



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
9922 Front St. (Hwy M-72)
Empire, Michigan 49630-9797

IN REPLY REFER TO:

April 15, 2013

1.A.(SLBE)

Dear Friends:

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (National Lakeshore) proposes to develop a trail system ("Kettles Trail") on federal lands in the Bow Lakes area of the National Lakeshore. The Bow Lakes area is a detached section of the National Lakeshore, created when a 1982 amendment of the National Lakeshore's enabling legislation authorized a boundary revision adding it to the park. There are currently no developments in this area (see enclosed project location map).

The 2009 *Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Final General Management Plan/Wilderness Study/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/WS/EIS)* proposed a small parking area and a loop hiking trail to facilitate visitor use (including nature observation and backcountry hiking on NPS-owned lands). Development of these facilities would fulfill the intent of the GMP and would provide opportunities that do not currently exist in this area. The objectives of the project are to provide: 1) user facilities that meet the public need and are within the capacity of the National Park Service to maintain, 2) facilities that are sensitive to, and protect, the natural features of this area, 3) facilities that respect adjacent private property, 4) interpretation of natural features, and 5) research and educational opportunities.

The concept is to develop a trail system for hiking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, a small parking area, adequate signing, and interpretive information.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) of this project will be prepared and, as part of this planning process, we welcome your ideas and input regarding issues or concerns relevant to you. We are especially interested in things you would like us to consider as we plan the project. Please provide your comments electronically through a link on the National Lakeshore's website at www.nps.gov/slbe. Comments may also be mailed to the National Lakeshore (Superintendent, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, 9922 Front Street, Empire, Michigan 49630).

We request that you provide your comments to us by May 20, 2013. The comments you submit during this "scoping" phase of planning will be evaluated and considered during the development of alternatives and analysis of impacts. The EA is scheduled for release in late summer and will then be made available for further public review. At that time, we will again solicit your input.

If you have any questions on this project, please call us at (231) 326-5134.

Sincerely,

Dusty Shultz
Superintendent

Enclosure