



Camping Management Plan

St. Croix Falls/Taylor's Falls to Stillwater

The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway (Riverway) was established by Congress to protect and enhance its natural, scenic, and significant cultural resources, while accommodating a diverse range of recreational opportunities that do not detract from these resources.

Camping is one of the popular recreational activities on the Riverway. For generations, people have used the islands and shorelines of the Riverway for camping.

Above the hydroelectric dam at St. Croix Falls/Taylor's Falls campers must use designated campsites. Below the hydroelectric dam down to Stillwater the National Park Service (NPS) manages camping outside of the State Parks through established "camping zones:" 1) zones where camping is not allowed, 2) zones where open camping is allowed anywhere on NPS land, and 3) zones where camping is only allowed on islands.

Below the dam a number of unacceptable conditions related to camping use exist, including human body waste and toilet paper left strewn about on islands and shorelines; vegetation trampling, denuded areas, and erosion of islands and shorelines; damage to natural and cultural resources; and conflicts between campers and private landowners who own shoreline property.

These problems are not easily solved. For example, designated campsites above the hydroelectric dam are provided with a pit toilet, which by regulation is located 100 feet or more from the water. However, many of the islands used for camping below the hydro-electric dam are too narrow to place a pit toilet 100 feet from the water. In addition, many of these islands are subject to annual flooding which would flush the contents of a pit toilet into the river.

For generations, people have used the islands and shorelines of the Riverway for camping.

Developing a Camping Management Plan

The Cooperative Management Plan for this section of the Riverway, which was completed in 2001, indicates that the NPS will prepare a comprehensive camping management plan and develop a set of actions that will improve conditions on the islands and shorelines between the hydro-electric dam and Stillwater. The NPS is now embarking on that planning process. A logical, systematic process will be followed in preparing the camping management plan. The four key steps and the schedule are as follows:

Step 1: Collect data on camping use and identify camping issues (Summer – Fall 2003)

Step 2: Develop and evaluate alternative ways of addressing the issues (Fall 2003 – Winter 2004)

Step 3: Prepare and publish a draft plan and environmental document (Spring – Summer 2004)

Step 4: Select an alternative / Reach a decision (Fall 2004 – Winter 2005)

How You Can Participate

Your ideas and suggestions are important to us. At each step in the planning process, the NPS will ask for participation and input from the general public; from federal, tribal, state, and local governments; and from organizations.

With this newsletter, the NPS invites you to help identify camping-related issues on the Riverway between St. Croix Falls/Taylors Falls and Stillwater. The NPS is particularly interested in your suggestions for how to address these issues and insure a high quality visitor experience. Please take a moment to fill out and return the attached comment sheet.

You can also e-mail comments to:
Ms. Jill Medland
NPS Planning Team Coordinator
jill_medland@nps.gov

Updated camping management plan information will be placed on the Riverway's website periodically at http://www.nps.gov/sacn/management/planning_docs.html.

If you have any questions or comments at any time during the planning process, please write:

Superintendent
St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
P.O. Box 708
St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, 54024
Attention: Jill Medland

Or call Jill at 715-483-3284 Ext 609;
or send her an e-mail at jill_medland@nps.gov

What are your concerns?

We encourage you to write to us if you have thoughts or comments about what you have read in this newsletter. Please share your thoughts about camping related problems you have observed on the Riverway between St. Croix Falls/Taylors Falls and Stillwater. The NPS is especially interested in your ideas about how to solve these



problems.

Please detach this page, fold it in half so that the preprinted address to the NPS shown on the back is on the outside, tape it closed (no staples please), and put it in the mail. You may also drop it off at the St. Croix Visitor Center in St. Croix Falls or at the zebra mussel check station on the river underneath the High Bridge.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

For more information about St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, please contact the park staff at:

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
401 Hamilton Street
P.O. Box 708
St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin 54024

Phone
715-483-3284 x638

E-mail
SACN_interpretation@nps.gov
Web: www.nps.gov/sacn

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Thank you for your interest!

The National Park Service will establish an email list for this planning effort. If you want to be included on this list, please provide the information requested below:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
e-mail: _____

- I do not receive email, please put my name on a hardcopy mailing list.
- Remove my name from the mailing list.
- Please correct my address.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
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SUPERINTENDENT
ST. CROIX NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
401 HAMILTON STREET – P.O. BOX 708
ST. CROIX FALLS, WISCONSIN 54024
Attention: Jill Medland

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Fold Here

Fold Here

Carry Out Your Trash

The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway has a “carry in-carry out” policy— so bring trash bags and be prepared to carry out any trash you create.

With your help, the Riverway will stay clean. Remember:

- Bring your own trash bags.
- Don't bring glass beverage containers.
- Reduce trash by avoiding disposable materials.
- Recycle as much as possible.

