

**DRAFT (3/18/08)**  
**Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission**  
**Strategic Framework for Decision-making**

**MISSION**

The mission of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission is to work in partnership with the National Park Service and others within Keweenaw National Historical Park to preserve, protect, and interpret the natural and cultural resources relating to the Keweenaw Peninsula's copper-mining industry for the enjoyment and benefit of current and future generations.

**VISION**

In the vastness of Michigan's western Upper Peninsula is found the Keweenaw Peninsula, referred to fondly by many of its inhabitants as the "Copper Country." The 100-mile-long Keweenaw Peninsula follows a northeast-southwest course along the south shoreline of Lake Superior. Geologically it contains the roots of some very ancient and massive mountains, the Copper Range, which forms the spine of the Copper Country and runs its entire length.

The inspiring landscape and the interpretive potential of the Copper Country provide outstanding opportunities to observe and understand the multi-faceted archeological and historic record of copper mining, including prehistoric workings some 7,000 years ago and the modern era of copper mining which began in 1844 and continued into the 1990s. This mining activity took place often at an immense scale and in 1992 Congress envisioned a commensurately large partnership to commemorate it for future generations of Americans. This partnership known as Keweenaw National Historical Park, which includes the National Park Service, the KHNP Advisory Commission, local communities, public history organizations, businesses and interested citizens located across the Copper Country, will lead the preservation of this vast cultural landscape and develop its interpretive potential by:

- generating through education an awareness within the public and by stimulating their interest in and support for the preservation, protection, and enhancement of the heritage embodied in the historical, natural, and cultural resources associated with copper mining and its effects on the Copper Country in providing that copper to a developing American industrial society;
- preserving, interpreting, and promoting the historical, natural, cultural, educational, and recreational resources related to the scientific, engineering, industrial, and ethnic heritage of the copper-mining industry in the Copper Country for the benefit, education, and inspiration of present and future generations;
- engaging in a collaborative process with the National Park Service and other community stakeholders to enhance natural and cultural resource preservation, through its interpretation, management and public use in the Copper Country; and

- fostering a close working relationship with all levels of government, the private sector and local communities in the Copper Country to preserve the copper-mining heritage while strengthening future economic opportunities and the quality of life.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**Goal 1. Fulfilling its advisory role, the Commission will assist the NPS in preserving the cultural landscape and interpreting the stories of the Copper Country's rich heritage by *advising* the NPS through participation in the NPS planning process and by *assisting* the NPS in park operations technically, financially, and politically, and through property acquisition, where appropriate.**

### **Objectives:**

- Advise the NPS by contributing to the development and implementation of plans such as the General Management Plan, Scope of Collections Statement, Comprehensive Interpretive Plan, Resource Stewardship Plan, and Core Operations Plan.
- Advise the NPS by contributing to NPS planning efforts concerning visitor facilities, preservation programs, budget, oral history program, signage, facilities, and other broad or specific General Management Plan implementation programs.
- Maintain dialogue with the NPS Superintendent to keep abreast of mutual issues, activities, and problems and participate in NPS management team meetings and discussion groups, as appropriate to maintain this dialogue.
- Assist the NPS by providing political, technical, and financial assistance to the NPS and Park, and by working collaboratively to develop policies and programs related to the preservation of Park values.
- Assist the NPS and Park by partnering in the acquisition of property for the Park, as appropriate, and by transferring Commission acquisitions to appropriate agencies for continued preservation.

**Goal 2. The Commission will become a sustainable operating organization to carry out historical, educational, and cultural programs which enhance appreciation of the copper-related cultural resources in the Copper Country.**

### **Objectives:**

- Develop a reliable source of funding.
- Develop operating procedures for the Commission.
- Hire appropriate staff to administer the Commission and pursue other sources of funding.

- Establish an endowment with large lead donations to provide ongoing support for operations and financial assistance grants with less dependence on federal appropriations.
- Maintain a 501(c)3 organization to facilitate fundraising capability.
- Explore, pursue, and take advantage of opportunities for funding, including foundations, grants, individual donors, the NPS Centennial Challenge fund, and the National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation.

**Goal 3. The Commission in partnership with the NPS and the Park's Heritage Sites will foster the Keweenaw Heritage Sites Program so that it may become a consortium of fully sustainable sites that help the Park fulfill its mission of preserving the heritage and interpreting the story of the Keweenaw's copper-mining history.**

**Objectives:**

- Enhance communication with and among Heritage Sites, including the use of commissioners as liaisons to specific sites.
- Enhance capabilities and expertise of Heritage Sites through technical assistance and educational opportunities.
- Provide financial assistance to Heritage Sites towards preservation, interpretation, and visitor access.
- Facilitate meetings with and among Heritage Sites.
- Help manage the Heritage Sites program (and any related designation programs) as a partnership among the NPS, the Commission, and the Sites.
- Act as intermediary between the NPS and Heritage Sites outside of park boundaries for the purpose of furnishing financial and technical assistance.
- Lead collaborative planning, with the NPS, for interpretation and public programming.

**Goal 4. The Commission in collaboration with the Park, the Heritage Sites, and other entities will provide visitors a cohesive, accessible, engaging, and safe national park experience along the entire length of the Copper Country.**

**Objectives:**

- Enhance communication with and among additional partners (such as: Main Street Calumet, Copper Country Trails Scenic By-way Advisory Committee, National Summit of Mining Communities, local universities, state of Michigan,

local governments, as well as owners of other properties of significance to Keweenaw's copper story).

- Enhance capabilities and expertise of additional partners through technical assistance.
- Provide financial assistance to additional partners towards preservation, interpretation, and visitor access. Act as intermediary between the NPS and Sites outside of park boundaries for the purpose of furnishing financial and technical assistance.
- Help develop and implement preservation, interpretive, and visitor orientation strategies.
- Act as temporary steward of archival or object collections, as necessary, until partner organizations are capable of appropriate management and storage.
- Lead collaborative planning, with the NPS, for interpretation and public programming.

**Goal 5. The Commission will incorporate a historic preservation ethic and emphasize heritage awareness within its planning and implementation strategies, fostering the long-term protection of nationally and locally significant copper-mining resources across the Copper Country.**

**Objectives:**

- Create a “threatened buildings” program.
- Encourage compatible building design for new construction.
- Establish a fund for the acquisition of critical land parcels.
- Sponsor workshops promoting historic preservation techniques and the value of historic preservation and related ordinances in the economy and preservation of community character.
- Inventory resources related to copper mining, including mines, mills, smelters, transportation routes and facilities, and communities.
- Perform condition assessments of these resources related to copper mining and identify those of special significance for preservation and interpretation.
- Collaborate with all park partners on the development of a regional historic preservation plan.
- Develop a preservation and/or interpretation grant program.

- Assist homeowners in utilizing the state tax credit program for certified historic rehabilitations.
- Advocate for preservation of cultural landscape features and historic structures in the face of new development.
- Encourage and assist scholarship, publications, public presentations, exhibits, and other means of furthering the public understanding of the copper-mining history of the Keweenaw.
- Collaborate with park partners and schools to involve schoolchildren in understanding and preserving their heritage.
- Encourage and assist heritage celebrations such as festivals, ethnic gatherings, concerts, and other community activities that further an appreciation for the heritage of the Copper Country.