



**National Park Service
U.S. Department
of the Interior**

St. Croix National
Scenic Riverway

Wisconsin/Minnesota

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NPS Seeks Public Input for St. Croix River Camping Plan

The National Park Service (NPS) has released a Camping Management Plan and associated Environmental Assessment that identifies the agency's preferred alternative for managing camping on NPS administered lands along the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway between St. Croix Falls/Taylors Falls and Stillwater. At present, there are few restrictions on camping in this popular reach of the National Scenic Riverway. The plan has been developed in response to concerns about human waste, shoreline and island erosion, and protecting the rights of private landowners along the Riverway.

The NPS preferred alternative is Alternative 3a: Designated Campsites, Designated Backwater Campsites, Overnight Boat Tie-ups, and Overnight Use Pass. Actions included in the preferred alternative include limiting tent camping to designated campsites, establishing group size limits, and requiring carry-in, carry-out or onboard toilets. All overnight users would need to be in possession of an annual overnight use pass which would be available free-of-charge. The purpose of the pass is to ensure that all overnight users are aware of applicable rules and regulations and their purpose. A camping permit or reservation system, with associated fees, may be implemented in the future if camping demand warrants it. The preferred alternative is not a final agency decision; rather it is an indication of the NPS preference at this time. A final decision on alternative will be made by the NPS following public review and comment on the document. Implementation will be phased in over a period of a few years.

The document is available for review at the Riverway Headquarters in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, and on the Internet at <http://www.nps.gov/sacn/parkmgmt/publicinvolvement.htm>. It is also being distributed to public libraries in St. Croix Falls, Osceola, Somerset, and Hudson, all in Wisconsin, and Taylors Falls, Marine-on-St. Croix, and Stillwater in Minnesota. A limited number of hardcopies and electronic copies on compact disc are available from the Riverway. To request a copy, call Kevin Iverson at 715-483-2273.

An open house will be held at the Interpretive Center at William O'Brien State Park in Marine-on-St. Croix, Minnesota, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6. There will be a short presentation at 7:00 p.m. to present the preferred alternative, point out differences among the alternatives, and describe the next steps in the decision-making process. During the meeting, the public can look at maps showing the proposed location of designated campsites and other

information about the camping management plan. National Park Service staff will be on hand to discuss the proposed actions and answer questions.

William O'Brien State Park is along Highway 95 approximately 1.5 miles north of downtown Marine-on-St. Croix. Watch for the entrance on the west side of the highway; signs will direct you to the Interpretive Center. For more information about the meeting, please contact Jill Medland, with the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway in St. Croix Falls, at 715-483-2284.

Written comments may be sent to the Superintendent, St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, 401 Hamilton Street, St. Croix Falls, WI, 54024, Attention: Jill Medland. Comments may also be made electronically on the National Park Service planning website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkId=163&projectId=13816&documentID=12885>. The 30-day comment period will end on March 31.

The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway was established by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1968; it is one of a group of eight rivers in the country which first received this recognition. For 252 miles, the St. Croix River and its tributary, the Namekagon, flow through some of the most scenic and least developed country in the Upper Midwest. The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is a part of the National Park System.