



General Management Plan/Wilderness Study

Dear Friends,

We are continuing work to develop a new General Management Plan/Wilderness Study (GMP/WS) for Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. This plan will outline the National Lakeshore's management direction for the next 15 to 20 years. We are now about half way through the process (see the Planning Timetable on the back page). Your input has been instrumental so far, and we certainly hope you will stay involved throughout the planning process, as we sincerely value your ideas and opinions. We have opened another public comment period through May 14, 2007 to gather more of your input.

This newsletter presents three preliminary alternatives that would revise the National Lakeshore's current overall management direction, as well as one alternative that calls for no action, or business as usual. These were developed using public input on concepts presented in Newsletter #3 and at the planning workshops in Traverse City in June 2006. The preliminary alternatives are more fully developed, and each presents a different approach to future park management. Using the four different preliminary alternatives presented in this newsletter, we would like you to help us develop a preferred alternative. We have enclosed a mail-back form for your comments, or you may comment online using the General Management Plan/Wilderness Study link on the National Lakeshore's homepage (www.nps.gov/slbe). We will also hold public meetings in May (see information in the box on this page) at which you can learn more about the alternatives and provide comments if you wish. Finally, you may choose to write to the planning team at the following address: Superintendent, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, 9922 Front Street, Empire, MI 49630.

We will use your responses to the ideas presented in this newsletter to help build the preferred alternative. The planning team considers all comments that are submitted; however, **comments received by May 14, 2007 will be most helpful for this next phase of the planning process – analyzing the environmental impacts, developing the preferred alternative, and preparing the draft GMP/WS and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).** Please visit the Sleeping Bear Dunes GMP/WS website for updates and additional information on the planning effort, or if you wish to participate in the National Lakeshore's new on-line forum devoted to the GMP/WS (see the links at www.nps.gov/slbe). Your ideas and opinions are important in shaping the future of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Thank you for your continued involvement.

Sincerely,

Dusty Shultz, Superintendent

Invitation to Public Meetings

Please join us on May 1, 2, or 3, 2007 for public meetings on the preliminary GMP/WS alternatives. For your convenience we have scheduled three identical meetings in Benzie, Leelanau, and Grand Traverse counties. Specific dates, times, and locations are listed in the table below. The meetings will begin with a brief open house, followed by a presentation of the alternatives, and an opportunity for comments and questions. If you are unable or prefer not to attend any of the three meetings, you can still ask questions of, or provide input to the planning team using the GMP/WS link on the Lakeshore's website (www.nps.gov/slbe), or comment using the enclosed form, or via letter or e-mail.

Tuesday May 1, 2007 6:00-8:30 PM	Platte River Elementary School 11434 Main Honor, MI 49640
Wednesday May 2, 2007 6:00-8:30 PM	Glen Arbor Township Hall 6394 W. Western Avenue Glen Arbor, MI 49636
Thursday May 3, 2007 5:30 – 8:00 PM	Traverse Area District Library 610 Woodmere Avenue Traverse City, MI 49686

distributed, with 16 to 24 percent of people supporting each concept. Many people made suggestions for how to modify one or more of the concepts. Most people understood that the alternative management concepts presented in Newsletter #3 were just initial ideas, and that details would be refined and explained during later planning steps. However, some people wanted more details, such as where specific zones would be applied to the National Lakeshore.

The majority of comments supported the Lakeshore-wide desired conditions as written. Some expressed concern over particular aspects of the desired conditions, or wanted to know more details about particular subjects.

Some people suggested factors that the NPS should consider when the time comes to develop a preferred alternative. These suggestions related to such topics as recreational considerations (access and needs of visitors), cost, degree of development vs. preservation, wilderness, public opinion, and Congress's intent for the National Lakeshore.

A full summary of public comment on Newsletter #3 is available on the General Management Plan/Wilderness Study website (see the link at www.nps.gov/slbe). The planning team appreciates the time and thoughtful contributions from those who commented. Your ideas and opinions have been considered, discussed, and many have been incorporated into the more defined alternatives you are about to see.

Management Zones

Management zones prescribe how different areas of the park would be managed to achieve a variety of resource conditions and visitor experiences. Each management zone specifies a particular combination of resource conditions, visitor opportunities, and appropriate development. As such, the zone descriptions give an indication of the management priorities for that zone. These preliminary alternatives (see pages 4 -11) propose different configurations of the management zones within the National Lakeshore.

The planning team originally developed five management zones for the National Lakeshore: high use visitor zone, experience history zone, recreation zone, natural zone, and administrative zone (see GMP Newsletter #3). After reviewing comments on Newsletter #3, the planning team revised the draft management zones. The "high use visitor zone" was renamed the "high use zone," the "natural zone" was renamed the "experience nature zone," and the administrative zone was incorporated into the other zones. Also, various aspects of the zones were clarified.

Summary of Comments on Newsletter #3

Newsletter #3 presented draft management zones, alternative management concepts, and Lakeshore-wide desired condition statements (see www.nps.gov/slbe). The planning team received nearly 200 comments from the public.

Over half of those who responded supported the draft management zones as written. Some people provided suggestions for renaming the zones, or how to improve them. For example, several people recommended that the National Park Service (NPS) specify which zone or zones would accommodate boat ramps or docks. Other people provided ideas on how to apply the management zones to particular areas of the National Lakeshore.

Many people expressed opinions about the alternative management concepts. While planning for national park units is not a voting process, it's worth noting that support for the alternative management concepts was fairly evenly

Management Zones

High Use Zone	Experience History Zone	Recreation Zone	Experience Nature Zone
Overview			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This zone provides for visitor orientation, education, and other structured activities (such as ranger-led tours). High numbers of visitors enjoy and learn about the National Lakeshore. This zone also supports the Lakeshore's main administrative and operational facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This zone is managed primarily to preserve historic structures and landscapes. Moderate to high numbers of visitors enjoy and learn about significant historic activities, buildings, and landscapes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This zone provides a wide range of recreational opportunities for moderate numbers of visitors. Lake Michigan beaches and the ¼ mile zone are included. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the wildest, most natural zone. Low numbers of visitors enjoy primitive recreation on foot or in non-motorized watercraft.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wilderness does not occur in this zone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wilderness does not occur in this zone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wilderness does not occur in this zone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wilderness may or may not occur in this zone.
Resource Condition			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This zone is characterized by high levels of recreational use in a modified natural environment. This developed zone may be located in previously disturbed areas or areas with relatively resilient resources that can be modified to support development with acceptable impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This zone is characterized by historic resources set within a natural environment. Protecting and preserving cultural resources is a very high priority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This zone's character is natural overall; alterations are designed to blend with the natural landscape. Protecting and preserving natural resources is a high priority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This zone's character is natural overall; alterations are minimal and designed to blend with the natural landscape. Protecting and preserving natural resources is a very high priority.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lakeshore intends to preserve and protect natural resources and processes to the greatest extent possible given available funds and park priorities. Natural resources may be modified to accommodate park operational facilities or high levels of visitor use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lakeshore intends to preserve and protect natural resources and processes to the greatest extent possible given available funds and park priorities. In keeping with the focus on cultural resources, natural resources in this zone may be modified to preserve, rehabilitate, or restore cultural resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lakeshore intends to preserve and protect natural resources and processes to the greatest extent possible given available funds and park priorities. Natural resources may be modified to provide for a variety of compatible recreational activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lakeshore intends to preserve and protect natural resources and processes to the greatest extent possible given available funds and park priorities. Natural resources may be modified only to provide safe visitor access, or to reduce resource impacts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lakeshore intends to preserve and protect all historic structures and cultural landscapes to the extent possible given available funds and park priorities. Treatments in this zone may range from preservation to rehabilitation (see notes) based on fundamental park resources, National Register significance, documentation, condition, interpretive value, and suitability for park operations. Cultural resources may be modified to accommodate park operational facilities or high levels of visitor use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lakeshore intends to preserve and protect all historic structures and cultural landscapes to the extent possible given available funds and park priorities. Treatments in this zone may range from preservation to restoration (see notes) based on fundamental park resources, National Register significance, documentation, condition, interpretive value, and suitability for park operations. Cultural resources may be modified only to provide safe visitor access, or to preserve them through adaptive use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lakeshore intends to preserve and protect all historic structures and cultural landscapes to the extent possible given available funds and park priorities. Treatments in this zone may range from "return to nature" to rehabilitation (see notes) based on fundamental park resources, National Register significance, documentation, condition, and suitability for park operations. Cultural resources may be modified to provide for a variety of compatible recreational activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lakeshore intends to preserve and protect all historic structures and cultural landscapes to the extent possible given available funds and park priorities. Treatments in this zone may range from "return to nature" to preservation (see notes) based on fundamental park resources, National Register significance, documentation, condition, and suitability for park operations. In keeping with the focus on natural resources, cultural resources in this zone may be modified to preserve or restore natural resources.
Visitor Opportunities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These easily accessed areas focus on a connection with and appreciation of special park resources. Visitors are offered a variety of opportunities for orientation, interpretation and education. Conveying park themes to visitors is a priority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The primary experience is visiting historic areas and learning about cultural history. Visitors are offered a variety of opportunities to understand and enjoy cultural resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally, the experience is rustic and there is a sense of being in a natural landscape. Visitors enjoy a wide range of recreational activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a sense of being in a primitive, natural landscape. Visitors enjoy natural surroundings on foot or in non-motorized watercraft.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common visitor activities may include viewing scenic vistas, taking short walks, picnicking, camping in developed campgrounds accessible by motor vehicles, swimming, boating, and attending interpretive programs. This zone is popular and well-suited for family recreation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common visitor activities may include sightseeing, guided walks, historic tours, educational programs, hiking, hunting, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and enjoyment of the cultural setting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common visitor activities may include scenic driving, hiking, backpacking, motorized and non-motorized boating, bicycling on roads and designated trails, hunting, fishing, horseback riding on designated trails, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, camping, beach-going, and swimming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common visitor activities may include hiking, non-motorized boating, backpacking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding on designated trails, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, beach-going and swimming, and backcountry camping.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self sufficiency and knowledge of outdoor skills are not necessary. Time commitment varies, depending on information or services desired. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self sufficiency and knowledge of outdoor skills are not necessary. The time commitment is typically one to two hours, but longer on the islands due to travel time from the mainland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self sufficiency and knowledge of outdoor skills are typically not necessary (except for backpacking and camping on the islands). The time commitment ranges from about 30 minutes to more than a day (for camping). On the islands, this zone requires a longer time commitment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically, the amount of time, outdoor skill, and self reliance needed is greater than for other zones. This is especially true on the islands.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High visitation levels are accommodated. Encounters with other visitors and Lakeshore staff are likely, especially around developed facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate to high visitation levels are accommodated. Encounters with other visitors and Lakeshore staff are likely, especially at points of interest. Encounters may be fewer in larger districts and open areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate visitation levels are accommodated. Encounters with other visitors and Lakeshore staff are likely at trailheads, points of interest, and river access sites. The number of encounters may be moderate along major trails and rivers. Solitude can usually be found if sought. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower visitation levels are accommodated. Encounters with other visitors and Lakeshore staff are generally few, although there may be pulses of visitor activity near trailheads and other entry points. Opportunities for solitude are plentiful.
Facilities and Commercial Services			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New and existing park roads and trails may be accommodated. State highway and county road rights-of-way may be in this zone. Developments may be used for visitor or administrative purposes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New and existing park roads and trails may be accommodated. State highway and county road rights-of-way may be in this zone. Developments include groupings of historic structures and related landscape elements such as orchards, fields, and cemeteries. Other developments are unobtrusive and fit with the cultural landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New and existing park roads and trails may be accommodated. County road rights-of-way may be in this zone. Developments are unobtrusive and fit in with the natural environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no active roads in this zone. However, county road rights-of-way that have not been developed, or that are being used as trail corridors may be in this zone. New and existing trails may be accommodated. Developments are limited to those necessary for protecting resources or for safety purposes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate kinds of facilities may include visitor centers, visitor contact stations, museums, roads, parking areas, trailheads and trails, developed campgrounds, surfaced walkways, picnic areas, restrooms, and Lake Michigan and inland lake boat ramps or docks. Appropriate kinds of operational facilities include administrative offices, employee housing, and maintenance areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate kinds of facilities may include visitor contact stations, roads, museums, parking areas, surfaced walkways, restrooms, trailheads and trails, and picnic areas. Appropriate kinds of operational facilities include administrative offices, employee housing, and maintenance areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate kinds of facilities may include roads, trailheads and trails, primitive or rustic campgrounds, parking areas, primitive toilets, picnic areas, inland water boat docks and launches, and information kiosks. Appropriate kinds of operational facilities include employee housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate kinds of facilities may include trails, backcountry campsites or campgrounds, primitive toilets, and special trail surfaces in localized areas (e.g., sand ladders to protect sensitive dunes, or raised planking to protect wet areas). There are no operational facilities in this zone.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate commercial services may include convenience concessions, shuttle services, boat rentals, and guided services, such as vehicle and bicycle tours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate commercial services may include limited convenience concessions, shuttle services, and guided services, such as vehicle and bicycle tours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate commercial services may include boat rentals, guided services such as hunting, fishing, hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate commercial services may include non-motorized boat rentals, and guided services such as hunting, fishing, horseback riding, and hiking.
User Capacity			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> User capacities are dictated by available space (e.g., campsites or parking). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> User capacity management is possible to preserve visitor enjoyment and/or integrity of cultural or natural resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> User capacity management is possible to preserve visitor enjoyment and/or to protect integrity of natural or cultural resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> User capacity management is possible to preserve visitor enjoyment and/or to protect integrity of natural or cultural resources.

Management Zone Notes:

- **Lake Michigan Beaches** – In alternatives A, B, and C, Lake Michigan beaches are within the recreation zone.
- **User Capacity** – See the section below titled “User Capacity” for more information about user capacity management.
- **Wilderness** – Wilderness is proposed only for portions of the experience nature zone, and only for areas that provide *outstanding* opportunities for naturalness, solitude, and primitive and unconfined recreation. Areas proposed for wilderness would be managed differently from the remainder of the experience nature zone primarily in that management activities to preserve natural and cultural resources, or to provide for visitor opportunities or safety, would be accomplished using “minimum tool” techniques. “Minimum tool” techniques are those that achieve the objective without unacceptably intruding on wilderness character and values.
- **Treatment of Cultural Resources** – Treatments (listed in order from least intensive to most intensive management) are: “return to nature”, preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration. The terms are defined as follows:

- **“Return to nature”** is the act or process of allowing an historic property to remain in place but without active measures to otherwise preserve it.
- **Preservation** is the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses on ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction.
- **Rehabilitation** is the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.
- **Restoration** is the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period.



The Preliminary Alternatives

In Newsletter #3, we presented four alternative management concepts: the no-action concept, the resource enjoyment concept, the recreation enjoyment concept, and the concentrated use concept. In response to comments, we have renamed the action alternatives using the letters A, B, and C. We have also more fully developed the alternative management concepts into preliminary alternatives, which are described and illustrated on the following pages. Alternative A grew out of the resource enjoyment concept, alternative B grew out of the recreation enjoyment concept, and alternative C grew out of the concentrated use concept.

The no-action (“business as usual”) alternative is a federal requirement that provides a baseline against which to compare the action alternatives. Alternatives A, B, and C would revise the National Lakeshore’s current overall management direction. The preliminary alternatives differ in terms of wilderness, the proportion and location of certain management zones, and other aspects. To determine how the county roads would be addressed in each alternative, the National Park Service consulted with the Benzie and Leelanau County road commissions.

The NPS preferred course of action—the preferred alternative—has not yet been identified. This alternative will be developed using the comments we receive on this newsletter as part of the analysis process. The preferred alternative could be similar to one of the preliminary alternatives or it could be a combination of ideas selected from the various alternatives. The preferred alternative will be included in the Draft General Management Plan/Wilderness Study/Environmental Impact Statement, which is scheduled to be distributed to the public in spring 2008.

Wilderness in the Alternatives

Each of the preliminary alternatives described in this newsletter includes a proposal for designating portions of the National Lakeshore as wilderness, as described by the 1964 *Wilderness Act*. On the preliminary alternative maps, proposed wilderness areas are identified by a diagonal cross-hatch pattern. In the no-action alternative the 1981 *Wilderness Recommendation* for the National Lakeshore would remain in place, and the NPS would continue to manage these lands consistent with maintaining their existing wilderness character as directed by Congress in the 1982 amendment to the National Lakeshore’s legislation.

Each of the preliminary alternatives (alternatives A, B, and C) has a different wilderness proposal. In each case, 1) the wilderness proposal only overlays portions of the experience nature zone, and 2) county roads with existing vehicle use are excluded from wilderness and would remain open to motor vehicles.

A variety of recreational uses, management actions, and even facilities are *allowed* in wilderness areas under the Wilderness Act, National Lakeshore legislation, and NPS policies. They include the following:

- Nonmechanized recreational uses (e.g., hiking, picnicking, camping, canoeing)

- Hunting and fishing
- Guided interpretive walks and onsite presentations
- Use of wheelchairs, service animals, and reasonable accommodations for the disabled (e.g., barrier free trails, accessible campsites)
- Trails, campsites, toilets, and signs necessary for visitor safety or to protect wilderness resources
- Emergency actions and equipment necessary to ensure life safety
- Fire management activities (including fire suppression)
- Preservation of historic properties
- Uses and facilities for landowners with valid existing rights in a wilderness area
- Scientific activities, research, and monitoring

The Wilderness Act also specifically *prohibits* certain uses and developments in wilderness areas:

- Permanent improvements or human habitation
- Structures (historic structures are excluded)
- Permanent and temporary roads
- Use of motor vehicles and motorized equipment (except for emergency purposes)
- Landing of aircraft (except for emergency purposes)
- Other forms of mechanical transport (e.g., bicycles)
- Commercial services (except for those that are necessary for recreational or other wilderness purposes of the area, such as guiding and outfitting)

User Capacity

General management plans for national park units, including national lakeshores, are required to address user capacity management. The National Park Service defines user capacity as the type and level of use that can be accommodated while sustaining the quality of park resources and visitor opportunities consistent with the purposes of the park.

Many comments from the public have expressed concerns related to use and capacity at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Examples include:

- crowding on the Platte River and potential for crowding on the Crystal River
- use-related impacts such as trampling of dunes, soil erosion, and degraded water quality
- concerns about being able to find a parking space
- concerns about opportunities to experience solitude

Management zones provide the foundation for user capacity management decisions by describing desired conditions for various areas of the National Lakeshore. Determining user capacity does not necessarily involve identifying a “magic number” for visitor use, nor does it necessarily imply use limits. Management actions are typically aimed at preventing unnecessary damage to resources, diminished visitor enjoyment, displacement of visitors, expensive repairs arising from use of an area, etc. Examples of management actions include providing information about low impact use; channeling use to hardened routes or sites; adding facilities (e.g., fire grates or privies) to contain impacts; redistributing use to less used areas or off-peak times; or, in extreme cases, reducing use levels.

No-Action Alternative

Overall Vision:

The no-action alternative primarily reflects current conditions and activities (a “snapshot in time”) at the Lakeshore. This alternative is provided as a baseline against which to compare the other management alternatives.

Management Zones:

Not applicable. (The management zones describe future management, which does not apply to existing conditions.)

Wilderness:

The existing wilderness proposal (30,903 acres total) would remain in place. As directed by Congress in 1982, the NPS would continue to manage lands proposed for wilderness in the *1981 Wilderness Recommendation* to maintain their existing wilderness character. Some county roads are within areas proposed for wilderness. Areas proposed for wilderness include the following (see map on facing page):

- North area of the mainland: most of the area north of M-22, including a portion of Port Oneida.
- Central area of the mainland: none.
- South area of the mainland: much of the area north and west of M-22.
- North Manitou Island: most of the island. The historic village is excluded; part of Cottage Row is included.
- South Manitou Island: most of the island. The lighthouse complex, historic village, and farm tour route are excluded.



Natural Resources:

Natural resource management programs would continue to emphasize protection of natural resources and processes, as outlined in the park-wide desired condition statements; see Newsletter #3. (Examples include controlling invasive species; restoring disturbed sites; protecting open dune areas; and protecting threatened and endangered species). These actions are not proposed as part of the GMP; that is, they would occur regardless of the GMP alternative.

Cultural Resources:

Efforts to preserve as many historic structures and landscapes as possible would continue given available funds and park priorities; management would depend on fundamental park resources, National Register significance, documentation, condition, interpretive value, and suitability for park operations. More information on individual areas is provided below:

- Glen Haven: Elements of the Glen Haven Historic District and cultural landscape would be preserved, restored or rehabilitated. Elements of the Sleeping Bear Point Life Saving Station would be preserved, restored or rehabilitated.
- Port Oneida: Historic structures and landscapes would be preserved, restored, or rehabilitated.
- North Manitou Island: The historic life saving station structures would be preserved, restored, or rehabilitated. Preservation and/or adaptive use of the rehabilitated historic former Manitou Island Association structures for administrative and operational purposes would continue. Historic structures on Cottage Row and elsewhere on the island would be preserved.
- South Manitou Island: The historic life saving station, lighthouse complex, schoolhouse, and village historic structures would be preserved, restored, or rehabilitated. Structures and landscapes elsewhere on the the island would be preserved.
- Other mainland historic structures and landscapes: Historic structures and landscapes range from preserved to rehabilitated.

Visitor Orientation, Interpretation and Education:

Visitor orientation services would continue at the NPS visitor center in Empire, at Glen Haven, and at the visitor contact station on South Manitou Island. Interpretation activities would continue throughout the Lakeshore, with special emphasis at the Dune Climb, the major campgrounds, Port Oneida, Glen Haven, and Sleeping Bear Point Maritime Museum. A variety

of interpretive and educational programs (e.g., guided hikes, summer and school programs, etc.) would continue. On South Manitou Island, concession-operated farm loop auto tours would continue. There would be no concession tours to the “giant cedars.”

Visitor Facilities, Opportunities, and Activities:

Opportunities to enjoy recreational activities would exist in a variety of settings.

- Roads: Roads would remain essentially the same as now.
- Trails: Trails would remain essentially the same as now.
- Campgrounds: campgrounds and camping would remain essentially the same as now.
- Lake Michigan Beach Access: Beach access points that are accessible to motor vehicles [Lake Michigan Road (Leelanau County), Glen Haven, North Bar Lake, Esch Beach, Peterson Road, Tiesma Road, and Lake Michigan Road (Platte River mouth)] would remain essentially the same. County Road 651 and 669 road ends would be upgraded.
- Lake Michigan Boat Access: Boat access to Lake Michigan would remain at the end of Lake Michigan Road, near the mouth of the Platte River.
- Inland Lake Use and Access: Motorized boats would continue to be allowed on School, Bass (Leelanau County), North Bar, and Loon lakes.
- Picnic Areas: Existing picnic areas would remain.
- Ferry Service: Ferry service for day and overnight stays on South Manitou Island and overnight stays on North Manitou Island would continue.
- Boat Access for River Use: Motorized and non-motorized watercraft use along the Platte and Crystal Rivers would continue.
- Dune Climb: The Dune Climb would remain essentially the same, but the parking area would be upgraded.
- Bicycle Use: Bicycle use would continue to be allowed on roads used by motor vehicles, but not on hiking trails.
- Hang Gliding: Hang gliding would continue to be allowed at designated sites within the Lakeshore.

Benzie Corridor:

The NPS would continue to purchase lands within the Benzie Corridor on a willing seller basis for future development of a scenic road. However, the road is not expected be built within the life of this plan.

Bow Lakes:

Nature observation and backcountry hiking on informal, undesignated trails would continue. The NPS would acquire properties within this area of the Lakeshore as they become available.



Alternative A

Overall Vision:

The Lakeshore is valued primarily for conservation of its natural resources.

Management Zones:

In this alternative there would be about 910 acres of the high use zone, 3,440 acres of the experience history zone, 13,450 acres of the recreation zone, and 51,300 acres of the experience nature zone (see map on facing page).

Wilderness:

About 33,600 acres located in various areas of the National Lakeshore would be proposed as wilderness. No developed county roads are within areas proposed for wilderness. Areas of proposed wilderness are:

- North area of the mainland: an area north of M-22 and east of Port Oneida, none in Port Oneida.
- Central area of the mainland: Sleeping Bear Plateau.
- South area of the mainland: much of the area north and west of M-22.
- North Manitou Island: most of the island. The historic village and cottage row would be excluded.
- South Manitou Island: most of the island. The lighthouse complex, historic village, and county roads on the farm tour and “giant cedars” routes would be excluded.

Natural Resources:

Based on the emphasis placed on natural resource conditions and experiences in this alternative, the experience nature zone would extend across most of the Lakeshore. Natural resource management programs that would occur regardless of the GMP are outlined in the park-wide desired condition statements (see Newsletter #3). Examples include controlling invasive species, restoring disturbed sites, protecting open dune areas, and protecting threatened and endangered species.

Cultural Resources:

Historic structures and landscapes would be managed as specified for the management zone in which they lie (see alternative map and zone descriptions). More information on individual areas is provided below:

- Glen Haven: Elements of the Glen Haven Historic District and cultural landscape would be preserved, restored or rehabilitated. Elements of the Sleeping Bear Point Life Saving Station would be preserved, restored or rehabilitated (same in all alternatives).
- Port Oneida: Historic structures and landscapes would be preserved, restored, or rehabilitated (same in all alternatives).
- North Manitou Island: The historic life saving station structures would be preserved, restored, or rehabilitated. Preservation and/or adaptive use of the rehabilitated historic former Manitou Island Association structures for administrative and operational purposes would continue. Historic structures and landscapes on Cottage Row and elsewhere on the island would be preserved or would return to nature if available funds do not allow for their preservation.
- South Manitou Island: The historic life saving station, lighthouse complex, and village historic structures would be preserved, rehabilitated, or restored. Historic structures and landscapes elsewhere on the island would be preserved or would return to nature if available funds do not allow for their preservation.
- Other mainland historic structures and landscapes: Historic structures and landscapes would be managed as specified for the management zone in which they lie (see alternative map and zone descriptions).

Visitor Orientation, Interpretation and Education:

Visitor orientation services would continue at the NPS visitor center in Empire, at Glen Haven, and at the visitor contact station on South Manitou Island. Interpretation activities would continue throughout the Lakeshore, with special emphasis at the Dune Climb, the major campgrounds, Port Oneida, Glen Haven, and Sleeping Bear Point Maritime Museum. Interpretive opportunities relating to natural resource interpretive themes would be emphasized. On South Manitou Island, concession-operated farm loop auto tours would end at the west end of Chicago Road. There would be no concession tours to the “giant cedars.”

Visitor Facilities, Opportunities, and Activities:

Opportunities for experiencing solitude and natural quiet would abound, and opportunities for recreational activities such as hiking, backpacking, fishing and hunting, paddling, cross-country skiing, and backcountry camping would be facilitated or expanded as described below:

- Roads: Roads would remain essentially the same as now, except that two NPS-owned roads located within the experience nature zone would be closed and returned to more natural conditions: the farm loop road off of Chicago Road on South Manitou Island and Tiesma Road on the mainland. All developed county roads would be zoned compatible with motor vehicle and bicycle use.
- Trails: Trails would remain the same, except for a few additions: (1) a hike/bike trail located primarily along M-22 and M-109 could be developed at the initiative of partners; a separate study would be needed to make certain that such a trail would have no significant impact, (2) a “bay-to-bay” trail for hikers and Lake Michigan paddlers would parallel the mainland shoreline within the Lakeshore; on land, this trail would make use of active beach areas or existing disturbed areas and corridors,



and (3) a short loop hiking trail (with trailhead parking area) would be provided at Bow Lakes.

- Campgrounds: Campgrounds and camping would remain essentially the same, except that (1) four or five small, primitive campgrounds would be constructed an easy day's hike or paddle apart along the Lake Michigan shoreline, for paddlers and hikers (see “trails” above), and (2) Valley View backcountry campground would be abandoned and the area returned to more natural conditions; a “replacement” campground for hikers and paddlers would be provided closer to the Lake Michigan shoreline (location to be determined).
- Lake Michigan Beach Access: The following beach access points that are accessible to motor vehicles would remain essentially the same: Lake Michigan Road (Leelanau County), Glen Haven, North Bar Lake, Esch Beach, Peterson Road, and Lake Michigan Road (Platte River mouth). Tiesma Road (NPS owned) would be closed. County Road 651 and 669 road ends would be upgraded.
- Lake Michigan Boat Access: Boat access to Lake Michigan would remain at the end of Lake Michigan Road, near the mouth of the Platte River (same as no action).
- Inland Lake Use and Access: Motorized boats would be allowed on School, Loon, and North Bar lakes. Motorized boats would no longer be allowed on Bass Lake (Leelanau County).
- Picnic Areas: Existing picnic areas would remain, except for Little Glen Lake picnic area, which would be restored to a natural state, in keeping with the experience nature zone.
- Ferry Service: Ferry service for day and overnight stays on South Manitou Island and overnight stays on North Manitou Island would continue (same as no action).
- Boat Access for River Use: Motorized and non-motorized watercraft use along the Platte and Crystal Rivers would continue (same as no action).
- Dune Climb: The Dune Climb would remain essentially the same, except that the parking area would be upgraded and social trails leading into Sleeping Bear Plateau would be rehabilitated and managed to limit resource damage.
- Bicycle Use: Bicycle use would continue to be allowed on roads used by motor vehicles and would be evaluated for expansion in zones that permit it (recreation, high use, experience history zones).
- Hang Gliding: Hang gliding would continue to be allowed at designated sites within the Lakeshore, although not at Empire Bluff.

Benzie Corridor:

The NPS would cease acquisition of lands within the Benzie Corridor. No scenic roadway or trail would be developed. The NPS would recommend that the Lakeshore's enabling legislation be amended to remove the Benzie corridor from the boundary.

Bow Lakes:

Nature observation and backcountry hiking would be facilitated by development of a small parking lot and short loop trail. The NPS would acquire properties within this area of the Lakeshore as they become available.

Alternative B

Overall Vision:

The Lakeshore is valued primarily for its recreational opportunities in scenic outdoor settings.

Management Zones:

In this alternative there would be about 2,610 acres of the high use zone, 3,470 acres of the experience history zone, 40,500 acres of the recreation zone, and 23,720 acres of the experience nature zone (see map on facing page).

Wilderness:

About 13,900 acres located on North Manitou Island would be proposed as wilderness. No county roads are within areas proposed for wilderness. Areas of proposed wilderness are:

- North area of the mainland: none.
- Central area of the mainland: none.
- South area of the mainland: none.
- North Manitou Island: most of the island. The historic village and Cottage Row would be excluded.
- South Manitou Island: none.

Natural Resources:

Based on the large extent of the recreation zone in this alternative, natural resources may be modified to provide for a variety of recreational activities. Natural resource management programs that would occur regardless of the GMP are outlined in the park-wide desired condition statements (see Newsletter #3). Examples include controlling invasive species, restoring disturbed sites, protecting open dune areas, and protecting threatened and endangered species.

Cultural Resources:

Historic structures and landscapes would be managed as specified for the management zone in which they lie (see alternative map and zone descriptions). More information on individual areas is provided below.

- Glen Haven: Elements of the Glen Haven Historic District and cultural landscape would be preserved, restored or rehabilitated. Elements of the Sleeping Bear Point Life Saving Station would be preserved, restored or rehabilitated (same in all alternatives).
- Port Oneida: Historic structures and landscapes would be preserved, restored, or rehabilitated (same in all alternatives).
- North Manitou Island: The historic life saving station and Cottage Row structures would be preserved, restored, or rehabilitated. Preservation and/or adaptive use of the rehabilitated historic former Manitou Island Association structures for administrative and operational purposes would continue. Historic structures and landscapes elsewhere on the island would be preserved or would return to nature if available funds do not allow for their preservation.
- South Manitou Island: The historic life saving station, lighthouse complex, and village historic structures would be preserved, rehabilitated, or restored. Historic structures and landscapes elsewhere on the island would be preserved, rehabilitated, or would return to nature if available funds do not allow for their preservation.
- Other mainland historic structures and landscapes: Historic structures and landscapes would be managed as specified for the management zone in which they lie (see alternative map and zone descriptions).

Visitor Orientation, Interpretation and Education:

Visitor orientation services would continue at the NPS visitor center in Empire, at Glen Haven, and at the visitor contact station on South Manitou Island. Interpretation activities would continue throughout the Lakeshore, with special emphasis at the Dune Climb, the major campgrounds, Port Oneida, Glen Haven, and Sleeping Bear Point Maritime Museum. On South Manitou Island, concession-operated farm loop auto tours would continue. Concession auto tours to the “giant cedars” would be considered.

Visitor Facilities, Opportunities, and Activities:

Opportunities for recreational activities would be expanded as described below:

- Roads: Roads would remain essentially the same as now, except that a new scenic road would eventually be built within the Benzie Corridor.

All county road rights-of-way would be zoned compatible with motor vehicle and bicycle use.

- Trails: Trails would be expanded in several areas of the National Lakeshore: (1) a hike/bike trail located primarily along M-22 and M-109 could be developed at the initiative of partners; a separate study would be needed to make certain that such a trail would have no significant impact, (2) a “bay-to-bay” trail for hikers and Lake Michigan paddlers would parallel the mainland shoreline within the Lakeshore; on land, this trail would make use of active beach areas or existing disturbed areas and corridors, and (3) a modest, multi-loop hiking trail system (with trailhead parking area) would be provided at Bow Lakes. Existing trails would be evaluated to see if a select few could be groomed for skiing in winter.
- Campgrounds: Campgrounds and camping would remain essentially the same, except that: (1) four or five small, primitive campgrounds would be constructed an easy day’s hike or paddle apart along the Lake Michigan shoreline, for paddlers and hikers (see “trails” above), (2) the D.H. Day group campground would be relocated to the main D.H. Day campground, and (3) on North Manitou Island, dispersed camping would no longer occur; instead, designated campgrounds would be provided (locations to be determined).
- Lake Michigan Beach Access: The following beach access points that are accessible to motor vehicles would remain essentially the same: Lake Michigan Road (Leelanau County), Glen Haven, North Bar Lake, and Tiesma Road. Parking at the ends of Peterson Road, County Roads 651 and 669, and Esch Road would be improved. The area around the mouth of the Platte River would be zoned high use and managed as a more developed beach access area (e.g., expanded parking and picnicking, comfort station, etc.).
- Lake Michigan Boat Access: A high use zone is located east of the mouth of the Platte River. The high use zone allows for boat ramps or docks for access to Lake Michigan, although no new boat ramps or docks are proposed by the NPS. A separate study would be needed to determine whether any such facilities would be appropriate for this area.
- Inland Lake Use and Access: Motorized boats would be allowed on School, Bass (Leelanau County), Loon, North Bar, Shell, and Tucker lakes. Access (parking areas, ramps or docks) would be improved at a few inland lakes (locations to be determined).
- Picnic Areas: Existing picnic areas would remain. A few of these areas would be upgraded.
- Ferry Service: Ferry service for day and overnight stays on South Manitou Island and overnight stays on North Manitou Island would continue. Day trips to North Manitou Island would be added, but these would occur once or twice a week, not daily.
- Boat Access for River Use: Motorized and non-motorized watercraft use along the Platte and Crystal Rivers would continue. The Crystal River access area would be upgraded or relocated and a small parking area would be provided.
- Dune Climb: The Dune Climb would remain essentially the same, except that parking area would be upgraded.
- Bicycle Use: Bicycle use would continue to be allowed on roads used by motor vehicles and would be evaluated for expansion in zones that permit it (recreation, high use, experience history zones). Bike rentals on South Manitou Island would be considered.
- Hang Gliding: Hang gliding would continue to be allowed at designated sites within the Lakeshore (same as no action).

Benzie Corridor:

The NPS would continue to purchase lands within the Benzie Corridor on a willing seller basis for future development of a scenic road.

Bow Lakes:

Nature observation and backcountry hiking would be facilitated by development of a modest, multi-loop trail system, which would link up with the nearby public school if possible, to facilitate use by students. The NPS would acquire properties within this area of the Lakeshore as they become available.



Alternative C

Overall Vision:

The Lakeshore is managed in such a way that most visitor use is concentrated in selected areas, with more natural, primitive conditions promoted in the rest of the Lakeshore.

Management Zones:

In this alternative there would be about 3,130 acres of the high use zone, 3,690 acres of the experience history zone, 17,640 acres of the recreation zone, and 46,350 acres of the experience nature zone (see map on facing page).

Wilderness:

About 23,200 acres, located in various areas of the National Lakeshore, would be proposed as wilderness. No developed county roads are within areas proposed for wilderness. Areas of proposed wilderness are:

- North area of the mainland: none.
- Central area of the mainland: Sleeping Bear Plateau.
- South area of the mainland: much of the area north of M-22.
- North Manitou Island: most of the island. The historic village and Cottage Row would be excluded.
- South Manitou Island: the northwestern two-thirds of the island. The lighthouse complex, historic village, farm tour route, Florence Lake, and “giant cedars” would be excluded.

Natural Resources:

Within the high use areas and experience history zones there would be less emphasis on managing the Lakeshore for natural conditions. Outside those areas, the Lakeshore would be managed for more natural conditions. Natural resource management programs that would occur regardless of the GMP are outlined in the park-wide desired condition statements (see Newsletter #3). Examples include controlling invasive species; restoring disturbed sites; protecting open dune areas; protecting threatened and endangered species.

Cultural Resources:

Historic structures and landscapes would be managed as specified for the management zone in which they lie (see alternative map and zone descriptions). More information on individual areas is provided below.

- Glen Haven: Elements of the Glen Haven Historic District and cultural landscape would be preserved, restored or rehabilitated. Elements of the Sleeping Bear Point Life Saving Station would be preserved, restored or rehabilitated (same in all alternatives).
- Port Oneida: Historic structures and landscapes would be preserved, restored, or rehabilitated (same in all alternatives).
- North Manitou Island: The historic life saving station and Cottage Row structures would be preserved, restored, or rehabilitated. Preservation and/or adaptive use of the rehabilitated historic former Manitou Island Association structures for administrative and operational purposes would continue. Historic structures and landscapes elsewhere on the island would be preserved or would return to nature if available funds do not allow for their preservation (same as alternative B).
- South Manitou Island: The historic life saving station, lighthouse complex, and village historic structures would be preserved, rehabilitated or restored. Farm loop historic structures and landscapes would be preserved, rehabilitated, or restored. Historic structures and landscapes elsewhere on the island would be preserved or would return to nature if available funds do not allow for their preservation.
- Other mainland historic structures and landscapes: Historic structures and landscapes would be managed as specified for the management zone in which they lie (see alternative map and zone descriptions).



Visitor Orientation, Interpretation and Education:

Visitor orientation services would continue at the NPS visitor center in Empire, at Glen Haven, and at the visitor contact station on South Manitou Island. Interpretation activities would continue throughout the Lakeshore, with special emphasis at the Dune Climb, the major campgrounds, Port Oneida, Glen Haven, and Sleeping Bear Point Maritime Museum. Educational and interpretive programs for visitors would be more structured (e.g., more guided programs) in the concentrated use areas. Outside the concentrated use areas, most interpretive opportunities would be self-guided. On South Manitou Island, concession-operated farm loop auto tours would continue. Concession auto tours to the “giant cedars” would be considered.

Visitor Facilities, Opportunities, and Activities:

Concentrated use areas would be managed for more developed facilities and guided recreational opportunities. Opportunities for recreational activities would be expanded as discussed below:

- Roads: Roads would remain essentially the same as now. All developed county roads would be zoned compatible with motor vehicle and bicycle use.
- Trails: Additional trails would be considered within the high use zone near Little Glen Lake to increase both recreational options and connectivity between park attractions. Other trail opportunities would be added: (1) a hike/bike trail located primarily along M-22 and M-109 could be developed at the initiative of partners; a separate study would be needed to make certain that such a trail would have no significant impact, (2) a “bay-to-bay” trail for hikers and Lake Michigan paddlers would parallel the mainland shoreline within the Lakeshore; on land, this trail would make use of active beach areas or existing disturbed areas and corridors, (3) a short loop hiking trail (with trailhead parking area) would be provided at Bow Lakes, and (4) a hike/bike trail would eventually be developed within the Benzie Corridor.
- Campgrounds: Campgrounds and camping would remain essentially the same, except that: (1) the D.H. Day group campground would be relocated to the main D.H. Day campground, (2) the D.H. Day campground would be zoned high use, allowing for improved facilities and/or campground expansion, and (3) on North Manitou Island, in addition to dispersed camping, additional designated campgrounds would be provided (locations to be determined).
- Lake Michigan Beach Access: The following beach access points that are accessible to motor vehicles would remain essentially the same: Lake Michigan Road (Leelanau County), Glen Haven, North Bar Lake, Peterson Road, and Tiesma Road. The areas around the ends of County Road 669, Esch Road, and the Platte River mouth would be zoned high use and managed as more developed beach access areas (e.g., expanded parking and picnicking, comfort station, etc.). The County Road 651 road end would be upgraded.
- Lake Michigan Boat Access: High use zones are located near the end of County Road 669, around the Platte River mouth, and near the end of Esch Road. The high use zone allows for boat ramps or docks for access to Lake Michigan, although no new boat ramps or docks are proposed by the NPS. Separate studies would be needed to determine whether any such facilities would be appropriate in these areas.
- Inland Lake Use and Access: Motorized boats would be allowed on School, Bass (Leelanau County), North Bar, and Loon Lakes. Access (parking areas, ramps or docks) would be improved at a few inland lakes (locations to be determined).
- Picnic Areas: Existing picnic areas would remain and the Glen Lake picnic area would be formalized and upgraded (including a comfort station) to facilitate beach and picnic use.
- Ferry Service: Ferry service for day and overnight stays on South Manitou Island and overnight stays on North Manitou Island would continue (same as no action)
- Boat Access for River Use: Motorized and non-motorized watercraft use along the Platte and Crystal Rivers would continue.
- Dune Climb: Facilities at the Dune Climb would be upgraded (e.g., parking paved, picnic table areas better defined, etc.) to support continued heavy use.
- Bicycle Use: Bicycle use would continue to be allowed on roads used by motor vehicles and would be evaluated for expansion in zones that permit it (recreation, high use, experience history zones).
- Hang Gliding: Hang gliding would continue to be allowed at designated sites within the Lakeshore (same as no action).

Benzie Corridor:

The NPS would continue to purchase lands within the Benzie Corridor on a willing seller basis for future development of a hike/bike (non-motorized) trail.

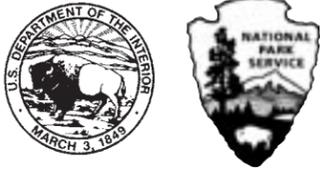
Bow Lakes:

Nature observation and backcountry hiking on informal, undesignated trails would continue. The NPS would acquire properties within this area of the Lakeshore as they become available (same as no action).

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**Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
 Michigan**
 Newsletter 4 • March 2007
 General Management Plan/Wilderness Study

National Park Service
 U.S. Department of the Interior



What's Next?

Our next step will be to review your comments on the preliminary alternatives. Using that information and an analysis of the probable impacts of the various alternatives, we will build a preferred alternative. The preferred alternative may turn out to be similar to one of the preliminary alternatives, or it may include elements from each of the preliminary alternatives.

The alternatives in this newsletter are referred to as "preliminary" because public comment may lead the planning team to decide not to include one or more of the preliminary alternatives in the draft General Management Plan/Wilderness Study/EIS document. The GMP alternatives that are ultimately carried forward into the draft GMP/WS/EIS are referred to as "draft alternatives," with one identified as "preferred." The draft GMP/WS/EIS is scheduled for publication in spring 2008, followed by public meetings and a wilderness public hearing.



Planning Timetable

	Planning Activity	Dates	Public Involvement Opportunities
1	Set the Stage for Planning: Review draft purpose and significance, determine issues and concerns.	February 14, 15 and March 2, 2006	150 persons attended three open houses to learn about the planning process and offered ideas about what the plan should address. Over 300 written comments were received and reviewed.
2	Develop Alternative Management Concepts: Identify a range of alternatives for the park's future and consider their effects.	June 20 and 21, 2006 Fall 2006	Nearly 70 people attended three workshops to help craft alternative management concepts. Additional written comments were received. Nearly 200 written comments were received on the management zones and management concepts.
3	Develop Preliminary Alternatives: Develop the management concepts into full preliminary alternatives. Consider different aspects of the preliminary alternatives before selecting or crafting a preferred alternative. → (We are at this stage.)	Spring 2007 to Summer 2007	Attend May public workshops or comment on the preliminary alternatives in other ways. Provide suggestions for a preferred alternative.
4	Select Preferred Alternative and Prepare Draft General Management Plan/Wilderness Study/Environmental Impact Statement: Prepare draft plan describing the management alternatives and impacts; distribute to the public.	Fall 2007 to Early Summer 2008	Provide written comments on the draft document. Attend public meetings/hearings and provide comments.
5	Revise and Prepare Final General Management Plan/Wilderness Study/Environmental Impact Statement: Analyze comments, prepare responses to comments, revise draft document, distribute to the public.	Summer 2008 to Fall 2008	
6	Implement the Approved Plan: Prepare and issue Record of Decision and implement the plan as funding allows.	Winter 2008-2009 and beyond	Stay involved throughout implementation of the approved plan. Let the park know what you think.