

APOSTLE ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

FY2005 Annual Report

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NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE ROSE LAKE PLANT MATERIALS CENTER

Introduction The Apostle Island National Park is comprised of Raspberry Island, Outer Island, and others in Lake Superior near Bayfield, Wisconsin. Several of these islands have historic lighthouses that once guided mariners through the cold waters of Lake Superior. Continuous erosion of steep slopes has jeopardized these historic facilities. This project was initiated in 2000 to produce native plant stock for stabilizing slopes, preventing erosion, preserving native plant resources, and revegetating at Apostle Islands National Park.

The Park Service entered into several reimbursable agreements with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Rose Lake Plant Materials Center (PMC) to provide technical assistance and to assist with collecting and growing plants. Under a Memorandum of Agreement grass, forb, and shrub species (Table 1) were selected for propagation based on the material's availability, viability, and site adaptability for the intended use.

The Rose Lake PMC is growing more plants and the Plant Materials Specialist continues to provide technical assistance for the installation of bioengineered structures. Project completion is expected in 2006.

Accomplishments

Table 1. Species propagated and number of plants delivered by Rose Lake Plant Materials Center to Apostle Island National Park in 2005.	
American Beachgrass – 581	Poverty Oatgrass – 101
Allegheny Blackberry – 65	Prickly Rose – 96
Beach Pea – 21	Red Elderberry – 122
Beachgrass – 95	Redosier Dogwood – 319
Bluejoint – 581	Redtop – 151
Bunchberry Dogwood – 172	Sandcherry – 356
Canada Goldenrod – 697	Shrubby Fivefingers – 155

Canada Wildrye – 962	Smooth Rose – 650
Common Juniper – 136	Speckled Alder – 181
Dwarf Scouring Rush – 76	Thimbleberry – 868
Evening Primrose – 190	Wavy Hairgrass – 861
Fireweed – 184	Western Pearly Everlasting – 539
Grayleaf Red Raspberry – 487	Willow – 8
Lowbush Blueberry – 206	Virginia Strawberry – 1104
Oakes' Evening Primrose – 157	Yellow Avens – 34
Pin Cherry – 62	

Technology Development The Rose Lake Plant Materials Specialist has provided training to the Apostle Island National Park employees on several slope stabilization techniques. In April the park staff constructed their first vegetative crib wall on Raspberry Island under the direction of the Plant Materials Specialist. They also received guidance on the installation of a vegetative crib wall and slope grid system for Outer Island.