



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Apostle Islands
National Lakeshore

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Apostle Islands News Release

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NPS Releases “Short Version” of Final Long-Term Plan for Apostle Islands

The National Park Service is pleased to announce the release of the “short version” of the *Final General Management Plan/Wilderness Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP)* for Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Apostle Islands Superintendent Bob Krumenaker explains, “This version of the GMP includes the heart of the almost 600 page plan and Environmental Impact Statement that was approved earlier this year – critical background information, the GMP alternative selected for implementation, and the Wilderness Management Plan. We’ve simply deleted the information about alternatives considered but not selected, the public comments and responses, and other text that isn’t essential to implementing the plan.” The full GMP will remain on the park’s website along with the short version.

The release of this final version of the GMP is the culmination of a great deal of time, effort, energy, and input from members of the public; American Indian tribes; other federal, state, and local agencies and community members; and the National Park Service (NPS). With the Regional Director’s signature on the *Record of Decision* and the publication of a *Notice of Availability* in the Federal Register (both available on the park’s web site at <http://www.nps.gov/apis/gmp.htm>), this concludes the planning process for the GMP.

The Apostle Islands National Lakeshore GMP generally continues the current management direction with some minor changes to increase the opportunity for more people to have an island experience. It provides for strong natural and cultural resource protection of this very special resource while at the same time providing for a diversity of appropriate recreational opportunities in and out of

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designated wilderness. The GMP also provides specific management direction for a number of important issues that arose early in the planning process, including the future of the light stations, life estates and expired use and occupancy properties, visitor centers, and the park's operational and administrative facilities on the mainland.

Krumenaker added, "The National Park Service values your interest in continuing to enjoy a meaningful connection with the Lakeshore, and we look forward to implementing this plan in the public interest with your support. As the life of this GMP is expected to be 15-20 years, we can expect budgets to ebb and flow during that period. The NPS will do our best to be true to the intent of the GMP, but it may be many years before some of the projects in the plan are funded and implemented. In some cases, there will be additional opportunities for civic engagement to refine the details while remaining consistent with the GMP direction."

Copies of the "short version" or the "full version" of the General Management Plan can be obtained at the park's headquarters in Bayfield or by contacting the park's Chief of Planning and Resource Management, Julie Van Stappen at 715-779-3398, extension 102, or at jvanstappen@nps.gov. Copies of both versions can also be downloaded from the park's website at www.nps.gov/apis/gmp.htm.

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