



Inland wetlands/water: Inland island

Description

Islands located in inland lakes, ponds, or rivers, including artificial islands (e.g., nesting islands).

General Condition of Feature

Inland islands in the Eastern Upper Peninsula tend to be in fair, good, or excellent condition. However, a significant portion of inland islands are considered degraded or very degraded (~25%).

Associated Natural Communities

N/A – no native natural communities

Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need

BIRDS

Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)
American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*)
Common Loon (*Gavia immer*)
Black-crowned Night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

BIRDS cont.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*)
Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*)

Associated Threats

HABITAT CONVERSION

- Industrial, residential, and recreational development: Cabin construction can impact islands.

NON-CONSUMPTIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE USE

- Non-consumptive recreation: Uncontrolled ATV and ORV use can impact islands.

Conservation Actions Needed [Threats addressed]

LAW & POLICY

- Work with municipalities to promote planning and zoning insuring adequate protection for natural communities on islands. [Industrial, residential and recreational development]
- Develop and enforce regulations to curtail recreational activities that cause significant damage. [Non-consumptive recreation]

RECREATION

- Promote responsible ATV and ORV use. [Non-consumptive recreation]

LAND AND WATER PROTECTION

- Promote protection of significant inland lake islands through purchase, easement or other economic incentives. [Industrial, residential and recreational development]
- Use best management practices for development, management, and recreational activities around lakes, streams, and wetlands to maintain natural shoreline stability (thereby reducing the need for restoration or artificial structures). [Industrial, residential, and recreational development, Non-consumptive recreation]

Research and Survey Needs

- Evaluate the impacts of modifications of natural hydrologic regimes and local water chemistry.
- A common classification system to define wetlands is needed.
- Document the historic and current range of variation between inland islands. This includes variables such as species composition and size.
- Develop best management practices for development, management, and recreational activities around lakes, streams, and wetlands to maintain natural shoreline stability (thereby reducing the need for restoration or artificial structures).
- Identify invasive species that may degrade the value of inland lakes for wildlife. Develop techniques to control invasive species. Common invasive species include reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), phragmites (*Phragmites australis*), glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*), and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).
- Examine the impacts of recreational use and aquatic weed control treatments on the value to wildlife of inland islands.

Monitoring

- Track inland island acreage and distribution across the landscape.
- Identify and track floristic composition and diversity.
- Track water level and flow fluctuations and its impacts on vegetation and wildlife.
- Track water chemistry and quality trends.
- Track the abundance and diversity of indicator species.
- Track the density and distribution of development along island shorelines.

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TERRESTRIAL SYSTEMS: EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA

- Track the intensity and temporal distribution of recreational use of islands and shorelines.
- Track the rate of erosion along island shorelines.