

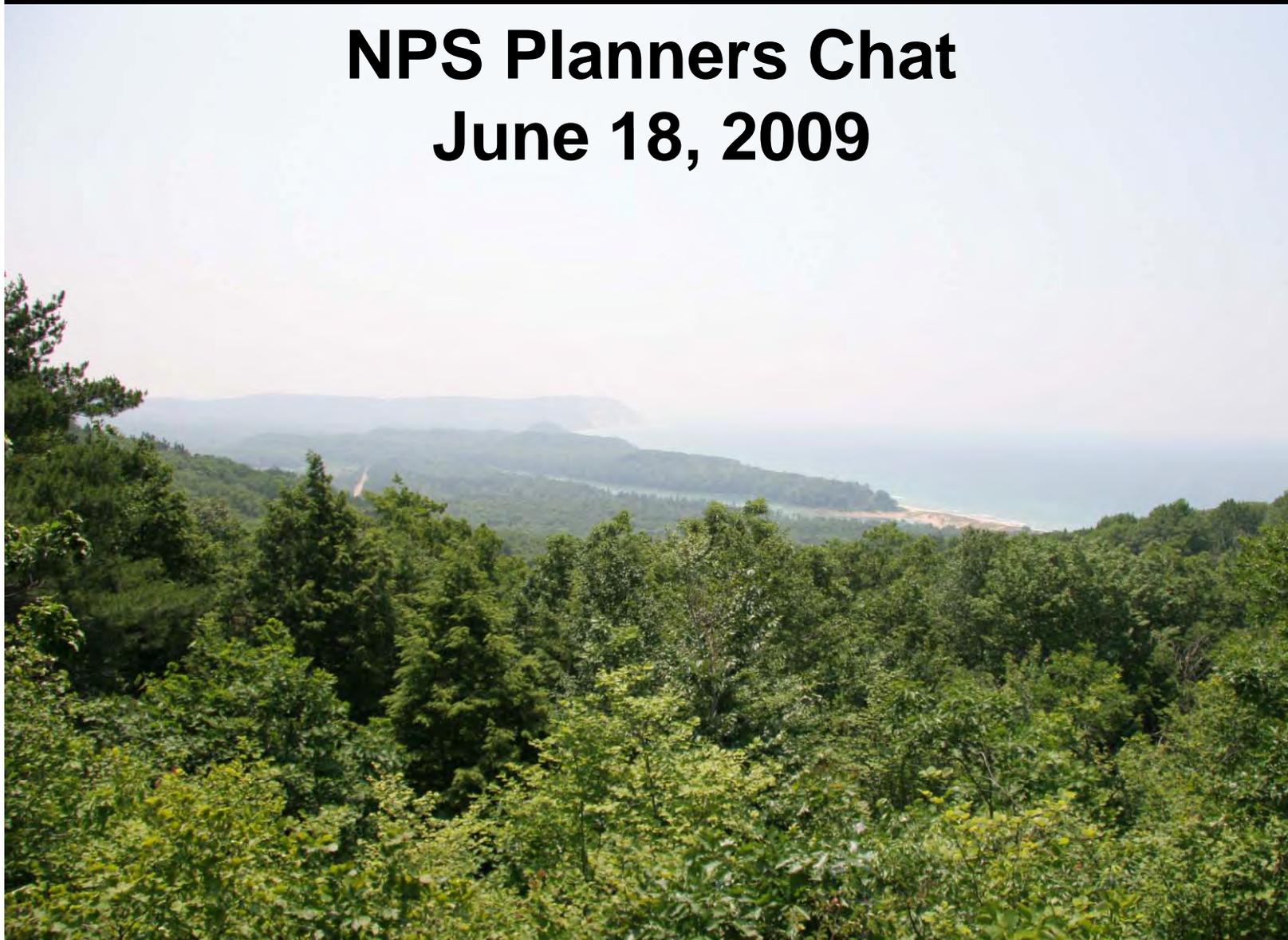
# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior



## NPS Planners Chat June 18, 2009

EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

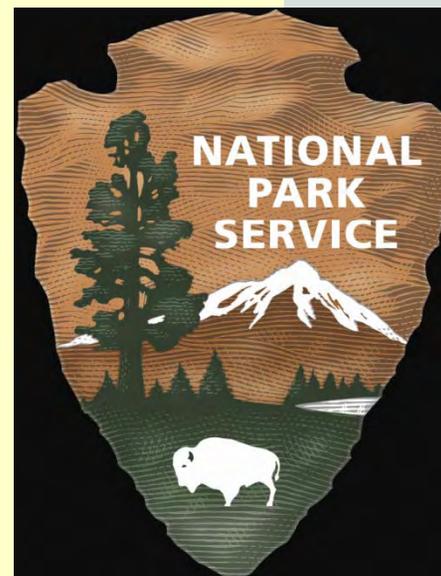
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U.S. Department of Interior



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## The National Park Service

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (SLBE) was added to the National Park system in 1970.



# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior



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AMERICA

**Sleeping Bear Dunes NL preserves the outstanding natural features including forests, beaches, dune formations and ancient glacial phenomena, in their natural setting for the benefit, inspiration, education, recreation and enjoyment of the public in perpetuity.**



# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior



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**The Lakeshore  
encompasses over  
71,000 acres and  
includes over 64  
miles of shoreline  
along Lake Michigan  
and the nearby North  
and South Manitou  
Islands.**



# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior



**Park features include massive sand dunes, pristine undeveloped beaches, forested hills, quiet rivers, secluded inland lakes, and nationally recognized maritime structures from the U.S. Lighthouse and Lifesaving Services era.**

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U.S. Department of Interior



**The park also includes:**

- **Over 100 miles of hiking trails**
- **Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive**
- **The Dune Climb**
- **26 inland lakes; and**
- **Numerous campgrounds ranging from primitive backcountry to full hook-up RV sites at the Platte River Campground.**

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# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

National Park Service  
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**SLBE was  
developed from  
over 1,800  
individual tracts of  
land.**



# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

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## VISITATION

**Average 1.2 million  
visitors annually**

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# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior



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## Economic Impact:

- \$26.5 million in sales;
- 684 jobs supported by this spending.



# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

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## General Management Plan / Wilderness Study



# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

National Park Service  
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**The first GMP for the  
Lakeshore was developed in  
1979.**



# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of  
Interior



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**In 1999, scoping began  
for a new GMP and EIS.**

**Five newsletters were  
distributed and eight  
public meetings were  
held before the process  
was stopped in 2002 by  
DOI.**



# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior



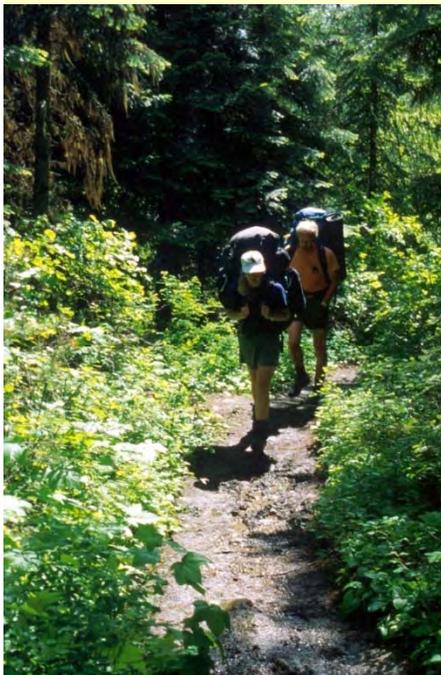
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**Wilderness and  
associated access  
issues were central to  
public concern.**



# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

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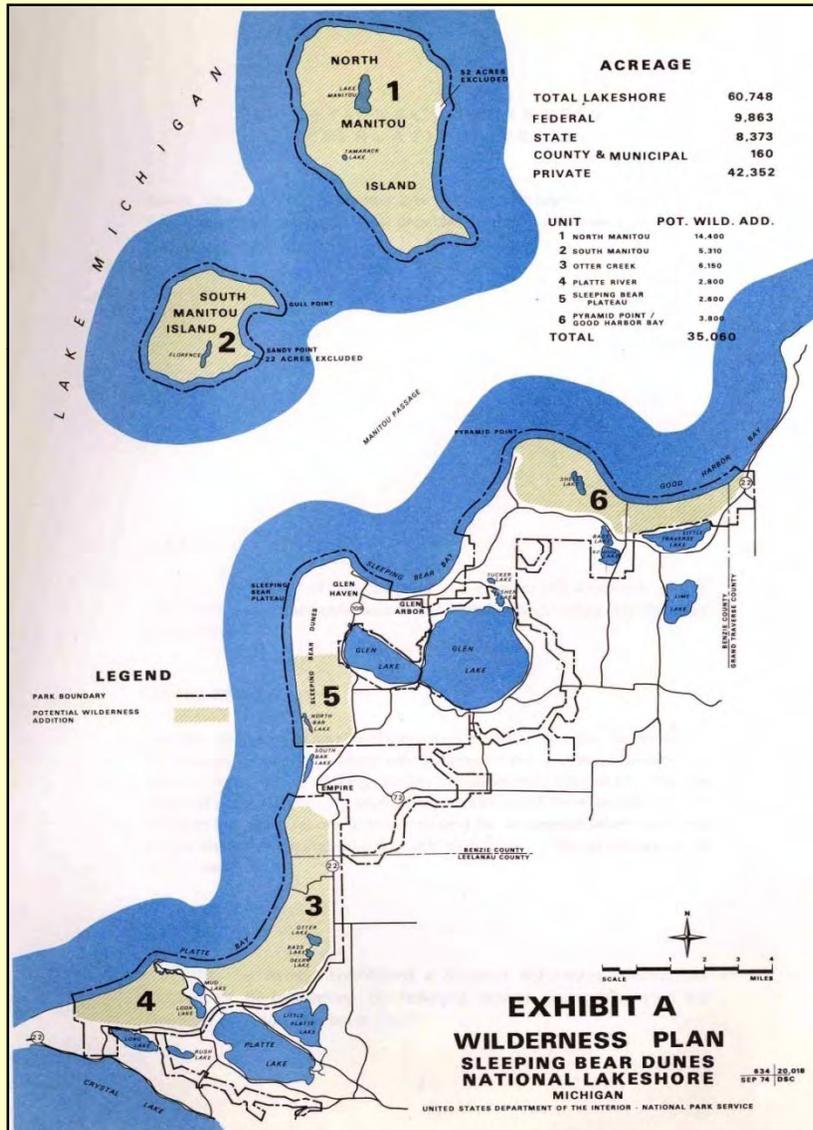
# Wilderness



# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior



1975 *Wilderness Recommendation*  
-- 35,060 Acres --  
Forwarded to DOI -  
not received by  
Congress.

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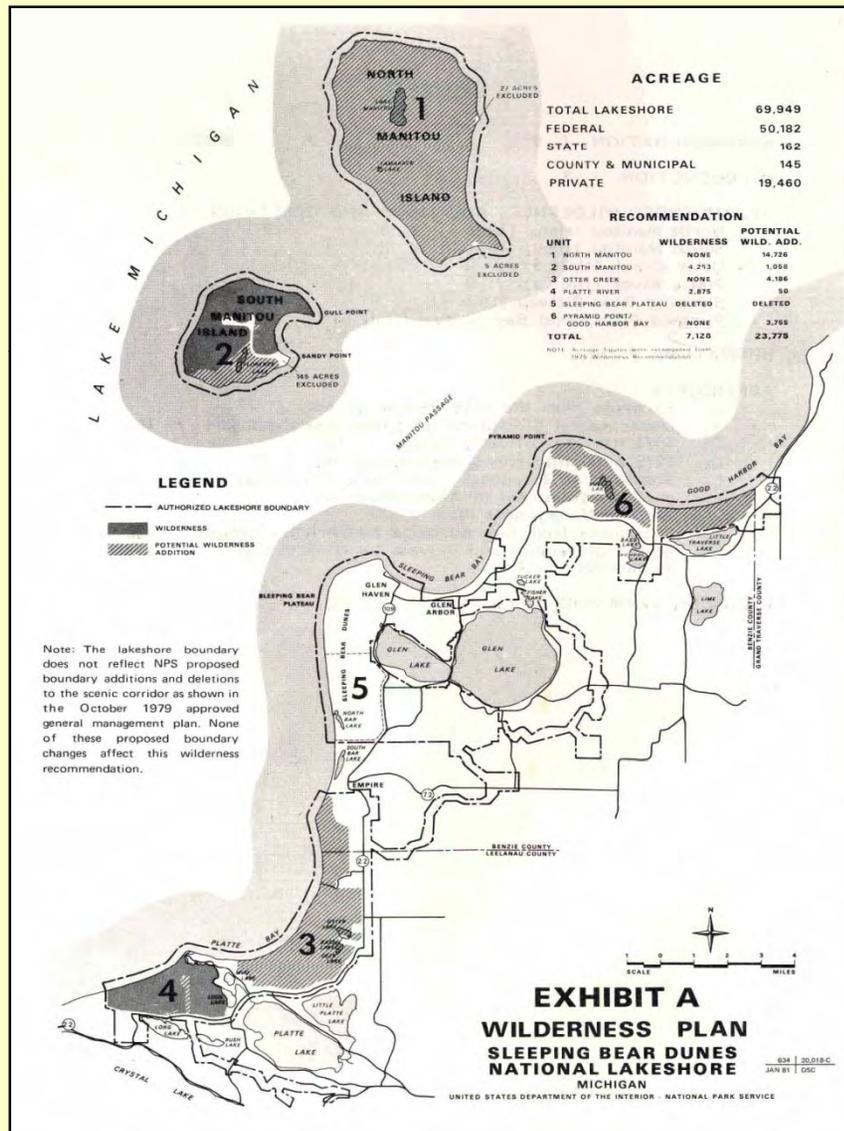


# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore



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1981 *Wilderness Recommendation*  
-- 30,903 Acres --  
Forwarded to DOI  
- not received by  
Congress.



# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore



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## 1982 Amendment to Enabling Legislation

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Areas described in the 1981 *Wilderness Recommendation* were to be administered so “as to maintain their presently existing wilderness character and potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation Act,” until Congress determines otherwise.

96 STAT. 1720

PUBLIC LAW 97-361—OCT. 22, 1982

Public Law 97-361  
97th Congress

An Act

Oct. 22, 1982  
[H.R. 3787]

Sleeping Bear  
Dunes National  
Lakeshore,  
Mich.  
16 USC 460a-9.

Post, p. 1721.

Post, p. 1721.

To amend sections 10 and 11 of the Act of October 21, 1970 (Public Law 91-479; 16 U.S.C. 460x), entitled “An Act to establish in the State of Michigan the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, and for other purposes”.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section 10 of the Act entitled “An Act to establish in the State of Michigan the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, and for other purposes”, approved October 21, 1970 (16 U.S.C. 460x-x14), is amended by striking out subsection (b) and inserting in lieu thereof the following new subsections:

“(b) Any person who is—  
“(1) an owner of improved property described in section 11(a)(2) which is situated within the area designated for inclusion in the lakeshore on the date of its acquisition by the Secretary; or

“(2) an occupier of improved property described in section 11(a)(2) which is situated within the area designated for inclusion in the lakeshore on the date of its acquisition by the Secretary, in situations where the fee ownership of such improved property has been heretofore acquired by the United States (whether by donation, purchase, condemnation, exchange or otherwise);

may retain, for a term not to exceed twenty-five years from January 1, 1973, or for a term ending on the death of such owner or occupier, the right of use or occupancy of such property for any residential purpose which is not incompatible with the purposes of this Act or which does not impair the usefulness and attractiveness of the area designated for inclusion. Such owner or occupier must notify the Secretary of any intention to exercise such option within 60 days after receipt of the notice referred to in section 11(c)(3). In situations where the United States has not heretofore acquired fee title to the improved property, the Secretary shall pay to the owner the value of the property on the date of such acquisition, less the value on such date of the right retained by the owner. In situations where the United States has heretofore acquired fee title to the improved property, the occupier may notify the Secretary that such occupier elects to retain continued use and occupancy of such property pursuant to this section, in which event the occupier shall pay to the Secretary the value of the additional right retained, which value shall be based upon the value of the property at the time of its acquisition by the Secretary.

“(c) Any deed or other instrument used to transfer title to property, with respect to which a right of use and occupancy is retained under this section, and any instrument evidencing any right of use and occupancy retained by any occupier under this section, shall provide that such property shall not be used for any purpose which is incompatible with purposes of this Act, or which impairs the usefulness and attractiveness of such area, and if it should be so

# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

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**Years Pass ...**

**(17 Years)**



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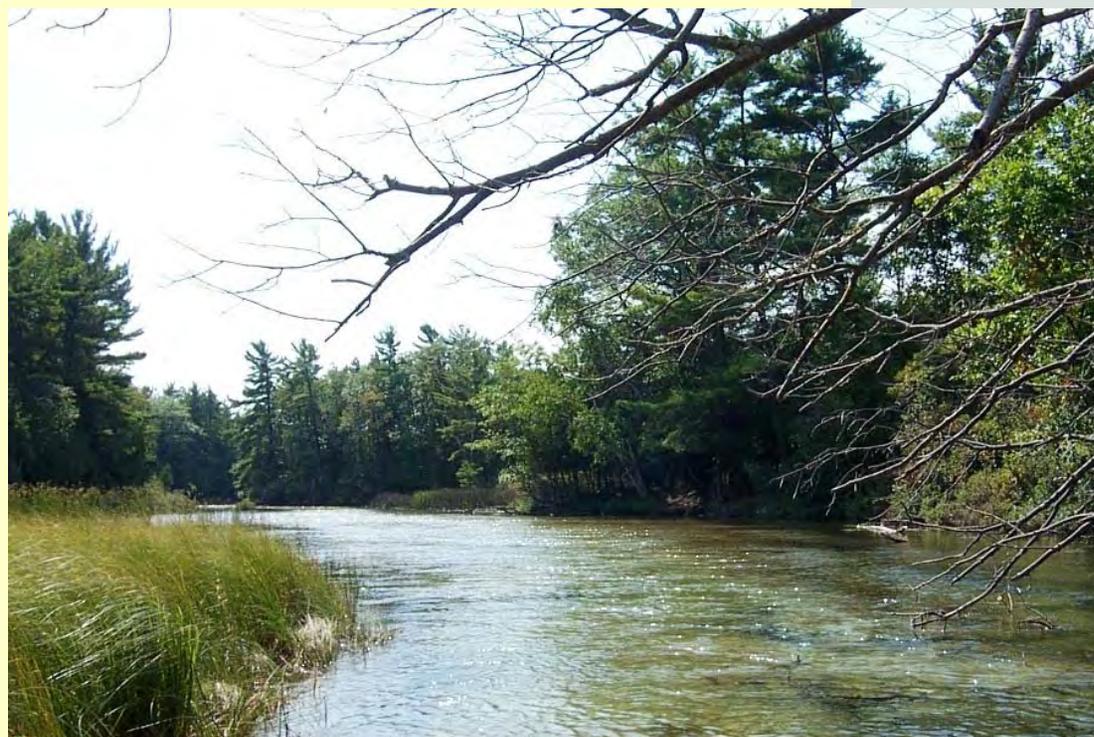


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**After the GMP was  
halted by the DOI  
in 2002,**

**More Years  
Passed ... and**

**We picked  
ourselves up and  
began to heal.**



# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

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**In 2004-2005, the Lakeshore met informally with the congressional delegation, Federal, state, and local governments, interest groups, and the community to share information and discuss ways to resolve the wilderness/access issue. (35 groups / 793 people)**



# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

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**Subsequently, a new GMP with a fresh look at wilderness was initiated.**

**Our first step was to develop a public involvement strategy to include a very transparent and extensive public outreach program.**



# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

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**Along with a very ambitious schedule, imposed by DOI, to complete the GMP/WS by the end of 2008.**

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# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore



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**Our goal was to achieve a balance of appropriate public access while preserving the natural and cultural resources entrusted to our care.**



# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

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**Newsletter No. 1 was issued in February 2006 to introduce the project and start public scoping for issues and concerns.**

**A summary of public comments was posted on the website in May.**



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**Typically at this point, the NPS Planning Team would draft the management concepts.**

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**However, because we wanted as much public input as possible, we added this extra step early in the process.**



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**In May 2006, Newsletter No. 2 was published electronically, followed in June with three public planning workshops to gather ideas for alternative management concepts.**



# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

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**The public, in small groups, developed a wide range of ideas for the preliminary management concepts, sorted them, and presented them to the group. The ideas reflected the diverse views of the stakeholders, frequently opposing views working together at the same table.**



# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

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U.S. Department of Interior



**A summary of  
public comments  
from the  
workshop was  
posted on our  
website in  
October.**

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**Newsletter No. 3,  
presenting the alternative  
management concepts,  
was issued in October  
2006.**

**A summary of public  
comments was posted on  
the website in February,  
2007.**



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**Newsletter No. 4,  
describing the  
preliminary alternatives,  
was issued in March  
2007, with three public  
meetings held in early  
May.**

**A summary of public  
comments was posted  
on the website in  
September.**

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**The Draft GMP/WS/EIS, which included the Preferred Alternative, was released to the public in April 2008. Public hearings were held in June at three locations.**

**A summary of public comments was posted on the website in September.**



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**Based on public  
input throughout  
the 3-year process,  
comments on  
wilderness changed  
to broad support.**



# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore



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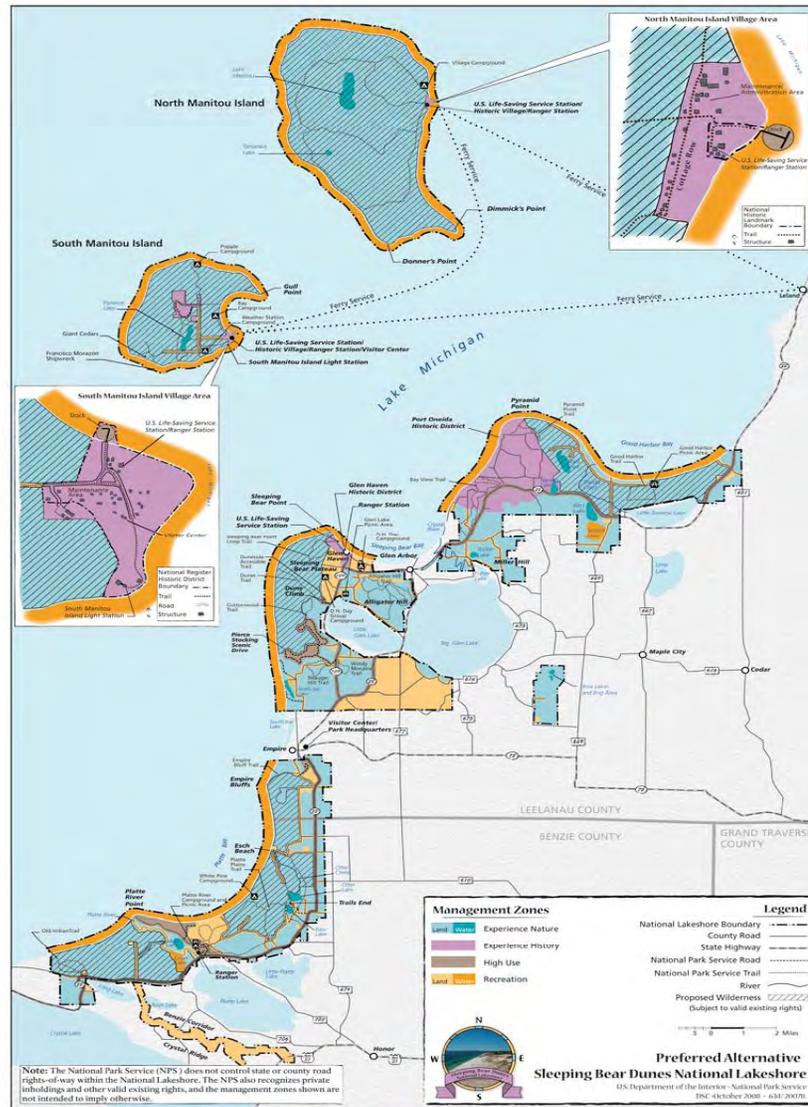
## 2009 Wilderness Proposal

\*\*\*\*\*

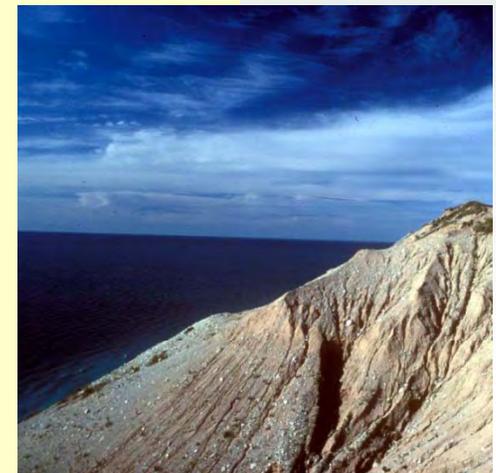
Approximately  
32,557 Acres.  
(nearly + 2,000 increase)

*Excludes:*  
Developed  
County Roads;  
Historic sites.

Adds Sleeping  
Bear Plateau.



EXPERIENCE  
YOUR  
AMERICA



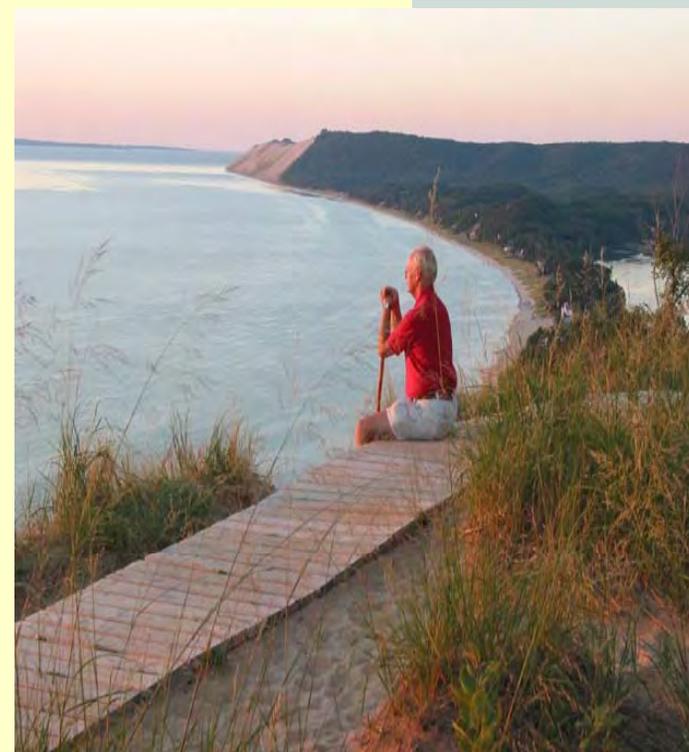
# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

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**The new GMP and Wilderness proposal enhance a wide variety of recreational opportunities from drive-to beaches to solitary hikes, while continuing to preserve and protect the nationally significant natural and cultural resources of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore - entrusted to our care - for this and future generations.**

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# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

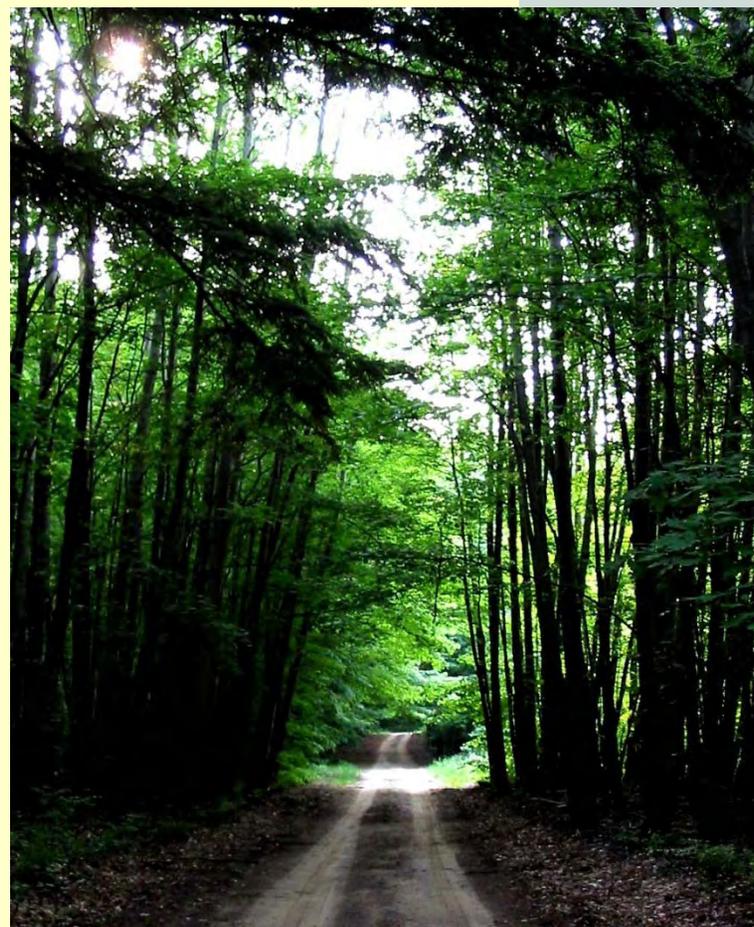
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**The Final document was released to the public in October 2008.**

**The Record of Decision was signed by the Midwest Regional Director on January 6, 2009.**



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## HELPFUL IDEAS

and

## LESSONS LEARNED



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## ***“General” Management Plan:***

- **Keep it “General.”**
- **Reminder frequently**



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## **Commitment:**

- The GMP/WS became the Superintendent's top priority for the park's Management Team.
- All were determined to make it a success.
- A tremendous amount of time was devoted to the project.



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## **Communication and Feedback:**

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- Provide public feedback after every stage by providing a summary of public comments posted on the website.
- Update website.



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**Personalized  
Cover Letter to  
Key Contacts  
with each  
phase of  
planning  
documents.**



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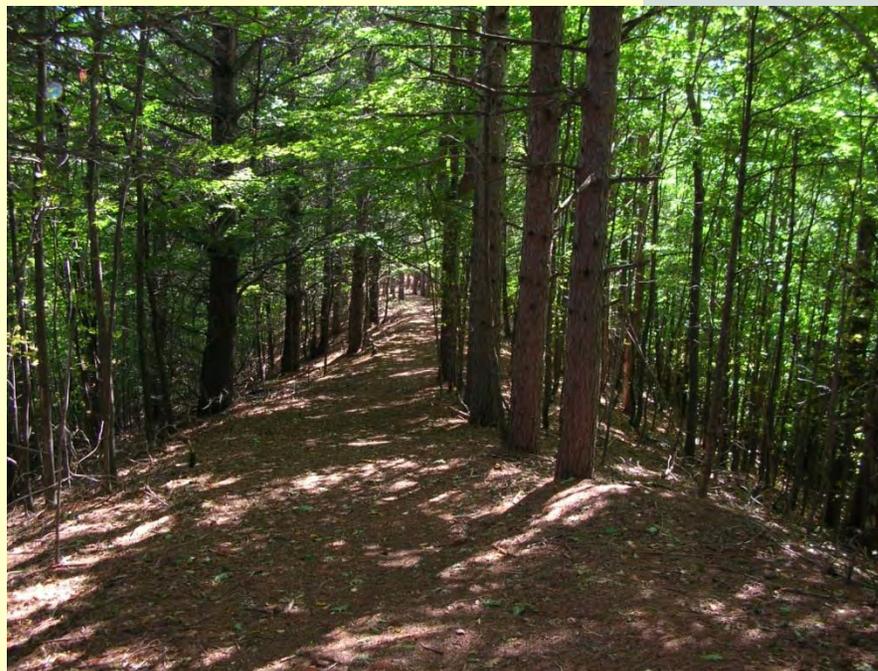


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## *Distribution:*

### Mailing List:

- Keep it organized
- Trackable throughout
- Develop “Key Contacts”
- Mail Documents 1-3 days before general mailing
- Provide briefings to Congressional Offices prior to each release of the next phase document.



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## Website ([www.nps.gov/slbe](http://www.nps.gov/slbe)):

- Keep it current
- GMP/WS on the Front Page with link to PEPC
- Develop Frequently Asked Questions for GMP/WS AND for the Park in General
- Keep it up-to-date (monthly updates)



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**Website ([www.nps.gov/slbe](http://www.nps.gov/slbe)):**

- **Purpose / Significance Statements**
- **Fundamental Resources and Values**
- **Management Zones**
- **Primary Interpretive Themes**
- **Desired Conditions**
- **Special Mandates**
- **Uses and Management in Wilderness**
- **Planning Timetable**



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## Website ([www.nps.gov/slbe](http://www.nps.gov/slbe)):

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- Thank You Letters from Superintendent (6)
- Planning Updates
- Clarifying Letters (Wilderness, etc.)
- Public Meetings / Hearing PowerPoint Presentations
- Summary of Public Comments (5)
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Alternatives Comparison Tables
- Sleeping Bear Dunes Photo Show
- Press Releases
- Road Feasibility Study
- Record of Decision



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## Web Forum:

- New method for public dialog to share ideas and discuss the GMP/WS in a public way.
- Not official comments.
- Users must register to post comments / questions.
- NPS moderator interact with users, answering questions and facilitating open discussions.

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## Meetings:

- Key Groups
- Throughout the process
- Seek out opposition
- Congressional Offices
- Tribes
- FWS
- SHPO
- State Offices
- Make yourself available to all organizations - anytime.



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## *Meetings (continued):*

**Five public comment  
opportunities; plus**

- **97 presentations to over  
2,600 people**



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## *Employee Involvement:*

- Conduct an all employee meeting(s) before the public meetings.
- Solicit employee input.



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## **Other Agencies:**

- **Contact agencies (tribes, Federal, state)**
- **Meet with key agencies at each major step shortly after documents are issued to provide a summary and answer their questions.**



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**Meet with Road  
Commissions before  
each phase.**

- **Obtained info on how they want us to reflect the management of the road ROWs in the document.**



# Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

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## *Public Workshop:*

- Very helpful with public involvement.
- Helped the public understand the process; the difficulty in developing alternatives that meet the mission, purpose and significance; AND is acceptable to most by considering opposing points of view.



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**Weekly conference calls with key members of the Planning Team to review status, next steps, etc.**



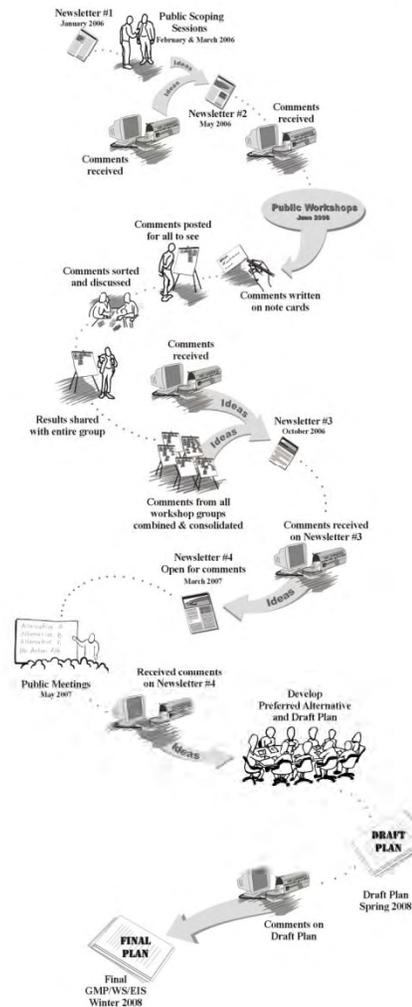
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At each stage, the web graphic was updated showing the next step.

## The GMP/WS Process So Far



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## Results:

One of the greatest benefits is the improved rapport and increased sense of trust with the public and local community.



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**New wilderness proposal  
with full public participation.**

**As a result, we have a much  
better configuration of  
wilderness (one that  
excludes county road rights-  
of-way and addresses public  
concerns of wilderness and  
access).**

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## The End

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## Questions? Comments?

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