



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:

August 29, 2013

1.A.(SLBE)

Dear Friends:

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (National Lakeshore) proposes to restore, as much as practicable, the hydrologic connection between the Mill Pond and Little Glen Lake (see enclosed project location maps). Circulation between the Mill Pond and Little Glen Lake used to occur via a small stream and wetland complex; however, the stream and wetland were replaced with a culvert when the roadway was built. The remaining wetland to the east side of State Highway M-109 (M-109) was filled during the 1960s or 1970s.

The Mill Pond is now connected to Little Glen Lake under M-109 by 90 feet of 36-inch culvert. This culvert becomes blocked by mud, weeds and debris, and little to no circulation occurs between the Mill Pond and Little Glen Lake. The water that does flow from the Mill Pond under the roadway passes through a 130-foot long channel to reach Little Glen Lake.

The Mill Pond and the land immediately north and south of the connecting channel is within the boundary of the National Lakeshore and the proposed project is confined to lands within the boundary of the National Lakeshore. National Lakeshore facilities in the general area of the project include Glen Haven and the Glen Lake Picnic area, located along M-109 north of the culvert, and the Dune Climb located south of the culvert.

Preliminary Draft Alternatives have been developed for public review and comment. These include the following:

Alternative A - Installation of a new replacement structure under M-109 and dredging an access channel from the existing channel. The replacement structure could be a clear span bridge, a bottomless arch culvert or a box culvert.

Alternative B - Adds to Alternative A, reconstruction of approximately one acre of wetland on the west side (or Mill Pond side) of M-109 and approximately one acre of wetland on the east side (Little Glen Lake side) of M-109.

Alternative C - Adds to Alternative A, reconstruction of approximately one acre of wetland only on the east side of M-109.

Alternative D - Adds to Alternative A, reconstruction of approximately one acre of wetland only on the west side of M-109.

Alternative E - This alternative is the "no action" alternative in which no action is taken to restore the hydrologic connectivity between Little Glen Lake and the Mill Pond.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) of this project will be prepared and, as part of this planning process, we welcome your ideas and input regarding these preliminary alternatives and any issues or concerns relevant to you. We are especially interested in items you would like us to consider as we plan the project. Please provide your comments electronically through the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website. The address for this project is <http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/slbemillpond>. A link to the PEPC site may also be found 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 September 30, 2013. The comments you submit during this "scoping" phase of planning will be evaluated and considered during the further development of alternatives and analysis of impacts. When the EA is released, the EA will be made available for further public review and comment. 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dusty Shultz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Dusty Shultz
Superintendent

Enclosures 2