Visitor Services Project — Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Introductory script used in contacting visitors:

Hello! The National Park Service is conducting a visitor survey at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore to gather your opinions about the park's programs and services. Participation is voluntary. If you decide to participate we would like to have the survey mailed back. The mail-back questionnaire takes about 20 minutes to complete during or after your visit. Would you like to participate?

IF NO: Thank you. **IF YES**: Thank you. I have a few quick questions for you. Who in your group (at least 16 years old) has the next birthday?

Questions 1-4: Topic area 2—Trip/visit characteristics Question 5: Topic area 1—Individual Characteristics

- 1) What type of group are you traveling with today?
- 2) (If with an organized group-tours, school, etc.) How many people are in your group?
- 3) How many adults, 18 years and older, are in your personal group?
- 4) How many children, 17 years and younger, are in your personal group?
- 5) How old is the person who will complete the questionnaire?

So we can thank you and remind you to mail back the questionnaire, please write your name, address, and email address/phone number. Thank you. Be sure to mail the questionnaire—your opinions are important!

Training for interviewers: each interviewer receives 1-1/2 hours of training on how to conduct interviews. This training goes over every aspect of interviewing, including conducting the interviews using a sampling interval, avoiding sampling bias, and how to handle all types of interviewing situations, including safety of the visitor and the interviewer. Quality control is ensured by monitoring interviewers in the field, and by checking their paperwork at the end of each day of surveying.

1st follow-up printed on a scenic park postcard (sent to all participants 11 working days after completion of survey)

Dear Visitor:

Thank you for participating in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore visitor study. We look forward to hearing from you.

A select number of people were contacted for this study, so your opinions are very important!

If you have already returned your questionnaire, thank you. If not, please mail it today.

After eight months, look for the survey results at: www.psu.uidaho.edu/vsp.reports.htm.

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Dusty Shultz, Superintendent Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

2nd follow-up note and letter with replacement questionnaire (sent to non-respondents 21 working days after completion of survey)



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore 9922 Front St. Empire, MI 49630

IN REPLY REFER TO:

August 26, 2009

Dear Visitor:

The National Park Service would like to thank you for participating in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore visitor study. Only a select number of visitors were contacted, therefore each visitor's opinions are very important.

If you have already returned your questionnaire, thank you. If you have not returned your questionnaire, please mail it today. Unless your questionnaire was mailed in the last few days, we would appreciate you completing the enclosed replacement questionnaire since we have not received yours as of today.

In approximately eight months, the results of the visitor survey will be posted on the Visitor Services Project website at www.psu.uidaho.edu/vsp.reports.htm.

If you have any questions regarding your questionnaire, please contact Margaret Littlejohn, National Park Service Visitor Services Project Director by phone 208-885-7863 or email: littlej@uidaho.edu.

Thank you for sharing your opinions with us.

Sincerely,

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Dusty Shultz, Superintendent Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

3rd follow-up letter with replacement questionnaire (sent to non-respondents 35 working days after completion of survey)



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE Visitor Services Project PSU, College of Natural Resources University of Idaho P.O. Box 441139 Moscow, Idaho 83844-1139

September 16, 2009

I am writing about the visitor study at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, in which you agreed to participate. As of today, we have not received your completed questionnaire.

The waiting period for incoming questionnaires is almost over and we have not yet received yours. I would appreciate you completing another one unless you mailed it within the past few days.

The staff of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is anxiously awaiting the survey results. They want to use your ideas and opinions in making decisions about what services and programs to provide for visitors in the future.

I urge you to complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it by September 30. Your contribution to the success of this study is greatly appreciated.

In approximately eight months, the results of the visitor survey will be posted on the Visitor Services Project website at www.psu.uidaho.edu/vsp.reports.htm.

If you have questions regarding your questionnaire, please contact me by phone: (208)-885-7863 or email: littlej@uidaho.edu.

Sincerely,

Varganet Killejoe

Margaret Littlejohn Director, Visitor Services Project



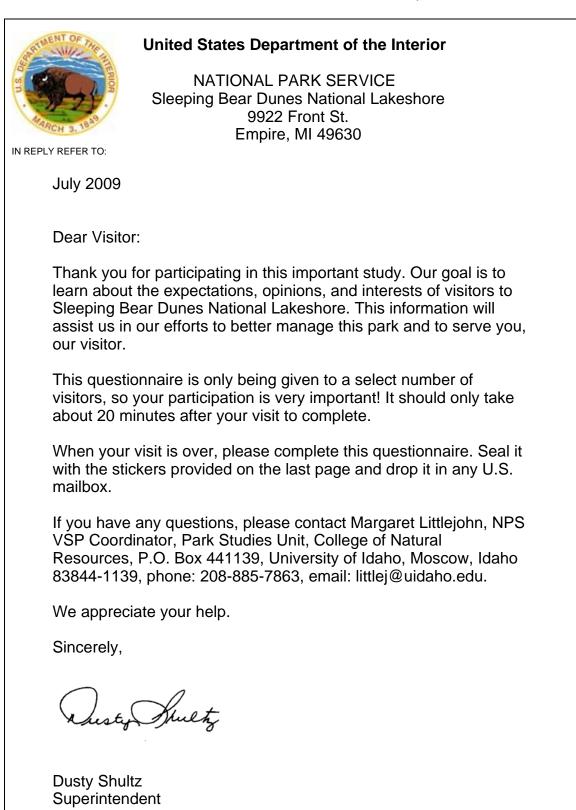
Social Science Program National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

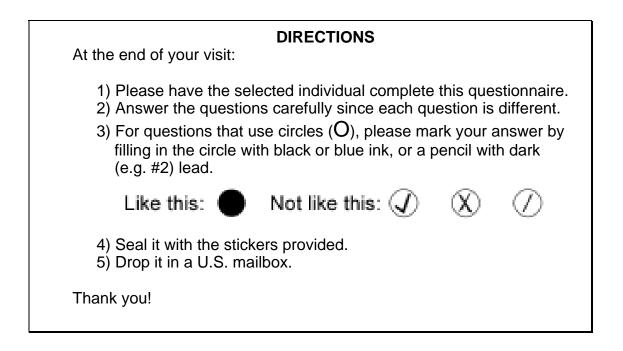
Visitor Services Project

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

Visitor Study







PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement:

16 U.S.C. 1a-7 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used by park managers to better serve the public. Response to this request is voluntary. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. Your name is requested for follow-up mailing purposes only. When analysis of the questionnaire is completed, all name and address files will be destroyed. Thus the permanent data will be anonymous. Please do not put your name or that of any member of your personal group on the questionnaire. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Burden estimate statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 20 minutes per response. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to Margaret Littlejohn, NPS Visitor Services Project, College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho, P.O. Box 441139, Moscow, ID, 83844-1139; email: littlej@uidaho.edu.

Your Visit To Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore

NOTE: In this questionnaire, your **personal group** is defined as anyone that you are visiting the park with, such as spouse, family, friends, etc. This does not include the larger group that you might be traveling with, such as school, church, scouts, or tour group.

- a) Prior to your visit, how did you and your personal group obtain information about Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (NL)? Please mark (●) all that apply in column (a). [2.TPLAN11]
 - b) If you were to visit Sleeping Bear Dunes NL in the future, how would you and your personal group prefer to obtain information about the park? Please mark (●) all that apply in column (b).

a) Prior to this visit? (●)	b) On a future visit? (●)

0	Obtained no information prior to visit Go to part b of thi	s question
0	Previous visits	0
0	Friends/relatives/word of mouth	0
0	Travel guides/tour books (such as AAA, etc.)	0
0	Maps/brochures	0
0	Newspaper/magazine articles	0
0	E-mail/telephone/written inquiry to park	0
0	Television/radio programs/videos/DVDs	0
0	Sleeping Bear Dunes NL website: www.nps.gov/slbe	0
0	Other (Please specify below)	0
This vis	it Future visit	
,	From the sources marked above, did you and your personal group of information about the park that you needed? [2.TPLAN1	

- O No O Yes \rightarrow Go to Question 2
- d) If NO, what type of park information did you and your personal group need that was not available? Please be specific. [2.TPLAN13]

- 2. a) **Prior to this visit**, were you and your personal group aware that Sleeping Bear Dunes NL is a unit of National Park System? [1KNOW2]
 - O Yes O No O Not sure
 - b) Wilderness areas are proposed within Sleeping Bear Dunes NL in order to provide opportunities for solitude and recreation. **Prior to this visit**, were you and your personal group aware of the proposed wilderness areas?
 - O Yes O No O Not sure
- 3. a) Sleeping Bear Dunes NL operates year-round, although available programs and facilities vary according to season. **Prior to this visit**, were you and your personal group aware of the opportunity to visit the park during other seasons besides summer?
 - O Yes O No
 - b) If YES, have you and your group visited the park during a season other than summer?
 - O No
- O Yes \rightarrow c) If YES, which season(s)?
- d) How likely is it in the future that you or someone in your personal group will visit Sleeping Bear Dunes NL in a season other than summer? Please mark (●) one.

O Likely O Unsure O Not likely

- a) Prior to this visit, were you and your group aware of the following rules/ regulations at Sleeping Bear Dunes NL? Please mark (●) one answer for each item in column (a).
 - b) On this visit to Sleeping Bear Dunes NL, did you and your group learn (via publications, signs, talking to park staff, etc.) about these rules/regulations? Please mark (●) one answer for each item in column b. [3.LEARN5]

a) Aware prior to visit?			b) Learned during visit?		
Yes	No	Rules/regulations	Yes	No	
0	0	An entrance fee is required to recreate within Sleeping Bear Dunes NL	0	0	
0	0	Pets are only permitted in certain areas and must be controlled on a 6-foot or shorter leash	0	0	
0	0	Glass containers are not allowed on beaches	0	0	
0	0	It is illegal to transport firewood from quarantined areas in Michigan	0	0	
0	0	Bicycles are not allowed on trails	0	0	

5. Several non-profit organizations work as partners to protect Sleeping Bear Dunes NL They provide support to the park through educational programs, awareness, and funding. **Prior to receiving this questionnaire**, were you and your personal group aware of the following groups? [1.PART2]

Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes	0	Yes	0	No
Manitou Islands Memorial Society	0	Yes	0	No
Preserve Historic Sleeping Bear	0	Yes	0	No

- a) Currently, advance reservations are accepted at selected campgrounds within Sleeping Bear Dunes NL via the Internet or telephone. Prior to this visit, were you and your group aware of the campground reservation system? [2.TPLAN14]
 - O Yes O No
 - b) Did you and your group make campground reservations prior to your visit? [2.TPLAN15]

0	Did not camp on this visit	Go to Question 7
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- O Yes, made reservation O No, did not make reservation
- 7. a) If you and your personal group camped on this visit, which campground did you use? Please specify in **part a** in the table below.
 - b) For the campgrounds you used, please rate how crowded you felt. Please mark (●) one in part b for each campground you used. [5.CROWD2]
 - c) Finally, for only those campgrounds that you or your personal group used, please rate their quality from 1-5 in part c. [6.EVALSERV21]
 c) What quality?

b) How crowded?						2=Poor 3=Average
a) Campground (Please specify)	Not at all crowded	A little crowded	Moderately crowded	Very crowded	Extremely crowded	4=Good 5=Very good
	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	Ο	
Q. 8: Topic area 7 — Inc	ement					

- 8. If you were to camp inside Sleeping Bear Dunes NL on a future visit, which of the following options would you prefer? Please mark (●) **one**.
 - O Won't camp on a future visit
 - O All campsites are first-come, first-served
 - O Advance reservation for all campsites
 - O Advance reservations for some and first-come, first-served for others

- On this trip, what was the primary reason that you and your personal group came to the Sleeping Bear Dunes NL area? Please mark (●) one. [3TRIPC1]
 - O Resident of the area (within 1-hour drive from park boundary; use map on page 12 for park boundary)
 - O Visit Sleeping Bear Dunes NL
 - O Visit other area attractions
 - O Visit friends/relatives in the area
 - O Business
 - O Other (Please specify)

Ο

- 10.a) On this trip, did you and your personal group stay overnight **away from your permanent residenc**e and <u>within</u> Sleeping Bear Dunes NL, or in the surrounding area (within 1-hour drive from park boundary, use map on page 12 for park boundary)? [3TRIPC13]
 - O Yes

- No → Go to Question 11
- b) If YES, please list the number of nights you and your personal group stayed in Sleeping Bear Dunes NL and/or in the surrounding area (within 1-hour drive of the park boundary). [3TRIP14]

_____ Number of nights inside Sleeping Bear Dunes NL

_____ Number of nights in the **surrounding area** outside the park

c) In what type of lodging did you and your personal group spend the night(s)? Please mark (●) **all** that apply. [TRIPC15]

Lodging	In park	Outside park in surrounding area
Lodges, hotels, motels, vacation ren or bed & breakfast, etc.	tals, O	Ο
RV/trailer camping in developed can	npground O	0
Tent camping in developed campgro	ound O	0
Backcountry campsite	0	0
Personal seasonal residence	0	0
Residence of friends or relatives	0	0
Other (Please specify below)	0	0
In park:	Outside park:	

- 11. a) As you were planning your trip, what activities did you and your personal group expect to include on this visit? Please mark (●) all that apply in column a.
 [3.ACT21]
 - b) On this visit, what activities did you and your personal group actually participate in at Sleeping Bear Dunes NL? Please mark (●) all that apply in column b.

<u>a) Acti</u>	vities expected (•) b)	Activities on this	<u>visit (</u> ●)
0	Attending ranger-led talks/programs	C)
0	Attending special events	C)
0	Backpacking/camping in backcountry camps	sites C)
0	Beach going (e.g., swim, tan, walk)	C)
0	Boating/kayaking/canoeing/tubing	C)
0	Camping in developed campgrounds	C)
0	Creative arts (photography/drawing/painting,	/writing) C)
0	Enjoying solitude/quiet	C)
0	Fishing/hunting	C)
0	General sightseeing	C)
0	Nature study (birdwatching, wildlife viewing,	stargazing) C)
0	Visiting historic sites	C)
0	Walking/hiking/dune climbing	C)
0	Other (Please specify below)	C)
Expected:	Did:		

c) Which **one** activity that you or your group participated in was your primary reason for visiting Sleeping Bear Dunes NL on this visit? [3.ACT23]

^{12.}a) On this visit to Sleeping Bear Dunes NL, did anyone in your personal group participate in any ranger-led talks/programs? [3.ACT8]

b) If NO, why not? Please mark (●) all that apply. [3.ACT9]

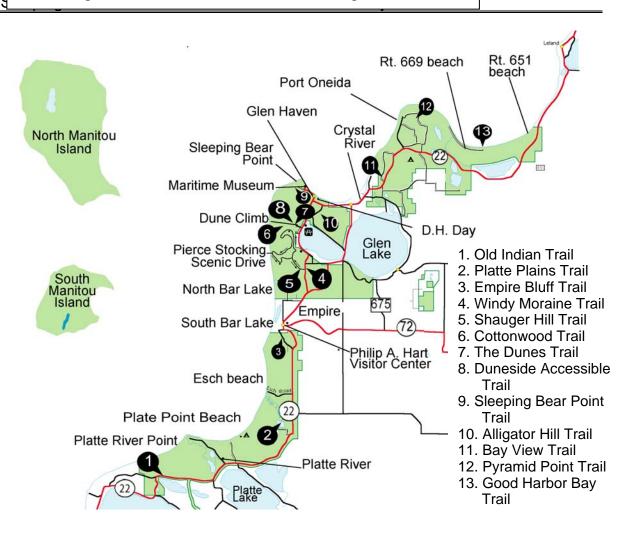
- O Not interested in talks/programs
- O Did not have time for this activity
- O Not aware of any ranger-led talks/programs offered at park
- O Not enough programs offered
- O Schedule of programs was inconvenient
- O Other (Please specify)
- 13. a) For this trip, please mark all the park locations that you and your group visited in Sleeping Bear NL? Please mark (●) all that apply in column (a); use the map on the next page to help you locate the sites. [3.ITIN1]
 - b) For the place that you and your group visited, please rate how crowded you felt Please mark (●) **one** answer for each location you visited. [5.CROWD1]

		b) How crowded?				
a) L	ocation	Not at all crowded	A little crowded	Moderately crowded	Very crowded	Extremely crowded
0	Crystal River	0	0	0	0	0
0	Platte River	0	0	0	0	0
0	Dune Climb	0	0	0	0	0
0	North Bar Lake	0	0	0	0	0
0	Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive	0	0	0	0	0
0	Port Oneida Rural Historic District	0	0	0	0	0
0	Visitor Center (in Empire)	0	0	0	0	0
0	North Manitou Island	0	0	0	0	0
0	South Manitou Island	0	0	0	0	0
0	Glen Haven/Maritime Museum	0	0	0	0	0
0	Beach (specify)	0	0	0	0	0
0	Other (specify)	0	0	0	0	0

- c) If you and your personal group **did not** visit the Manitou Islands, why not? Please be specific.
- 14. a) Please mark (•) all of the visitor services and facilities that you or your personal group **used** at Sleeping Bear Dunes NL during this visit.
 - b) Next, for only those services and facilities that you or your personal group used, please rate their importance to your visit from 1-5.
 - c) Finally, for only those services and facilities that you or your personal group used, please rate their quality from 1-5. [3. EVALSERV21]

a) Visito Mark (●)	r services/fac			b) If used, how important 1=Not important 2=Somewhat in 3=Moderately ir 4=Very importa 5=Extremely im	t nportant nportant nt	c) If used, what quality? 1=Very poor 2=Poor 3=Average 4=Good 5=Very good
0	Park brochu	e/map				
0	Assistance fr	om park st	aff			
0	Indoor exhib	its/museun	าร			
0	Outdoor exhi	bits				
0	Park orientat	ion slidesh	WO			
0	Ranger-led p	orograms				
0	Ferry service	e to Manito	u Islands			
0	Picnic areas					
0	Restrooms					
0	Junior Range	er program				
0	Park website used bef	: www.nps ore or durir	•			
0	Bookstore sa (selectior	ales items 1, price, etc	:.)	. <u></u>		
recrea	all, how would ational opportu (●) one . [6.E\	inities at S	leeping Bea	the facilities, se ar Dunes NL du	ervices, a ring this v	nd isit? Please
	ry poor	Poor	Averag	je Good	l Ve	ery good
	0	0	0	0		0

Q. 16a: Topic area 3 — Visitor activities and use of park resources



16. a) On this visit to Sleeping Bear Dunes NL, which trails did you and your group hike/walk on? Please use the list above and specify in column (a).

O Did not hike/walk any trail \rightarrow Go to Question 17

- b) For the trails that you and your group hiked/walked, please rate how crowded you felt. Please mark (●) **one** answer for each trail you used. [5.Crowd2]
- c) Finally, for only the trail that you or your personal group used, please rate their quality from 1-5 in column (c) [6.EVALSERV21]
 c) What quality?

		b) How crow	ded?		1=Very poor 2=Poor 3=Average
a) Trail (specify)	Not at all crowded	Slightly crowded	Moderately crowded	Very crowded	Extremely crowded	4=Good 5=Verv good
	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	0	0	0	

- Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Study
- 17. In which communities, within a 1-hour drive from park boundary, did you and your personal group purchase support services (such as hotels, restaurants, groceries, gas, recreational equipment rentals, etc.) specifically for this visit to Sleeping Bear Dunes NL? Please mark (•) all that apply. [3.TRIPC18]

0	None 🗲 Go to	Questic	on 18		
0	Empire	Ο	Traverse City	0	Leland
0	Glen Arbor	0	Frankfort	0	Beulah/Benzonia
0	Other (Please sp	oecify) _			

18. It is the National Park Service's responsibility to protect Sleeping Bear Dunes NL's natural, scenic, and cultural resources and visitor experiences that depend on these. How important is protection of the following resources/attributes in the park to you? Please mark (•) one answer for each resource/attribute. [6.OPMGMT4]

Resource/attribute	Not important	Somewhat important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
Scenic views	0	0	0	0	0
Natural areas	0	0	0	0	0
Native wildlife	0	0	Ο	0	Ο
Native plants	0	0	Ο	0	Ο
Natural quiet/sounds of nature	0	0	Ο	0	Ο
Clean air (visibility)	0	0	Ο	0	0
Clean water	0	0	Ο	0	0
Recreational opportunities	0	0	0	0	0
Educational opportunities	0	0	0	0	0
Historic sites and buildings	0	0	0	0	0
Clear night sky	0	0	0	0	0
Sand dunes	0	0	0	0	0

19. On this visit to Sleeping Bear Dunes NL, how long did you and your personal group spend visiting the park? List partial hours or days as 1/4, 1/2, 3/4.[3TRIPC11]

Number of hours if less than 24 hours, OR

Number of days if 24 hours or more

	<u> </u>]		
20.	20. On this visit, were you and your personal group part of the following types of organized groups? [1.GR6]					
	a) Cor	mmercial guided tour group	0	Yes	0	No
	b) School/educational group		0	Yes	0	No
	c) Other organized group (scouts, work, church, etc.)		0	Yes	0	No
21.	 On this visit, with what kind of personal group (not guided tour/school/other organized group) were you? [1.GR5] 					
	0	Alone	0	Friends		
	0	Family	0	Family a	nd friend	ds
	0	Other (Please specify)				
22.	 a) On this visit, how many people were in your personal group, including yourself? [1.GR3] 					
	Number of people					
b) On this visit, how many vehicles did you and your personal group use to arrive at the park? [1.GR4]						
		Number of vehicles				
23.	For vo	ou and your personal group on this vi	sit. plea	ase provide	e the fol	lowina. (If

23. For you and your personal group on this visit, please provide the following. (If you do not know the answer, leave blank). [1.AGE3]

		b) U.S. ZIP code or name of country	c & d) Number of visits to Sleeping Bear Dunes NL (including this visit)		
	a) Current age	other than U.S.	past 12 months	lifetime	
Yourself					
Member #2					
Member #3					
Member #4					
Member #5					
Member #6					
Member #7					

24. a) Does anyone in your personal group have a physical condition that made it difficult to access or participate in park activities or services? [1.GR2]

O Yes

O No \rightarrow Go on to Question 25

- b) If YES, what services or activities were difficult to access/participate in?
- c) What specific problems did the person have?

Evnondituros

- 25. For you and your personal group, please report all expenditures for the items listed below for this visit to Sleeping Bear Dunes NL and the surrounding **area** (within a 1-hour drive from any entrance point). **Please write "0" if no money was spent in a particular category.** [3.TRIPC26]
 - a) Please list your group's total expenditures inside Sleeping Bear Dunes NL.
 - b) Please list your group's total expenditures in the **surrounding area** outside the park (within a 1-hour drive from park boundary).

NOTE: Surrounding area residents should only include expenditures that were **just for this trip** to Sleeping Bear Dunes NL.

•	a) Inside park	 b) Outside park in surrounding area 		
Lodges, hotels, motels, cabins, B&B, etc.	n/a	\$		
Camping fees and charges	\$	\$		
Guide fees and charges	\$	\$		
Restaurants and bars	\$	\$		
Groceries and takeout food	\$	\$		
Boat/canoe/kayak rentals	\$	\$		
Gas and oil (auto, RV, boat, etc.)	\$	\$		
Other transportation expenses (rental cars, taxis, auto repairs, but NOT airfare)	\$	\$		
Admission, recreation, entertainment fees	\$	\$		
All other purchases (souvenirs, books, equipment, licenses, clothing, etc.)	\$	\$		
Donations	\$	\$		
c) How many people do the above expenses cover?				
Adults (18 years or over)	Childi	ren (under 18 years)		

Please write 0 if no children were covered by the expenditures.

26. On a future visit to Sleeping Bear Dunes NL, how would you and your personal group prefer to learn about cultural and natural history/features of Sleeping Bear Dunes NL? Please mark (●) **all** that apply. [3.FVIS3]

0	O Not interested in learning about the park → Go to Question 27			
0	Indoor exhibits	0	Outdoor exhibits	
0	Park website: www.nps.gov/slbe	0	Self-guided tours	
0	Volunteer opportunities	0	Special events	
0	Ranger-led interpretive programs			
0	Electronic media/devices available to visitors (downloadable digital files, podcasts, interactive computer programs/tours, etc.)			
0	Audiovisual programs (DVD, video, or audio)			
0	Printed materials (brochures, books, maps, etc.)			
0	Other (Please specify)			

- 27. a) What did you and your personal group like **most** about your visit to Sleeping Bear Dunes NL? [6.EVALSERV25]
 - b) What did you and your personal group like **least** about your visit to Sleeping Bear Dunes NL? [6.EVALSERV24]
- 28. Is there anything else you and your personal group would like to tell us about your visit to Sleeping Bear Dunes NL? [6.OPMGMT7]

Thank you for your help! Please seal the questionnaire with the stickers provided and drop it in any U.S. mailbox.

Printed on recycled paper

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Visitor Services Project Park Studies Unit College of Natural Resources University of Idaho P.O. Box 441139 Moscow, Idaho 83844-1139