



Purpose, Need, and Objectives

The purpose of preparing this Environmental Assessment (EA) is to evaluate PWC use in Lake Superior at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore to ensure the protection of park resources and values while offering a variety of visitor experiences consistent with the NPS Organic Act, the park's enabling legislation as amended, and the park's mission, purpose and significance as articulated in the park's 2004 General Management Plan (GMP). The NPS needs to take action at this time to address the inadequacies in the 2002 EA for PWC use at the park, as identified in the 2010 US District Court opinion.



The management objectives for this PWC EA are stated below:

- Evaluate whether PWC use is consistent with the national lakeshore's purposes and values as identified in the 2004
- Provide a variety of recreational opportunities that allow visitors to experience and appreciate natural and cultural resources, consistent with the purpose for which the national lakeshore was established
- Minimize adverse impacts to water and air quality
- Minimize adverse impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Provide protection of threatened, endangered, and other protected species and their habitats
- Protect cultural resources from adverse impacts
- Protect the wilderness character of the Beaver Basin Wilderness Area by providing outstanding opportunities for solitude and preserving natural conditions, including natural quiet
- Ensure the safety of all national lakeshore visitors and reduce the potential for conflicts between uses
- Minimize operational needs and costs associated with the management of PWC use