



Project Background

- In May 1998, Bluewater Network filed a petition urging NPS to prohibit PWC use throughout the national park system. In response to the petition, NPS published a service-wide regulation that prohibited PWC use in all but 21 parks.
- Bluewater Network sued NPS for allowing PWC use to continue at these park units. In response to the suit, NPS and the environmental group negotiated a settlement agreement stating that each of the parks desiring to continue long-term PWC use must issue a park-specific special regulation by 2002. The settlement agreement also stipulated that the special regulations must be based on appropriate environmental analysis under NEPA.
- In 2002, Pictured Rocks was closed to PWC use until the park could develop a park-specific regulation.
- In 2005 NPS completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) and issued a special regulation to allow PWC use at Pictured Rocks. The special regulation allowed for the limited use of PWCs on Lake Superior between the park's western boundary near Sand Point, to the east end of Miners Beach.
- In 2008, environmental groups filed a lawsuit challenging the validity of the NPS' EA.
- In July 2010, the U.S. District Court concluded that the NPS NEPA analysis was inadequate. The court allowed PWC use to continue at Pictured Rocks under the existing regulation, but required the NPS to initiate a new planning process to address the court's concerns with the NEPA analysis.
- Fall 2012 – NPS initiated a planning process that will produce a new analysis of the environmental consequences of PWC use at Pictured Rocks.

