

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

Comprehensive River Management Plan

Listening Sessions
July 2023



What is the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway?

- Established in 1968 as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (WSR) and part of the National Park System (NPS).
- One of the original 8 WSRs – “First Wild and Scenic River National Park”
- Today, 255 miles of the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers are protected under the WSRA, and 230 are managed by the NPS.



What is the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway?

- Narrow ribbon of protection for 230 river miles of the St. Croix and Namekagon.
- Over 25,000 acres in fee-title ownership and 877 scenic easements.
- Two seasonal visitor centers in St. Croix Falls, WI and Trego, WI.
- NPS owns 50 of the approximately 70 landings along the Riverway. Free-of-charge and no reservations necessary.
- NPS provides approximately 150 primitive shoreline campsites. Free-of-charge and no reservations necessary.
- ~40 commercial use authorization holders.



Why was the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway created?

- Protect and enhance the river's free-flowing condition, exceptional water quality, and the “outstandingly remarkable values”
 - Aquatic
 - Cultural/historic
 - Geologic
 - Recreational
 - Riparian
 - Scenic/aesthetic



What is a comprehensive river management plan? Why do one?

- A process and plan to guide NPS actions and decisions that will impact the Riverway for the foreseeable future.
- The plan will include a strategy to address key issues while protecting and enhancing river values.
- Address requirements as Wild and Scenic River
- To hear from you!



What challenges are facing the Riverway? What will be in our plan?

- Protecting and enhancing the “river values” while providing for visitor use/experience in a changing watershed
- Natural and cultural resource protection
 - Water quality, invasive species, land management, etc.
 - NPS infrastructure and facilities
 - Landings, campsites and camping, trails, historic cabins, signage, visitor centers
- Visitor use/experience and recreation
 - Crowding, user conflicts, visitor behavior
 - Boating, fishing, hunting
- Commercial service guidance on new and emerging visitor uses



Project timeline and what's next?



We want to hear from you!

- Use the comment sheet in the room today
- Comment online at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/sacnriverplan>
- Send comments via US Mail
 - Send to: St. Croix National Scenic Riverway (Attn: Superintendent)
401 N. Hamilton Street
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024.



How to Comment Online

- Comment online at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/sacnriverplan>

The image displays three sequential screenshots of the National Park Service (NPS) website, illustrating the steps to comment online on the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Comprehensive River Management Plan.

Step 1: The first screenshot shows the NPS website's main navigation bar and a sidebar with 'PROJECT LINKS'. The 'Open For Comment (1)' link is highlighted in the sidebar, with an arrow pointing to it and the number '1' below.

Step 2: The second screenshot shows the 'Documents Open For Comment' page. The 'SACN Comprehensive River Management Plan Newsletter' is highlighted in the list of documents, with an arrow pointing to it and the number '2' below.

Step 3: The third screenshot shows the 'SACN Comprehensive River Management Plan Newsletter' document page. The 'Comment Now >' button is highlighted, with an arrow pointing to it and the number '3' below.



Listening Session

Questions and Discussion



Listening Session and Comment Options

- Break from large group
- Answer questions on a comment sheet and return today in-person
- Go to a station to ask questions or have a conversation
- Comment online or send comments via US Mail
 - <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/sacnriverplan>
 - St. Croix National Scenic Riverway (Attn: Superintendent)
401 N. Hamilton Street
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024



Questions

1. What experiences on the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers are most important to you?
2. What experiences do you want future river users to have when visiting the St. Croix or Namekagon Rivers?
3. What barriers interfere with your desired experience at the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway?
4. What could the National Park Service do to address these barriers?
5. What river-related issues/topics are most important to you and why?
6. What is the National Park Service doing well in managing the Riverway?



Thank you



Please contact Craig Hansen or Lisa Yager with questions.

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