

## 16 What about aircraft?

Aircraft would be permitted to land on park waters at designated areas, but no provisions would be made for land-based aircraft.

## 17 Would the park be open in winter?

Yes. The Service would encourage and provide for winter use of the park. Snowmobiles and other over-snow equipment are expected to be an important use in designated areas.

## 18 How would the park be developed?

Major developments planned for the proposed park include: developed area roads, parking areas, trails and walkways, visitor centers, amphitheaters, administration buildings, campgrounds, picnic areas, marinas, docking facilities, maintenance and storage buildings, employee quarters, utility systems, signs, and markers. A detailed breakdown of proposed facility development will be presented to the Congress by the Department of the Interior when legislation to authorize the park is introduced. The development is programmed over a number of years with the major portion coming within the first five years after acquisition of adequate lands, subject to Congressional appropriations.

## 19 Would new roads be built?

None is contemplated except to and within the planned development areas. The proposed park would be unique in that it would be the only one in the Park System in which waterways would be dominant. Visitors would view the landscape from the water. In effect, the waterways become the roadways. The Service would hope, however, that as visitor use of the park increases, state and local government agencies would continue to provide adequate access to the area.

## 20 Would the Park Service provide all facilities and visitor accommodations?

No. The proposed boundaries of the park were expressly drawn to assure continued operation of the existing resorts on the southwest shore of Kabetogama Lake and at Ash River Trail. The Service believes private enterprise should provide lodging and food services, and hopes that expansion of facilities for visitors will take place in resort areas outside the park.

## 21 How would the park be staffed?

After the park is fully developed, it is anticipated there would be about 30 permanent employees, plus a number of seasonal employees. Permanent positions are filled under the rules and regulations of the U.S. Civil Service Commission. Clerical and maintenance personnel are usually recruited from the local area.

## 22 What fees would be charged?

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 specifically states there shall be no fees for use of waters. The Webster-Ashburton Treaty guarantees residents of both Canada and the United States free use of international boundary waters. Fees would be charged, however, for use of certain facilities provided by the Federal Government.

## 23 How would land be acquired?

Normally, this is spelled out in the authorizing legislation. Usually the law provides that land may be acquired by purchase, exchange, donation or, should federal land be involved, by transfer. Private land is purchased through direct negotiation with the property owners on the basis of fair market values

determined by qualified appraisers. Every reasonable effort is made to reach satisfactory agreements with the owners. Eminent domain proceedings are used only if all reasonable efforts of negotiation fail.

## 24 How is "fair market value" determined?

Fair market value is determined through careful appraisals, considering all values, including timber and recreation, by one or more qualified, impartial real estate appraisers familiar with property in the area.

## 25 What rights would an owner of private property have within the park once it is authorized?

The owner has all the rights and privileges he now enjoys, including the right of entry to his property, until the time property is actually acquired by the Federal Government. Private property is not automatically acquired when the park is authorized. It is acquired individually as described in questions 23 and 24.

## 26 As private cabin properties in the park are acquired, would cabin owners be permitted to remain?

It is the policy of the Service to buy property subject to life tenancy or specified period of occupancy if the owner desires, except in those few instances where occupancy would seriously impair the major preservation and public use purposes of a park.

## 27 If an owner elects life tenancy or specified period of occupancy when property is acquired, what rights does he have?

He would have much the same rights of use of the property he now has except that title would rest with the Federal Government.

## 28 What about cabins on state leases within the proposed boundary?

It is proposed to leave these under jurisdiction of the state pending arrangements which the state considers to be satisfactory to the leaseholders.

## 29 How many resort properties are within the proposal?

There are six resorts within the proposed park boundaries. These are the only resorts that would be acquired.

## 30 What controls would there be on resorts and private property outside park boundaries?

None. The Service would have no jurisdiction or control of lands outside the park boundaries. Any controls would be in the hands of local or state agencies.

## 31 What controls would there be on resorts and private property adjoining park boundaries?

None. In those instances where privately owned docks and other facilities on the lakes are within the park boundaries, special use permits would be issued similar to those issued presently by the state. Guests would not be required to have permits or pay a fee except when they used certain facilities provided within the park by the Federal Government.

## 32 How would the park benefit the area economically?

Economic studies have demonstrated that areas of the National Park System have resulted in economic benefit to local communities and states through tourist expenditures at private hotels, motels, resorts and other service establishments in prox-

imity to such areas. There also have been substantial investments in tourist facilities. Private industry has invested in lodging and other commercial establishments outside park boundaries. Inside the parks the Federal Government has built picnic areas, campgrounds, boat docks and ramps, interpretive facilities and other developments. An economic study of the proposal indicates that tourist expenditures resulting from establishment of the park would double in 10 years following the opening of the park to the public. A study by North Carolina State University of Dare County, North Carolina, where Cape Hatteras National Seashore is located, shows total valuation increased by 183% from 1950 to 1965. Also listed are tourist expenditures of more than \$9 million in 1965. A University of Wyoming study of Teton County, Wyoming, where Grand Teton National Park is located, showed tourist expenditures increased from \$7 million in 1958 to over \$13 million in 1964; also, that the largest number of visitors to the park came from California. Within a 500-mile radius of the proposed Voyageurs National Park are approximately 9 million people, not including the Chicago, Illinois, metropolitan area.

## 33 Can the boundaries be changed at any time?

No. Only an Act of Congress can change a park boundary once it has been established—it cannot be done by executive action.

## 34 Can the National Park Service buy private property outside the boundaries?

No. The Service has no authority to expend funds outside the boundaries.

## 35 Why are all the lands on the Peninsula needed for park purposes?

The total lands are required as an ecological unit for basic park management purposes, including restoration and maintenance of the natural scene. The interior lands will be used for hiking trails, primitive camping and other park uses.

## 36 What would the visitor do in the park?

A variety of activities including boating, conducted boat trips, swimming, camping, hiking, fishing, ice fishing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, photography, nature study and campfire programs. National Park Service interpretive facilities would enhance the visitor's experience. There would be an opportunity for a recreation experience entirely different from that in any other existing national park. The visitor would use the waterways as highways to view and enjoy the scenic land and water area without the usual type of development associated with the automobile.

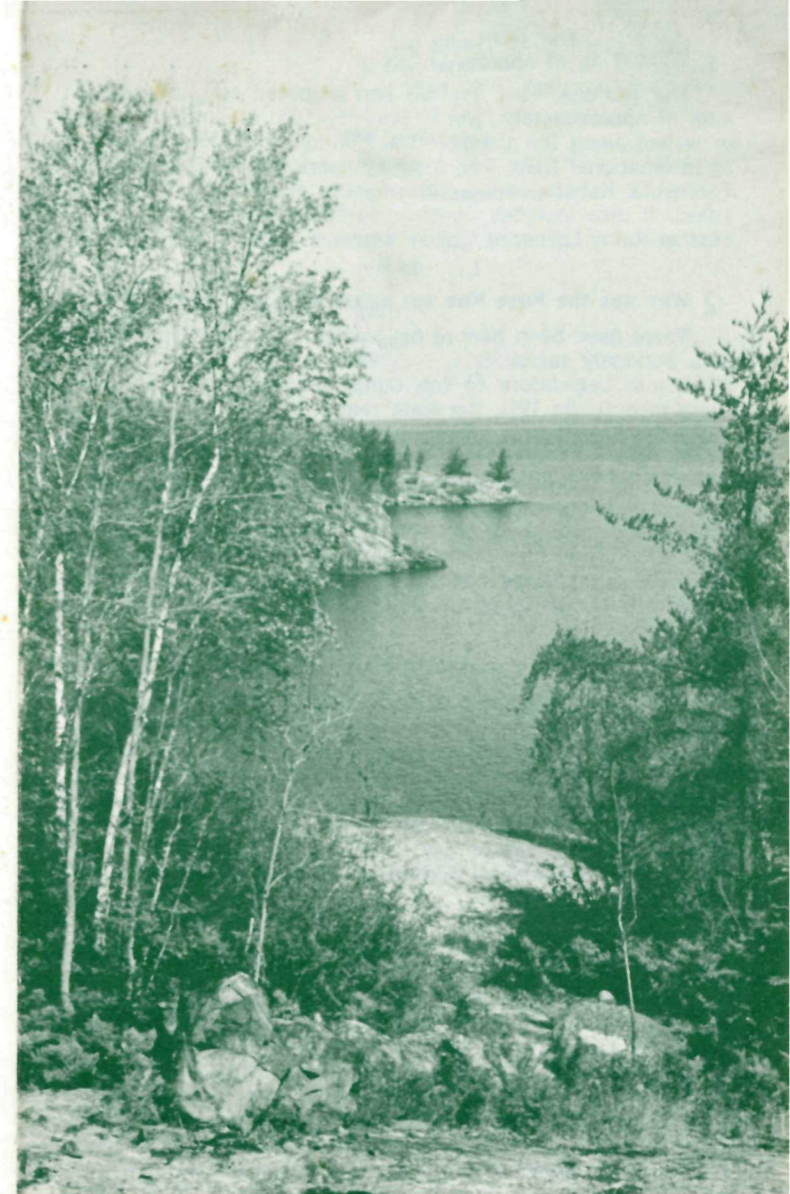
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR—the Nation's principal natural resource agency—bears a special obligation to assure that our expendable resources are conserved, that our renewable resources are managed to produce optimum benefits, and that all resources contribute their full measure to the progress and prosperity of the United States . . . now and in the future.



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Not printed at Government expense. Feb. 1968



PROPOSED

VOYAGEURS

NATIONAL PARK

## 1 What is the proposal?

The National Park Service has proposed setting aside an area of approximately 168,000 acres (108,000 of land and 60,000 of water) along the international boundary in Minnesota, east of International Falls. The proposed park includes Kabetogama Peninsula, Kabetogama Lake and parts of Rainy and Namakan Lakes. It also includes limited additional acreage for land access at Rainy Lake and the Kabetogama resort area.

## 2 Why was the Kabetogama area studied and selected?

There have been many park studies of the northern Minnesota boundary region, beginning with an 1891 request of the Minnesota Legislature to the Congress of the United States. More recently, in 1962, the state requested the Park Service to study the Kabetogama area. The proposal for the Voyageurs National Park is in effect a synthesis of much previous thinking. After giving careful consideration to the entire northern border country of Minnesota, from Lake-of-the-Woods to Grand Portage, the Service made an intensive study of the Kabetogama-Rainy Lake area. The study showed the area well qualified; in fact, it is the outstanding opportunity for a national park in the northern lake country of the United States.

## 3 What specifically makes this area nationally significant?

Briefly, a combination of four things: **Geology**—the ancient rock exposures of the Canadian Shield and an outstanding example of glaciated lake country. **Superlative Scenery**—a combination of large lakes, rocky shores, scenic variety and forest, fish and wildlife resources. **History**—a part of the Voyageurs Route which played a vital part in the opening of the West. **A Magnificent Waterway System**—interconnected large and small lakes, easily accessible, permitting a broad variety of recreational uses.

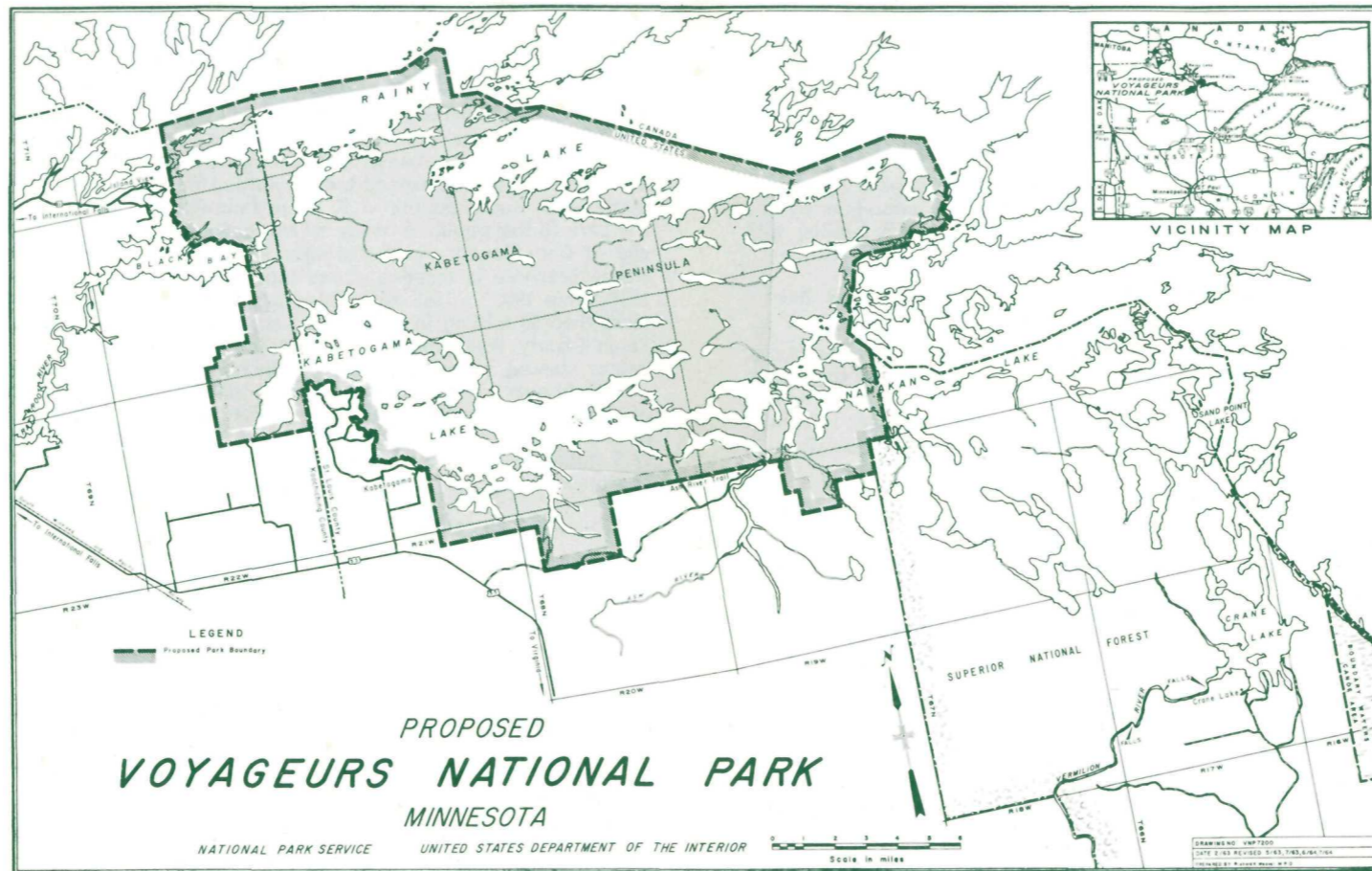
## 4 What standards are used to judge national park proposals?

The area must possess national significance in one or more of these areas: outstanding geological formation or features illustrating geological processes; an ecological community illustrating characteristics of a physiographic province or biome (such as prairie, tundra, coniferous forest, etc.); an ecological community illustrating the process of succession and restoration to natural condition following disruptive change; examples of the scenic grandeur of our natural heritage. The area must possess integrity, i.e., it must represent a true, accurate, essentially unspoiled natural example.

National parks should be relatively spacious. Land and water areas must be so outstandingly superior in quality and beauty as to make imperative their preservation by the Federal Government for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of all the people. They should embrace a sufficiently comprehensive unit as to permit public use and enjoyment and effective management of a continuing representation of the flora and fauna. They should be adaptable to a type of management that can provide a wide range of opportunities for human enjoyment, such as camping, picnicking, hiking, sightseeing, in a natural setting consistent with the preservation of the characteristics or features that merited establishment of the area. National parks will most often contain a diversity of resources and values, including scenic and scientific.

The proposed Voyageurs National Park meets these criteria.\*

\* A handbook "NPS Criteria for Parklands" which explains the criteria in more detail is available from the National Park Service.



## 5 Why don't the alternate sites mentioned qualify?

The most frequently mentioned sites have been Lac la Croix, Crane Lake, Itasca State Park and Grand Portage. None of these areas considered separately meets the rigid criteria for national parks for a number of reasons, the more important being: **Lac la Croix**—The area is not readily accessible nor does it lend itself to use by larger boats as well as most other kinds of watercraft. It is not as desirable from an ecological management concept for the area is not as isolated from surrounding influences. Also as a wilderness area it cannot support as wide a range of recreation activities. **Crane Lake**—Principally, a lack of size. The area is not large enough to allow for a full range of management and public use objectives. It can, to a degree, represent an extension of the proposed park insofar as public use is concerned. **Itasca State Park**—Though this area is a significant state park of which Minnesota can be proud, it is not large enough nor does it offer the same opportunities for management and public use as the area proposed for Voyageurs National Park. **Grand Portage**—Its significance already has been recognized with designation as a national monument. It is too small to qualify as a national park and does not offer the same opportunities for water use as the Kabetogama region.

## 6 Were various views considered in the planning process?

Yes. During the course of field studies the National Park Service discussed the proposal with representatives of the state, major landholders on the peninsula and local interests.

After the Service issued its preliminary professional report in September, 1964, public information meetings were held. The Service also met with interested groups, including local government bodies and resort owners, and attended symposiums and workshops to explain the proposal and to answer questions. Additional studies were made and followed by further discussions. The Service has also replied to many written inquiries from individuals and groups. Comments and suggestions from all sources have been carefully considered.

## 7 How would Voyageurs National Park be established?

National parks are established only by Acts of Congress. Following a study of significance and suitability of a proposed area, a bill is introduced by a Member of Congress and then referred to the appropriate Congressional Committee. The Committee usually seeks the views, recommendations and advice of the public and requests the recommendations of the Department of the Interior and other affected agencies. This is to aid in deciding whether the public interest would be served by the proposed legislation.

If a bill is passed by both the Senate and the House of Representatives, it becomes law upon approval by the President. Congress may then be asked to appropriate funds for land acquisition, development and administration. The authorized area does not become formally established until the Secretary of the Interior determines that sufficient lands have been acquired to comprise a manageable unit.

## 8 If the park is established, would commercial timber harvesting continue?

No. However, the National Park Service does manage forests and wildlife in conformance with directives from Congress and carefully developed resource management policies. The basic purpose is to restore and maintain the natural scene and wildlife habitats as much as possible. It is a concept of preservation of a total environment as compared with the protection of an individual feature or species. Management of forests would entail steps necessary to protect against epidemics of insects and disease which threaten whole ecosystems as well as against wildfires to prevent unacceptable loss of wilderness values, cultural resources, physical facilities or loss of life.

## 9 If the park is established, how would future timber supplies be affected?

The economic report by the University of Minnesota, Duluth, reports that the average annual harvest from the park area for the period 1959 through 1964 amounted to 8,100 cords. The establishment of the park would not appreciably affect timber supply since the report notes further that land in Koochiching County in 1960 had an annual surplus of 338,500 cords, while St. Louis County had a surplus of 569,830 cords.

## 10 Would both sport and commercial fishing be allowed?

Yes. License requirements and rules and regulations of the State of Minnesota would apply. Sport fishing would be an important recreation use of the park. The Service would hope to institute programs, in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Conservation and the Fish and Wildlife Service, which would increase public enjoyment of the fishery resource.

## 11 Would public hunting and trapping be allowed?

No. Wildlife management in national parks has a different objective than wildlife management on hunting lands. Park Service wildlife programs are directed toward restoring and maintaining the balance of natural forces rather than producing a harvestable crop of game animals. The objective is to conserve, perpetuate and display as a composite whole the native fauna, flora and scenic landscape. The Service will seek cooperation from the Minnesota Department of Conservation in resolving any wildlife problems which may arise.

## 12 Why can't the area remain as it is?

The Kabetogama region has been found to be one of the few remaining areas in the country which qualifies for national park status. But there is now no assurance that the outstanding values of the area will be preserved for public enjoyment and use in the future. Making it a national park would protect these values for present and future generations.

## 13 Would the Park Service control the water levels?

The water levels will continue to be controlled by the International Joint Commission as they now are.

## 14 What about boating?

The boating regulations of the Park Service, the U.S. Coast Guard and the State of Minnesota would apply. These regulations would make little change in present boating use of the lakes.

## 15 What kinds of boats are expected to use park waters?

All types of craft—cabin cruisers, runabouts, sailboats, fishing boats, canoes and houseboats—both private and commercial. However, watercraft cannot be used for permanent or seasonal residential purposes in national parks.