

## Managing Your National Parks

THE JOB OF MANAGING NATIONAL PARKS LIKE PICTURED ROCKS National Lakeshore is a complex task, facilitated by some 30,000 National Park Service (NPS) employees nationwide. The NPS has been dedicated to this work since 1916, when it was created by Congress and signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson. Since Yellowstone became the first National Park, 387 other parks have been set aside as "public pleasuring grounds". The purpose of the Park Service is found in its mission, "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." (NPS Organic Act)

### Why We Do What We Do

The National Lakeshore idea grew out of the 1958 Great Lakes Shoreline Survey, conducted by the National Park Service in Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana. In the mid-1960's legislators and the public recognized the need to secure public parks and open spaces from shoreline development that was inevitable. This effort is reflected in the purpose of the Lakeshore which is "to preserve for the benefit, inspiration, education, recreational use, and enjoyment of the public a significant portion of the diminishing shoreline of the United States and its related geographic and scientific features." (Public Law 89-668)

### Different Disciplines

You are most likely to meet either a park ranger or a maintenance person during your visit to the Lakeshore, but many others are working "behind the scenes" to make the Lakeshore available for your time of relaxation, inspiration, recreation and enjoyment. For example, the Lakeshore staff includes four administrative personnel who are responsible for purchasing, travel, payroll, personnel administration, union liaison, correspondence and public information, property accountability, and staff development and training.

Four park rangers patrol the 73,000 acres within the Lakeshore. Additionally, they investigate criminal activity, traffic accidents, perform search and rescue, interact with visitors, administer the park safety program, monitor development on township and City of Munising zoned lands within the Inland Buffer Zone, and participate in wildland fire fighting.

Two park rangers and a training instructor comprise the Heritage Education group at the Lakeshore. Their list of responsibilities is



Overlook at Log Slide / Hiking the North Country National Scenic Trail

long, and includes providing school year environmental education programs to local schools, both in the classroom and in the park. This program alone serves about 3,000 students a year. These folks manage and staff four visitor information centers, one of which is shared with the Hiawatha National Forest, and manage the Eastern National cooperating association bookstores located in the visitor centers. Other duties include facilitating over 2,000 hours of volunteer time annually including an artist in residence program,

(Continued on page 5)

### From the Superintendent

Welcome to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, the first national lakeshore established by the National Park Service in 1966. Pictured Rocks is the most heavily visited national park unit in the upper Midwest. Unlike any other place on Lake Superior, Pictured Rocks offers you the opportunity to explore miles of pristine beaches, hike over 100 miles of trails, and experience the the serenity of the northern hardwood forest.

In the spring, a new world is created along trails that are carpeted with the soft beauty of wildflowers. Summer gives way to warm basking days; blinking lights of orange, red and yellow signal autumn; and in the winter, snow falls - lots of it. The raw, windy beauty of snow frequents the days of winter, but periodically, the snow blazes forth with light from the sun and a new world is created.

Take time to experience and learn about the different worlds of Pictured Rocks, a mosaic of colors, textures, and experiences. Enjoy your stay at our park!

Jim Northup  
Superintendent

### Safety Is Your Business!

Come prepared for a variety of weather, insects, and terrain. The Pictured Rocks cliffs are spectacular but can be dangerous to the careless hiker. Fifteen miles of the North Country Trail are atop 50-200 foot high cliffs. Cliff tops are covered with loose sand and gravel. Unsupported overhangs of soft sandstone are common. **FOR YOUR SAFETY, STAY AWAY FROM THE CLIFF EDGE.**

## 2 A Sense of Wonder



## 4 Volunteers Assist

Do you like to help people enjoy their national parks? Would you be good at campground hosting? Is maintaining trail in your resume? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you should consider volunteering for the Lakeshore. That's what a Methodist church group did last year at the Au Sable Light Station, when they restored the historic landscape.

## 5 Wilderness

Wilderness, as stated by the Wilderness Act of 1964, is "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." The Lakeshore's General Management Plan calls for 11,739 acres of designated wilderness in the Beaver Basin. The Plan was approved in November, 2004.

## Contributors

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|--------------|-------------------|
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**The Lakeshore Mission**  
Our shared mission is to conserve the ecosystem integrity of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, a mosaic of geologic, biologic, scenic, and historic features, offering opportunities for recreation, education, inspiration, and enjoyment forever.

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

# Tracking Trout at the Lakeshore

KEEPING TRACK OF ANIMAL ACTIVITY without being present dates back 115 years in the Upper Peninsula. George Shiras III pioneered night photography of wildlife at Echo Lake on Grand Island by setting trip wires that triggered the flash and camera shutter into action. Today, electronics play an important role in tracking animal activity, and a relatively new system detects fish movement in streams at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Graduate student researchers from Dr. Jill Leonard’s lab in the Biology Department at Northern Michigan University have positioned antennae, batteries, electronic detectors and recording devices along several streams to detect the movement of brook trout and steelhead. Researchers



Hand full of PIT tags

implant PIT tags into the body cavities of fish during routine electro-shocking surveys. PIT is an acronym for an electronic pellet that contains a unique bar code. These PIT tags are small and lightweight, in part because they do not contain batteries like radio tags or radio collars. Once released, the fish that bear PIT tags are scanned like groceries in the check-out line as they swim by antennae. To date, over 1,500 brook trout and 500 steelhead have been PIT tagged and are being monitored in the streams at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Researchers are identifying and describing stream habitats and will monitor success of reproduction at spawning sites. Research continues as we learn more about brook trout and non-native steelhead movements, and whether the two species are competing for the same stream habitat.

**What Is A Coaster?**

Coaster brook trout are a life form variant of brook trout that use Lake Superior habitat. In some near shore areas of Lake Superior, coaster brook trout attain large size

and were a popular recreational fish in the 1800’s. These large coaster brook trout were nearly eliminated from the southern shore of Lake Superior, probably due to over-harvest, habitat degradation due to logging activity around the turn of the last century, competition with introduced trout and salmon species, and invasion of the sea lamprey. About 10 years ago the Great Lakes Fishery Commission encouraged the restoration of coaster brook trout throughout the Lake Superior basin to achieve self-sustaining populations and restore the recreational fishery. In 1997 Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, in cooperation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Michigan Department of Natural Resources, began stocking the Tobin Harbor



Coaster Brook Trout

strain coaster brook trout into three streams under this initiative. These fish were raised in a federal hatchery from brood stock that came from Isle Royale National Park and were marked with distinctive fin clips prior to release.

**Traveling Coasters**

In 2003 researchers from Dr. Leonard’s lab found that some apparently native, PIT tagged brook trout of unremarkable size had been scanned electronically in different streams from the ones in which the fish were found when the PIT tags were inserted. These PIT tagged brook trout traveled 6 to 20 miles along the Lake Superior shore while moving between streams. They were “coasting” but they were not large in size. Park managers reacted quickly to suspend stocking until the park learns more about its coaster population. If the local brook trout are truly native, National Park Service policies state that the park should protect the local populations. But are these “native” brook trout really native to the streams of Pictured

Rocks? Brook trout have been stocked in the area for 100 years. These hatchery brook trout have come from strains originating in Québec, Pennsylvania, New York, and Washington state. Have these stocked fish reproduced? Have they interbred with native brook trout? Is the tendency to migrate to a large lake and to find suitable habitat in another stream part of a continuum of adaptive brook trout behavior? If so, what triggers this behavior: thyroid hormones, competition from non-native species like steelhead? Researchers from Northern Michigan University are tackling these and other important questions. In an effort to sort out the genetic origin of brook trout at Pictured Rocks, a U.S. Geological Survey geneticist is examining tissue samples from brook trout, and the results may put another piece in the puzzle of the heritage of brook trout along the southeastern shore of Lake Superior.

**New Regulations**

The State of Michigan has enacted harvest regulations to protect coaster brook trout while they are in Lake Superior. Beginning in April 2005 the possession limit will be one and the minimum size will be 20 inches. Hurricane River, Sevenmile Creek, and Mosquito River at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore are designated as Research Streams and have similar harvest regulations to that of Lake Superior. Please consult the 2005 Michigan Fishing Guide for specific details. Your compliance with these regulations is a show of respect to the long-term health of brook trout fishery at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and beyond.

**What If I Find a PIT Tag?**

Anglers who find a PIT tag, a smooth pellet about an inch long in the body cavity of a steelhead or brook trout are asked to turn it in to a ranger or to park staff at one of the visitor centers. PIT tags may also be mailed to Dr. Jill Leonard, Biology Dept., Northern Michigan University, 1401 Presque Isle Ave., Marquette, MI 49855. Please provide a name and contact information, date, stream name where the fish was caught, and length of the fish. Your cooperation is appreciated and will aid the current scientific work.

## Teach Your Child to Wonder

Summer visits to National Parks, Forests and Wildlife Refuges are perfect times to help your child learn from these areas and inspire their sense of wonder about our amazing natural and cultural resources protected on federal lands. Following are some tips and tricks for helping your child (and you) have a more enjoyable experience.

**1. Follow their interests**

Give your child the chance to be the activity leader now and then. What do they want to do today? Build a sand castle on the beach, hike along a river, or roll down a hill? A child’s curiosity provides them with the incentive to investigate the world. As biologist and author Rachel Carson wrote, *“If a child is to keep alive his sense of wonder, he needs the companionship or at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him, the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in.”*

**2. Don’t be afraid to say “I don’t know”**

When children ask what flower that is or how did something form or why a particular cultural resource is where it is, they are seeking to make sense of



the world. It is impossible for a parent or anyone to know all the names of plants or birds or cultural artifacts you might find in the Lakeshore. Teaching your children how to find answers for themselves is the key to a lifetime of independent thinking and an antidote for boredom. The first step is to admit you don’t know the name of something or what it is but “together we can find out the answers.” Most sites have a visitor center full of excellent field guides to plants and animals. After attending an interpretive program, ask the ranger to help you find answers to your questions. They will be more than willing to help you!

**3. Get a “feeling” for the special places you are visiting**

One of our greatest botanists and educators once said, *“One’s happiness depends less on what he knows, than what he feels.”* While it is important to learn about plants and animals and cultural resources – the meanings and feelings behind them are important too! A simple way to get a feel for a special place it though an activity called “Magic Spots”. Find a quiet place – in the forest, along the beach, near the lighthouse - sit down, relax and soak it all in. Use all your senses. Perhaps the magic of the place will reveal itself to you. Write a poem or journal entry or draw a picture as you observe and feel. Many educators believe that only by observing deeply, with a quiet mind, can we ever fully experience natural and cultural resources.

# Welcome Jim Northup - New Superintendent

JIM NORTHUP, A 25 YEAR CAREER VETERAN OF the National Park Service, has been selected as the new superintendent of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Currently the chief ranger at Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee and North Carolina, he will begin the new assignment on May 1. Northup succeeds Karen Gustin, who has been selected as the new superintendent of Big Cypress National Preserve in Florida.

In announcing the change in leadership, NPS Midwest Regional Director Ernie Quintana stated, “Karen Gustin has done an excellent job at Pictured Rocks and we will miss her. We welcome Jim Northup to the Midwest Region. Jim has a proven track record of effective leadership in many different positions and parks and we will be glad to have him at Pictured Rocks.”

For the past four years, Northup has been serving as the chief ranger at Great Smoky Mountains, where he has been a key member of the park management team and led a division of over 70 employees in America’s most visited national park. Previous NPS assignments have included Grand Canyon, Big Bend, Grand Teton and Shenandoah National Parks, Fire Island and Cape Hatteras National Seashores, and Buffalo National River. Northup has also served as acting superintendent at Guadalupe Mountains National Park and as the incident commander for the NPS National Incident Management Team. His background includes work in the full spectrum of ranger activities, wildland fire management, resource management, and interpretation.



Northup holds a bachelor of science degree in environmental education from the University of Maryland and has completed graduate level work in environmental law and policy and public administration. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School’s Executive Potential Program.

In accepting the position, Northup said, “I am thrilled to have an opportunity to work with the park staff, the NPS partners, and the community to continue to preserve and protect Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, a very special place.”

Northup will relocate to Pictured Rocks in early May. His wife Phyllis, an artist and art teacher, will join him in June following the end of her current teaching contract. The Northups’ have two daughters -Erin is a senior at Colorado State University, and Amy is in her freshman year at Virginia Tech University.



The parking lot at Miners Beach will be enlarged and redesigned to accommodate recreational vehicles and vehicles with trailers.

## Miners Beach Parking Lot Environmental Assessment

AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) HAS been drafted to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of rehabilitating the Miners Beach west parking area in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. This EA also evaluates potential impacts of enhancing the parking area by enlarging it and making it accommodating for recreational vehicles (RV), including motor homes, buses, and vehicles with trailers. The National Park Service (NPS) has prepared this EA in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

of 1969 and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations of 1978.

The objectives of the alternatives presented in this EA are to preserve the natural environment while rehabilitating the parking area for improved visitor services at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

Increased popularity and usage of the Miners Beach area and the subsequent parking congestion has become an increasing concern of the Lakeshore. Reported incidents involving larger vehicles and

| Ranger Guided Summer Programs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Au Sable Light Station - Wednesday through Sunday</b><br>❖ Join seasonal interpreters Cortney Balcer and Karena Minor for 30 minute tours of this 1874 station and tower. Tours are offered from 11:30 a.m. through 5:30 p.m. <i>Wednesday - Sunday. A tour fee of \$2 is charged for those 6 and older (please have correct change).</i> The Au Sable Station is located 1.5 miles east of Lower Hurricane River Campground via the North Country Trail. | <b>Crusin’ With A Park Ranger - Thursdays</b><br>❖ Chat with Pam Baker mid-days at Munising or Miners Falls each Thursday.                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Ranger Guided Hike - Tuesday</b><br>❖ Join Park Ranger Gregg Bruff at 2 p.m. at the Little Beaver Campground Road & H-58 for a 45 minute guided walk to Legion Lake as we explore a little known hidden gem - “In the year 2050.”                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Ranger Guided Hike - Thursday</b><br>❖ Hey Kids! Join Park Ranger Dave Kronk at 3 p.m. at Sand Point Headquarters for a Junior Ranger exploration of the Sand Point area.                                                                    |
| <b>Ranger Guided Hike - Wednesday</b><br>❖ Join Park Ranger Dave Kronk at 3 p.m. at the Chapel Trailhead for a 90 minute guided walk “Explore Area Natural History and Ecology” to Chapel Falls. Bring a water bottle for this 3 mile hike.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Evening Campfire Program - Thursday</b><br>❖ Join Park Ranger Dave Kronk at 8 p.m. at Little Beaver Campground Thursday nights as he engages the audience in “Secrets of the North Woods.” Meet at the amphitheater.                         |
| <b>Evening Campfireless Program - Wednesday</b><br>❖ Join Park Ranger Dave Kronk at 8 p.m. at Hurricane River Campground Wednesday nights as he engages the audience with “The Greatest of the Great Lakes.” Meet at the beach steps.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Ranger Guided Hike - Friday</b><br>❖ Join Park Ranger Dave Kronk at 3 p.m. at the Chapel Trailhead for a 90 minute guided walk “Explore Area Natural History and Ecology” at Mosquito Falls. Bring water and wear comfortable walking shoes. |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Evening Campfire Program - Friday</b><br>❖ Join Park Ranger Dave Kronk at 8 p.m. at Twelvemile Beach each Friday night as he engages the audience with “Stories behind the Scenery.”                                                         |
| All programs run from July 1 through Labor Day                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

## Lakeshore Archeology

People have lived within the area now encompassed by the Lakeshore for over 4000 years. Earliest known artifacts in the region are from the Late Archaic Period, ancient hunter-gatherers who lived in temporary campsites near Lake Superior and inland lakes. Traces of these people as well as Woodland people (300 B.C. - 1650 A.D.) can still be found, indeed, many of today’s campsites may have been used by these nomads.



Archaic copper knife

The lakeshore is engaged in a multi-year program of baseline geoarcheological research in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. The project is directed at obtaining sufficient geomorphological data to generate an accurate predictive model that will facilitate future archeological research and heritage resource management, e.g. development.

The project will occur over three years, beginning in the fall of 2005. It will begin with development of a research design derived from current models of post-Pleistocene advance and retreat of Lake Superior and its post-glacial predecessors. Subsequent field investigations will utilize topo maps, orthophotos, and fieldwork to identify, map, and document both the active and the remnant fossil beaches along the 42 miles of the Lakeshore. Global Positioning System data will be acquired which will enable construction of an important GIS data layer for the Lakeshore.

Field reports will be provided at the end of each field season, and a professional summary report will be produced in the concluding year of the project. A public education Resource Report with clear graphics will also be produced in order to inform Lakeshore visitors of the nature and results of the research.

Information will enable park staff to understand the prehistoric periods along the Lakeshore, and better manage areas which have the highest potential for intact archeo deposits. It will also contribute information to a region-wide shoreline database of enormous use to other professionals conducting research along the south shore of Lake Superior. The study will be conducted within the fee zone of the Lakeshore, and will be conducted by the Midwest Archeological Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. Visitors are reminded if you find an artifact, leave it where you found it and notify a Park Ranger of the location. Archeological remains are protected by law.

Beach area. This concept can be seen in the alternatives.

The existing parking lot is little more than a rectangular space at the end of the road that was adapted from the convergence of existing paths, driveways and roads. Its configuration is ineffective and does not accommodate larger vehicles and towed trailers. The growth of kayak use in the Lakeshore has increased the number of trailers that frequent the area.

# Jet Ski Regulations Finalized



THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IS IN THE process of designating areas where personal watercraft (PWC) may be used in the Lakeshore. This proposed rule implements the provisions of the NPS general regulations that authorize parks to allow the use of PWC by promulgating a special regulation. The NPS Management Policies (2001) require individual parks to determine whether PWC use is appropriate for their specific park based on an evaluation of that area's enabling legislation, resources and values, other visitor uses, and overall management objectives.

An environmental assessment on PWC use at Pictured Rocks was available for public review and comment from August 1 through November 15, 2002. The environmental assessment evaluated a range of alternatives and strategies for the management of PWC use at Pictured Rocks to ensure the protec-

tion of park resources and values while offering recreational opportunities as provided for in the national lakeshore's enabling legislation, purpose, mission, and goals.

The environmental assessment evaluated three alternatives addressing the use of PWC at Pictured Rocks. The lakeshore's preferred alternative would allow PWC to operate on the waters of Lake Superior within the boundaries of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore from the western boundary of the lakeshore up to the east end of Miners Beach. This alternative would allow PWC to launch from a designated site at Sand Point. PWC users would be allowed to beach their craft on Sand Point and Miners Beaches. PWC would not be allowed to launch or operate elsewhere within the national lakeshore.

The proposed rule for PWC use at Pictured Rocks was published in the Federal Register on November 15, 2004. The 60-day comment period for the proposed rule ended January 14, 2005.

Following the comment period, the comments are analyzed and a final rule is prepared, which is reviewed again by NPS staff. The final rule will be published in the "Federal Register" and becomes effective 30 days from this date of publication. For an update on this topic, look elsewhere on the Lakeshore website: [www.nps.gov/piro](http://www.nps.gov/piro).

## Lakeshore Visitor Center Hours

|                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Interagency Visitor Center</b><br>May 1 - September 4<br>Open Daily<br>8 a.m. - 6:15 p.m.<br>906-387-3700           |                                       |
| September 5 - April 30<br>Open Monday - Saturday<br>8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.<br>906-387-3700                                 |                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Grand Sable Visitor Center</b><br>May 15 - September 17<br>Open Daily<br>9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.<br>906-494-2660         |                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Munising Falls Interpretive Center</b><br>May 22 - September 10<br>Open Daily<br>9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.<br>906-387-4310 | <b>Miners Castle Information Center</b><br>May 22 - September 10<br>Open Daily<br>9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.<br>No Phone Service |

*"Great men die and are forgotten,  
Wise men speak; their words of wisdom  
Perish in the ears that hear them,  
Do not reach the generations  
That, as yet unborn, are waiting  
In the great, mysterious darkness  
Of the speechless days that shall be!"*

*The Song of Hiawatha  
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

# Au Sable Light Station Update

### An Enchanting Station

The Au Sable Light Station is one of the most remote, picturesque, and historically intact lighthouses on the Great Lakes. Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore has been actively restoring Au Sable since 1988. The site is a primary Lakeshore interpretive attraction with tours conducted by request through the school year and regularly during July and August. Approximately 5,000 people tour the station and tower each summer. Over 10,000 visitors walk out to the station through the year.

### Historic Landscape Restoration

A Cultural Landscape Plan for Au Sable was completed in 1998 to guide restoration and long-term management of the historic outdoor landscape. The plan calls for restoration of the historic scene to the 1910 period. Prior to 1958, most of the grounds immediately around the station would have been maintained in grass and low vegetation to reduce the hazard of forest fire.

In 2004 the Lakeshore began implementing the plan to restore the historic landscape at the station. A group of Methodist church volunteers from Wisconsin cleared brush, constructed turnpike, revegetated a sandy blowout, dug out a corner of the garage buried in sand, and reconstructed the sand ladder between the beach and the station grounds. Their donation of over 400 hours helped jump start the landscape restoration.

In 2005, work will continue as volunteers from Lake Superior State University install "living fascines" along easily eroded sand banks below the station's head keepers quarters. Living fascines are constructed of bundles of cut branches of red osier dogwood, alder, and willow, placed horizontally in a soil trench. Planted in the fall, the branches overwinter and sprout the next growing season, producing a

living erosion barrier of saplings. These projects will in the long run help visitors experience the station in its historic context. Please "bear with us" as the temporary scars of progress on the restoration scene heal.

### Assistant Keepers Quarters Refurnishing

The Lakeshore is planning to refurnish the first floor of the Au Sable Assistant Keepers Quarters. Early 1900's period furniture will be purchased and sought as donations in the next few years. Refurnishing was called for in the Historic Furnishings Plan which was completed in the early 1980's.

Numerous tools and related artifacts have recently been donated to the park by a Munising resident. These items will eventually go on display in the work room or shop adjacent to the tower on the first



floor of the assistant keepers dwelling. At present, visitors tour the building without the benefit of seeing the structure as it would have looked when the station was operational. Historic furnishings will greatly enhance visitor understanding and appreciation of the daily life of the keepers and their families.

### Fog Signal Building Exhibits

The fog signal building is open daily during July and August, but lacks permanent interpretive exhibits on how the facility operated. During its operational period,



Paul Arpke led volunteer group

the building would have featured two air compressors that generated the pressure for the fog signals.

### Contact Station Exhibits

Nine exhibit panels have been designed and produced for a small contact station to be housed on the first floor of the head keepers dwelling. Open during July and August, the exhibits will provide information on Fresnel lenses, Lake Superior shipping, daily life at the station, and other topics.

### Staff Apartment Shaping Up

A volunteer / staff apartment is being completed this year on the second floor of the head keepers quarters. The apartment will house on-site staff during July and August. The period furniture has been purchased and appliances like the sink, refrigerator, will be installed this summer.

### Tour Fees Initiated

Beginning in 2005, a fee of \$2 will be charged for the half-hour guided interpretive tour of the assistant keepers quarters

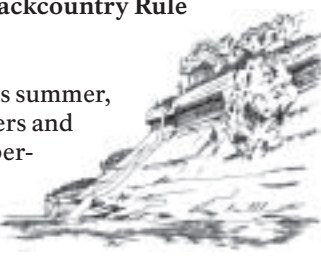
and tower. Funds generated by this fee will be used exclusively to purchase historic furnishings for the station. Visitors will need to carry cash to use for this fee as a drop envelope system will be used.

### Photo-Voltaic System Testing

Perhaps the most innovative and least visible of light station projects is the installation of a photovoltaic power system. The 5.5 kVA (35 amp) 120 volt system provides power for potable water, staff housing and exhibit lighting and was developed through a partnership with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory with the Department of Energy. The system is undergoing further tests as buildings are being connected to this power source.

### Lakeshore Backcountry Rule Change

Beginning this summer, glass containers and axes are not permitted at backcountry campsites.



# Proposed Wilderness

## What It Means

The Midwest Regional Director of the National Park Service signed the Record of Decision for the Lakeshore's General Management Plan/Wilderness Study/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP) on December 28, 2004. This culminated a five-year planning process to update the park's 1981 General Management Plan.



Formal public comment on the draft plan took place in the fall of 2003. The park received approximately 800 comments during that time. The largest group of respondents (58%) did not express a preference for any alternative, but provided written comments on wilderness. About 99per cent of these written comments supported wilderness designation, including 13 local and national conservation groups. One percent of the commenters opposed wilderness, primarily local residents and organizations including Alger County, Munising Township, City of Munising, Michigan Natural Resources Commission, and the Michigan Association of Timbermen.

In the draft plan, Alternative D (the NPS preferred alternative) called for primitive zoning along the one-quarter mile jurisdictional boundary on Lake Superior adjacent to the proposed wilderness. This would have banned motorized boating on Lake Superior adjacent to the proposed wilderness. It also called for a complete ban on all motorized boats on Little Beaver and Beaver Lakes.

As a result of the public comment received, Alternative D was modified and the management zone on the one-quarter mile jurisdictional boundary on Lake Superior was changed from primitive to casual, allowing motorized boating. In addition, electric boat motors will be allowed on Little Beaver and Beaver Lakes, which are in the proposed wilderness area. The park anticipates making the change to electric boat motors effective in 2006. Additional details on Alternative D, the selected alternative in the final GMP, include:

- A drive-in campground will be added to Miners Castle area, and boat-in campsites added to Grand Sable Lake.
- Motorized and non-motorized boating access to Lake Superior will continue along the entire length of the lakeshore from Munising to Grand Marais. Motorized boating at Grand Sable Lake will continue with current 50 HP limit in place. Tour boats will continue to provide tours of the Pictured Rocks with the recommendation that noise from the public address system be reduced to minimize intrusion on natural quiet.
- The NPS is proposing 11,739 acres (about 16per cent of the national lakeshore) for wilderness designation in the Beaver Basin. The access road to the Beaver Lakes and Little Beaver Lake Campground and the Beaver Basin Overlook road will remain outside wilderness and open to motorized visitation. All other roads will be closed and allowed to revert to natural conditions.
- Electric motors will be allowed on Little Beaver and Beaver Lakes, but gasoline motors will not be allowed.

There are 45 national park areas containing Congressionally designated wilderness, special areas that the American public and Congress have said are to remain as wild and natural as possible. Another 39 parks have recommended or proposed wilderness.

Wilderness, as stated by the Wilderness Act of 1964, is “an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” Wilderness serves as a repository of valuable ecological, geological, scientific, educational, and historical information. Park managers are currently researching and monitoring many aspects of these areas to obtain more knowledge about them.

NPS policy states: *The National Park Service will evaluate all lands it administers for their suitability for inclusion within the national wilderness preservation system. For those lands that possess wilderness characteristics, no action that would diminish their wilderness suitability will be taken until after Congress and the President have taken final action. The superintendent of each park containing wilderness will develop and maintain a wilderness management plan to guide the preservation, management, and use of the park's wilderness area, and ensure that wilderness is unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness.*

*The National Park Service will take no action that would diminish the wilderness suitability of an area possessing wilderness characteristics until the legislative process of wilderness designation has been completed. Until that time, management decisions pertaining to lands qualifying as wilderness will be made in expectation of eventual wilderness designation. This policy also applies to potential wilderness, requiring it to be managed as wilderness to the extent that existing non-conforming conditions allow. The National Park Service will seek to remove from potential wilderness the temporary, nonconforming conditions that preclude wilderness designation. All management decisions affecting wilderness will further apply the concepts of “minimum requirements” for the administration of the area regardless of wilderness category.*

This means that the Lakeshore will manage the proposed wilderness area as if it were designated wilderness. When planning management actions within the area, park staff use a planning tool called “Minimum Requirement Decision Guide” to determine the best way to accomplish the work.

For additional information on National Park Service wilderness, see: <http://wilderness.nps.gov/> and <http://carhart.wilderness.net/>

The General Management Plan/Wilderness Study/Environmental Impact Statement is available on the lakeshore's website at [www.nps.gov/piro](http://www.nps.gov/piro). Paper copies of the full GMP are also available by contacting the lakeshore at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, P.O. Box 40, Munising, MI 49862-0040, telephone 906-387-2607. The GMP is also available in summary form.

## “Managing Parks - continued from page 1”

paraprofessional archeological investigations at sites being disturbed by development, cultural resources planning and documenting changes to historic structures. The Lakeshore manages two sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The staff also presents numerous interpretive programs annually. Nearly all of the graphics, signs, wayside exhibits, and publications are written, designed, and produced locally by the staff.

Like most contemporary businesses, information technology is critical to the success of our mission. The Lakeshore has one person dedicated solely to keeping our computer system, local area network and web pages up and running smoothly.

The Lakeshore would not have received a visitor approval rating of 92percent if our maintenance staff didn't do the outstanding work they do day in and day out.

The maintenance crew includes seven people, including an automotive mechanic who keeps 36 vehicles in tip-top shape, a heavy equipment operator, carpenter, two district maintenance workers, and foreman. The Facility Manager oversees this operation which also includes the park signs, restoration of historic buildings, public water systems, three vehicle accessible and 13 backcountry campgrounds, over 100 miles of trail, and staff offices. The maintenance staff have been recognized as national leaders in "green" or sustainable practices, converting many systems and activities over to bio-based products.

The Lakeshore is charged with day to day management of plants, mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, and a host of interconnecting habitats. Exotic and rare and endangered species are also managed by this group of three biologists whose specialties include aquatic systems, forest ecology, and wildlife. Park scientists make sound, science based decisions when species, habitats, and humans interact. This work is done in consultation with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

**Full Time and Seasonal Employees**  
In addition to the permanent employees listed above, the Lakeshore normally hires from three to seven seasonal employees who conduct lighthouse tours, staff visitor centers, and perform trail and grounds maintenance.

All of these employees are directed by the Lakeshore Superintendent who oversees a total of 27 full time equivalencies, and an annual budget of \$1.8 million.

**What Do We Do All Winter?**  
Park managers are often asked "what do

you do all winter?" thinking that the operation of a park is purely a summer vacation type of job. Indeed, it takes all 52 weeks a year to keep a park running smoothly. There are no parks closed except for federal holidays.

Pictured Rocks normally hosts 350,000 - 400,000 visitors a year, one-half of which is during the months of July and August. Although primarily known as a summer vacation destination, the Lakeshore is open year-round. Fall color activities are popular, as are hunting for large and small game.

Spring bird watching and wildflowers draw



Twelvemile Beach east of Hurricane River Campground

many to the park. In winter, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice climbing, backcountry camping, ice fishing, and snowmobiling are popular.

After a busy visitor season the fall is spent by the maintenance staff getting ready for winter. This includes shutting down water systems and buildings used only in summer, clearing trails for skiing, and readying vehicles for winter. Seasonal employee quarters are closed down. Fall is also a time of taking stock of the busy season and writing reports to document activities of the year.

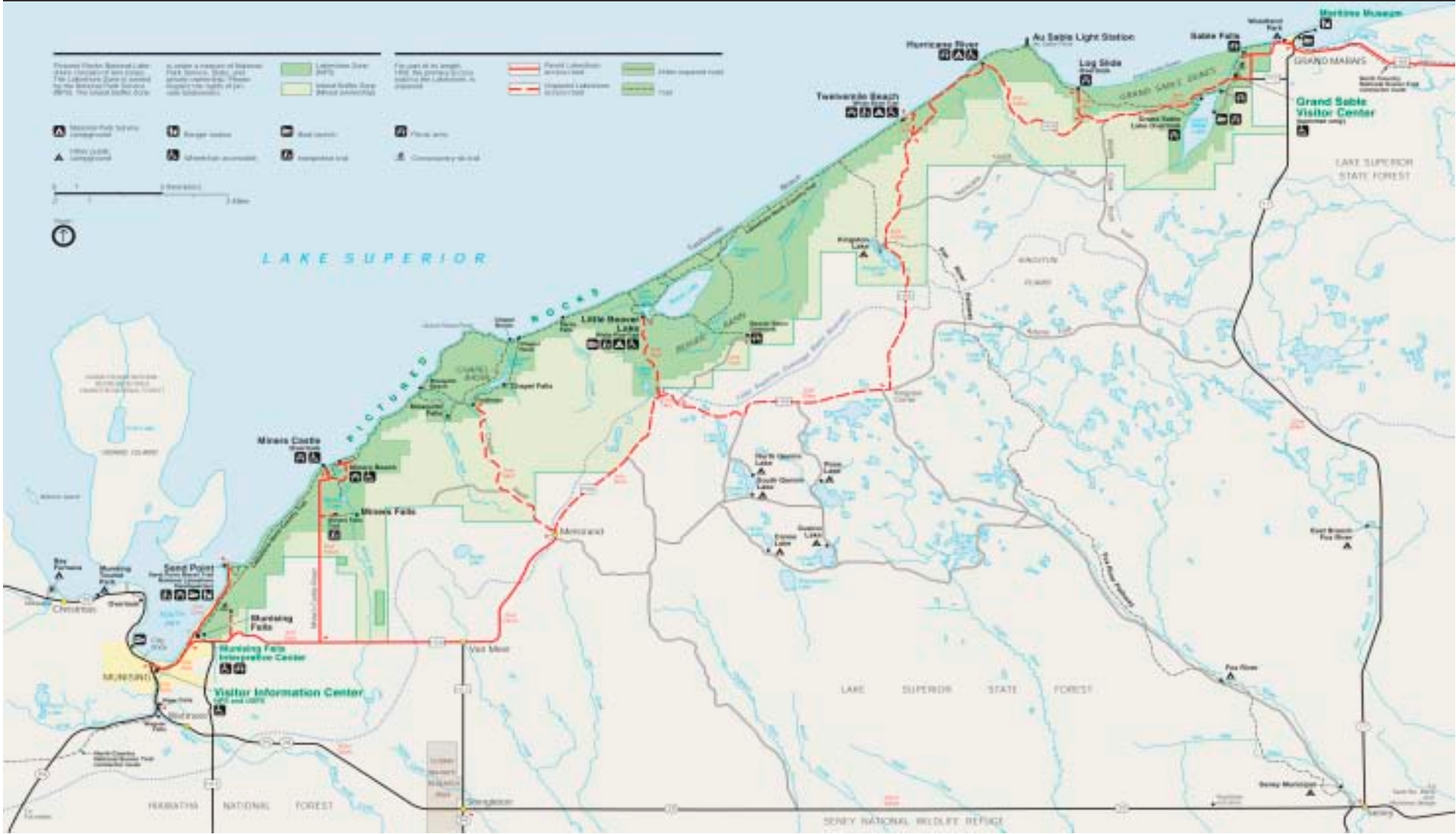


Maintaining Twelvemile Beach Campground

Winter is spent planning and writing justifications for future year budgets and projects as well as purchasing \$220,000 of supplies and materials for the year.

Spring is a busy time as repairs are made to make ready for the brief summer. Seasonal park staff often attend training during this time, including law enforcement refresher, first aid and CPR courses.

So next time you visit the Lakeshore, stop by a visitor center, hike and camp in the backcountry, or view a magnificent bald eagle, know that the staff of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is here to serve you and protect the park for not only today's visitors, but for future generations.



The Lakeshore has also begun to collect artifacts to add period furnishings to the assistant keepers quarters at Au Sable. A variety of early 1900's tools have been donated by a Munising resident. The tools will form the nucleus of an exhibit on the work room or shop that the keeper would have maintained at the station.

The Alger County Road Commission has announced that the project to upgrade the Log slide to Hurricane River section of county road H-58 will not begin until late summer of 2005. The county anticipates that the popular road through the national lakeshore will remain open through the summer visitor season. Some road shoulder work may begin as early as August, but the major portion of planned work including paving the section between Log Slide and Hurricane River will not begin till fall. If delays are experienced by visitors in late summer, they should be short-lived, with traffic flow commencing after a few minutes.

Miners Beach is the Lakeshore's most heavily visited Lake Superior beach. It is located next to Miners Castle, and is approximately seven miles northeast of Munising, Michigan. The beach area is also on the North Country National Scenic Trail. The parking area is approximately one-eighth mile from the Lake Superior beach.

The existing Miners Beach west parking lot is approximately 11,200 square feet, with a 15 vehicle parking space. The lack of identified parking spaces as well as the inability for larger vehicles (motor homes, buses, and vehicles with trailers) to park and turn around are problems. Trailer parking for recreational vehicles and sea kayak users (both private and commercial) tends to take up disproportional areas of the parking area. Overflow parking will continue to increase, east of the parking area, along Miners Beach Road. Every visitor



use season, there are several of vehicle damage from minor motor vehicle accidents that occur within the existing parking lot due to limited space to enter, turn around, and/or exit. The existing parking area is ineffective and does not accommodate increased use by recreational vehicles, buses, or vehicles with trailers.

The goal of the National Park Service in this decision process is to determine an alternative that will accomplish the objective of rehabilitating the parking area while providing efficient and safe use by varied types of visitor use vehicles with negligible effect on park resources. The purpose of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process is to disclose the likely impacts of the proposed action, and alternatives to that action.

The no action alternative consists of leaving the 11,200 square foot, 20 space parking area as it currently exists. The lack of parking spaces as well as the inability for larger vehicles to park and turn around will

This alternative overlays the existing parking area with a 46,800 square foot, 54 space footprint similar to the Sable Falls parking lot. This design provides a larger rectangular parking lot with all the desired components of additional parking spaces, turn around area and direction flow, as well as accommodating larger vehicles and vehicles with trailers. A split rail fence would be constructed to prevent indiscriminant access to the bluff line and beach.

This alternative would overlay a 41,000 square foot, 35 car, and 8 RV lot footprint using a modified plan of the successful Log Slide parking lot as a template. This plan would provide the additional vehicle spaces needed as well as parking for kayak trailers, busses and RV's. A split rail fence would be constructed to prevent indiscriminant access to the bluff line and beach.

For access to a complete version of the EA  
and comment form, see [www.nps.gov/piro](http://www.nps.gov/piro)