

NPS Policies

The primary sources of information concerning what resources the Lakeshore's managers are tasked with are the NPS Organic Act of 1916, which created the NPS, and the enabling legislation for Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. These two are the primary source of information concerning what resources the Lakeshore's managers are tasked with protecting. In addition, *NPS Management Policies 2006* is the general Servicewide policy document that the NPS that reflects NPS authorities and provides guidance to Park managers.

The NPS Organic Act describes the mission of the NPS: to conserve the scenery and the natural and historical objects and wildlife in the Parks, 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. This responsibility of preservation and protection defines the standard by which all proposed projects in or near park boundaries must be evaluated.

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore was established by Act of Congress October 21, 1970. This enabling legislation (Public Law 91-479) states, "...the Congress finds that certain outstanding natural features, including forests, beaches, dune formations, and ancient glacial phenomena, exist along the mainland shore of Lake Michigan and on certain nearby islands in Benzie and Leelanau Counties, Michigan, and that such features ought to be preserved in their natural setting and protected from developments and uses which would destroy the scenic beauty and natural character of the area." The legislation also directs that Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore be managed "... in a manner which provides for recreational opportunities consistent with the maximum protection of the natural environment within the area."

Section 1.6 of *NPS Management Policies 2006* tasks park managers with using a cooperative approach to dealing with developments outside of park boundaries: "Superintendents will monitor land use proposals, changes to adjacent lands, and external activities for their potential impacts on park resources and values. It is appropriate for superintendents to engage constructively with the broader community in the same way that any good neighbor would. Superintendents will encourage compatible adjacent land uses and seek to avoid and mitigate potential adverse impacts on park resources and values by actively participating in the planning and regulatory processes of other federal agencies and tribal, state, and local governments having jurisdiction over property affecting, or affected by, the park. If a decision is made or is imminent that will result in unacceptable impacts on park resources, superintendents must take appropriate action, to the extent possible within the Service's authorities and available resources, to manage or constrain the use to minimize impacts."

Management Policies 2006, Section 4.9 Soundscape Management

The National Park Service will preserve, to the greatest extent possible, the natural soundscapes of parks.

The Service ... will protect natural soundscapes from unacceptable impacts. In and adjacent to parks, the Service will monitor human activities that generate noise that adversely affects park soundscapes, including noise caused by mechanical or electronic devices. The Service will take action to prevent or minimize all noise that through frequency, magnitude, or duration adversely affects the natural soundscape

(Also, Director's Orders #47: Soundscape Preservation and Noise Management)

Executive Order No. 13212, as amended, which requires federal agencies to expedite: certain energy production, transmission or conservation projects and the review of permits or other actions necessary to accelerate the completion of such projects. Also, in response to the National Energy Plan, Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of Energy have made a commitment to expand the use of indigenous resources on federal lands and increase the contribution of renewable energy.