

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior Apostle Islands National Lakeshore 415 Washington Ave. Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814

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Apostle Islands News Release

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Public Input Sought on Draft Harvestable Species Plan and Environmental Assessment

Public Review Period February 25-March 28, 2014

Public Meeting Park Headquarters, Bayfield March 18, 2014 4:00-6:00 pm

A Draft Harvestable Species Plan and Environmental Assessment (EA) has been developed for Apostle Islands National Lakeshore by an interagency planning team, including state and tribal representatives. This plan updates the Wildlife Management Plan for Harvestable Species for Apostle Islands National Lakeshore (2007). The purpose of the plan is to provide direction for managing harvestable species within Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Harvestable species includes wildlife that are legally huntable and trappable, as well as plant species that can be legally gathered by the general public or tribal members as part of their treaty reserved rights.

While hunting and trapping are not allowed in many parts of the National Park System, the legislation that created the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore permits hunting, fishing, and trapping in accordance with appropriate laws of Wisconsin and the United States. The Draft Harvestable Species Plan includes strategies that provide for the continuation of unique primitive harvest opportunities, while ensuring the long-term health of native plant and animal communities.

There is a public review period February 25 through March 28, 2014. The draft plan and background material can be found online at: <u>http://parkplanning.nps.gov/apis.</u> An executive summary for the plan and FAQs (frequently asked questions) are attached.

Submit your comments online at: <u>http://parkplanning.nps.gov/apis</u>

Or mail to: Chief, Planning and Resource Management, Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, 415 Washington Ave., Bayfield, Wisconsin 54814.

There will be a Public Open House at Park Headquarters in Bayfield on March 18, 2014. Park Headquarters is located at: 415 Washington Ave., Bayfield, Wisconsin. A brief presentation will be given at 5:00 pm. Background information will be provided and Park staff will be available to provide information and answer questions.

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