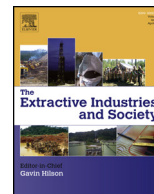




Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

The Extractive Industries and Society

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/exis



Original Article

Spatial boundaries and industrial landscapes at Keweenaw National Historical Park

Matthew Liesch*

Department of Geography, Central Michigan University, 284 Dow Science Building, Mount Pleasant, MI 48859, USA

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 14 July 2014

Received in revised form 30 August 2014

Available online xxx

Keywords:

Industrial landscape

Boundary

United States National Park Service

Ethnography

Placemaking

ABSTRACT

The geographies of dormant mining districts create preservation and interpretation challenges. Keweenaw National Historical Park (KNHP) is one of a relatively recent ensemble of United States National Park Service (NPS) sites designed to partner the federal government with state and local agencies and businesses. Building upon cultural landscape studies and park management issues, this paper is a case study of how a local community understands spatial boundaries of a public–private partnership park. Collectively, the park and its partners interpret and preserve dormant copper industry landscapes. Given that almost all of the land within park boundaries is privately owned through preexisting settlement, local residents often do not know where park boundaries are located. Ethnographic data reveal that local groups hold contrasting conceptions of which industrial landscapes are within KNHP. Scholars may use this case study to inform their investigations into parks and protected areas commemorating extractive industry heritage.

© 2014 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

1. Introduction

How do stakeholders perceive boundaries of privatized parks focused on preserving and interpreting geographically scattered extractive industries? Globally, national park formats vary in preservation and interpretation goals, spatial extent, land ownership, and management priorities. Amongst 401 sites, the United States National Park Service [hereafter NPS] preserves and interprets a broader ensemble of stories and landscapes than ever before (National Park Service, 2014b). Despite other countries emulating the NPS traditional park format, Keweenaw National Historical Park [hereafter KNHP] and other newly-created parks bring the agency options integrating ideas from many European national park systems where many national parks are heavily privatized with the intent of protecting landscapes. Local residents are seen as key stakeholders for collaborative park management (Hamin, 2001).

In addition to diversifying its focus outward from parks containing pastoral landscapes, the agency also finds itself in a neoliberal political climate where new parks are increasingly privatized (Stanton, 2006). Even before the NPS was created, private interests have sought to benefit from parkmaking

(Shaffer, 2001; Walker, 2009). These “partnership parks” include a mixture of federal, state, and local ownership and management of a given park (Hamin, 2001). As the NPS grows, KNHP is a prime example of a privatized park format showcasing extractive industry. The park is headquartered in Calumet, a former copper mining town located 675 km north of Chicago in Michigan’s rural Upper Peninsula.

Prior to Congress’ 1992 creation of the park, local community groups strove to create KNHP during a period of austerity and political unfeasibility of widespread federal land acquisition. Park boosters insisted that KNHP’s high degree of privatization was the best model for managing the scattered spaces of the dormant copper industry without a large federal takeover of residents’ neighborhoods. KNHP and other recent park creations have forced the NPS to rethink the role of park boundaries in the pursuit of collaborative management between the NPS and local interest groups.

In suggesting future directions for cultural landscape preservation, scholar of historic landscape preservation Robert Melnick concludes that rich empirical studies need to fill the “gaping lack of knowledge about landscape preservation management and maintenance” (Melnick, 2008, p. 206). Building upon this, Melnick argues for deepened collaborations between community participants and preservationists as a prerequisite for maximizing future levels of preservation ethics (Melnick, 2008). By categorizing four major groupings of perceptions of boundaries at KNHP, I offer

* Tel.: +1 989 774 1205; fax: +1 989 774 2907.

E-mail address: matt.liesch@cmich.edu

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/10502260>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/10502260>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)