

Potential Issues

Park Resource	Potential Issues
Water Quality	PWC engines can discharge gas and oil emissions directly into the water, resulting in potential impacts to water quality.
Air Quality	PWC engines emit hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxide, and carbon monoxide which are known to impact air quality.
Soundscapes	Noise from PWCs can negatively impact the experience of park visitors, especially those desiring a more natural or serene experience.
Wildlife	PWC movement and noise can disturb wildlife, especially waterfowl and shorebirds, potentially impacting reproductive success of these species. PWCs can also contribute to the spread of exotic species, such as the quagga mussel.
Special Status Species	The park’s shoreline provides important habitat for sensitive species including piping plovers, peregrine falcons, bald eagle, osprey, merlins, and loons. These species may be disturbed by PWCs in the same way as described above for wildlife.
Visitor Conflicts and Safety	PWCs operate in areas that are currently used by swimmers, kayakers, commercial cruises, and other boaters. Increased park use could result in overcrowding in popular areas, increasing the potential for visitor conflicts and safety concerns.
Backcountry and Wilderness	Park visitors’ backcountry and wilderness experience could be negatively affected by noise from PWC use adjacent to backcountry and designated Wilderness areas in the park.
Park Operations	Managing PWC use may impact park operations by requiring additional staff and funding for law enforcement, resource protection, and visitor education and outreach.
Cultural Resources	PWC use has the potential to impact cultural resources at the park such as underwater shipwrecks, the Au Sable lighthouse cultural landscape, and Native American sites and resources.

