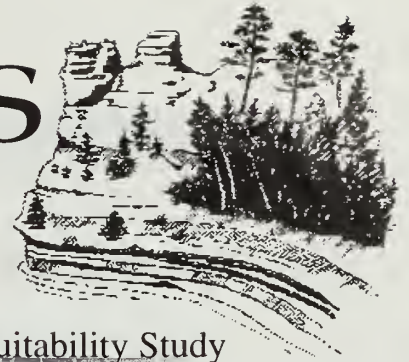


Pictured Rocks

National Lakeshore



Clemson University



3 1604 019 774 712

FEDERAL PUBLICATION
Issue 2 Lakeshore General Management Plan and Wilderness Suitability Study

November 1999

FIELD DOCUMENTS
DEPOSITORY ITEM

FEB 10 2000

CLEMSON
LIBRARY

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is developing a new general management plan (GMP). When completed, the GMP will guide the lakeshore's management policies and decisions for the next 20 years. We received over 300 responses to the first GMP newsletter released this summer from the general public, agencies, organizations, and park staff. Almost 100 people attended the five public open houses that were held in August and September in Novi, Grand Rapids, Grand Marias, and Marquette, Michigan and in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

We have been making progress on key steps in the general management planning process. As the result of public input, we have developed draft GMP "decision points", which represent the major questions the plan needs to answer. We will continue to refer to the decision points as we develop the general management plan. We have also developed a set of potential management prescriptions, which identify a range of ways to manage resources and provide for different experiences in the park.

A wilderness suitability study will be prepared and included as part of the general management plan. The wilderness suitability study will evaluate portions of the national lakeshore for possible designation as wilderness. If lands meet the criteria, a formal wilderness recommendation would be prepared after the general management plan is finalized.

We would like to hear your thoughts on these preliminary products. A response form has been included so you can provide us with your ideas. Please return the form by January 22, 2000. Your ideas can help shape the park's future. After we have received your comments we will re-examine the decision points and potential management prescriptions and modify them as necessary. The next step will be to develop management alternatives. These alternatives will be presented for your comment in the next newsletter and in public meetings scheduled for next Spring.

Thank you for your interest in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. We hope you'll continue to stay involved in the planning process.

Grant Petersen
Superintendent

2000-0118-P



WHAT WE HEARD FROM YOU

Purpose, Mission and Significance Statements

In our first newsletter, we asked for your comments on the purpose, mission, and significance statements for the park. Most responses expressed general agreement with the draft statements. Some suggested that certain purposes are more important than other purposes. Many suggested that preservation of resources be emphasized.

Some comments were “how to” suggestions or desired conditions. These will be saved and used later in the planning process. In a few cases, comments were considered but changes were not made because the essence of the comment was already implied, it is mandated by the agency’s mission or other laws, or the suggestion was contrary to the park’s enabling legislation. For example, some comments expressed dislike for economic utilization of resources within the inland buffer zone. However economic utilization (timber harvesting) in the inland buffer zone is mandated by the park’s enabling legislation.

We carefully considered all comments received and incorporated as many as possible into revised mission, purpose, and significance statements for the park. These revised statements (revisions indicated in *italics*) will be used to guide the next phase of the general management plan preparation.

Mission Statements

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is dedicated to:

- Preserving a nationally significant portion of the Great Lakes shoreline
- Allowing public access to its geologic, scientific, and historic features
- Offering opportunities for recreation, education, inspiration, and enjoyment

Revised Purpose Statements:

- Preserve a portion of the Great Lakes shoreline for its geographic, scientific, scenic, and historic features, *and its associated ecological processes*
- Provide opportunities for public benefit in recreation, education, enjoyment, and inspiration.
- Protect the character and use of the shoreline zone while allowing economic utilization of the inland buffer zone renewable resources.

Revised Significance statements:

- Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore *preserves and* affords public access to a spectacular and diverse segment of the Lake Superior shoreline.
 - Unmatched in their scenic value, the 200-foot high Pictured Rocks cliffs rise perpendicularly from Lake Superior, creating a *rock mosaic* of form, color and texture, enhanced by cascading waterfalls
 - *Grand Sable Dunes, perched atop 300-foot high sand banks above Lake Superior, are one of two perched dune systems on the Great Lakes; within these dunes are unique plant communities resulting from geomorphological processes.*
 - Twelve miles of unspoiled and undeveloped Lake Superior beach contrast the Pictured Rocks cliffs and Grand Sable Dunes
- Bedrock geology and glacial landforms create a tapestry of topography marked by streams, inland lakes, and a diversity of associated vegetation.
- The shoreline offers extraordinary and inspirational scenic vistas of Lake Superior, the largest body of fresh water on earth.

- Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore offers a variety of affordable year round recreational opportunities for appropriate public use.
- Within a distinct area, the lakeshore contains a spectrum of cultural resources focused on the human use of Lake Superior and its shoreline.
- Lying in a transition zone between boreal and eastern hardwood forest, the Lakeshore's scientifically recognized collection assemblage of flora and fauna is found nowhere else within the Lake Superior Basin
- Pictured Rocks is the only NPS area with a legislated buffer zone.

Issues—A Summary of Your Responses

Carrying Capacity: Most respondents felt either that current numbers of visitors were appropriate or that visitation should be limited or reduced.

Park Access, Circulation, Visitor Orientation: Some respondents wanted more park access in general; others wanted access to be restricted. Some people commented that access to the shoreline should be available at more locations. Accessibility for the elderly and handicapped to the shoreline and specific sites such as the Au Sable Lighthouse was an issue for many.

Many respondents expressed opposition to motorized recreational vehicles (all-terrain vehicles, personal watercraft, etc.), and other noise-producing activities in the park, particularly in the vicinity of the Lake Superior shoreline. Many people commented on noise-producing recreational activities or activities having the potential to negatively affect natural and cultural resources as well as their visitor experience.

Shoreline Zone and Inland Buffer Zone: Some people commented favorably on the existing legislated zones, but a few wanted the inland buffer zone to be eliminated. Respondents with residential or commercial interests in the inland buffer zone were concerned about their property rights and values as well as NPS restrictions on their property and activities. Others said that development and noise-producing activities should be restricted to the inland buffer zone or other areas so that portions of the lakeshore would permit a quieter, more natural experience. Restrictions on the extraction of sand and gravel from the inland buffer zone was a specific issue raised as was access by motorized vehicles to non-NPS properties.

County Road H-58: Some respondents wanted H-58 left as it is, but most wanted some level of improvements (gravel, paving, etc.). The majority of those wanting improvements favor a relatively narrow, two-lane, low-speed scenic park road with a forest canopy.

Wilderness: Many people expressed a desire for a wilder national lakeshore. A few respondents expressed opposition to formally designated wilderness, while many supported it. As stated in the letter on the first page, a wilderness suitability study is being prepared as a part of the general management plan. We invite you to give us comments on the scope of this study on the response form in this newsletter.

Defining the Lakeshore's Role as Part of the Larger Ecosystem: There were relatively few comments on this issue, but nearly all who responded believe that the National Park Service should cooperate with other federal, state, and local agencies, as well as private property owners in comprehensive ecosystem management.

Other issues: In addition to the above issues we received comments on other topics. We got comments both for and against land acquisition and enlarging the lakeshore. We received suggestions regarding visitor information and education, tour boats, hunting and fishing, research, and fire management.

Many people suggested solutions to the issues on our original list; these illustrate the wide range of options for future management. We will refer to these potential solutions again during the development of the management alternatives phase of the planning process. Others commented on park operations, such as trail maintenance, emergency response, and litter. The GMP will not address detailed operational issues, but your comments have been shared with appropriate park staff. Some have already been used in more detailed park operations discussions such as those offered relative to management of the lakeshore backcountry and those regarding lakeshore interpretation and information services. We do appreciate all your comments—they are a good indication of public concern for the national lakeshore.

WHAT HAS THE PLANNING TEAM BEEN DOING?

Decision Points

The planning team has developed preliminary decision points for the general management plan.

Decision points are the major questions the plan needs to answer to be successful and are used to help frame the plan's management alternative concepts. The concepts will explore different approaches to responding to the decision points. Once alternative concepts are developed, subsequent decisions are tested against the concept's rationale to ensure consistency in decision making.

To develop the decision points the planning team gathered the public, other agency, organization and park staff comments received to date, then sorted them into the following categories:

1. actions that can't be taken because they are inconsistent with law or policy or are beyond the scope of the plan
2. actions that must be taken because they are already mandated by law or policy
3. interests or concerns that have been raised through the public input process and are appropriately addressed at the general management plan level
4. actions that are more appropriately addressed by a more detailed implementation plan
5. comments that are not planning issues

This sorting process allowed the team to focus on the ideas and issues that are appropriate for a general management plan to address (category 3). The team then studied the category 3 comments, looking for places where people's visions for the park's future are substantially different. The "tension" or opposing viewpoints created by these differences are the questions the plan should answer: "Should the park be like this, or like that?" These questions may be answered differently by different stakeholders. (Later, the planning alternatives should reflect the range of people's viewpoints in answering these questions.)

The preliminary general management plan decision points are:

- 1** **Public lands in the Upper Peninsula provide a wide range of visitor opportunities and resource conditions. We need to define Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore's role and relationship with other public agencies within the Upper Peninsula. Some people want a relatively wild, remote place requiring physical effort to experience it while others want an easy, convenient place to visit. Others want some mix of these two. What mix of experiences and resource conditions should PIRO offer its visitors?**

Here are some of the opinions we heard on this topic during public scoping meetings and in response to newsletter 1. We included them here to illustrate the broad range of ideas concerning the future management of the national lakeshore.

- Make access less accessible by car—walking should be encouraged.
- Increase accessibility to remote middle section of park.
- Need a mix of easy access and wilderness.
- Increase the park’s access for year around use.
- Pave county road H-58, put in waysides, scenic turnouts and picnic sites as needed—keep it narrow, keep the hills, curves and trees.
- Limit support facilities to minimum.
- Park access should be non-motorized.
- Keep majority of park for wilderness experience.
- Preserve and conserve the park but let’s not go overboard. All that will do is make the park even more inaccessible to the average visitor.
- Keep the park a quiet place; keep it as a place to experience solitude.
- Need quiet zones in winter.
- More trails and more camping.
- Need more access to the beaches.
- The numbers of people are bound to increase, requiring accommodation.
- Preserve it first—respect the land by allowing only the lowest impact human use.
- OK to maintain county road H-58 and keep it graded; do not upgrade or pave it.
- Satisfied with the present balance between “easy” access and places that take more effort to get to.
- Need access for day users. How about doing something for visitors who can only spend a short time in the park?
- Overly easy access leads to destruction of resources.
- Park access should be easy.
- US Forest Service and National Park Service shared visitor center in Munising—is it meeting existing and projected needs. Does information provided do what it needs to do and does it provide value?
- When considering H-58, please include room for bicycles. Not just enough room to hug the lateral lines, but room enough to safely transit the route. This would be a perfect day trip for cyclists.

2 There is concern among those commenting regarding what activities and development might occur in the Congressionally defined inland buffer zone while still providing the intended protection for the lakeshore zone. What conditions for resource protection should exist in the inland buffer zone? How do we best manage congressionally authorized resource extraction, visitor activities, and development in the Inland Buffer Zone so that these conditions are met?

Here are some of the opinions we heard on this topic during public scoping meetings and in response to newsletter 1. We included them here to illustrate the broad range of ideas concerning the future management of the national lakeshore.

- Don’t tell private landowners in inland buffer zone what to do with their property.
- The buffer zone should serve as a Demonstration Project showing how limited resource extraction can be done consistent with habitat protection and enhancement.

- NPS should consider releasing the buffer zone properties from their control.
- There should be no additional restrictions on the use of land in the inland buffer zone.
- Motorized vehicles should be limited to existing improved road in buffer zone only.
- Buffer zone development should be controlled to exclude typical 7-11, McDonald's type construction.
- Concern about changes in logging that might be required; could change area economics.
- Don't change anything in terms of hunting and fishing in the inland buffer zone.
- Must protect equities of existing landowners.
- Concern about impact of logging on the land, could control by restricting method of logging.
- Limited use with no new commercial ventures.

Potential Management Prescriptions

One of the tools we use in park planning is **management prescriptions**. Management prescriptions identify how different areas of the park could be managed to achieve a variety of resource conditions and serve recreational needs. Each management prescription specifies particular physical, biological, social, and management conditions. Different actions would be taken by the National Park Service in different areas with regard to the types and levels of uses and facilities.

In a later step, during development of management alternatives, we will explore ways the management prescriptions could be applied to different locations or configurations on the ground in the park. These configurations could be similar or different from existing conditions. For now, however, we want to focus on the types of visitor experience opportunities, resource conditions, and facilities that might be made available in the park.

The planning team has developed seven potential management prescriptions that could be appropriate to various areas of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. In the table that follows, there are three columns for each management prescription that describe visitor experiences, resource condition or character, and appropriate activities and facilities. Ideas for the range of management prescriptions came from park visitors' responses to the first newsletter, public meetings, and park staff. As the planning team works with the alternatives we may find that some management prescriptions we thought would be useful will need to be modified or that new ones need to be developed. We may find a management prescription that sounded like a good idea really will not work and should be dropped. Please review the management prescriptions as we have described them and let us know if you believe changes are needed. Specific suggested text modifications would be especially helpful.



Au Sable Light Station

RESPONSE FORM

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

Lakeshore General Management Plan and Wilderness Suitability Study



Issue 2

November 1999

Please use this form to give us your ideas on the questions below for Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. It will help us consolidate your comments if you are as concise as possible. If you need more room for your comments, just enclose another sheet of paper with your response form. When you are finished, please fold on the line, tape closed, and mail. No postage is necessary.

Please mail your response by January 22, 2000. Thank you for your time and interest.

Read over the preliminary decision points. Do you agree that these are the major questions the general management plan should answer? If not, what's missing?

Read over the preliminary management prescriptions. Are there any elements in the preliminary management prescriptions that you particularly like or dislike? Are there any experiences or resource conditions that are missing? If so, please describe them.

Do you have any concerns or ideas you would like to share with the planning team concerning the wilderness suitability study that is being prepared as a part of the general management plan? Please keep in mind that before an area can be recommended to Congress for formal wilderness designation, it must be studied for both suitability and feasibility as prescribed in the Wilderness Act.

Do you want to remain on the mailing list? We will keep your name on the list unless you check the box below and include your mailing label or name and address. Also, if the mailing label is incorrect, please correct and attach it.

- Please remove my name from the mailing list. (Attach mailing label.)
- Please add me to the mailing list. My name and address are shown below.
- The name or address you have is incorrect. Please change it to the address shown below.(Attach corrected mailing label or include name and address below).

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Please fold the response form in half so that the Pictured Rocks Planning Team mailing address is visible, tape it (no staples please), and drop it in the mail. Thank you.



Fold here, tape and mail back.



Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
General Management Plan, Jan Harris
12795 West Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver CO 80225-9901

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

BUSINESS REPLY LABEL
FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 12651 WASHINGTON, D.C.



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service
Planning and Design Services, Jan Harris
12795 West Alameda Parkway
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

Potential Management Prescriptions

	Visitor Experience (what the visitor sees, feels, encounters)	Resource Conditions or Character	Appropriate Activities or Facilities (what is the visitor doing, what facilities may be appropriate)
Casual Recreation (land or water areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roadways and associated developments in this area would be used for touring the park, enjoying scenic overlooks, seeing natural and cultural landscapes, and gaining access to other park areas or activities. The visitor experience would be largely visual. Visitor attractions would be convenient and easily accessible The visitor experience would generally be dependent on an automobile, bicycle, or boat. Observing the natural environment would be important, but there would be little need for visitors to exert themselves, apply outdoor skills, or spend a long time in the area. There would be a good chance of encountering other visitors and NPS staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Though surroundings would be mostly natural in character, resources might be modified (e.g., paving or felling hazard trees) for essential visitor and park operational needs. A high level of management would be provided in these land or water areas to ensure resource protection and public safety (e.g., fences, law enforcement, and restrictions on visitor activities). Roads would generally be narrow or winding; in most forested areas the tree canopy would be closed, providing a sense of natural cover and enclosure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This experience would occur in a substantially developed area. Visitor activities would include short, relatively easy walks, beach strolling, casual driving or boating at generally slow speeds, and sightseeing with frequent stops. Facilities that support visitor touring would be present. Examples include roads (paved or unpaved), pullouts, overlooks, drive-in campgrounds, boat ramps, short trails, picnic areas, parking areas, and restrooms. Visitors could expect to find interpretive media such as waysides, bulletin boards, and interpretive tapes. Some trails and most facilities would be handicapped accessible in this area.-Roads may be unplowed in winter, but snowmobiling could occur on roads open to autos during the warmer seasons.
Pristine (land or water areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These areas would provide an independent, wild experience, with full immersion in the natural environment. There would be no facilities or trails. Little or no sign of humans would be evident. The environment would offer opportunities for solitude, challenge, adventure, and discovery. Outdoor skills would be needed. Evidence of visitor impacts would be minimal. Tolerance for noise would be very low. Other visitors or NPS staff would rarely be encountered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These areas would be the most natural of the management prescriptions, and could be located on either land or water. In general, natural processes would operate unimpaired. This prescription could include areas where low use is desirable to protect certain resources and areas of the park that are difficult to access or travel through. Management presence within the prescription would be minimal and subtle, but there could be restrictions on length of stay and limits on numbers of visitors to protect resources and maintain desired visitor experiences. NPS tolerance for resource modifications or degradation would be very low. Cultural resources in these areas would be allowed to molder or decay over time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No facilities would be appropriate in this zone, including trails and docks. Kayaking, cross-country hiking, and exploring would be the predominant visitor activities in these areas. Motorized activities, camping, and campfire building would not be permitted. Hunting and fishing would be allowed, consistent with the intent of this prescription. Research would be limited to non-manipulative activities. Management actions would be limited primarily to those that mimic missing natural processes (e.g., prescribed fire management).

Potential Management Prescriptions

	Visitor Experience (what the visitor sees, feels, encounters)	Resource Conditions or Character	Appropriate Activities or Facilities (what is the visitor doing, what facilities may be appropriate)
Primitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sense of immersion in nature would be important. • These areas would feel farther away from comforts and conveniences than all but the pristine prescription. • Opportunities for closeness to nature, tranquility, physical exertion, and the application of outdoor skills would be prevalent. • These areas would require a fairly long time commitment. • This prescription would provide ample opportunities for challenge and adventure. • Tolerance for noise, visual intrusions, and social interaction would be low. • Little contact with other visitors and NPS staff would be expected, except in campgrounds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The primitive zone could be applied to lightly used trail corridors and associated areas. • Natural processes and surroundings would predominate. • A relatively low level of management to support visitor activities and resource protection would be provided. • A few resource modifications could be evident, but they would harmonize with the natural environment. • NPS tolerance for resource degradation due to visitor use in this prescription would be very low. • Any facilities would avoid sensitive resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities would be limited to unsurfaced, primitive footpaths and backcountry (tent) campgrounds with minimal facilities. • Visitor activities would be non-motorized and would include hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, snowshoeing, and skiing. • Structures would be restricted to those present to protect resources (e.g., trail planking in wet areas).
Park Orientation/ Interpretation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These "first contact" areas would provide orientation for individuals and groups. • Visitors would get an overview of park opportunities, activities, and resources. • Park orientation and interpretation of primary park themes would be important elements of this experience. • The NPS goal for these areas would be to draw visitors into the park experience; the areas would serve as a catalyst for further park exploration. • Outdoor skills and physical exertion would not be needed and opportunities for challenge or adventure would be few. • The time commitment required would be short. • Interaction and encounters with other visitors and park staff would be common, but overcrowding would be avoided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings, facilities, and other signs of human activity would be fairly obvious, though there would be natural elements present. • Facilities would be designed to be compatible with their surroundings wherever possible. • These areas would be highly managed. • Resources would be modified for visitor and park operational needs. • Visitors and facilities would be intensively managed in these areas. • These areas could be located where primary park features can be viewed or experienced, provided the resources' integrity was not compromised. • Certain of these areas might emphasize cultural resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and support facilities such as roads, parking, paved walkways, restrooms, and overlooks could be present. (This prescription may have the most infrastructure of any of the visitor-oriented prescriptions). • Sightseeing, short walks, educational programs, and other organized NPS-led activities would be common in these areas. • Orientation and interpretation facilities such as visitor centers, contact stations, kiosks, wayside exhibits, and other interpretive media would be appropriate. • Facilities would be handicap accessible in this area. • Snowmobiling would be allowed on unplowed roads used by autos during the warmer seasons.

	<p>Visitor Experience (what the visitor sees, feels, encounters)</p>	<p>Resource Conditions or Character</p>	<p>Appropriate Activities or Facilities (what is the visitor doing, what facilities may be appropriate)</p>
<p>Cultural Emphasis (land areas)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The visitor experience emphasis would be on visiting and learning about cultural resources or sites in an in-depth manner. • The areas would be linked thematically to each other and to other sites outside the park. • Fairly structured visitor experiences would be available; activities such as NPS-led interpretive tours and programs would be provided, but self-guided opportunities would also be available. • Some areas would provide physical challenge and adventure, though this would not be a necessary element of the visitor experience. • An in-depth experience at these areas would require a moderate time commitment. • The probability of encountering other visitors and park staff would be moderate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scene would reflect human interaction with and adaptation to the natural environment. • These areas would be highly managed. For example, some areas would be paved or hardened to protect resources or focus visitor use and facilities and settings may be managed to reflect a particular era. • Preservation and interpretation of cultural resources would be emphasized in these areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities would include groupings of historic structures and their related landscapes. • Common activities would include walks or hikes, viewing cultural resources, and attending interpretive walks and talks. • Visitor support facilities such as paved or hardened walks, picnic area, restrooms, and parking could also be provided, but would be compatible with the historic scene. • Modifications to historic structures could include limited changes to accommodate visitation. • Personal services (e.g. guided tours) and non-personal services (e.g. exhibits and way-sides) would be provided.
<p>Natural Area Recreation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This prescription would offer visitors a relatively primitive, independent (not facilitated by the NPS) experience. • Visitors would travel at their own risk, with little to no interpretation provided at roads or trailheads. • Visitors would access and experience these areas primarily from primitive roads, routes, or trails. • Observing and enjoying the natural environment would be important, and there would be a sense of adventure, requiring a moderate time commitment. • Some outdoor skills might be needed. • The probability of encountering other visitors and park staff would be low. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel routes would not necessarily be maintained. • Natural resources in these areas may be highly managed or manipulated or may be extracted (timber and vegetation management, fish stocking, wildlife habitat management). • This management prescription would be located within the legislated inland buffer zone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities in these areas could include primitive roads and trails, primitive camps, and cabins. • Motorized and non-motorized modes of transportation would be appropriate and could include all-terrain-vehicle, bicycle, snowshoe, horse, dog sled, motorcycle, or snowmobile transport. • Activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, and cross-country skiing would be common.
<p>Developed (land areas)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These areas would not be intended for visitor use; however, if visitor use did not conflict with the primary use of the area, incidental use could be permitted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The natural environment could be significantly modified for park operational and other uses, and would be primarily rural in character. • Structures and other facilities would be obviously apparent. • These areas would not be near sensitive natural or cultural areas if such resources could not be protected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities necessary for park operations, administration, or surrounding land uses would be appropriate in this area, including park maintenance yards, residential areas, access roads, parking, utility areas and corridors.

Notes: 1. In general, motorized NPS administrative use and access would be consistent with visitor restrictions on motorized use.
 2. Treatment of cultural resources would be based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

THE PLANNING PROCESS - WHERE ARE WE?

As described in newsletter 1, park planning is organized around three primary questions:

1. **Why** was the park established?

The park's mission, purpose, and significance statements provide answers to the "why" question, and form the foundation for the general management plan. This step has been completed.

2. **What** is the vision for the future (what do we want the park to be?)

Developing a vision for the park's future is the primary focus of the general management plan. Comments from park visitors and the general public are very important in the formulation of decision points, desired visitor experiences, and resource conditions. This is what we are working on now. In this newsletter we identify the major questions the general management plan needs to answer and we identify some of the types of visitor experiences and resource conditions that may be applicable to the national lakeshore. We need your comments on the preliminary decision points and management prescriptions.

3. **How** do we accomplish the vision for the future (what actions are needed to create this desired future?).

This step is yet to come. Some of the broad "how" questions will be answered in the general management plan. Specific "how" questions will be answered in new or revised implementation plans (resource management plans, development concept plans, and interpretive plans, for example) that follow the general management plan.

WHAT'S NEXT

The planning process requires the assessment of alternative future conditions and management for the national lakeshore. Each alternative is built around a concept derived from public comments and decision points that describes a possible direction for the future. Different concepts guide different configurations of the management prescriptions or "alternative futures" for the park. Examples of concepts developed in other parks include emphasis on: providing visitors with high quality wilderness experiences, providing additional opportunities for use and access, providing visitors with a wide range of experiences, and concentrating amenities and facilities in one area of the park.

Based on your input we will revise the management prescriptions this winter. Then we will develop concepts that will be used to guide configurations for management prescriptions. A management zone configuration and more specific actions and ideas will be developed for each concept. New details will be incorporated and each concept will be developed into an alternative. We will share the resulting preliminary alternatives and request your input via a newsletter and public meetings late next spring.

Each alternative must be weighed against the park's current conditions and management direction. Eventually a preferred alternative will be selected that may be very similar to one of the preliminary alternatives, may incorporate elements from several draft alternatives, or may grow out of an entirely new concept. Alternatives and their environmental impacts will be described in a draft general management plan/environmental impact statement. We anticipate sending this document to the public next fall.

In addition, the general management plan will look at the suitability and feasibility of managing a portion of the national lakeshore as wilderness. If lands meet the criteria, a separate wilderness recommendation will be prepared concurrently with the general management plan.

Steps and Schedule

Planning Activity

Public Involvement Opportunities

STEP 1

1. Initiate Project

- The planning team assembles, begins to identify the project's scope and issues, and customizes the planning process.

- Read the newsletter and comment on the response form.
- Join the mailing list.

Summer 1999

2. Identify Planning Context

- The team examines **WHY** Congress established the lakeshore and reaffirms the lakeshore's mission, purpose, and significance.
- Team members collect and analyze relevant data and public comment needed for planning.

- Participate in public open houses.



Fall 1999 - Winter 2000

STEP 2

3. Develop and Evaluate Alternatives

- The planning team explores **WHAT** the lakeshore's future should look like, and proposes and assesses a range of reasonable alternatives for the lakeshore's future.

- Read newsletters and send in your comments.
- Participate in public meetings.

Spring - Summer 2000

STEP 3

4. Prepare a draft document

- The team produces and publishes a draft draft GMP/EIS that discusses **HOW** the alternatives would attain desired future conditions.
- The draft document describes the planning context, management alternatives, and their impacts. Based on the impacts of implementing the alternatives and public comment, the team defines a preferred alternative.

- Read the draft plan and send in your comments.
- Participate in public meetings.

Fall 2000 - Winter 2001

5. Publish Final Document

- Based on public comment, environmental analysis, and other information, the team revises the draft general management plan/environmental impacts statement and distributes it to the public.

- Read the final plan and summary.

Spring 2001 - Summer 2001



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
Lakeshore General Management Plan

P.O. Box 40

Munising, MI 49862-0040

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300



FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
PERMIT NO. G-83