

The National Park Service is working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Commission, and the Bad River and Red Cliff Tribes to develop a Harvestable Wildlife Plan for the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore

⌘ **Why is a plan needed?**

- There has been recent colonization and rapid increases in populations of deer on islands that historically had few to no deer. Canada yew, an important component of these islands has been nearly eliminated from the mainland due to deer browsing; in the 1960's, deer explosions on various islands severely impacted Canada yew. The park needs to be able to allow hunting on islands where it is not currently permitted. Recreational hunting can help to maintain rare plant communities found on these islands.
- The park also needs a better way to obtain information on harvest and the amount of hunting and trapping occurring in the park.

⌘ **Is hunting and trapping currently allowed in Apostle Islands NL?**

Yes.

⌘ **Why is hunting and trapping allowed in a national park area?**

The legislation that created the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore mandates hunting, fishing, and trapping in accordance with the appropriate laws of Wisconsin and the United States.

⌘ **Are there different hunting and trapping seasons in Apostle Islands NL?**

- Yes, for deer hunting.
- The islands within the national lakeshore are designated as Deer Management Unit 79 by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- Deer hunting has been limited to a special muzzleloader hunt during the month of October on Oak and Basswood Islands since 1983 for deer. Sand Island has been open for muzzleloader hunting since 2004.
- The park has been open to hunting and trapping for other species consistent with current state regulations.

⌘ **Are there areas closed to hunting?**

- Yes, for public safety, hunting is not allowed within 100 yards of buildings, docks, campsites or other park facility.
- Hunting is only allowed on use and occupancy properties with permission of the lessees.
- Gull and Eagle Islands are closed to hunting to protect colonial birds.
- Hunting is not allowed during the main visitor season (currently from May 15-September 30).

⌘ **What species will be covered by the plan?**

- white-tailed deer
- black bear
- furbearers (e.g., otter, fisher, mink, beaver)
- small game
- waterfowl

⌘ **What happens next?**

- Comments related to hunting and trapping within Apostle Islands NL will be accepted through January 13, 2006.
- The Wildlife Management Team develops various management alternatives by species or group of species.
- A draft document is prepared that includes alternatives and an analysis of the potential impacts of each alternative.
- The draft document is made available for public review, with a public comment period of 30 days.
- Comments are considered and incorporated into the document, where appropriate.
- A determination is made as to whether or not this is a significant federal action. If it is not, then a finding of no significant impact is prepared and approved by the NPS's Midwest Regional Director. If it is considered a significant federal action, an Environmental Impact Statement is prepared.
- The plan is expected to be finalized and implemented by the fall of 2006.