

# **ERRATA SHEET**

## **PORT ONEIDA HISTORIC LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN / ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

### **SLEEPING BEAR DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE**

#### **1) Page 2-20, Table 2. SUMMARY OF DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS BY FIELD**

The Field 6 row in the table has been revised due to the changes in the Field 6 map. The revised acreages are now: Old Field Succession 8 acres and Open Meadow 19 acres. Active Agriculture acres remain at 20, for a field total of 47 acres. The revised Field 6 map is attached to this Errata Sheet.

#### **2) Page 3-6, Section 3.5, SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN**

This section has been revised based on information provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), East Lansing Field Office, in a letter dated September 21, 2011:

NPS Policy (2006 *Management Policies*, Section 4.4.2) requires examination of potential impacts on state-listed threatened, endangered, candidate, rare, declining, and sensitive species that are known collectively as species of concern. In the summer of 2002, an assessment of historic open lands (fields) was conducted at the park (Corace, *et al.* 2002). Their observations in the Thoreson field area included the five following bird species of “conservation priority” by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), field sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*), grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) and eastern meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*). It is likely that these species would be found in all fields in Port Oneida.

In addition to the species listed above, the following birds have been observed in Port Oneida: Savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), vesper sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), chipping sparrow (*Spizella passerina*), and the upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), which is considered a shorebird even though it also uses pastures and grasslands for its life cycle.

The potential exists that there may be other species of special concern that reside in this area, but are unknown at this time.

A 2009 updated assessment of historic openland habitats, conducted by Corace et al, found a wide variety of openland migratory bird species, including the Henslow’s sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) and the upland sandpiper (*Baratramia longicauda*), both considered “Birds of Conservation Concern” in the region by USFWS.

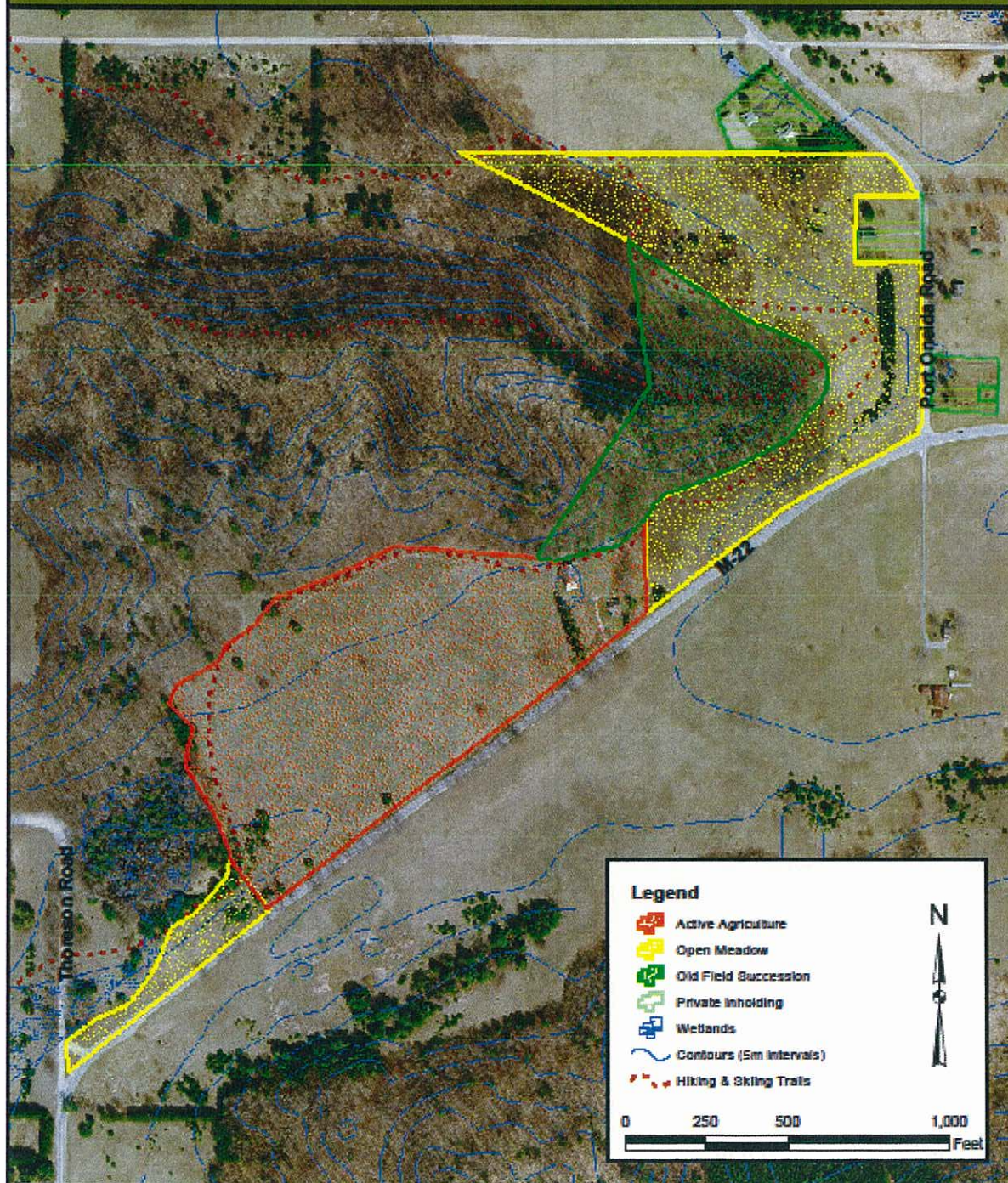
Mowing and prescribed burning (if implemented) activities will be timed to reduce impacts to nesting birds. Additionally, the National Lakeshore will work closely with the USFWS under the procedures described in the 2010 Memorandum of Understanding to develop and implement migratory bird conservation measures as action plans are developed for the Port Oneida historic landscape.

#### **3) Page 3-8, Section 3.8, PARK FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS**

Paragraph 4 of this section is revised as follows:

Significant clearing activities have been implemented during the past five years on fields that have high historic integrity, are adjacent roads travelled by many park visitors, and have high opportunities for recreation use: Kelderhouse, Peter Burfiend, and Lawr fields (2006), Carsten Burfiend and Barratt fields (2008), and Dechow and Charles Olson fields (2010). Clearing has been conducted using a variety of methods such as mowing, mowing and herbicide application, cutting (with and without herbicide application), and pulling. Past projects have ranged from \$40,000 in 2006 at Kelderhouse, Peter Burfiend, and Lawr to \$70,500 in 2010 at Dechow and Charles Olson.

Port Oneida Landscape Management Plan/Environmental Assessment  
Field #6 - Charles Olsen







# **PORT ONEIDA HISTORIC LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN / ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY AND GENERAL RESPONSE TO COMMENTS**

The National Park Service (NPS) at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (National Lakeshore) has completed the process of planning how to best manage the historic landscapes of the Port Oneida Rural Historic District (Port Oneida). The NPS prepared a Historic Landscape Management Plan (Plan) and an associated Environmental Assessment (EA) for Port Oneida. The purpose of the Plan/EA was to explore the various ways in which the NPS might preserve landscapes in Port Oneida in order to protect cultural and natural resources and provide for visitor interpretive and recreational opportunities.

On November 4, 2010, scoping letters were mailed to 81 federal, state, and local agencies, elected officials, groups, and interested individuals asking for ideas on the future of Port Oneida, especially on visions for how the landscape will appear many years from now. We also asked for ideas on what impacts and issues should be considered in this planning effort. Simultaneously, the letter was placed on the park's website ([nps.gov/slbe](http://nps.gov/slbe)) with a link to the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website, which allowed the public to comment electronically. On November 8, 2010, a press release was distributed electronically to the 42 media outlets in the National Lakeshore's media database. The official public comment period ended on December 17, 2010. As a result, we received 113 comments from the PEPC website, eight emails, and six handwritten or typed letters, for a total of 127 comments. A Public Comment Summary was prepared and posted on PEPC on May 4, 2011.

The Plan/EA was on public review from August 9 to September 12, 2011. On August 9, 2011, letters were mailed to 140 federal, state, and local agencies, elected officials, groups and interested individuals. Simultaneously, the letter was placed on the park's website ([nps.gov/slbe](http://nps.gov/slbe)) with a link to the NPS PEPC website, and a press release was distributed electronically to the 42 media outlets in the National Lakeshore's media database. Hard copies of the Plan/EA were distributed to area libraries and governmental offices. A public open house was held at the National Lakeshore Visitor Center auditorium in Empire on August 23, 2011, from 5:00-7:00 p.m., with 31 people attending. The public open house included a formal presentation and a question and answer period. The presentation slides were placed on the park's website.

As a result of these public involvement activities, we received 25 comments from the PEPC website, 12 emails, and three handwritten or typed letters. The topics addressed by the public in these comments have been organized into eight major subject areas that broadly describe the nature of the contents:

## **Level of Activity and Field Size:**

Nine comments involved the relative level of activity in Port Oneida, the amount of open fields, or the amount of fields that would be dedicated to agriculture. Eight commenters supported increased activity or agricultural fields, including: statements about sustainable agricultural practices, restoring agricultural production to historic levels, providing productive hay fields and cattle with interpretation, expanding the agricultural experience, providing real working farms, expanding some open meadow areas for historic viewsheds, increasing the size of "active agriculture" areas to adequately restore farming, and bringing back life to the farms. Three commenters had a number of suggestions for specific field boundaries, as well as areas designated for potential active agriculture. One commenter favored expansion of the agricultural experience, but emphasized a balance between open meadows and agricultural activities, and suggested that the NPS not over manage and let things evolve. The Grand Traverse Band was concerned

that the introduced forage is contrary to the spirit and need for native habitat in the tribe's hunting lands. They encourage removing exotic species and re-establishing native grasses. One commenter stated that we have enough cleared fields and we should not be clearing anymore.

### **Trails, Roads, and Parking Areas:**

Five commenters addressed trails, roads, and/or parking areas. Some wished to have cow paths, trails, horse and wagon tracks, and logging roads identified and restored, and the concept of reestablishing connectors between farms was expressed. A few commenters were concerned about future actions by the county road commission to improve the road system (pave or straighten) because of future increased visitor use. A few commenters were concerned about how the planned Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail would impact the character of Port Oneida and more than one commenter wanted to see trails and parking area with "soft" surfaces (grasses, woodchips, gravel), rather than pavement. A number of commenters were interested in designating trails for equestrian use.

### **Equestrian Use:**

Nineteen commenters mentioned introducing equestrian activities in Port Oneida. Most were interested in designating single-track trails for horses. Others mentioned accepting the importance of horses in the area's history, developing an equestrian user bed and breakfast, and using horses for plowing.

### **General Development:**

Eight commenters addressed development at Port Oneida. Overall, most commenters wanted developments in Port Oneida to be minimal, only as necessary to adequately portray historical activities in the area. Some suggestions included erecting farm signs, restoring the interior of one farmhouse, replacing building parts only when necessary, erecting a vault toilet at the Bay View trailhead parking area, and reconstructing lost buildings when needed.

### **Visitor Activities and Use:**

Four commenters addressed visitor activities and use. Comments included interpreting field clearing activities, interpreting ruins (including physically identifying the locations of non-extant farms with corner posts), and providing more maps, brochures, and kiosks. A number of commenters were concerned with overuse in the future.

### **Vegetation Management:**

Eight commenters addressed vegetation management. Some commenters did not want to see any more trees removed, even if they were non-native or invasive, such as black locust. Others favored vegetation removal to restore the historic scene. One commenter mentioned concern about the impacts on maples in the highway right-of-way from road salt. Another commenter expressed concern about conifer row removals, citing problems with soil erosion, snow buildup, and loss of wildlife habitat. One commenter suggested removing vegetation at Port Oneida Village and Dock, especially poison ivy. Another suggested no herbicide use. Most commenters favored removing invasive plants, such as knapweed, but some, including the Grand Traverse Tribe, were concerned that the introduction of non-native species was being considered instead of native plant species. A few commenters mentioned the need to retain heirloom fruits, restore and prune orchards, and restore gardens.

## **Prescribed Fire:**

Two commenters addressed prescribed fire use. One commenter wanted to see the wood piles chipped rather than burned. Another commenter disagreed with the impacts of prescribed fire, stating that impacts are local and short-term, and the vegetation rebounds very quickly.

## **Other Comments:**

In general, commenters were in favor of the preferred alternative. However, a number of them expressed the need for more detail in the plan, especially related to:

- crop rotations
- fenceline investigations
- buildings slated for preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration
- specifics on removal of black locust and poison ivy
- a field mowing plan

A number of other comments were provided:

- questions impacts on grassland birds
- supports use of other photos to supplement the 1938 photos used in the plan
- suggestions for specific field changes
- more user-friendly process for adaptive uses
- be proactive with inholders
- how the active agriculture sizes were determined and reconsideration of sizes
- proceed with National Register of Historic Places nomination, use the Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear Port Oneida Interpretive Model
- bring back life to the farms
- air quality concerns associated with The Homestead wastewater spray field
- other fields to consider
- loss of viewsheds
- Kelderhouse farmhouse-one room dedicated to the Kelderhouse family history

## **General Response to Comments:**

A number of comments, particularly relating to development of trails and permitted uses, are beyond the scope of this Plan/EA. The main purposes of this Plan/EA are to identify and delineate field boundaries and to describe the “desired future condition” of those fields. The Plan/EA builds on decisions made in the *2008 Port Oneida Environmental Assessment* (2008 EA), the *2008 Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Trailway Plan/EA* (the “Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail”), and the *2009 General Management Plan/Wilderness Study/Environmental Impact Statement* (2009 GMP). The 2008 EA proposed a visitor contact station (Kelderhouse), employee housing (Goffar), additional small parking areas in the vicinity of the Eckhert and Ole Olsen Farms on Basch Road and at the Carsten Burfiend Farm on Port Oneida Road, roadside pull-offs, landscape stabilization, and trail development. Trail development was envisioned as a mowed or soft-surfaced hiking trail connecting the Kelderhouse Farm with the Martin Basch Farm and the Carsten Burfiend Farm, and connecting with other existing hiking trails. The Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail was also considered in preparation of this Plan/EA. Specific details on the route location and the trail surface will be determined during the design stage for trail segments 7 and 8, which include Port Oneida.

Some commenters suggested reconstructing lost buildings. As stated on page 2-2 of the Plan/EA, "Reconstruction is not an appropriate treatment for the historic landscape resources associated with Port Oneida because the primary spatial pattern and built resources remain, and there is no need to replicate its appearance at a specific point in history." Others wished to have buildings slated for preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration identified in the document. Although some buildings have been identified for future uses, e.g., Kelderhouse as an unstaffed visitor contact station and Goffar as park housing, the plan only provides a range of appropriate treatment levels for most buildings, since future uses of these buildings are unknown.

Some commenters wanted more detail in the Plan/EA. Mowing plans, agricultural activities, and details on specific vegetation management activities will be determined in annual work plans, which will provide detailed implementation guidance (page 2-12). An additional mitigation measure generally addressing agricultural methods has been included. Should any proposed activities fall outside this management plan, additional environmental compliance and associated public input may be required.

One commenter questioned why only the 1938 aerial photos were used to determine field boundaries. The 1938 aerial photos were used as a general guide to determine the historic location of field edges and cultivated fields, since they offered the only *comprehensive* evidence of conditions dating to a time within Port Oneida's period of significance (1870-1945) (page 2-5).

Some commenters suggested changes to field boundaries and offered additional fields to be considered. Minor modifications to these boundaries are possible, as new information becomes available, provided the changes do not result in major changes to the overall plan. Fields not specifically addressed in this plan will revert to mature forest (Old Field Succession), as noted on page 2-5. Only fields within the boundary of the Port Oneida Rural Historic District were considered in this plan.

Some commenters asked how areas of Active Agriculture were determined and if a potential future partner needed additional acreage could the boundaries be adjusted. Areas of Active Agriculture were determined based on proximity to roads, trails, viewsheds, and farmsteads, and in areas with good soils. As stated on page 2-11 of the Plan/EA, "The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Leelanau Conservation District, and other specialists may be consulted to determine the best areas to develop specific crops based on soil type, drainage, economic, and other factors." As mentioned on page 2-12, these are general recommendations, and provide a preferred starting point for any specific proposals for active agriculture. Specific areas will be described in annual work plans.

A few commenters expressed concern that the Old Field Succession desired future condition would eliminate some of the better viewsheds in Port Oneida, specifically from the Bayview Trail in the Thoreson Road Plateau (Field #2). Important viewsheds would be maintained regardless of the surrounding desired future condition. Some examples, in addition to those mentioned above, include the Bayview Trail overlook, above the Miller Barn in Field #7, and the views from Baker Road in Field #10.

Some commenters noted that the plan's description of fence lines (in Section 2.2.3) is incomplete. Historic fence lines will be maintained in the fields, and as new fence lines are discovered, they will be documented and maintained per the general recommendations in Appendix B-3 (page 3).