



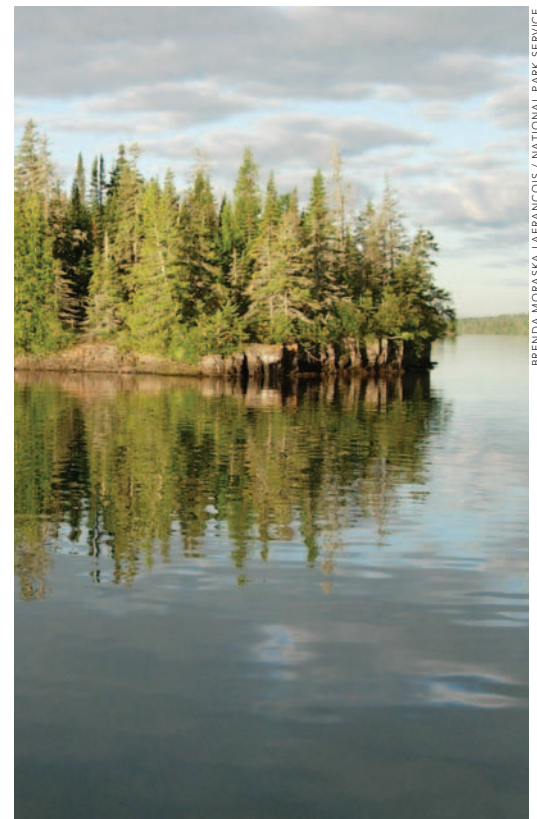
APPENDIX: METHODOLOGY

To determine the condition of known natural and cultural resources at the national parks of the Great Lakes and other national parks, the National Parks Conservation Association developed a resource assessment and ratings process. The assessment methodology can be found online at NPCA's Center for State of the Parks® website (www.npca.org/stateoftheparks/).

Researchers gather available information from a variety of research, monitoring, and background sources in a number of critical categories. The natural resources rating reflects assessment of more than 120 discrete elements associated with environmental quality, biotic health, and ecosystem integrity. Environmental quality and biotic health measures address air, water, soils, and climatic change conditions as well as their influences and human-related influences on plants and animals. Ecosystems measures address the extent, species composition, and interrelationships of organisms with each other and the physical environment for indicator, representative, or all terrestrial and freshwater communities.

The scores for cultural resources are determined based on the results of indicator questions that reflect the National Park Service's own Cultural Resource Management Guideline and other Park Service resource management policies.

Stewardship capacity refers to the Park Service's ability to protect park resources, and includes discussion of funding and staffing levels, park planning documents, resource education, and external support.



BRENDA MORASKA LAFRANCOIS / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

For this report, researchers collected data and prepared a paper that summarized the results. The draft underwent peer review and was also reviewed by staff at Gateway National Recreation Area.

NPCA's Center for State of the Parks represents the first time that such assessments have been undertaken for units of the National Park System. Comments on the program's methods are welcome.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Fort Laramie National Historic Site (WY), Fort
Necessity National Battlefield (PA), Fort Union Trading
Post National Historic Site (ND), Frederick Douglass
National Historic Site (DC), Gateway National
Recreation Area (NY), Great Smoky Mountains National
Park (TN/NC), Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site
(PA), Joshua Tree National Park (CA), Knife River Indian
Villages National Historic Site (ND), Lewis and Clark
National Historical Park (OR), Lewis and Clark National
Historic Trail (various), Little Bighorn Battlefield
National Monument (MT), Longfellow National Historic
Site (MA), Missouri National Recreational River (NE),
Mojave National Preserve (CA), Nez Perce National
Historical Park (WA, ID, MT, OR), Olympic National Park
(WA), Point Reyes National Seashore (CA), Rocky
Mountain National Park (CO), Shenandoah National
Park (VA), Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site (NH),
Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park (MT-Alberta),
Zion National Park (UT)

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