

**Lake Planning Grant
Moose Lake Legacy Initiative: Phase II Island Protection Planning
SPL-286-12**

Final Report

Project Scope:

Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust (CWRLT) sponsored The Moose Lake Legacy Initiative (Phase II) project to establish the ownership status of 24 islands located within Moose Lake in Sawyer County, Wisconsin. Moose Lake is a flowage system created by a dam owned by Xcel Energy. Eighty-two islands exist within Moose Lake and ownership of some of these islands remains unclear. The focus of Phase II is to ascertain island ownership information to clarify who owns the rights to these resources so that they can be responsibly managed. Phase II goals include:

- 1) Establish island ownership information;
- 2) Produce and disseminate a map of island ownership.

Accomplishments

Goal 1: Establish island ownership

At Phase II initiation, digital parcel maps for the Moose Lake area were not available from the Sawyer County Land Records Department. CWRLT contracted with Sawyer County Abstract to conduct a title search in the Sawyer County Register of Deeds office. Concluding the title search, ownership of the Moose Lake islands was not sufficiently established through contracted search parameters.

In the summer of 2014, the Sawyer County Land Records Department published the first digital parcel maps for the Moose Lake area. The parcel database established a means to compare existing ownership records with citizen-documented islands. The attached map of Moose Lake Island Ownership displays the ownership pattern (exhibit A). Islands displayed in bright yellow are owned privately, dark yellow are owned by Xcel Energy, light green are owned by the State of Wisconsin, dark green are owned by the U.S. Forest Service, and those in dark red have unknown ownership. After this research, 22 of the 82 islands retain unknown ownership. An index is enclosed (exhibit B) showing island ownership in a spreadsheet.

Goal 2: Production and dissemination of Moose Lake Island Ownership Map

The Island Ownership map was produced by Douglas Miskowiak, UW-Stevens Point GIS Center. An article by Miskowiak was published in July 2014 by *Lake Line Magazine*, a quarterly magazine published by the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS). The article details the Moose Lake Project and problems with island ownership documentation (exhibit C).

Copies of the ownership map are being distributed to members of the citizen volunteer group who inventoried the islands in Phase I, and also to the Sawyer County Land Records Department, the Sawyer County Zoning & Conservation Department, the Moose Lake Improvement Association, and other lake associations. The map is anticipated to be on display at the local library in Hayward, Wisconsin.

The island property map will be incorporated into a mailer that will be delivered to each of the known island owners. Materials are anticipated to include: the island ownership map, a description of the project (Phase II), project recommendations, and a summary of the aesthetic and ecological impact of island resources from the Moose Lake Legacy Initiative Final Report (2010).

Recommendations

Although the Sawyer County Land Records Department has recently produced digital parcels for the Moose Lake area (circa 2014), ownership status of 22 islands remains unknown. Further research is necessary to determine ownership, but is no guarantee that ownership will be established. Phase III of the Moose Lake project is proposed to:

- 1) Continue original plat research as appropriated, and/or in parallel;
- 2) Seek a publically noticed process of quick claim to transfer islands with unknown ownership status into public ownership for the benefit of future generations.

Summary

Phase II of the Moose Lake Legacy Initiative has identified that the ownership status of 22 of Moose Lake's 82 islands remains unknown. Further research is necessary to establish ownership, but is no guarantee of establishing a valid record. And/or initiating a publicly noticed process of quick claim should be pursued to establish a permanent ownership record.

The Moose Lake Legacy Initiative Final Report (2010) established an objective record of the ecological and aesthetic characteristics, features, and indicators of Moose Lake shorelines. Eight aesthetic and ecological shoreline indicators were systematically documented. The report summarizes the significance of the islands for existing in a primarily aesthetic condition and for acting as an ecological refugia, important for harboring important plant and animal species. The report also emphasizes the importance of documenting ownership stating, "*A common and shared strategy to manage land and resources effectively is not possible unless ownership of the land and resources is well documented.*" It remains clear that unless ownership of the island resources are documented, the important resources they harbor cannot be effectively managed.

Moose Lake Legacy Initiative

Sawyer County, Wisconsin

Sponsored by the Conderay Waters Regional Land Trust, Inc.
 Funded by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
 Lake Planning Grant Program

Island Ownership

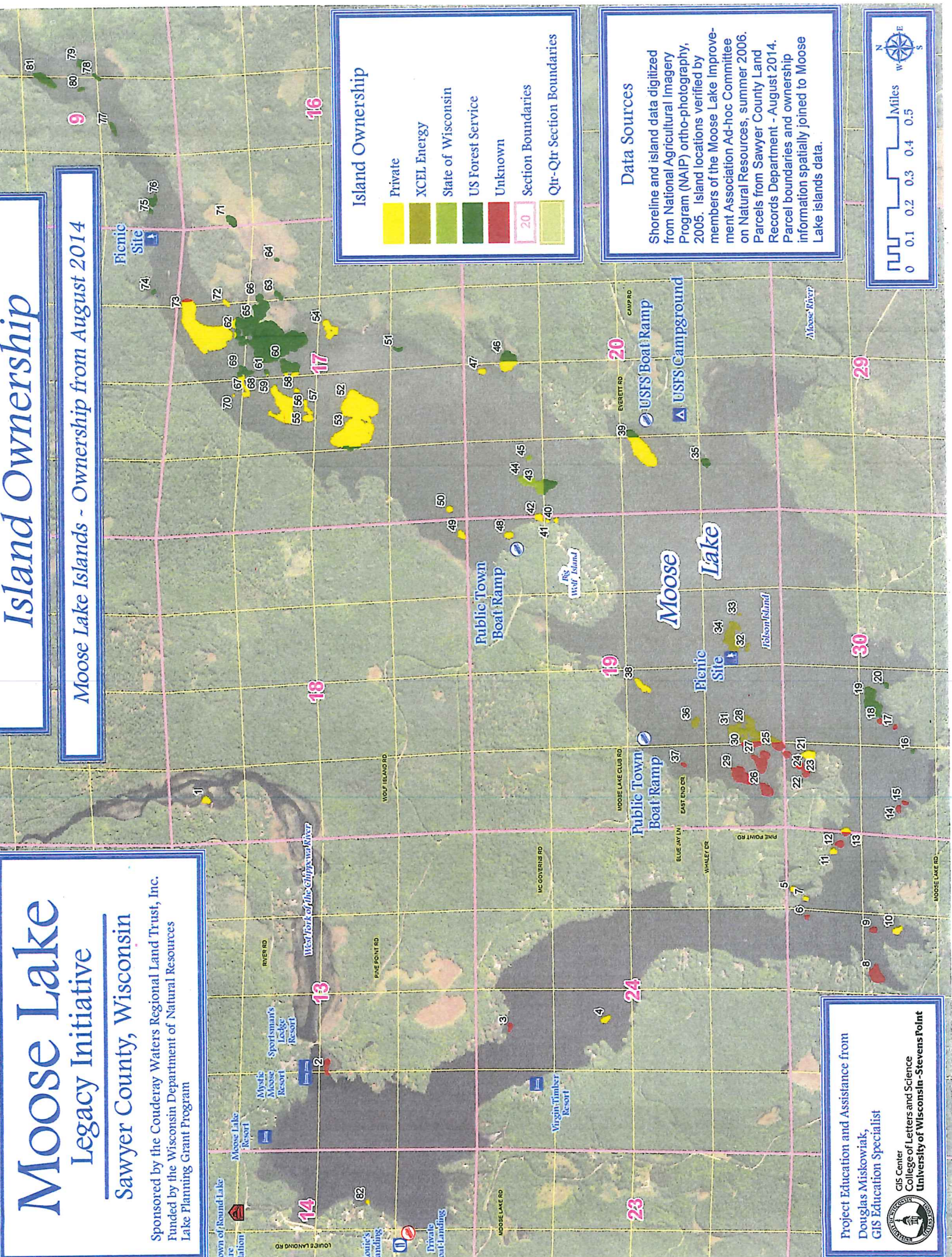
Moose Lake Islands - Ownership from August 2014

Island Ownership

- Private
- XCEL Energy
- State of Wisconsin
- US Forest Service
- Unknown
- Section Boundaries
- Qtr-Qtr Section Boundaries

Data Sources

Shoreline and island data digitized from National Aerial Photography Program (NAIP) ortho-photography, 2005. Island locations verified by members of the Moose Lake Improvement Association Ad-hoc Committee on Natural Resources, summer 2006. Parcels from Sawyer County Land Records Department - August 2014. Parcel boundaries and ownership information spatially joined to Moose Lake islands data.



Project Education and Assistance from
 Douglas Miszkowiak,
 GIS Education Specialist

GIS Center
 College of Letters and Science
 University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point



| Island ID | First Name | Last Name | Parcel Id # |
|-----------|-----------------------------|--|-------------|
| 1 | WESLEY B | SCOTT | 24541182202 |
| 1 | THOMAS | OKANE | 24541182203 |
| 2 | unknown | unknown | |
| 2 | unknown | unknown | |
| 3 | unknown | unknown | |
| 4 | KARL | WISE | 24641242401 |
| 5 | JEFFREY J & JENNIFER L | SEIFRIZ | 24641251104 |
| 6 | unknown | unknown | |
| 7 | CATHLEEN A | NEVERS | 24641251101 |
| 8 | unknown | unknown | |
| 9 | unknown | unknown | |
| 10 | ANDREW E | SHIFFLETT ETAL | 24641251313 |
| 11 | RONALD N & JOAN M | DAHLSTROM | 24641251103 |
| 12 | unknown | unknown | |
| 13 | | RISBERG LAND COMPANY | 24541305501 |
| 13 | unknown | unknown | |
| 13 | unknown | unknown | |
| 13 | unknown | unknown | |
| 13 | unknown | unknown | |
| 14 | unknown | unknown | |
| 15 | unknown | unknown | |
| 16 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541305801 |
| 17 | unknown | unknown | |
| 18 | unknown | unknown | |
| 19 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541305801 |
| 20 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541305801 |
| 21 | JAMES T & BARBARA A BETZ | MULLEN | 24541305516 |
| 22 | unknown | unknown | |
| 23 | unknown | unknown | |
| 24 | unknown | unknown | |
| 25 | unknown | unknown | |
| 25 | | CHIPPEWA & FLAMBEAU IMPR CO | 24541195101 |
| 25 | unknown | unknown | |
| 26 | unknown | unknown | |
| 27 | unknown | unknown | |
| 28 | | CHIPPEWA & FLAMBEAU IMPR CO | 24541195101 |
| 28 | unknown | unknown | |
| 29 | unknown | unknown | |

| Island ID | First Name | Last Name | Parcel Id # |
|-----------|--|--|-------------|
| 30 | unknown | unknown | |
| 31 | | CHIPPEWA & FLAMBEAU IMPR CO | 24541195101 |
| 32 | | CHIPPEWA & FLAMBEAU IMPR CO | 24541195201 |
| 33 | | CHIPPEWA & FLAMBEAU IMPR CO | 24541195201 |
| 34 | | CHIPPEWA & FLAMBEAU IMPR CO | 24541195201 |
| 35 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541203301 |
| 36 | | CHIPPEWA & FLAMBEAU IMPR CO | 24541193105 |
| 37 | unknown | unknown | |
| 38 | HAROLD D | TIFFANY | 24541193104 |
| 39 | RICHARD | HASKELL ETAL | 24541203201 |
| 39 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541203101 |
| 40 | | LOSSIE FAMILY TRUST | 24110001600 |
| 41 | ROBERT D | ZABORSKY | 24110001500 |
| 42 | DANIEL D & ALISA M | MARVIN | 24110001400 |
| 42 | STEEN J | FJALSTAD ETAL | |
| 43 | Attn: BOARD OF COMM OF PUBLIC LAND PO BOX 7921 | STATE OF WISCONSIN | 24541202201 |
| 43 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541201101 |
| 44 | Attn: BOARD OF COMM OF PUBLIC LAND PO BOX 7921 | STATE OF WISCONSIN | 24541202201 |
| 45 | Attn: BOARD OF COMM OF PUBLIC LAND PO BOX 7921 | STATE OF WISCONSIN | 24541202201 |
| 46 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541201201 |
| 46 | | CORABI REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST | 24541202101 |
| 47 | | CORABI REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST | 24541202101 |
| 48 | RICHARD N & MARIA F | SHARP TRUST | 24110001000 |
| 49 | | NELSON FAMILY TRUST | 24541184401 |
| 50 | MARTHA | MUELLER ETAL | 24541173301 |
| 51 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541174302 |
| 52 | BETH S | ERICKSON ETAL | 24541173102 |
| 52 | DAVID A & MARILYN A | SANDERS ETAL | 24541173104 |
| 52 | FREDERICK JOHN | RAYFIELD ETAL | 24541173101 |
| 52 | SHARON J | KOONTZ | 24541173103 |
| 53 | FREDERICK JOHN | RAYFIELD ETAL | 24541173101 |
| 53 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541173202 |

| Island ID | First Name | Last Name | Parcel Id # |
|-----------|---------------------|--|-------------|
| 53 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541173202 |
| 53 | | WOLF ISLAND TRIAD LLC | 24541173105 |
| 54 | JANET K | FROS ETAL | 24541174201 |
| 55 | | MOOSE LAKE CLUB INC | 24541172401 |
| 56 | | MOOSE LAKE CLUB INC | 24541172401 |
| 57 | | MOOSE LAKE CLUB INC | 24541172401 |
| 58 | DAVID A & MARILYN A | SANDERS ETAL | 24541172402 |
| 59 | BETH S | ERICKSON ETAL | 24541172403 |
| 59 | DAVID A & MARILYN A | SANDERS ETAL | 24541172402 |
| 59 | NANCY STOFFER | BECKHAM ETAL | 24541172405 |
| 60 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541171301 |
| 60 | DAVID A & MARILYN A | SANDERS ETAL | 24541172402 |
| 60 | DAVID A & MARILYN A | SANDERS ETAL | 24541172402 |
| 61 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541171301 |
| 61 | DAVID A & MARILYN A | SANDERS ETAL | 24541172402 |
| 62 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541171301 |
| 62 | BRYAN F | DURAY ETAL | 24541171201 |
| 62 | BRYAN F | DURAY ETAL | 24541171201 |
| 63 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541171401 |
| 64 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541171401 |
| 65 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541171301 |
| 66 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541171301 |
| 67 | DAVID A & MARILYN A | SANDERS ETAL | 24541172402 |
| 68 | DAVID A & MARILYN A | SANDERS ETAL | 24541172402 |
| 68 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541171301 |
| 69 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541171301 |
| 70 | | TIMBER BERG CORPORATION | 24541172101 |
| 71 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541171101 |
| 72 | BRYAN F | DURAY ETAL | 24541171201 |
| 73 | BRYAN F | DURAY ETAL | 24541171201 |
| 73 | unknown | unknown | |
| 74 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541084401 |
| 75 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541093301 |

| Island ID | First Name | Last Name | Parcel Id # |
|------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------|
| 76 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541093301 |
| 77 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541093401 |
| 78 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541093401 |
| 79 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541094201 |
| 80 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541093101 |
| 81 | | USDA FOREST SERVICE CHEQUAMEGON NATL FOREST | 24541093101 |
| 82 | WARREN & JOAN | COOK TRUST | 24641144109 |