



Great Lakes/Coastal: Great Lakes island

Description

Islands located in the Great Lakes.

General Condition of Feature

Great Lakes islands in the Western Upper Peninsula are generally considered to be in good to excellent condition.

Associated Natural Communities

N/A – No defined natural communities

Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need

INSECTS

- large marbled (*Euchloe ausonides*)
- Macoun's arctic (*Oeneis macounii*)

BIRDS

- Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
- Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)
- Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*)

Associated Threats

NON-CONSUMPTIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE USE

- Non-consumptive recreation: Uses such as camping and fishing may impact islands.

EDUCATION

- Lack of scientific knowledge: Species composition and the value to wildlife associated with islands within the Great Lakes is poorly documented.

Conservation Actions Needed [Threats addressed]

LAND & WATER PROTECTION

- Expand conservation easement programs [variety of threats]
- Support and expand conservation purchase of high quality occurrences [variety of threats]

LAND, WATER, & SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- 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, Wetland modifications, Non-consumptive recreation]

LAW & POLICY

- Develop and enforce regulations to curtail recreational activities that cause significant damage. [Non-consumptive recreation]

RECREATION

- Promote responsible recreational use of islands. [Non-consumptive recreation]

Research and Survey Needs

- Inventory wildlife species composition of Great Lakes islands. Quantify the characteristics of islands which affect their value for wildlife.
- Evaluate the use of Great Lakes islands as migratory stopover habitat. Are there characteristics of islands that increase their value to migrating wildlife?
- Evaluate the use of Great Lakes islands as nesting habitat. Are there characteristics of islands that increase their value to nesting wildlife?
- Develop research projects which use islands as control treatments to determine the efficacy of management practices. The natural isolation of islands tends to protect an undisturbed state and they may act as a controllable microcosm of the larger ecoregion.
- 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).
- Assess the use of Great Lakes islands by cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) and the impacts of cormorant use on the value of islands for other wildlife species.

Monitoring

- Identify and track floristic composition and diversity on islands.
- Track the density and distribution of development along lake shorelines.
- Track the presence and abundance of invasive species.