

# **Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore**

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## **WELCOME June 2006 Public Workshops for the General Management Plan/ Wilderness Study**

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## Workshop Objectives

- Provide your ideas about how Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore should be managed
- Aid the NPS in developing preliminary alternative concepts for management



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## What is a General Management Plan?

- the broadest level of decision-making for national parks
- required for all units in the national park system
- sets management direction for 20+ years

**GMP**

**Wilderness  
Study**



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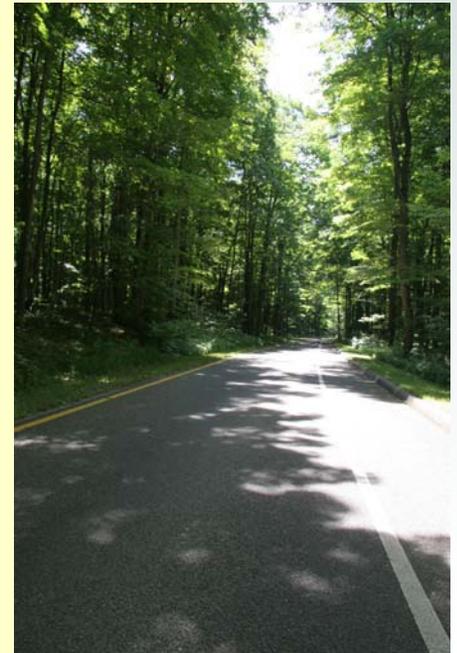
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## The General Management Plan Will:

- provide general direction and management philosophy
- identify desired future conditions for visitor experiences and natural and cultural resources
- identify general facility needs, functions, and locations



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## The General Management Plan Will (continued):

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- estimate costs and staffing needs
- satisfy statutory and NPS policy requirements



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## The General Management Plan Will Not:

- develop detailed design plans for specific areas
- guarantee funding for future actions or any proposed facilities
- resolve all park issues

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## What is a Wilderness Study?

- a formal analysis of which federal lands should be managed for wilderness values
- describes various alternatives for wilderness
- examines the effects of each alternative
- results in a wilderness proposal for some, none, or all of the lands considered

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## Categories of Wilderness in a Wilderness Proposal

1. Lands recommended for immediate wilderness designation (proposed wilderness)
2. Lands that do not qualify for immediate wilderness designation due to temporary incompatible conditions, but that could become wilderness when these conditions are removed (potential wilderness)

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## The Wilderness Act was passed by Congress in 1964:

- to “assure that an increasing population...does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States...leaving no lands...for preservation and protection in their natural condition...” Section 2(a)

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## The Wilderness Act (continued):

Wilderness areas

- "...shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired..."

Section 2(a)

- "...shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreation, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation and historic use." Section 4(b)

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Looking west from lighthouse at Lake Michigan

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## The Act defined Wilderness:

- "...an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man..." Section 2(c)
- "...an area of undeveloped Federal lands retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvement or human habitation..." Section 2(c)

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## The Act defined Wilderness:

- "...generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable..."

Section 2(c)

- "...has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation..."

Section 2(c)

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Flower at farm where we gathered berries

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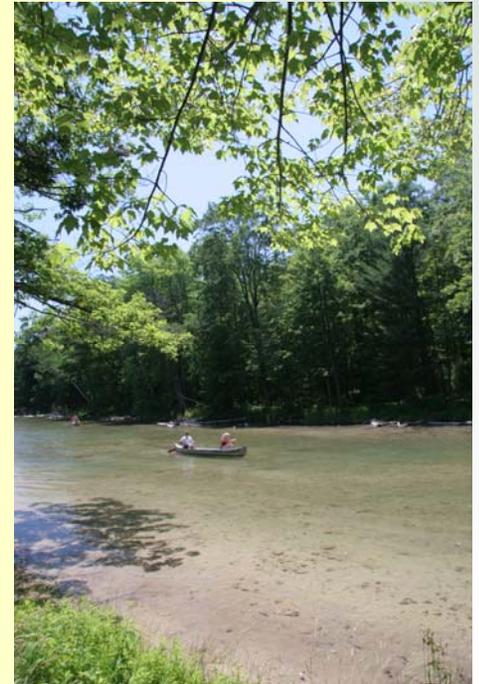
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## Implications of Wilderness

- Visitation - More than 12 million people access Wilderness each year to hike, camp, hunt, fish, cross-country ski, ride horses, raft rivers, canoe, take pictures, and for other recreational uses
- Wilderness does not: prevent access, require specific natural conditions, or supercede the area's original purpose



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## Implications of Wilderness

- Most recreational uses are allowed in Wilderness, except those needing mechanical transport or motorized equipment, such as cars and trucks, off-road vehicles, motorboats, bicycles, and snowmobiles (exceptions include wheel-chairs and emergency situations).

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## Wilderness Alternative Considerations

- In 1981, the NPS Director approved and forwarded the *1981 Wilderness Recommendation* (shown on wall maps for reference) to the Department of Interior
- In 1982 Congress passed a law that said these lands will be managed to maintain their existing wilderness character “until Congress determines otherwise”.



Source: Earth Systems Group

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## Other Factors to Consider:

- Some lands were proposed as potential wilderness in the 1981 Recommendation that have incompatible uses that are not temporary and may have no possibility of removal (county road rights-of-way).
- Some of these roads provide recreational access to large numbers of park visitors.

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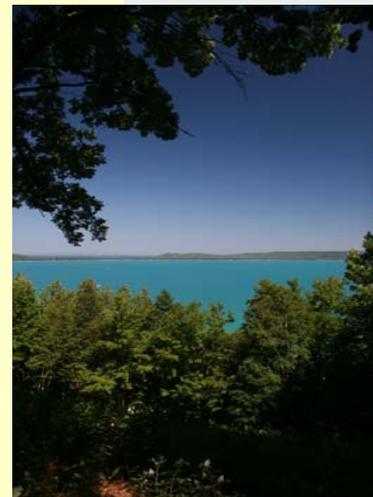
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## Other Factors to Consider:

- Some lands were recognized as having wilderness character, and are without incompatible uses, but were not included in the 1981 wilderness proposal (Sleeping Bear Plateau, north of the scenic drive)
- New lands have been added to the Lakeshore boundary since 1981, but were determined to lack wilderness character (Bow Lakes, Miller Hill, Crystal River)

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## The GMP/WS Planning Process will be Guided by:

- Lakeshore purpose, significance, and fundamental resources and values
- NPS legal and policy requirements
- Special mandates (requirements that are specific to the Lakeshore)
- Today's fiscal realities (NPS focus is on maintaining existing facilities)

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## National Lakeshore Purpose:

- preserve outstanding natural features, including forests, beaches, dune formations, and ancient glacial phenomena in their natural setting, and protect them from developments and uses that would destroy the scenic beauty and natural character of the area, for the benefit, inspiration, education, recreation, and enjoyment of the public.

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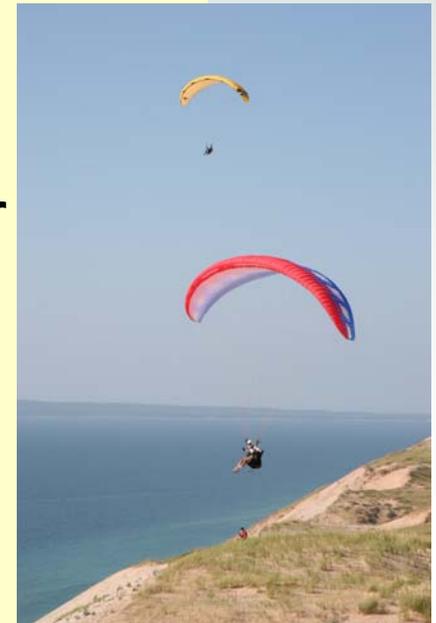
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## **National Lakeshore Significance:**

- contains features of continental glaciation (post glacial shoreline adjustment, ridge/swales, wind formed dunes, perched dunes, etc.)
- preserves outstanding scenic and publicly accessible resources that offer an exceptional range of recreational, educational, and inspirational opportunities



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## National Lakeshore Significance (continued):

- contains rare collection of historic landscapes—maritime, agricultural, and recreational
- includes special native plant and animal communities (northern hardwoods, coastal forests, dune communities, interdunal wetlands)



St Ignace lighthouse from the south

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## National Lakeshore Fundamental Resources and Values:

- systems, processes, features, visitor experiences, stories, scenes, etc. that are critical to achieving the Lakeshore purpose and maintaining its significance

(see handout and wall maps)



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## What the Public values about the Lakeshore:

Some of the more commonly  
mentioned values:

- beauty
- recreational opportunities
- beaches and dunes
- solitude and serenity
- trails
- accessibility
- native wildlife and plants
- wilderness

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## Other Issues that People Commented on in Response to GMP Newsletter 1:

- access
- wilderness
- conservation and preservation of natural and cultural resources
- development
- management of new areas and land acquisition
- operations and management
- visitor use

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## Planning Timetable

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	Planning Activity	Dates
1	Set the stage for planning	late 2005 – early 2006
2	Develop Preliminary Alternative Concepts	Spring 2006 to late Winter 2007
3	Refine Preliminary Alternatives	Spring 2007 to Summer 2007
4	Prepare Draft General Management Plan/ Wilderness Study/ EIS	Fall 2007 to Spring 2008
5	Revise Draft to Prepare Final General Management Plan/ Wilderness Study/ EIS	Summer 2008 to Fall 2008
6	Implement the Approved Plan	Winter 2008 and beyond



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## Three Steps or Tasks in Today's Workshop:

Step 1: individuals record ideas  
for managing the park

Step 2: small groups summarize  
and organize the ideas

Step 3: small groups report  
back; wrap-up

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## Step 1: Individuals Record Ideas

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Write down and post your ideas for managing the park at five stations around the room (45 minutes)



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## Step 2: Small Group Summaries

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Work in small groups to organize and summarize the ideas posted at each station into concepts or rough management ideas (1 hour)



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## Step 3: Report Out and Wrap Up

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Assemble back into large group; representatives from each group present their group's work

Wrap-up  
(30 minutes)



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## Let's Get Started...

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