

You're Invited!

Your participation will help shape this environmental assessment.

Because of your interest in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, we are requesting your input for issues associated with rock revetment at Sand Point and preparation of the environmental assessment (EA).

The National Park Service (NPS) requests your participation in the project planning process to identify potential environmental impacts, issues, and concerns. The NPS would like to discuss the proposed project and gather your thoughts, ideas, or comments.

Open House

Wednesday, March 19, 2014

6 - 8 p.m.

Grand Marais Community Center
E21738 Brazel Street
Grand Marais, MI 49839

Thursday, March 20, 2014

6 - 8 p.m.

Alger County Heritage Center
1496 Washington Street
Munising, MI 49862

Open House Format

The public scoping meeting will consist of a formal presentation followed by an open house to provide opportunities for you to discuss any issues and concerns you may have with NPS staff.

Attendees may also submit comments in writing on forms available at the meeting, online, or via mail as described in this brochure.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
PO Box 40
Munising, MI 49862-0040

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
Michigan



National Environmental Policy Act Compliance for
Sand Point Rock Revetment Modification Project
Environmental Assessment

March 2014

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (lakeshore) became the nation's first national lakeshore, established in 1966 under Public Law 89-668, in part, "...to preserve for the benefit, inspiration, education, recreational use, and enjoyment of the public a significant portion of the diminishing shoreline of the U.S. and its related geographic and scientific features..."

Sand Point, a prominent coastal feature of the southwestern lakeshore, was modified in the early 1990s with the placement of approximately 650 linear feet of large rock rubble-mound revetment due to erosion resulting from unusually high water elevation in Lake Superior. The revetment was placed approximately 200 feet north of the lakeshore headquarters building.

In June 2011, the average revetment crest elevation was visually estimated to be about 8 feet above the water level and about 2 feet higher than the backshore area. The site had no dry beach at the revetment structure toe, but there was sand with cobbles and pebbles on the lakebed near the toe. On the west side of the revetment, major damage to the structure left the filter stone layer exposed. A 12-foot section of concrete walkway has failed due to shoreline erosion and loss of sub-base material. The middle portion of the revetment also showed signs of significant stone displacement, while the eastern portion was in relatively better condition with less stone displacement. Overall, the armor stone had experienced significant splitting and cracking, inadequate stone interlocking, and was of poor structural stability.

The evaluation of Sand Point also resulted in several conceptual designs to modify the rock riprap that would potentially repair and extend the site. In 2013, NPS staff determined that an environmental analysis should be conducted to determine a preferred alternative design for the site, including an alternative that would completely remove the rock riprap.



Park Headquarters, Sand Point

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Purpose and Need for Project and Scoping

Since rock revetment installation, there have been several changes to the sand spit feature at the end of Sand Point, the most observable being the loss of the exposed sand spit lake-ward, beyond riprap placement. Although water surface elevation has fluctuated greatly since the rock revetment was placed at Sand Point, the water level has not returned to the 1980s high.

There have been multiple large storms and opportunities for normal sand deposition to occur at Sand Point since the rock riprap installation, but there has not been re-establishment of a sand spit at the end of the point. Resulting speculation and scientific analyses indicate that the rock revetment has modified sediment routing and deposition dynamics at the end of Sand Point resulting in a near complete lack of sand deposition at the point, while forcing sand that would normally be deposited to be deposited in deeper water, well away from Sand Point.

Purpose of and Need for the Project

The purpose of taking action is to develop alternatives, to the extent possible, that allow natural shoreline processes while restoring or preserving the natural and cultural resources. This coastal restoration project is needed to reassess prior shoreline stabilization actions at Sand Point and determine and assess future management actions based on the best currently available scientific information.



Goals of this Scoping Process

Through this scoping process, the National Park Service intends to address the following:

- Engage a broad spectrum of the public and relevant agencies in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.
- Examine and discuss the rock revetment in place on Sand Point since the early 1990s, the effect on sand distribution and deposition, and management needs and perspective.
- Continue the good working relationship with NPS neighbors and visitors.



Questions to Consider

- What is important to you about Sand Point?
- What is the best way to balance resource protection and natural shoreline processes?
- What other concerns do you have about the Sand Point area and its resources?

The Planning Process

Scoping is the first step to inform and involve the public in the planning process. The National Park Service (NPS) is conducting scoping by holding public meetings and providing opportunities for individuals to ask questions and provide comment. The NPS uses your questions and comments to ensure the possible issues and concerns for this rock revetment project and management of resources are considered.

**Public Scoping /
Comment Analysis
Development of EA
Publish EA
Public Meeting(s)
Comment Analysis**

**March/April 2014
Begins Fall 2013
Winter 2014/2015
Winter 2014/2015
Winter 2015**

How to Comment

- Attend the public scoping meetings.
- Submit comments online at:
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/PIRO>
- Mail or fax comments to:

Sand Point EA
Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
PO Box 40
Munising, MI 49862-0040
Fax: 906.387.4025

In order for your comments to be the most useful in developing this EA, please submit them by **April 14, 2014**.

Before including your address, telephone number, e-mail address, or other personal information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment (including your personal identifying information) may be publicly available at any time. Comments submitted by individuals or organizations on behalf of other individuals or organizations will not be accepted.

Mailing List

To receive future updates on this project, please send an email to piro_sand_point_ea@nps.gov and include your name and email address. Public comments will not be accepted via email.

If you do not have an email address, please contact the park at 906-387-2607, ext. 201, to have your name placed on the mailing list.