Public Involvement

Public scoping meetings for the general management plan were held in the Keweenaw area in 1994 and 1995, including meetings with the Commission and park partners. A scoping newsletter with comment form was distributed in May 1995. Park issues, vision statements, purpose and significance statements, and interpretive themes were drafted as part of this process.

In September 1995, a briefing booklet on conceptual planning alternatives was distributed for review and comment, and public meetings were held in Houghton, Calumet, Marquette, and Lansing during the week of September 12, 1995. In February 1996, meetings and briefings were held with members of the advisory commission and park partners on the preliminary draft plan. Substantial revisions were made to those meetings and a revised preliminary draft plan and environmental document was distributed for review during the fall of 1996. On December 10 and 11, 1996, further meetings were held with the advisory commission and other park partners, local agencies, and cooperating sites. Substantive comments focused on concern that the seriousness of the hazardous materials issue had been overstated and presented too negatively; the need to formalize the current informal arrangements between the NPS and cooperating sites; and that formal recognition and establishment of a workable partnership arrangement was needed that did not weaken the authority of the park’s advisory commission and treated other groups as partners, not as “friends” of the park.

Reflecting many revisions in response to comments on the preliminary draft, the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement was printed and made available to the public on September 1, 1997. The official review period closed on October 31, 1997. Copies were placed on review in local libraries and government offices and were mailed primarily to the park’s mailing list of agencies and organizations. A summary newsletter was distributed to others announcing public meetings and the availability of the draft document. The first meeting was held at Calumet Elementary on September 22, 1997 and approximately 35 attended. A second public meeting was held on September 23, 1997 at Suomi College in Hancock, with about 15 attending. During the 60-day public comment period, seven letters were received. These letters were reproduced in the final document along with agency responses.

The Final General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement was made available for a 30-day no-action period on June 19, 1998. Approximately 250 copies of the FGMP/EIS were distributed primarily to key agencies and organizations. Copies were made available in local libraries and government agencies and upon request. The FGMP/EIS contains a full summary of the public involvement process and substantive comments received.


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