, and cooperation as much as anything."

Canada and the United States have a lot in common, and this commonness and unity associated with it, were brought up by several respondents:

"You've got Canada and the US similar cultures, I think they could use the international peace park badge or something – so that when people cross the border, there is a recognition of unity, that's what peace is about."

"I think of these two countries working together to protect that environment and that place, and just sort of a place, for Canadians and Americans to come as one, that's how I see it."

"Signifying unity and cooperation, not just between the two countries that are involved with that, but broader."

"I think it's definitely celebrating humanity and our commonness, you know, we are all humans, and I find with governments, and with a lot of different things, we find ourselves separating from each other and thinking we are so different from each other, but we are really not."

Many people mentioned that getting along, being respectful and share a place together were the main meanings of the peace park designation:

"I think it means respect for each other's cultures and civilizations, and understanding of differences and the agreement that we can all be together with others, and we don't all have to be alike, you know, in just allowing that to happen."

"Understanding each other, so that we can get along with no conflicts."

"I think the word peace in there is kind of strange, because the United States and Canada have never really had conflict, and, you know, if it was Waterton-Glacier International Park or something like that, it would be fine, but I don't know why the word peace was put in there, really. You know, maybe it's just something to show that two countries can get along."

Acceptance, co-existence and compassion are two other meaning that are closely connected with the themes discussed above:

"Acceptance of everybody else, compassion, maybe learning some compassion for other people. It gives a good reason to save other forests around the world."

"I guess peace for me is just co-existing, I guess that's how I see it. So whether it's with people, lands, whatever, it's just co-existence."

"Peace is not just no war, it is more about acceptance, acceptance of others, and acceptance of people who have other religions, and other face. You know, right now the world is over the top crazy, and they look at anyone who is Muslim, and assume that they are terrorists. And it reminds me of going back into the 60s, where, and in the South specifically, there was so much

racism, and where white people and black people did not go to school together. And not to have that acceptance doesn't do anything but exasperate the problem."

"I think what comes to my mind immediately is just mutual respect, and acceptance and appreciation for each other's similarities and differences. Just accepting and embracing other people and their culture without thinking I have to change it."

Friendship was also a common theme throughout the interview data:

"The word 'peace' to me means friendship between Canada and the U.S. Just the sharing the beauty of the area. I am a firm believer that people from different countries should mix a little bit, then world would be a better place. I think it's wonderful that people from around different countries get together, and the park is facilitating that by being a joint venture."

"To me the meaning is we are friends with Canada, and we work jointly to make this an area that is a refuge for the animals and for people to come, and forget about everything, and enjoy the peace that is out here. But I like that it's friendship between Canada and the U.S., friendship with the people here, with the land, with the animals, and with our Canadian neighbors."

Canada and the United States have been in peace without major conflicts for two centuries, they share the longest undefended border in the world. Not surprisingly, the "no war" aspect has been brought up multiple times by the respondents:

"The absence of war, so Canada and the U.S. have been peaceful for many years, friendly neighbors. So that's kind of what it means to me, that's the way I took it. And it's been around for a long time. Because they are right on the border, and you can just go from one to the other, and it's a peaceful transition."

"Peace is no war between different countries and people, and it's not a good time now."

"For me personally, the first thing I wanted to tell is not fighting, like be opposite of war, I don't know, it's a hard one to come up with words to describe what does peace mean."

At the same time, many visitors mentioned that the peace park concept goes beyond the "no war" meaning, and it takes efforts to build understanding and develop peace.

"The word 'peace' alone is often used as in contrast to war, but as I learned from Eleanor Roosevelt, ending a war does not bring peace. The mere act of stopping fighting does not bring peace, you have to work toward peace, you have to build peace, and peace comes from spending time together and learning about each other, and learning that you are both human beings and some things you will see differently, but that you have reason to see your commonality. So I think the idea of a peace park to me is something you work towards that is more than the absence of war, it represents a building of understanding over time, that a peace park would be a place that could happen by contact with each other and mutual goals."

"Peace, I think, is working to avoid conflict. I don't necessary think it means getting along all the time, I don't think it means that you have to be friends, but it means that you are working to avoid war, or avoid hate, and all those things that get kind of wrapped up in war and tragedy. You find peace in some of the wildest environments on our planet, where, you know, predator

and prey are attaching and killing each other on a regular basis, but that's just part of life, it's not that anyone is being mean or trying to do something horrible, everything just kind of works well, and I think within our human society we can kind of look at that, and understand that peace does not necessarily mean like getting along all the time, but it means avoiding conflict, and pain, and hate at every opportunity that we can."

A very different perspective on peace park meaning was emphasized through the notion of peacefulness, quiet and solitude in nature.

"I would say a chance for solitude for me personally, like not having tons of people around, or the opportunity for backcountry stuff like that. Just getting out, solitude, no wifi nowhere near, tons of land to spread out and explore."

"What peace means to me is solitude and quiet, and just being immersed in God's creation and praising God for what he has done, and that's pretty much for me in any park. The peace park is just a great concept, and I am glad that everybody is working in cooperation to make it better."

"This may not be what you mean by peace, however, peace I guess can have more than one meaning, but one of the reasons we visit any park is for peace and quiet, and I think they need to ban personal radios and similar noise making apparatus."

"I guess when I think of peace, I always think of no war. I know there are a lot of different meanings, but I also think when I am here, I think how peaceful everything is. So to me it's a lot of different meanings to the world. And I think especially being here, because it's so peaceful, when you get away from the crowds."

"Well, when I was first reading about it being a peace park out here, I was thinking it was really more about a peace with nature, but given a situation in our world right now, where everyone seems to be going crazy, we need a place where people can be centered and grounded, and think more calmly about how to live together. This is definitely a place that can let you reflect, you can find places to be more remote, to be quiet, which for me has always been important, as I try to equilibrate myself."

Another meaning of peace related to the relationships with Native Americans:

"I guess I did not really know what that meant, other than it's three nations coming together, hopefully in a peaceful way. I suspect it has or should have something, most to do with the Native nations, peace with the Native nations."

"The peace part is nice, but it's not something that I really think about too much. I guess I recently learned that the park started flying the flag of the Blackfeet nation, and I thought that was a nice addition, as far as the idea of bringing in not just Canada, but another nation."

Other meanings included love, openness, happiness, safety, and the international aspect:

Less borders, less hatred of other people, less distrust, more openness, more really love of other people. Like I love the Canadians, and they kind of like us sometimes. And when I used to go over the border all the time to Mexico, I loved the Mexican people, and I was a hippie of course, but it's like I know some people, and I really people in the other country, and they are my next door neighbors, something like that."

“Somewhere safe, and calm, and happy, and pretty, and colorful.”

“So international park... it must be because it has all the international visitors, and a lot of international people are working here for the summer.”

Meanings were not always positive. As mentioned earlier, peace park was associated with politics and government for some people, which was not necessarily a positive aspect: people come to Glacier for beauty and naturalness, but not to hear about politics. Other respondents associated it with customs, necessity to bring passports, and border crossing.

“I guess I think more on a national kind of, nation to nation basis, rather than more of this general idea... I mean some people think about it as individual being at peace, or something, but for me it’s fairly a political type of concept.”

“We let our passports expire, so my understanding of the peace park is that you can’t go across the border because we don’t have our passports.”

“I am not sure about that, but I have to say the first thing that comes to mind to me is that I grew up in this country knowing that we had open borders on the North and on the South, and now they are no longer open anymore, and I find it extremely disappointing, and I think it’s farce that we should close our borders because we are afraid. It does not make anybody any safer.”

Peace can have multiple scales – from inner peace on a personal level to broader peace on a global scale. That notion is reflected in the interview quotes:

“For me – I just saw that natural beauty, and I could see that the natural beauty would have a great relationship with the peace, you know. And inner peace first. You know, if you don’t have inner peace, you are not going to have outer peace. So why is there tension in the world? I don’t think those people have inner peace. If that is societies, or individuals, or whatever. So if you’ve got inner peace, then you will deal with peaceful people, and you’ll do peaceful things, and it works out that way. If you want to promote the peace park, then I would think you need to communicate with people, you know, about peace and inner peace, and ways to get it – whether it’s Zen, or Christianity, or whatever, naturalism, and how you can get to that peace, and this is a way, an option for it.”

“In my mind peace is more... it’s not necessarily a personal peace, it’s more of world peace, and people who are going on vacation are probably not actually looking for that.”

“It does bring peace, I think of peace as of the broader spectrum of the whole world, so the whole world could come here and share this.”

“I am heavily involved in boy scouting, so what we teach first and foremost is citizenship – citizenship of community, citizenship of the nation, and citizenship of the world, so if they were putting together opportunities within a peace park so that when scouts come up, and they could actually sit down for a talk one hour with people from another country in a peace park and talk how we manage resources that benefit everybody, that counts for that citizenship of the world.”

Peace is not always tangible, rather, it can be symbolic; it is also a complex and difficult concept, and can be defined in a variety of ways, which was confirmed by a wide array of peace meanings that emerged in this study. It can be defined along a continuum, across different scales.

“I guess I would say that having thought about this and just after talking, really, it is a continuum, I mean peace is peace, the big ideal of peace is kind of this anchor that pulls us in one direction, but there is this kind of scale and continuum of where we end up, with that ideal of peace holding us in one place. You know, you can stretch so far the bad things that a nation has to do in order to protect its peace without ever, you know, going to the father opposite side of war, so it just makes it even that much more difficult to really define when you start thinking about this big scale of what is and isn’t acceptable under that idea of peace.”

“It is special, and I think most people don’t really appreciate it, because it’s kind of like people see it as sort of symbolic, if that, and nothing else. Of course Alberta still has Waterton, and we still have Glacier, and there are still two different countries, and so it’s almost like a symbolic sort of thing, which it is, but the symbolism can be very powerful.”

Such a variety of meanings, complexity of peace dimensions and elusiveness of the concept pose another question – do we want this place to have a certain meaning, or should we open it for interpretation? The answer is not obvious, but maybe if people would understand better what the peace park really means, it can lead to a deeper appreciation and support.

“As it is, it is open to interpretation, and maybe that’s OK, but if you want it to have some type of impact, I think they have to put a little spin on it.”

“Yes, but there should be some meaningful... I think they should promote it, but there needs to be like... kind of some bullet points of what it means to the people.”

“If you equip people with more knowledge about what it means, I think that could maybe lead to a deeper appreciation and understanding. What does it mean to be a peace park? Is it just between us and Canada? Is it peace in general? I think there could be benefits, I think any time people are given something a little deeper to think about and ponder, it forges understanding.”

Lastly, perceptions of peace depend on the context, the region, and many other factors; for example, depending on where you are, peace would be defined differently along the continuum. What is considered as peace in one area, is not peaceful in another. All that should be taken into considerations if we set the objective to enhance the benefits associated with the peace park designation.

“I don’t know how people interpret that word, I think that means a lot of different things to a lot of different people, certainly the spirit of cooperation and work across national boundaries is really what we are trying to do, and that can be summarized maybe with peace for some people, and for other people maybe not. And I think peace means different to people in North America

than it does to somebody in the Middle East, you know. Peace in the Middle East might be two hours of uninterrupted rest, where it means a lot different to folks over in North America.”

(5) What are current perceptions of the peace park status and associated benefits and opportunities from different perspectives?

The central research question for this study was about the benefits of the peace park designation – which array of benefits it brings currently and can bring potentially, how benefits are perceived by park visitors, managers and Rotary members, which opportunities they provide, , and who actually benefits from this special peace status. This section attempts to find answers to these questions. In the next section possible ways to enhance the benefits are discussed.

McCallum et al. (2015) argue that proponents of transboundary protected areas highlight the potential for biodiversity protection through spatial, management and socio-economic benefits. Vasilijević et al. (2015) specify a number of ecological, socio-economic and cultural benefits of transboundary conservation. Both publications emphasize that although there is a big, and often unrealized potential for big gains through transboundary conservation, benefits are not always obvious, and as a consequence, not always valued by the broader community. There have been very few formal studies that assessed current and potential benefits of a transboundary PA, and peace parks in particular. Researcher’s assumption was that the later should have additional special benefits that she attempted to reveal through the answers of interview participants.

As with the peace meaning discussed

A variety of possible benefits of the peace park designation identified by interviewees

1. Cooperative management – resource, knowledge and cost sharing
2. Ecological benefits
3. Bringing people together
4. Respect, tolerance
5. Learning about other countries
6. Conflict mitigation
7. Better health and stress relieve
8. Inspiration
9. Hope
10. Tourism benefits
11. Better funding opportunities
12. Increased capacity to face climate change

Table 4. Peace park benefits

in the last section, a wide array of possible benefits associated with the peace park designation were discovered; the list is presented in Table 4.

The most dominant theme was related to cooperation – combining resources and working together on a number of issues, such as resource protection, visitor management, search and rescue, fire management and others.

“I just think through combining the resources and having both Canadian and US government working together, we are able to do more and make things more available to the public.”

“So I think the largest benefit that I see is that cooperative management of the ecosystem. The natural systems don’t recognize that political boundary that we have between the countries”

‘If say, we are doing wolverine study on the U.S. side, it should carry over to the Canadian side and the impacts, and how people can impact wolverine denning sites or something like that. And if you do this, that should probably carry over on to the Canadian side, so that’s research they don’t have to do, that’s money that they don’t have to spend, and they can spend that money doing other research that maybe we can’t fund or something, so it’s almost 2 for 1 in some way”

In particular, it was mentioned that such cooperation brings about obvious ecological benefits and better preservation of natural resources:

“I think the benefits are...the resource benefits, the wildlife benefits, the plants benefits, the long-term resource benefits, I think people will see the benefit because there is cost sharing a little bit, and research knowledge sharing, and everything else, and that becomes the bottom goal.”

“I think for wildlife specifically, like having an area where they can just pass by back and forth without any restrictions of anything, I think that’s more beneficial, and if our governments can work together for something like that, it’s better for like wolf populations, or grizzlies.”

“I can see the benefit of being, that you have a piece of property that was made without borders, and therefore, you know, man-made borders don’t really affect the movement of the animals, don’t affect the wildlife, or the natural, like the waterfalls, and rivers, and that kind of thing, and that would be a shame to have only half of it be protected, and not have the other half be protected.”

“If it would end up helping protect the place, then that’s great, if it will be one more reason not to put a cell phone tower up, or a pipeline through, than it’s really good, to preserve it and to keep it the way it is.”

“I’m going to a national park and hoping that this designation will afford some protections other than a standard national park.”

The notion of artificial political boundary between two countries and implications for wildlife, plants, and humans was brought up several times:

“Just in the imagination of thinking of there being a boundary, and how for wildlife it does not matter, and the kids looking at a map of the park and thinking about that, and just like thinking about the ideas of the sort of artificial political boundaries, just that in itself gives them sort of a new perspective and way of thinking about things.”

“I think ecosystems. I am a natural history illustrator and writer, and I am thinking about whole ecosystems. I have always had, since I was a little kid, and so borders, are just kind of silly little things that people draw on the 49th parallel, and I watch bears go back and forth, and I’ve sat on this border with one chick on one side and one chick on the other.”

“I think we have always had a very peaceful relation with Canada, and U.S. and Canada have always seem to partner and have a good relationship, so managing a natural resource, that’s what it meant to me, as you have this resource that does not just stop at the United States border. Because the Rockies continue, it’s not all of a sudden done, once you hit the border.”

“Just because there is a boundary it doesn’t mean really that it’s different. You know, there are the same flowers up there, the same bears, and the people are very friendly up there, just like they are down here.”

“I think about that whole concept of peace parks, and the fact that the Canadian border and the United States border at least in Glacier National Park, in Waterton-Glacier International Park, the animals don’t care, you know, and they walk back and forth across, and it’s all one big biosphere. And I think a lot about that, and if the animals don’t care, why should we?”

Bringing people together, tolerance and learning about other cultures was the second dominant theme that emerged. Many respondents talked about how peace parks can help to see interconnectedness between cultures, foster thinking beyond ourselves, learning about beliefs, traditions, cultural heritage of different countries, become more respectful and tolerant, and get along well with other people.

“Bringing people together, unitizing countries, all that would come to mind.”

“Because of culture, heritage, beliefs, traditions, the distinctness of the people. It’s nice to have distinct tribes of people, but yet all get along and recognize that people have different values and ethics, but there is a point that we all share the Earth, so we need to protect the Earth, even if our philosophies are different. Our understanding of ecology should go beyond. Peace park can bring people to see the interconnectedness, but yet maybe they will still be able to keep some distinctions. I think you could educate people about getting along, different cultures.”

“Yes, I think in this age we need those kinds of things, and we need those kinds of things to be in the public eye, because peace is certainly something to strive for, and also just understanding each other. And the Canadians and Americans have always gotten along well together, and we have what... couple of thousand miles of unguarded border, well, loosely, very loosely guarded border. And it’s not a bad thing for people from different countries to know each other.”

“Well, definitely breaking down boundaries, because I don’t think there are many differences between people of different countries, from Canada or the U.S., or anything. Just breaking down boundaries is really cool, and bringing people together.”

"I think there are huge benefits. Now I hear that there are peace parks beginning all over the world now, where they cross borders, and I cannot think of a better way to, just knowing that we share a planet, share a big park. And I could see, you know, there were a lot up in Canada, there were tons of Europeans and tons of Americans, and then I come down here, and there are Canadians, and I love that. I mean we go back and forth, and a lot of people where I live speak some Canadian, so I just like that people go back and forth, because of nature."

"I am a firm believer that people from different countries should mix a little bit, then world would be a better place. I think it's wonderful that people from around different countries get together, and the park is facilitating that by being a joint venture."

"So many Americans never get a chance to meet anyone from... or never get to travel outside, and I think one of the best ways to promote peace in the world is to travel, and the best way is to grow an understanding that there are many right ways to do things that are not necessarily my way, and I think it comes from travelling and from meeting people from other places. So just the fact that in other national parks around the United States I meet people from other countries, I think that's the form of ambassadorship too – what we, the United States, can offer friendly to our neighbors. But it's a shame it's so hard to cross the border."

Conflict mitigation was another benefit that was brought up. Obviously, United States and Canada share a peaceful border, and there are no major conflicts between the countries.

However, other peace parks are being established in the areas prone to conflict. Ali (2007) argues that most peace parks, so far, have been only between countries that do not have any active conflict, but there are peace park proposals between North and South Korea, Jordan and Israel, and other areas with tensions, and the broad goal of peace parks is to either resolve a conflict or maintain existing peace (Quinn 2012). Several visitors and park managers emphasized that although WGIPP refers to the second category, in other peace parks this benefit can be very powerful and important.

"What I think will be really interesting – if you did that somewhere, in parts of the world where bordering countries are not necessarily in the best relations, like between US and Canada that are very peaceful to each other regardless, but I guess it would be very interesting if you establish a park across borders, I don't know, in Eastern Europe, or somewhere where tensions are greater, to get this area where you are can set aside that diplomatic type thing to deal with issues of your country."

"I guess it terms of it being an example for other countries, like, you know, looking at the border of Belize and Guatemala, on the Belize side there is a lot of parks, and on the West side of that border, where Guatemala is, it's just completely bare, and so it could be an example for countries, instead of fighting over land, to maybe set aside borders and protect it as parks and work together, and maybe for more alliances between governments rather than fighting over those areas."

Other benefits that were mentioned by the respondents included better health and stress relieve, inspiration, hope, benefits for tourism and funding opportunities, and opportunity to better prepare for the change (for example, climate change). The quotes below provide examples for each of these topics:

“If you are talking about peace in a sense that she is talking about, people will have mental health disorders, or past-traumatic stress, they could arrange for trips where they come and experience some peace and beauty.”

“I think with all the things that are happening recently, around the world, having peace parks and those kinds of things where governments are working together, it’s even more important than ever. I think the idea, you know, really inspires me and would inspire other people, I think that’s the thing that people are really looking for right now, you know, that kind of ray of hope, so I think definitely, like if you have already got the word out there, people might really be drawn to that idea.”

“You could come to one location and see both countries, and you could do a trip, I mean, if you put Glacier park as the middle of your trip, there are so many things in Canada and United States that you could see from it, so as far as tourism I see it as a benefit, it will bring more international travelers in.”

“I mean it really comes across as a U.S. National park, and I don’t see that peace park front and center. It seems like it could land itself, who knows, maybe even to funding opportunities.”

“And I guess secondly, only by working together are we going to be able to kind of move or sustain these landscapes in the face of climate change, both the landscape and the resources, the wildlife, vegetation, and native fish, and all of that. The Crown of the Continent has been identified as one of those most resilient landscapes and can offer some refuge for wildlife and vegetation in the face of climate change, so by being the two parks right at the center and being joined by the fact that we are an International Peace Park, I think gives us a lot... puts us in a really good and strong position to be able to implement some, and work with others too, to address the changes that are coming that we have to face.”

After analyzing a variety of potential benefits that peace parks, and WGIPP in particular, could bring, it makes sense to discuss who exactly can benefit from the peace park designation. All respondents were asked this question directly, and categories of various benefit recipients also emerged while talking about benefits in general, peace park meaning, and other related topics. Both specific groups and broader global community were mentioned. The list of benefit recipients is presented in Table 5.

The most obvious group that benefits from the peace park designation is visitors.

“I’m just thinking about myself, as a visitor, just as like someone that live in the U.S. and does not like to travel outside the country a lot, I don’t know a lot of people from outside, it might give me a better understanding of what it’s like in other places, and the sharing aspects seems like it might be a nice thing for people, I guess.”

“Visitors, hikers, mountain bikers, everybody. The mountains don’t end at the border, right? They keep going, and wouldn’t it be great to expand your trip to include that other side of the border?”

Who can benefit from the peace park designation?

1. Visitors
2. Park managers
3. Local communities
4. Politicians
5. Future generation, kids
6. International visitors
7. Non-visitors
8. Travel bureaus
9. Universities
10. The whole country
11. Other countries
12. All people in the world

Table 5. Benefit recipients

“Also for visitors, even just now when we were sitting by the lake, we were listening to people walking by, and some people walking by were not speaking English. And every time I’ve ridden the shuttles on the Going-to-the-Sun Road, I’ve run into people from lots of different nations, and it’s wonderful to see the national park is being a place where people come from all over the world. I think it’s cool. I mean for my kids, they have not travelled outside of the country, but we are so close to Canada, you know, it’s like the closest we have been to another border.”

“I think the benefit is that many visitors who come here, at least see that written down somewhere, and it will plant a seed that maybe will blossom in the something later. The world is not going to get better until the people get better. And the people get better because they’ve experienced something that’s a little higher quality than they are used to, and maybe they will become a little higher quality, and they might actually make a decision that does improve the world, not just their life, or some other governmental or personal entity.”

“I think the main benefit is for the visitors, because you could instill that idea of inter-country cooperation, release kind of capitalistic sense of things and show countries working together.”

“I think that the visitors can benefit from that, they can learn how we are monitoring the animals, they can feel better about just being in a place like a peace park.”

As discussed earlier, the dominant theme related to both peace meaning and potential benefits of peace park designation was cooperation: cooperation in resource protection, emergency services, visitor management, and combining resources and expertise in other aspects of PA planning and management. This is indeed a known benefit of Glacier and Waterton National parks working together, which was documented in the literature (Tanner et al. 2007, Mihalic 2012). Park managers and rangers, therefore, are another group of the benefit recipients, that was mentioned several times by the interviewees.

“We, I think, benefit as employees, just having worked at a park that is an international peace park, is awesome, I mean there are lots of rangers that get to work at beautiful stunning national parks, but very few of them get to work at an international peace where there is some element of cooperation, and I think specifically our rangers, they get to guide the international peace park hike, they are really-really special within the National Park Service. Who is in the National Park Service leads hikes in a different nation? Co-leads with a ranger who works for a completely different agency, but they are still doing the same thing, cooperating together on the same hike.”

“Well, you could have the park rangers working together, so that they could join together, and maybe do their assessment of the animals or the weather, or if there is a wildfire, you know, maybe they could both work together, or... for instance, in Colorado they have the pine beetle that has taken many of the pine trees out, so if they had something like that happened here, the two organizations could work together.”

“There are definitely some benefits as a park manager, because one of the exciting things I’ve always liked about Glacier is that we get to formally be recognized and work together with our neighbor to the North, that we are seen as one landscape, and to me that’s really special, because there are a lot of parks around the country that while they have neighbors, you know, they have to look for those, or create those agreements or whatever, so that they work together, but here it was kind of laid in a park managers lap, it was basically like “Wow, I have to work with this other park”. So I think it’s super cool, it’s a benefit to park managers.”

“Every year, for years we’ve had meetings with the ranger and resource staff on both sides, and it is interesting how similar the issues are. The government, politics are a little different, the timing is a little different, but we all end up going through very similar issues. So that’s been neat to be able to have those conversations and discover that there is a lot more commonality than there are differences. And I think if we weren’t a peace park and not having those conversations, we’ve probably won’t even realize that.”

Local communities are another group that can benefit from the peace park status:

“So the visitors, the public, the surrounding communities benefit, because of maybe we are able to put a fire out, and so that will affect this community here, because the Canadians have helped us, so they are helping protect the environment as we work together, we do research on animals, the wolves as they move back and forth across, so we are able to get a better count on the numbers of the animals, and how shall we manage those, so the surrounding ranchers and things can feel more secure and the fact that we are actually keeping an eye on things. So the community surrounding here, I think, benefit by us working together on keeping track of animal movement, fire suppression efforts, management of the forest health. You know, we share information which keeps things running smoothly or smoother, and that helps visitors enjoy this and helps communities benefit economically because, you know, that beautiful forest is being protected because of us sharing information. So I wouldn’t say it’s a direct benefit so much, as just indirect.”

As mentioned earlier, peace parks are highly politicized creations, they are neither formed or operating in a political vacuum (Ramutsindela 2007, Duffy 2007), so it is not surprisingly that politicians as a group that can play a role in peace park establishment and potentially benefit from the designation, emerged as a related theme in this study:

"I think it is a lot up to politicians to decide that now in the area we have a peace park and this is the area that brings international tourists and brings this mix of cultures better than anywhere else in the tourist industry, and therefore everybody has at one what it has to offer. That to me would be an important part of making people realize that they are in the special area."

Several respondents talked about the benefits for younger generation and kids, as well as for international visitors and those people who don't have an ability to visit the peace park itself, but can still learn about its significance.

"For those kids who are a little bit older, it could be a good teaching opportunity for them, for the message of peace, we try not to focus too much on world conflict with 7 year olds, but maybe if it was a few years down the road, that would be an advantage, just to plant the idea of peace."

"I think kids probably, I mean they can absorb those ideas and really hang on to them, so I think they could benefit."

"I think Americans take Canadians as friendly collaborative neighbors for granted, but perhaps more for international visitors seeing the great relations we have with our neighbors and vice versa."

"Anybody who actually comes here is benefiting just in general, from the peaceful aspect. I suppose it could be kind of focal point of peace even for people who don't physically come here, maybe online component or something."

Besides individual people, organizations like travel bureaus and universities:

"Travel bureaus, certainly Montana websites, visitor bureau websites, and the mirror of that on the Canadian border, I don't know if they call them travel bureaus... They could all benefit. I am sure campuses too. If you are on campus to reach out to other campuses, and I know people your age, are very active and like good cause, and so this would speak to a lot of people."

Similar to the idea of peace meaning that can be defined across different scales and along a continuum, the recipients of peace park benefits also differ from individual people to the whole world. Benefits can be defined on a country level and at a global scale. One of the themes that emerged was how other countries can benefit from the peace park designation in WGIPP; this theme will be discussed more in the end of this chapter. Many respondents stressed that everybody can benefit from the peace park designation.

"I think it goes beyond the park managers and visitors, the countries get a benefit from it, because there are always political differences between countries, but when you can have a foundation of the relationship on a shared common goal, it really helps other relationships within the political realm by having this good strong basis of the relationship on the environmental protection and visitor center offerings being similar."

"I just feel like Canada and the U.S. don't have many disputes as it is, so it doesn't seem as big of a step as in some other places could be, but I think it's still cool to see that it is the first one, you know. And I think other countries should definitely follow and benefit from it, because, again, it's bringing people together and getting rid of biases and all those types of things."

"Well, I'd like to think it's the world that benefits from it."

"Everyone: visitors, and the message that the visitors bring back to other people they know. And hopefully the nations that are represented."

"It's a nonprofit issue, so no one will benefit personally, but we as a community will benefit to have a park that is integrated, and when we call it a peace park, an international peace park in which people can come and say that yes, it's still here because people are carrying about it, and not because there is company that will have a profit about it."

"Everybody can benefit. It just brings... The word peace is up on the menu, you know. It should be in more places. We've got lots of war, we need more peace. Everyone needs it, but they don't need to as nearly as much as the United States needs it."

"Everybody! The more we bring peace into the world, the better the world, but we have to practice it. The connection with nature is a huge help. I think it could be presented and promoted more, but I think more of it that it belongs to all the people of the world versus just one group."

It should be noted that although certain benefits and benefit recipients of the peace park designations were identified in this study, many respondents emphasized that benefits are actually not obvious. There could be several reasons for that. First, some benefits are indirect and difficult to identify and measure; then, there is a variety of ways how people currently interpret the peace park designation, there are many meanings involved, and as a consequence, many very different benefits that are associated with these meanings. Sometimes benefits are not clear: for example, Canada and the U.S. are peaceful countries with no conflict between nations, so if peace park is interpreted as "no war" and perceived as a place that can mitigate conflicts, the benefits are not obvious in the WGIPP. Finally, the concept itself is rather intangible, often symbolic and intellectual, as one of the respondents called it.

"Peace is one of those concepts that is just so hard to...peace is an ideal, it's something that you strive for and work towards, and I think that's one of the things that makes it so hard to point at any one thing that the peace park actually does, that promotes peace and promotes that ideal."

"So there hasn't really been much conflict, maybe it doesn't mean as much here."

"I think the benefits would be more obvious if there was some sort of perceived conflict at the border which is true for some peace parks, but not here. Also, if there are tangible benefits of being a peace park, they are probably not obvious to most visitors, certainly not to me."

“It would probably be easier to illustrate benefits in other countries, when there is more border conflict than here.”

“I kind of struggle with that, it’s sort of hard to get your hands around it in a substantial way, and maybe that’s because we just don’t talk about it enough, but I think it’s difficult that a lot of people don’t see Canadians and Americans as ever being enemies, you know, so it seems like people go “Well, what would be the problem with the cooperating with the Canadians?”. But it was 200 and some years ago when we were last at war with the Canadians. So I think it’s sometimes challenging to talk to visitors about the concept of international peace here, when these two countries have been at peace for a long time, you know, rather than two countries, even as long as World War 2 or World War 1 have been fighting one another. So it’s difficult for me to think about it, but I think it’s a good message for visitors.”

“Well, I think it’s a difficult concept... it’s sort of more of an intellectual concept than something on the ground that you can see, I guess. And again, it’s because we have been at peace with Canada for so long. I think it’s a very intellectual concept versus something you can see on the ground. So I think it’s hard for our interpreters, for our staff to communicate that. I think we have not really thought about it very much, and we have not really defined it very much.”

Many benefits that were mentioned above can potentially be delivered by many transboundary protected areas. Vasilijević et al. (2015) identify many similar ecological, socio-economic and cultural benefits of transboundary conservation that emerged in the reported study. The question that was very interesting to the researcher touched upon the difference of the peace park designation and a transboundary protected area with active cooperation, but without the peace park status. What is the role of that peace component? What is unique about it? Are there any special benefits of the special peace park designation in comparison with just a transboundary protected area? Is peace park perceived as something really special locally, nationally and globally? Although some insights on these questions were gained, the answers are not obvious.

“Our superintendent was in in Australia last year, and all of these park managers from around the world wanted to talk to him about this peace park. And in his day to day life, the peace park element of this park is probably a fairly small part of what he does. But to outsiders looking in, that’s one of the biggest things that this park represents, that peace park concept. And so that draws a lot of attention to the park, we can talk about the peace park and that element of what we are, but then you can also use that leverage of interest to talk about other things that both of us are interested in and tackle other issues like habitat fragmentation and issues like Yellowstone to Yukon and other transborder issues that are related to conservation. So I think there is an element of leverage that we can use to take something that’s very high interest and bridge to other issues that are lower interest or complex, and use that to co-empower ourselves through those bigger problems.”

“I lived at the Crown of the Continent Research Learning Center, there were two researchers who were here, one was from Spain and one was from France, and they were actually here studying our peace park to take that knowledge back home, and so that’s when I kind of, I guess a little bit more in depth thought about what we had here and how “Wow, people are coming from around the world to learn what we have here, we must be having something pretty special”.

“Even though, realistically, there isn’t a whole lot that we do together to actually make Glacier-Waterton International Peace Park function as a peace park, the fact that we come together and just agree that this place is valuable and important, I think is very valuable and a world where we focus so much on the negative. And so I think that element is one of the most powerful ways that a peace park is valuable to us as something greater than just a national park.”

“Maybe in the whole realm of things it’s not much, but it’s a symbol of something that’s much greater. So I think it’s a benefit. And I think it’s a huge benefit to be able to talk about this to visitors in a climate that we are as far as our worldwide affairs, to be able to talk about peace, and talk about friendship between two nations, then I think it’s almost even more important than anything, just having this conversation and getting people to think about it.”

“What I really like about the peace parks is that peace, literally peace between nations, is one of your management objectives of a peace park. There are transboundary parks that are not peace parks, right? So they are managed for protecting whatever, animals, and plants, and things. But peace is not part of their objective, whereas parks for peace, the real ones, like international peace park, that’s a part of the objective, to promote peace.”

“At a very eye opening time I’ve got to attend the 75th anniversary conference, they held a wide world peace park conference in Waterton, the year of the 75th anniversary, and people from all over the world came to talk about what they are doing with transboundary protected areas, and I think that was an eye opening time for me to see how special it was and what a big deal it was.”

It was mentioned by two visitors that it is not enough to call a transboundary protected area a peace park, there should be certain efforts to make it more meaningful and distinguishable from other areas:

“But when you call it a peace park, does it make it a peace park? Just calling a place a peace park is just a moniker, just a sign. How can you change the way people think?”

“Now look, if we just call something a peace park, it does not matter. I can call it a peace tree, or a peace rock, but it does not matter, unless there is some meaning for spiritual intent behind it. So if this is the original one, and you can go back and find out what those people in 1932 were thinking when they were writing, and what they were reading, and see if that was established as a mission, you know, the purpose and the mission, and then if this is the original, then you brand it, a marketing term, then it gives that this prominence so that people think about Glacier-Waterton International peace park.”

“Yes, but there should be some meaningful... I think they should promote it, but there needs to be like... kind of some bullet points of what it means to the people.”

Some respondents emphasized that they do not see a big difference with just a transboundary protected area, and questioned if that was actually needed.

“For me, I have not seen a lot of difference between a peace park and a transboundary conservation area. I think that the ideal is this peace park would serve as a reminder, I think it was a model, and I think all the transboundary areas that was kind of from it, but I think just politically I doubt you will see another peace park any time soon.”

“But I think others look at it as we are an international peace park, and they understand the history, and they understand a little bit about the designation, what it means to get to work together, and maybe it’s not so important that it’s a peace, you know, but the two parks have been established as one.”

When WGIPP was designated in 1932, the idea was to promote peace and goodwill in the world. An interesting aspect here is that Rotarians that were standing at the origins of the concept, were war veterans who placed a high value on peace, and maybe this fact also contributed to pushing the concept forward. All these people that were distraught at the time of war about such horrendous events that were happening, were looking for ways to promote the idea of peace, and that idea is what drove the creation of the park and now represents the cooperation of two nations. Today, 85 years later, what is this role of peace designation? Maybe planting the message of peace among very different people, bringing up conversations about cooperation, friendship, mutual respect, diversity, tolerance and acceptance, having it as a management objective, use peace element as a leverage to talk about other important issues in conservation, social arena and politics, making people just think about peace, being a model for other transboundary initiatives, a symbol of peace, and encouraging peaceful relations that will make this world a better place are the key highlights of this designation that make WGIPP so significant nowadays.

“I think the potential benefits of this designation would be the people just think about it in general, that people look at it in its possibilities of peace, because we don’t have a very peaceful society.”

“I think the very power of the idea is to think about the peace, I really do think that’s really the most important thing.”

(6) What are the ways to enhance the benefits of the peace park designation in WGIPP and beyond?

Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park was the first peace park in the world, the forerunner of what would become an important movement in conservation and peace building around the world. As demonstrated above, there is a wide array of current and potential personal and societal benefits that are associated with this designation. It is a transboundary protected area, and as many similar conservation efforts that go beyond the boundaries of one national park to the level of large ecosystems, it delivers multiple ecological gains, such as better biodiversity conservation outcomes and support for an improved delivery of ecosystem services; it also contributes to sustainable economic development (Mittermeier et al. 2005). In addition to these important benefits, peace parks, and WGIPP in particular, promote international peace, cooperation and goodwill. The importance of this peace element and the significance of peace designation in the modern world was emphasized by almost every respondent in the current study. They argued that it is never enough to talk about peace, we live in the trouble times with a lot of stress, hostility and apathy, and peace can be used as a tool to make our society better, from local to global scales.

“I just think that having the word “peace” in the name is such a recognizable benefit for people in general, all over the world. There is a tremendous amount of apathy in the world.”

“I guess in our world today and looking at how terrible things are, I thought that we should be talking more about that, because it’s such an important thing that we have peace, you know. Everyone asks, at least in the U.S. context, what’s the most important thing? World peace! It has almost become funny, but to me it’s like... if we can actually promote peace by protecting resources together, that’s awesome, so that’s why I think it’s such an important idea.”

“We need everything, every tool in the box right now to promote and cultivate peace, with each other, with our own neighbors, and the nations within our nation, and globally, we are living in the trouble times.”

“There is just too much stress in the world, and there are too many people with hostility, and anger, and racism, and sexism, and anything that can happen to promote peace and better understanding between ourselves, I think, is a good thing.”

“We have the war on drugs, the war on terrorism, the war on poverty, war, war, war... All I am saying, give peace a chance. The park... it puts it on a menu. Like I said, there is so much talk about war, and I don’t hear anything in the media about peace, so I think it’s a great idea.”

“There is a lot more conflict in the world right now, so maybe the whole peace thing will be more, you know, thoughtful and needed.”

“I don’t know if that’s possible under the current political climate. And current political climate is disgusting. It’s... everybody hates everybody else, everybody hates their neighbor, you know. Their neighbors’ kids do not even play together anymore. And I think this peace park designation may plant seeds that will grow into things that people see that that’s just not necessarily the best way to make the world a better place.”

Regardless of such potential significance of the peace park designation, the potential role of the peace element is not really recognized and not fully used in Glacier NP. All respondents were asked if they felt that the peace park potential was recognized and used in the park. The answers below provide an insight on perceptions of the peace designation potential.

“No, not at all, it seems very-very new, and it does not really seem like it’s pushed very hard. I mean, it’s like anything, it’s going to be a cultural change, if they want people to recognize it as a peace park, not just as a U.S. national park.”

“No, it’s not fully used, I think it could be expanded on more. You don’t see in a lot of the literature as much, I don’t see it expressed by the park staff when you come through the gates. I think it has lots of potential to grow the idea of peace through sharing our beauty and resources with the world.”

“I think the U.S. Park Service could definitely highlight it more.”

“I think it could be recognized more, I would actually say that I think that some people who go through the park and not know.”

“I don’t think it’s emphasized enough, you know. I doubt that I understand the full meaning of it, and I don’t think it’s emphasized very much, you know, because I think a lot of times people are in such a big hurry, even though when they are coming here, people are in such a big hurry, they get handed this material, and they sort of glance through it and then throw it down. And I don’t know how you make them more aware. People are kind of oblivious, they are oblivious to signs, they are more in tune with stuff when you tell them personally. Or maybe if you do more displays or something, it will really make it more out and open about. Because that’s the only place I’ve seen it, is on that brochure thing that they give you.”

“Not at all. I saw one small sign, and I’ve read several books about the park, and I’ve got the map, and I’ve got all the materials, and I have not seen that in there anywhere, I wouldn’t have known. I think they need to highlight that in the materials”.

With such a unanimous stance regarding the importance of the peace designation, and such a consensus that its potential is currently not recognized and fully used, how can we move forward to make this concept more powerful and meaningful to people in North America and beyond? Which tools can we use to better recognize the potential and enhance the benefits of the

peace park designation in WGIPP? How we can use peace park as a tool to recognize this potential better? Several specific recommendations have been made; those perspectives are summarized in the Table 6 and described below.

Better promotion of the peace park designation was the most dominant theme that emerged in the interview data. Respondents talked about the lack of signs, lack of information about the peace park in the visitor centers and brochures, and suggested the ways to change that.

“It should be promoted more. I mean if it’s the first, then boohoo! America’s number one, we have the first peace park. Just get the word out!”

“One of the things they could do is showing on signage, on logos, on the information they send out, the history of why it became a peace park. I think people are now of a mind to really actually want to know some stuff, some information, so I think it would be cool to give it a stamp.”

“I think if you get the word out there, on the Internet and, you know, other methods, if you get the word out there, that it is, you know, this is the first, this is what’s happening, this is what’s good about it, and people will see it’s a good thing, and maybe they will try something in their own country.”

“If there is a website, get it out there a little bit more. I don’t know if there is like a peace day, or international day, whatever, just publicize it a little bit more.”

“I think it would be interesting... I mean I am trying to remember if the brochure that we got at the front entrance even said anything about it. I don’t remember if it does. But it least to explain that it is a peace park and what the motivation was behind establishing it. Just origin stories or something that do capture people’s attention.”

What could be improved to enhance the benefits of the peace park designation and better use the potential of WGIPP?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More promotion – signs, brochures, information in visitor centers, souvenirs 2. More education and interpretation on the peace park concept (e.g. several ranger programs on peace park) 3. Emphasis on education of younger generation, special programs for kids 4. Peace park events – annual summit, peace park days, peace park year 5. One fee and one pass to visit both Glacier and Waterton; possibly one pass for backcountry visitors in both parks 6. One peace park badge for the American and Canadian rangers 7. “No passport zone” within the parks 8. Information about other peace parks in the world, letters to the rangers and peace park donations 9. Visual and sound representation of peace in various locations in the park 10. Staff exchanges, staff training 11. Ambassador of peace and Peace Park scholarship 12. Re-identify the meaning of peace and different with a transboundary conservation area, and come up with specific steps how to enhance the concept

Table 6. Recommendations

“A signage around the area is important, I think. You see I’m Australian, one thing is different for Australians is the amount of signage – there isn’t degree of signage here that informs people all the time, keeps information in front of them, and I think the fact that it’s a peace park is sort of important. International peace park.”

“Again, I think the education process has to happen, because I don’t think a lot of people understand that that’s the international peace park, or the significance of that. I think it should probably be in each of the lodges, in Many Glacier, in Glacier Park Lodge, in all of the visitor centers, and even having a brochure that people can look at would be handy, because I am betting there is nothing out there. Having that at any of the hotels, that talks about the significance of this being a peace park.”

“It’s not prominent, I think they should advertise it more, put it in those pamphlets, even put in on these signs, especially when you are going into Waterton, and when Canadians are coming into our park, that this is a peace park.”

“We collect patches. So I went up to the store, and there were two patches in the entire store that focus just on the little red bus. And I was like... Why isn’t there is a peace sign, or a global peace sign? Or they could be messengers of peace. Have they had that, that would have been more beneficial than just looking at the little Red Busses, that really did not mean as much to us, as the fact that we had gone to the international location.”

“If you would have like a huge sign at the entrance that says “International peace park”, or if the two sides would come up with some kind of research, or something that they could present, you know, put on the news, or get out there to really make people see it, I think that could draw attention to it, so that maybe other people do the same thing.”

There were many comments by visitors and park rangers about the importance of education and interpretation – both for visitors and beyond - about the peace park, the concept behind it, the history and other aspects, why it is significant and how it could make a difference. In particular, several peace park ranger programs were recommended.

“If you want to expand that stuff or expand the possibility to have this park, this international peace park as a model and make it grow, you need to educate people why it’s important. And educate people, not the ones that are here, the ones that are here, we are coming here because we understand what are the benefits, at least partly. The point is how to make the outreach for the people who are not coming to the park, and this is where the challenge is.”

“I don’t know if there is a program or anything, like I heard of stargazing or something in the park, so if there is something like, you know, come watch maybe a short film about the peace parks, it would help have people talking about it more, something like that, some kind of program in the park.”

Among the dominant themes was the emphasis of education on younger generation:

“Here is another idea, and I am not sure if it is being done. What about doing a camp together, between Canadians, people from the Tribes also, and people from Montana, like a peaceful summer camp, something like that, because youth are the new generation, and they are the ones that will change more than our generation is doing. That’s need to be a little project, a grant. It

needs to be self-sustained, because national parks are not a priority, and international peace park will be less priority, so all these activities need to be self-sustained and be supported by interested people. International peace park needs to create a product and get supported, become interested to populations.”

“The key is the children. What we really need is teach the children about peace park. Adults, it is almost too late. And tell them what the goals and ideals are of that. And to have program, say, to teach children, that’s the key, because if our children, and their children, of any nation, can get along, then we are half way to solving the problem. And then we will have a generation that is different from ours. Young people are going to make a difference in this world.”

“I am all for educating young people, I believe that you have to instill that desire for ecology and sustainability, and that peace, from a young age. I think it will be a great idea to start that peace initiative for the young people. My daughter is sustainability major from the university in South Carolina, and one of our goals was always, when she was younger, we took her places to show how beautiful our world was, and we also travelled internationally, so that she learned that the world is a big place. And I think if more young people grasp that concept that they are not an island, and that the world as a whole matters, that helps instill that peace process.”

“I think if you focus on teaching children of all ages up through high school that concept, then you will have made your biggest difference. It won’t show up right away, but it will show up, so I think it’s very important.”

It was recommended to organize regular events that would celebrate the peace park designation in WGIPP, emphasize its significance and encourage similar efforts around the world. A Peace park summit and Peace Park Day/week/year were named as some examples. It was also emphasized that Glacier NP would be a perfect place for that, because it is so peaceful in itself. The Hands Across Borders event that took place in East Glacier in September 2016, and 75th Anniversary of Glacier NP ten years earlier were one of such initiatives (Center...2016)

“Like should we be having a symposium, can we be having, you know, something special each year, or you know, start planning special events around that. You know, we had the 75th anniversary back in 2007 and we did do special events, and that was wonderful. But are we going to wait, you know, for another 25 years until the 100th anniversary, or whatever, right? So maybe each year we can do something special, a special celebration for the peace park, or something like that would be very nice.”

“At the next Parks Congress, there needs to be like a Peace Park Day at that, where all of the peace park people, you know, get together and listen to awesome presenters who have studied the peace park idea present on that, and meet, and have round tables and think about these issues, like that opportunity for cooperation. I don’t know if that’s happening, but if isn’t, it’s slipping through our hands, and all of these people who have experience, and knowledge about managing peace parks, like they are retiring without us having the opportunity to capture their expertise. So that’s, I think, is amazing opportunity that could have been done, and fairly easily, everybody meets on a fairly regular basis to talk and think about parks, and peace parks are an interesting concept that has some challenging situations, that are kind of messy situations, that we can all share a knowledge and think about, and maybe come up with good solutions.”

“One of the things, we have this Wheeler property that’s coming to our hands, and one of many ideas that was thrown out in a big brainstorming session was to have sort of an annual peace park conference of some sort and better highlight that, and invite people to talk about peace issues. It was intriguing, like bringing people together and talking about cooperative work. And that’s kind of the nuts and bolts, as my experience is not so much the overarching idea of peace, but the day to day working cooperatively on the ground, and things like the vegetation map, the native plant nursery, and other projects.”

“Somehow they make Americans aware of it, this year is great, because it’s our birthday, a 100th year birthday, so everybody is super aware of that, but maybe there could be another year, where we could start celebrating the peace park. Maybe we don’t have to wait until 2032, but some year where we start celebrating and saying OK, peace park year, everybody go to border parks and celebrate that!”

“They celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Glacier, and then the 100th Anniversary of our national parks, so maybe you should celebrate the Anniversary, or whatever, of the International peace park, or create... Like I said I did not even know there were other peace parks, so I now I will go home and type in “international peace parks” and find out what they are. We’ve never left the country, so... There is so much for us to see here.”

“I know one of our former superintendents thought of this that maybe this is the perfect place to explore the idea of international peace in this peaceful place, and it’s a special place, and it’s a place that hasn’t been affected by war or non-peace in any way for really long time. It’s a safe place maybe for people to think about it.”

One fee and one pass to visit both Glacier and Waterton National Parks was another suggestion. It was noticed earlier that park superintendents are working on it, so this recommendation could be implemented quite soon.

“I’ve got an idea. I am pretty sure, if we go up across the road, the Canadians are going to charge us 30 bucks to get in. So try doing a joint fee, like a Disney, when they’ve got the multi park pass. You could get the multi park pass – you get Waterton, you get Glacier, you get Banff – bundle! One pass does it all, that’s my idea.”

“We are leaving on a backcountry trip... Maybe make it easier logistically to organize a backcountry trip, where the permits are continuous, and you don’t have to get a permit from Canada if you have a permit from the U.S. That would be a great symbol, right? Like we believe in each other’s citizens and we trust that: if U.S. gives you a permit, then the Canadians will respect that and vice versa.”

To recognize the unity between countries, it was recommended to provide one badge for both Canadian and America rangers:

“You’ve got Canada and the US similar cultures, I think they could use the international peace park badge or something – so that when people cross the border, there is a recognition of unity, that’s what peace is about.”

While discussing the challenges associated with the peace park designation, it was mentioned that the border issue was the most dominant theme that emerged. As a solution to this problem a special “no-passport” zone was recommended by visitors. Although it is hard to implement now with the border security in the modern world, it is something to think about.

“I think it would be neat if there is some mutual area on the border where you don’t have to have a passport, but it was sort of like a no-men’s land, like a positive no-men’s land between 2 different countries where everyone was welcome, you know, that’s my dream. And it would emphasize boundaries, you know what I mean?”

“Perhaps, maybe, just having a corridor for people who just want to visit the parks and nowhere else in Canada or the U.S.”

“How about to be able to go to Waterton Lakes directly without using a passport? I understand there is a lot of logistics involved, and there is homeland security, but that is showing the challenge that we all have to really embrace peace between the nations.”

Many visitors were really intrigued by the fact that there are other peace parks around the world. Many of them have never heard about that and wanted more information on this topic:

“I didn’t even know there were any other peace parks. It’s just something that I don’t think is promoted very much at all. And I don’t know if this is because there are so many other issues, or it doesn’t get very much attention because there is a lot of other really serious issues that people, you know, are trying to deal with, but I think just the idea that if it was promoted more somehow, I don’t know how. I will do more research on it when I will get home.”

“First of all, and this is the first time I’m here, I am from Latin America, that I’ve learn that there is another peace park in Latin America. I didn’t know that they exist. So somehow people should know about that more.”

Some interesting ideas were suggested by park visitors regarding kids writing letters from WGIPP to park rangers in other peace parks, and organizing donations to peace parks with war:

“You know how people, if there is a disaster relief fund, or if our troops are away overseas, you know, they would get kids to write notes that they can open their mail. But if there was some way there would be like physical... like they have the junior ranger program, what is the peace park aspect of that? I mean learning the parts of a butterfly is nice, but what about learning about a park in Africa that is, you know, trying to give people jobs and save some wildlife? Can we write letters to the park rangers there and tell them that their job might be really hard, but they are doing a good job?”

“Potentially, and I know that national parks are do not always have enough funds, but I mean wouldn’t it be wonderful if some amount of funding, maybe each year, this peace park could give money to a country that was having wars, and to help them have a peace park, or something like that. If people thought they could come to Glacier park, and that part of their.. oh, here is my 30-dollar entrance fee, and here is 10 dollars to give to a special fund for there to be a peace park in a place where there was war. I mean I would give 10 dollars extra. If that would get people

thinking “Oh, this is a peace park, and we want to help there be world peace”, then maybe there could be not a mandatory, but a suggested additional donation to go to... to actually make something happen, where there was not peace. I am sure there are a lot of people here that spend a lot of money, and we are tent camping on a budget, but I would still give 10 extra dollars, if this park had a partnership with some other place that was not as fortunate, with less peace. We are just such a rich country, in a lot of ways compared with other places.”

Other interesting and unique ideas are related to visual and sound representation of peace, such as wind chimes and bells. Meditation as a way to think about peace was also suggested.

“Maybe somehow little reminders, and I don’t know what these reminders would be, because you wouldn’t want to put a lot of signs up or anything, but maybe in certain places they could put like... I mean that is just me thinking... like some chimes or something to remind you about the peace. I mean it kind of sounds funny, but. Just some kind of little symbol. Or bells somewhere. Just as a visual and a sound reminder, because a lot of people are visual, and for a lot of people the sound of things... and if there was a little chime or something in certain areas, maybe it would remind them about the peace park.”

“I mean there are always programs about nature which I love and I think those are wonderful, but maybe you could have things related to meditation, and maybe you could have things related to different ways people achieve peace, whether that through religious experience, or serenity, you know, there might be opportunities for something like that.”

Staff exchanges, seeing more Canadian presence in Glacier NP, and trainings for guides also emerged as themes while interpreting and analyzing the data:

“I think it would be nice if there was a little more cross with the interpreters, the interpretive rangers, where you might see a Canadian ranger way up into Glacier, and the same over there. I think they probably do some at where they meet, but I haven’t see here. We’ve been to all of the places in this park, and haven’t seen any Canadian presence.”

“Train their employees, for example tour guides about peace parks, and what it means, to communicate the message.”

“I worked here years ago in my previous career when I was a seasonal, we actually had an exchange program where a Canadian interpreter worked for the whole summer here in their Canadian uniform, and then we sent a U.S. interpreter to Waterton and they worked up there all summer in our uniform. We need to do that again, I am working on it, trying to get that back in place. That says a lot to visitors, when they saw Canadian working in our visitor centers, it really made them think about what’s happening, versus, again, Canadians up there in their uniform, U.S. in their uniform, no interchange really, we are still really separate. And people really like it when we do things together.”

An idea of Peace Park Ambassadors and Peace Park Scholarship was brought up by two park managers. When the researcher was interviewing a Rotary member later, it was revealed that such scholarship has actually been discussed by WGIPP and Rotary International.

“I don’t know how they would end up doing it, but if you are working somewhere in a transboundary park, what if there was a position, you know, supported by the Conservancy or something like that, that paid a stipend and brought them to Waterton-Glacier and it wouldn’t.... like our park does not really have a whole lot of complexity as far as dealing with international issues or anything like that, but if that International Peace Park position got to spend time in various peace parks that had different models of management and co-management, or whatever, and Glacier was part of that. And so you would have that person that would basically almost travel the world for a certain period of time and spend time in each of these parks on both sides of the border, I think something like that could be pretty cool.”

Lastly, there was a practical recommendation by a park manager to re-identify the meaning of peace and the difference with just a conservation area. In researcher’s opinion, is it one of the key questions that could help enhance the importance of the peace park concept and spread it around the world.

“I think maybe the peace park really should take some time to re-identify what that peace element is of the park. Is there truly something different between a peace park and just a transboundary area, conservation area? And I think it’s up to the two parties to kind of decide that. You could look to Waterton-Glacier and say, you know, these are the things that have been effective, these are the areas for improvement, and then look at it and see what differentiates a peace park from a conservation area.”

(7) What is current and potential influence of WGIPP on other transboundary conservation efforts around the world?

In 2015, the researcher developed and implemented another project in Glacier NP aimed at exploring if WGIPP had any impact on other transboundary PA in the world (Nikolaeva 2015). No evidence was found that WGIPP has had a direct impact on the establishment of other peace parks: there were no letters in the archives neither from Glacier NP superintendents to other peace parks, nor enquires from NPS/Parks Canada/other parks in the world to share experience on the establishment of WGIPP and its collaborative projects in the middle of the XX century. However, the results of the study showed that (1) WGIPP has a symbolic meaning of peace and cooperation between Canada and the United States, and serves as an inspiration for other countries; (2) is perceived as a model and a learning platform by other TBPA, and sought out to exchange experience; (3) has a significant impact on collaboration within a broader region, and encourages cooperation beyond the boundaries of two parks.

The current study confirmed those findings. Park managers and visitors suggested that WGIPP is often seen as a model for the world, it sets an example of peace, has a symbolic meaning of good relations, peace and cooperation between two countries and beyond, and perceived as a learning platform by other transboundary protected areas.

“Well, the first is always the flagship, if you will. Every other one that comes after that, anything that later, usually tries to model themselves after the first, and then usually learns how to twig a few things.”

“That’s an example. Let’s be honest, here Canada and the United States, they are very big countries, powerful, so if they show... they have the power to show to the rest of the world, the rest of the world will also like to copy. That’s the model.”

“You would think it would be kind of the best case, this is like the best way to set up a peace park, and if learning from mistakes and that sort of things, you would think they would have some sort of template for other peace parks.”

“If two countries were thinking of establishing, then I would think they would certainly look to you guys to see how you managed it, and you promoted it, and any benefits that you feel that you have derived from it. You are a source of research for other people.”

“Sure, if they are the first one, then maybe this is the prototype and people look to it for example, or they look to see what this park is doing, and maybe this park, because of its pioneering designation, you know, tries to stay relevant and keep the information at the forefront of its visitors minds”.

“I think it could be a good example. I think if you get the word out there, on the Internet and, you know, other methods, if you get the word out there, that it is, you know, this is the first, this is what’s happening, this is what’s good about it, and people will see it’s a good thing, and maybe they will try something in their own country.”

“I mean, we’ve been a model for success, I think, and a model for how things should be done – that would be maybe one way we could show other peace parks what’s working and what’s not, and that spirit of cooperation and working together type of thing, that would be one way.”

“Well, I think any time you set the bar, you are, even indirectly, challenging people to do the same, and I think Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, the designation in 30s, did that. They said – that sort of thing is possible.”

The park regularly receives visitors and experts from other countries who are involved in transboundary conservation initiatives, so that they could come and learn from the WGIPP experience. Over the years, there have been experts from South-East Asia, South America, Africa, Europe, Russia, and other world regions. In particular, many transboundary conservation experts came to the workshop in WGIPP for its 75th anniversary. In September 2016 over 50

leaders from transboundary conservation initiatives around the world gathered in Glacier NP to celebrate the National Park Service's 100th anniversary, to acknowledge the inspiration of WGIPP as the world's first such designation, and to build and share knowledge on best practices for transboundary conservation (Center... 2017). It could be also mutual learning, and Glacier NP can also learn a lot from other areas and look at their challenges at the different angle.

"We are visited by a number of places around the world who have tried to find ways... who see Waterton-Glacier as a successful park model of working across boundaries and as something that they can learn from. The fact that we are used as a model – I mean that people look and say you know, the world's first. People more reach out to us, but we are not reaching out to them."

"You know, we are kind of stuck on some issues like border issues, and fee issues, and thinks like that, and we kind of, I think almost just came to this conclusion, that there isn't whole lot that we can do other than educate people. You know, if we brought in somebody who worked and lived in a peace park where our border issues are nothing compared with what they deal with, they may come up with this really creative solution that can make a difference."

In the 2015 study (Nikolaeva 2015) one of the interview questions was aimed at finding out the staff's opinion about what could have been done differently, so that the WGIPP could serve as a better model for the world. It was argued that in order to reach more peace parks and help them develop successful cooperation, it would be better to have some kind of written agreements with Waterton NP on various aspects of collaborative programs, and ideally have a joint management plan, that could be then shared with other TBPA. As most of cooperation between Glacier and Waterton is informal and not secured by any documents, it is sometimes hard to explain other peace parks how the model works.

"If we were going to be a model for these parks, I think we might be a better model if we really had kind of nuts and bolts spelled out about how this works. Like yes, the management teams from each unit will meet twice a year, and the operational staff will meet, you know, 3 times a year, and this is how we decide if there is a controversy, and there is a voting like council is voting if there is an issue or anything – that could be helpful." (NPS official 2015)

WGIPP sets an example for other transboundary initiatives, and serves as a symbol and inspiration to grow the peace park movement and maintain the peaceful relations on the planet.

"I think it would be great if they could all be designated that, and not just in the U.S. Because peace is important, so the more people you can get thinking of that, the better. Rather than a wall, we can designate more peace parks."

'It is special, people see it as sort of symbolic. Of course Alberta still has Waterton, and we still have Glacier, and there are still two different countries, and so it's almost like a symbolic sort of thing, which it is, but the symbolism can be very powerful.'

However, WGIPP is a sort of a unique transboundary protected area that was established along the border of the two countries that have had peaceful relationship for two centuries by now. Other peace parks exist in very different political, economic, cultural and social environments, and their main role is often to catalyze the peaceful resolution of disputes and mitigate conflicts, not just commemorate and acknowledge the peace and goodwill shared between the nations. The former is much more challenging and requires more efforts and cooperation between sometimes really conflicting parties. On the other hand, the same idea in a conflicting region can have even more power and impact. This challenge and opportunity of impact was acknowledged by both visitors and park managers in the current study.

"I would think in the other countries it would certainly be more challenging because in some of them you may not necessarily have the same relationships with the neighbors that we do here. In those areas it may even seem more meaningful, because it's an active step towards peace, whereas we have, you know, a long standing peace, there are no questions about that. So yes, in some regard it's going to be harder for them, but just having it as the first example, a long standing example, it's a hint that it can be done."

"Now, like Jordan and Israel do something like that, where they've been at war for, you know, thousands of years or whatever, and yet they come together and recognize that they should protect something on their boundary. That's where the idea to me has grown into much more powerful. So I think we are just sort of the seed, and I think other places have taken it and actually grown it into something bigger, and more difficult, but they've managed to do it."

"Some of those other places in the world, if they didn't become a peace park, those places would be gone, they wouldn't have been taken care of. Without the energy of creating peace around, protecting resources, those places would be gone, and so that is where this idea has really been important to me. It's saving these place, whereas we are more... I hate to say ceremonial, but that's kind of what it is, it's a nice thing, we celebrate our getting along with Canada, but it didn't save these place, they were already set aside. Now, some places in peace parks, they've created these areas, as a peace park to start. See how powerful that would be: here is these areas along the boundary, they are going to be destroyed by war, or just overuse the resources or whatever, and these two countries created a peace park on both sides, and that's how it was established, because of this idea from here. So to me that's worth more."

Maybe along with these powerful opportunities for conflict mitigation in other, more challenging regions of the world, which became possible because of the seed that was planted in 1932 in Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, the role of the latter is to promote general

appreciation of, support for, and knowledge of peace in general and importance of other peace parks, as noted by one of the interviewees:

“There are many of them throughout the world, so it’s not just this park that is a peace park, but there are places where the political boundaries are much more... where it’s much more of a challenge for some of these countries to have established these peace parks, and it might be more of a promoting of a general appreciation of, support for, knowledge of that these peace parks exist elsewhere in the world. You know, we always say we are the first international peace park, but there are a lot more out there that have happened in the world.”

Chapter V: Management Implications and Future Research

Summary and implications

The research has documented visitors’ knowledge and perceptions of the peace park designation and assessed the impact of this status on expectations and visitor experience, identified and described park managers’ and Rotary members’ experience in transboundary conservation, existing challenges, perceptions of the special peace park status of WGIPP and its possible impact on their work, revealed perceptions of the peace meaning in relation to park, possible benefits and opportunities associated with the peace designation and ways to enhance these benefits, provided respondents’ recommendations on the ways to enhance the value of the peace park concept, and defined current and potential influence of WGIPP on other transboundary conservation efforts around the world.

From the current sample, about 63% of Glacier NP visitors were aware of the peace designation, with slightly different results by location. In Many Glacier area, the percentage of visitors who knew about the peace park status was higher (68% versus 55.5% at Bowman Lake and 62.5% in Avalanche). The level of knowledge about the peace park varied from just hearing about it and not knowing the meaning and any details to rather deep understanding of the concept. Several sources were identified where visitors learned about it, including guidebooks,

articles, websites, visitor centers, signs in the park, hearing from a friend or remembering from being in the park previously.

The majority of visitors interviewed for this study emphasized that although they have heard about the peace park designation, they were not really sure what it means, what the goals are, the history behind it, how parks actually cooperate together, and other details. Several visitors had a wrong interpretation of the peace park: for example, they thought that only Canadian part had that status, that it was a smaller area along the border, that it also involved Tribal Nations, or that the status of a peace park is lower than of a national park.

This lack of understanding can be partly explained by the lack of information about the peace designation both in the park and especially outside its boundaries. Visitors argued that the concept is not promoted enough, the peace park designation is not noticeable, guides and rangers do not talk enough about it, and the whole peace park idea is rather intangible, open to interpretation, difficult to grasp and understand.

Park managers are aware about this, they agree that there is a lot they could do to promote and market the concept more, and increase visitors' awareness about the designation; peace park is one of their interpretive themes, and there are plans to put more signs, develop more ranger talks, revive staff exchanges, meetings, and etc.

Most visitors agreed that the peace park concept should be highlighted a lot more, besides very few people who did not agree with this because of the ideological (e.g. negative association with politics and government) and financial considerations. Concerns by park managers included not being ready for visitors' higher expectations that might be associated with a peace park and potential visitation increase.

Almost all visitors did not have any specific expectations about visiting a peace park in comparison with a national park; this peace component did not play any role in trip planning and implementation. There were several reasons for that: first, there are so many other things to do and focus on in Glacier NP, that the peace element gets lost; people are thinking about nature,

wildlife, specific activities, accommodation, and other things. Then, while they are on vacation, they do not really want to think about politics that some people associate peace park with; that's not on their agenda when they are out enjoying beautiful nature with their families. It is also a non-commercial concept with no money involved. And last, but not least, many people don't really understand the meaning of the peace park designation and the difference with a national park, and it takes away from appreciation of this special designation.

Peace status is perceived as a side benefit, "a nice thing", but there is no focus, no real connection to people's lives that can easily be seen, and thus people do not really care about it. What would make people think more about the peace designation and realize how important is it? It was emphasized that it is not enough just to call it a peace park, it should become a meaningful concept for various people and evoke emotions. It should be evident what is different in comparison with a national park, what should visitors expect, what are the personal and societal benefits.

Glacier and Waterton park managers are involved in a number of cooperative initiatives, such as joint firefighting efforts, invasive species control, research on grizzly bears and white bark pine, International Peace Park hike, and others. There is constant communication regarding public safety warnings, weather conditions, and trail closures.

It was emphasized that it is rather easy for Waterton and Glacier National Parks to work together and cooperate on certain issues. Both countries get along well, the longest undefended border has been peaceful for centuries, it is perceived as an artificial line that should not separate a common landscape that both countries share. It is easy for both parks to implement projects together as they can share knowledge, expertise and sometimes costs. However, challenges do exist; they include increased border security, travel restrictions, bureaucracy involved with working across jurisdictions, lack of funding, time constraints, two different fees and not really integrated management. There are attempts to address some of these challenges (e.g.

superintendents are working on creating one pass for visiting both parks), but others are beyond control of WGIPP (e.g. increased border security).

Relationship between WGIPP and Rotary International still needs to be explored more; during this study it was revealed that Rotary members remain active in cooperation between Glacier and Waterton NP, are still proud of the peace park idea and the legacy that early members left, excited that they were behind the very first peace park in the world, and develop certain projects to make WGIPP more meaningful.

A variety of peace meanings were identified (19 in total), including cooperation, commonness, unity, goodwill, mutual respect, acceptance, co-existence, friendship, absence of war, peace with Native Americans, peacefulness, quiet, solitude, love, openness, happiness, safety, politics and others. Such wide array of meanings demonstrate that peace is a rather complex and difficult concept, it can have symbolic meaning, and be defined along a continuum across different scales – from inner personal peace to peace on the global level. There was no consensus if park managers should open it up for interpretation, or if they should promote a certain meaning of peace.

An important finding was that perceptions of peace depend on the context and other factors: what is considered peace in one area, is not peaceful in another. While setting an objective to enhance the benefits associated with the peace designation, that should be taken into consideration, and messages to different target audiences should vary.

Gaining insight on perceptions of current and potential benefits and opportunities of the peace park designation from different perspectives was one of the main goals of this study. A wide array of benefits (12 in total) were discovered, including cooperative management, ecological benefits, bringing people together, respect and tolerance, learning about other countries, conflict mitigation, better health and stress relieve, inspiration, hope, tourism benefits, better funding opportunities, and increased capacity to face climate change. Among potential benefit recipients are primarily visitors and park managers, but there are also many other groups

that can benefit from this designation – local communities, politicians, future generation, international visitors, non-visitors, travel bureaus, universities, the whole country, other countries, and broadly – all people in the world. As peace meaning, benefits can also be defined across scales and benefit recipients can differ from individual people to organizations to national and global levels.

Although certain benefits and benefit recipients of the peace park designations were identified, many respondents emphasized that benefits are not obvious, because they can be indirect, interpreted in many different ways, sometimes not clear (e.g. there is no conflict between Canada and the U.S., therefore if peace is perceived as a way to mitigate conflict, then the benefits of the designation in WGIPP are not obvious). Besides, the peace park concept seems intangible, symbolic and intellectual to some people.

The important question was raised about the role of the peace component, the difference between peace parks and other transboundary conservation initiatives, and special benefits that are unique for peace parks. Other than general benefit of celebrating peace and goodwill and promoting good political relations between neighboring states – the main goal of the WGIPP designation in 1932, not many ideas were developed, but it was suggested that certain efforts are needed to make WGIPP more meaningful and distinguishable from other transboundary areas. Park managers also argued that any time a park has any sort of special designation, it needs to be managed in a slightly different way, additional considerations should be taken into account, and peace designation definitely brings more responsibility.

Several broad and specific recommendations have been made by interview participants how potential benefits of the peace park designation could be enhanced and how the value of the peace park can increase. Those include more promotion (signs, brochures, information in visitor centers, souvenirs); emphasis on education of younger generation and special programs for kids; peace park events, such as annual summit, peace park days, peace park year, one fee and one pass to visit both Glacier and Waterton, possibly one pass for backcountry visitors in both parks;

one peace park badge for the American and Canadian rangers; special “no-passport zone” within the parks; information about other peace parks in the world, letters to the rangers and peace park donations; visual and sound representation of peace in various locations in the park, such as wind chimes and bells; staff exchanges, guide and ranger trainings to deliver the peace concept better; and creating a peace ambassador position and peace park scholarship. Re-identification of the peace meaning was also suggested, along with a clear list of differences with a transboundary protected area. Not all of these recommendations are currently doable and not necessarily feasible, but they inform park managers about different perspectives on the current challenges and how potentially they could be addressed.

Finally, the study confirmed previously identified potential influence of the WGIPP on other transboundary conservation efforts (Nikolaeva 2015), in particular that WGIPP is perceived as a model and a learning platform by other TBPA, and sought out to exchange experience. It sets an example of peace, serves as a symbol and inspiration to grow the peace park movement and maintain the peaceful relations on the planet.

However, the WGIPP case is easy, and other peace parks exist in very different political, economic, cultural and social environments; their main role is often to catalyze the peaceful resolution of disputes and mitigate conflicts, not just commemorate and acknowledge the peace and goodwill shared between the nations. These other parks have sometimes bigger challenges and require more efforts to both establish, govern and manage their areas. But at the same time the peace park idea in a conflicting region can be even more powerful and bring further impact. The seed that was planted in Waterton-Glacier in 1932, brought about appreciation of and support for the peace in general, and the concept and all the benefits associated with it should be emphasized more in Canada, the United States and beyond, in order to truly make a difference in the peace building movement around the world.

Limitations of the study and suggestions for future research

This study has resulted in several additional questions, in particular because of the limitations that it had.

One of the main limitations relates to visitor sample. The researcher targeted those visitors that knew at least something about the peace park designation of Glacier NP, and within this category she aimed at identifying and describing in rich detail the range of different perspectives. To ensure diversity in the sample, she used three different locations, and within each location - three different criteria: activity type, type of group, and age category.

As for the activity type, visitors involved in the following activities were interviewed: hiking (mostly), backpacking, camping, picnicking, driving and motorcycle riding. Clearly, there are several other activities that are popular in Glacier NP, and it would be useful and interesting to explore perspectives of those visitors who are involved in them.

Regarding types of group, solo travelers, couples, groups of friends and families were interviewed. It would be good to interview more families with little kids – this category is under represented in the current sample due to the fact that it is not always easy to interview parents with small children without making prior arrangements.

The age categories of the respondents were not distributed evenly throughout the sample: most interviewees were between 40 and 70 years old. This could be explained by the fact that the researcher could proceed with interview questions only if a respondent confirmed that he/she has heard that Glacier National Park had a peace park status. Many younger people were approached, but the percentage of those who have not heard anything about peace park within this category was rather high, and the researcher could not take their interviews. To gain a more comprehensive picture of visitor perspectives in the park, more young people should be approached and interviewed.

Another sample limitation is related to the interview locations. As noted earlier, the choice of three locations was driven by the assumption that Many Glacier and Bowman Lake

areas would have a higher percentage of people who knew at least something about the peace park status, due to the proximity of these areas to Canadian border. Avalanche was chosen to get some perspectives of visitors that were relatively farther from Canada, and make comparisons. Obviously, to be more comprehensive with study results, more locations within Glacier park should be included. In particular, it would be beneficial to interview backcountry visitors on Belly river route, Goat Haunt and several other remote locations that are in the immediate vicinity to Canada and potentially should have even higher percentage of visitors that knew about peace park designation. At the same time, a range of locations that are not so close to Canadian border should be included too (Two Medicine, Logan Pass, West Glacier, East Glacier, Loop and others), in order to make further comparisons and be more comprehensive.

In the framework of this study, nobody was interviewed on the Canadian side of the WGIPP. Many visitors from current sample have been to Waterton Lakes National Park either on the same trip or earlier, but at the same time there is a possibility that perspectives could have been different if visitors were interviewed in Canada. Several respondents mentioned that they saw a better presence of the peace park status on the Canadian side, so it would be interesting to explore this phenomenon. This limitation is associated with the fact that special permit issued by Parks Canada is needed to conduct research in Waterton Lakes, but it would make sense to obtain such permit to expand the sample.

As for managers and Rotary members, the only suggestion for future research is to interview more respondents, especially with Rotary members. Due to time constraints, only two Rotary members were interviewed for the current study, this number should be increased. As with visitors, it would be beneficial to interview Canadian park managers and members of the Rotary in Alberta; this is highly recommended for future research.

Then, the perspectives of other stakeholders, such as local communities on both sides of the border, nonprofit organizations, small businesses (such as boat concessions) operating in the park and outside its boundaries, law enforcement and interpretive rangers that are directly

involved in transboundary cooperation and exchanges, as well as higher National Park Service and Parks Canada officials should be interviewed to cover a larger range of perspectives on the benefits of peace park designation and ways to enhance these benefits in WGIPP and beyond.

Finally, practitioners working in other existing and proposed peace parks of the world, including those in the United States (e.g. Upper Skagit River Transboundary Conservation Initiative) and other countries (e.g. peace parks in Africa and Latin America) should be included in the sample to gain further insight on perceptions of peace park designations in general.

The next limitation and suggestion is about revealed benefits and peace park meanings. As one of the results of this study, twelve different benefits and nineteen different meanings of the word “peace” in relation to peace park were identified as most prevalent throughout the data, judging by the total number of quotes, insightfulness of quotes, the diversity of sub-themes that emerged, and by the researcher’s perceptions of their importance. However, it was mostly driven by the researcher’s observations, interpretation of data, and personal judgments, and no statistical analysis has been made in order to identify the rank of them (such as the level of importance for visitors, park managers and Rotary members). It will be very useful to combine quantitative and qualitative research methods in order to get the most rigorous picture of peace park value and benefits, and conduct a factor analysis to identify the scores of each benefit, thus understand the rank of their importance for respondents.

Among other suggestions – to repeat similar interviews and analysis performed for this study on a regular basis (perhaps every five years), especially if some of the recommended management actions would be implemented. It will give an opportunity to expand the sample and see the effectiveness of specific actions aimed at better recognition of the peace park status.

Lastly, this type of study could be replicated in other transboundary protected areas (especially those that either have peace park status or consider its feasibility) in the United States and other countries. Currently, as a follow-up for this project, the researcher is discussing a possibility of a study in North Cascades National Park in summer 2017 to explore perspectives

of different stakeholders on getting possible peace park designation in the Upper Skagit River Transboundary Conservation Initiative, which includes cooperation between North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas in Washington State, U.S., and two provincial parks in British Columbia, Canada – Skagit Valley and EC Manning. The environment where both TBCA initiatives operate – WGIPP and North Cascades Region – is extremely complex; it involves various networks of people and organizations, from institutional and state level agencies to local NGOs and rural communities. This complexity brings certain challenges and at the same time provides new opportunities. By comparing two cases in North America, it is hoped to better understand the concept of transboundary conservation and peace parks, the impact of peace parks on different aspects of environmental, social and economic performance in various contexts, encourage mutual learning, and as a result, find possible ways to leverage the benefits associated with a peace park status and enhance transboundary collaboration.

“I would like to thank you for your interest in the peace parks, and that you are doing this project, and I hope that more people can learn about it through your work, and I encourage you to continue these efforts” (Comment from a park manager interviewed for this study)



Photo 3: At the border between Canada and the United States. International Peace Park Hike.

Photo by Elena Nikolaeva.

Appendix A: Interview Guide - Visitors

Awareness about peace park designation:

- 1) Do you know that you are visiting an international peace park? (If “Yes”, continue with questions)
- 2) Did you learn about a special status of Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park (WGIPP) before your trip, or after you arrived in Glacier NP?
- 3) What exactly did you know about the peace park and learned about this concept here?

Expectations about a peace park and peace park potential:

- 1) Did you have any specific expectations regarding peace park status when you planned a trip to Glacier NP?
- 2) Did it match with what you saw?
- 3) Do you think the potential of a peace park status is fully used here in Glacier NP? Why or why not?

Peace meaning and benefits associated with a peace park designation:

- 1) What does the word “peace” mean to you when you think about a peace park?
- 2) In your opinion, what could be special benefits of a peace park designation?
- 3) Who could be some potential recipients of these benefits?
- 4) Should park managers highlight/promote these benefits? How?
- 5) Could there be any impact of WGIPP on other peace parks in the world?

Park management:

- 1) Do you believe that this area should be managed in a special way, taking into consideration its peace park status?
- 2) What could be improved to enhance the benefits of this designation in general?
- 3) Is there anything else you would like to add on this topic? Thank you.

About the trip in general:

- 1) Is this your first trip to Glacier NP? How long are you here for?
- 2) Have you visited Waterton during this trip? Have you been there before?
- 3) Whom are you travelling with?
- 4) Where are you from?

Appendix B: Interview Guide – Park Managers

Experience with peace park concept:

- 1) What has been your experience working with the peace park?
- 2) Which activities/projects in relation to peace park designation that happen in WGIPP are the most successful, in your opinion? Why?
- 3) What is the role of peace in this cooperation?
- 4) What are the main challenges associated with a peace park status? What are the obstacles to implementing these activities?

Peace meaning and benefits associated with a peace park designation:

- 1) What does the word “peace” mean to you when you think about a peace park?
- 2) In your opinion, what could be special benefits of a peace park designation?
- 3) Who could be some potential recipients of these benefits?
- 4) Do you think that both parks do enough to highlight/promote these benefits? Should they do it more? How can it be achieved?
- 5) Could there be any impact of WGIPP on other peace parks in the world? How exactly can the international peace park status of this park affect other transboundary protected areas?

Peace park potential:

- 1) Do you think the potential of a peace park designation is fully used here? Why or why not?

Park management:

- 1) Do you believe that this area should be managed in a special way, taking into consideration its peace park status?
- 2) What could be improved to enhance the benefits of this designation in general?

Closing question:

- 1) Is there anything else you would like to add on this topic? Something that I did not ask you, but you wanted to share? Thank you.

Appendix C: Interview Guide – Rotary Members

Experience with peace park concept:

- 1) What has been your experience working with the peace park?
- 2) How could WGIPP and Rotary International make a stronger connection?

Peace meaning and benefits associated with a peace park designation:

- 1) What does the word “peace” mean to you when you think about a peace park?
- 2) In your opinion, what could be special benefits of a peace park designation?
- 3) Who could be some potential recipients of these benefits?
- 4) Do you think that both parks do enough to highlight/promote these benefits? Should they do it more? How can it be achieved?
- 5) Could there be any impact of WGIPP on other peace parks in the world? How exactly can the international peace park status of this park affect other transboundary protected areas?

Peace park potential:

- 1) Do you think the potential of a peace park designation is fully used here? Why or why not?

Park management and the role of Rotary International:

- 1) Do you believe that this area should be managed in a special way, taking into consideration its peace park status?
- 2) What could be improved to enhance the benefits of this designation in general?
- 3) What could be a special role of Rotary International now to promote and enhance the benefits of the peace park designation?

Closing question:

- 1) Is there anything else you would like to add on this topic? Something that I did not ask you, but you wanted to share? Thank you.

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