

Land Records Order in Moose Lake

Impact of Wisconsin Act 20



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Offered by

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What is the Impact of Act20?

- 6 in 2010 to 16 islands in 2014
 - How has Act 20 impacted Sawyer County's Progress?
 - None yet...
 - Technically true
 - What role did the Moose Lake Legacy Initiative and citizen data inventories play?
 - Not used to reconcile the parcel record

- Why is it important to have an accurate land record on even “insignificant” landscapes?
- What is the result of land records chaos?
 - What is the impact of placing the responsibility for improving the record on a chaotic process?

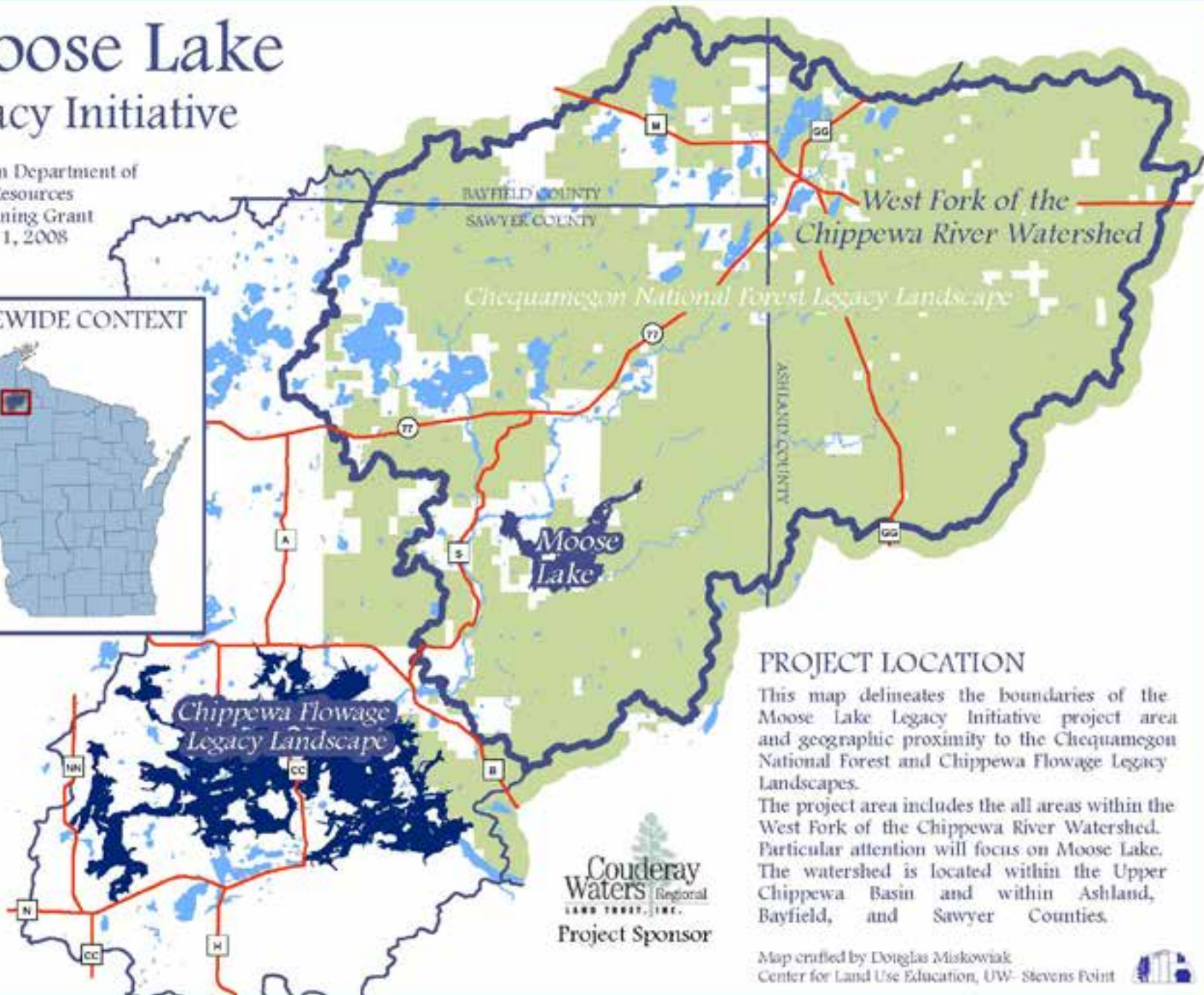
Questions About the Resource

- Why are the birch trees dying?
- What is the impact of the lake drawdown?
- How significant are the (small) islands?
- How is the resource being managed?
- Who owns the resources?
 - Sawyer County: 6, 10, 16 islands on Moose Lake
 - WDNR: 62 islands on Moose Lake

Moose Lake Legacy Initiative

Wisconsin Department of
Natural Resources
Lake Planning Grant
February 1, 2008

STATEWIDE CONTEXT



West Fork of the
Chippewa River Watershed

Chequamegon National Forest Legacy Landscape

Moose
Lake

Chippewa Flowage
Legacy Landscape

PROJECT LOCATION

This map delineates the boundaries of the Moose Lake Legacy Initiative project area and geographic proximity to the Chequamegon National Forest and Chippewa Flowage Legacy Landscapes.

The project area includes the all areas within the West Fork of the Chippewa River Watershed. Particular attention will focus on Moose Lake. The watershed is located within the Upper Chippewa Basin and within Ashland, Bayfield, and Sawyer Counties.

Couderay
Waters Regional
LAND TRUST, INC.
Project Sponsor

Map created by Douglas Miskowiak
Center for Land Use Education, UW- Stevens Point



Moose Lake Legacy Initiative

Accomplishments

- Compiled 29 GIS data layers
- Regional Maps
- Digitized islands and shorelines
 - 50 miles of shoreline, not 39
 - 82 islands, not 6, 10, 16, or 62
- Moose Lake Inventories (9 inventories)
- Data shared in the public domain
 - Sawyer County, RPC, WDNR

Why are accurate land records important?

Why are the birch trees dying?

- Citizen inventories of the riparian shoreline and regional pre-settlement patterns reveal
 - Birch are being succeeded by the region's climax species (white pine, sugar maple, yellow birch, hemlock)



What is the impact of the lake drawdown?

- Citizen inventories of the aquatic macrophytes in consultation with specialists reveal
 - Cattails are invasive in WI Northwoods and are competing with wild rice.
 - Perch attenuate their eggs to wild rice in the absence of perennial macrophytes.



How significant are the islands?

- Citizen wildlife inventories reveal
 - Loons use the smallest of Moose Lake's islands.



How significant are the islands?

- n Citizen riparian vegetation inventories reveal
 - n Cedar are browsed on mainland.
 - n Cedar are healthy on islands.
- n Ecology of ...
 - n wolves?



How is the Resource Managed?

Who Owns the Resource?

▣ Basic Premise:

- ▣ The land and its resources can not be effectively managed unless ownership can be discerned



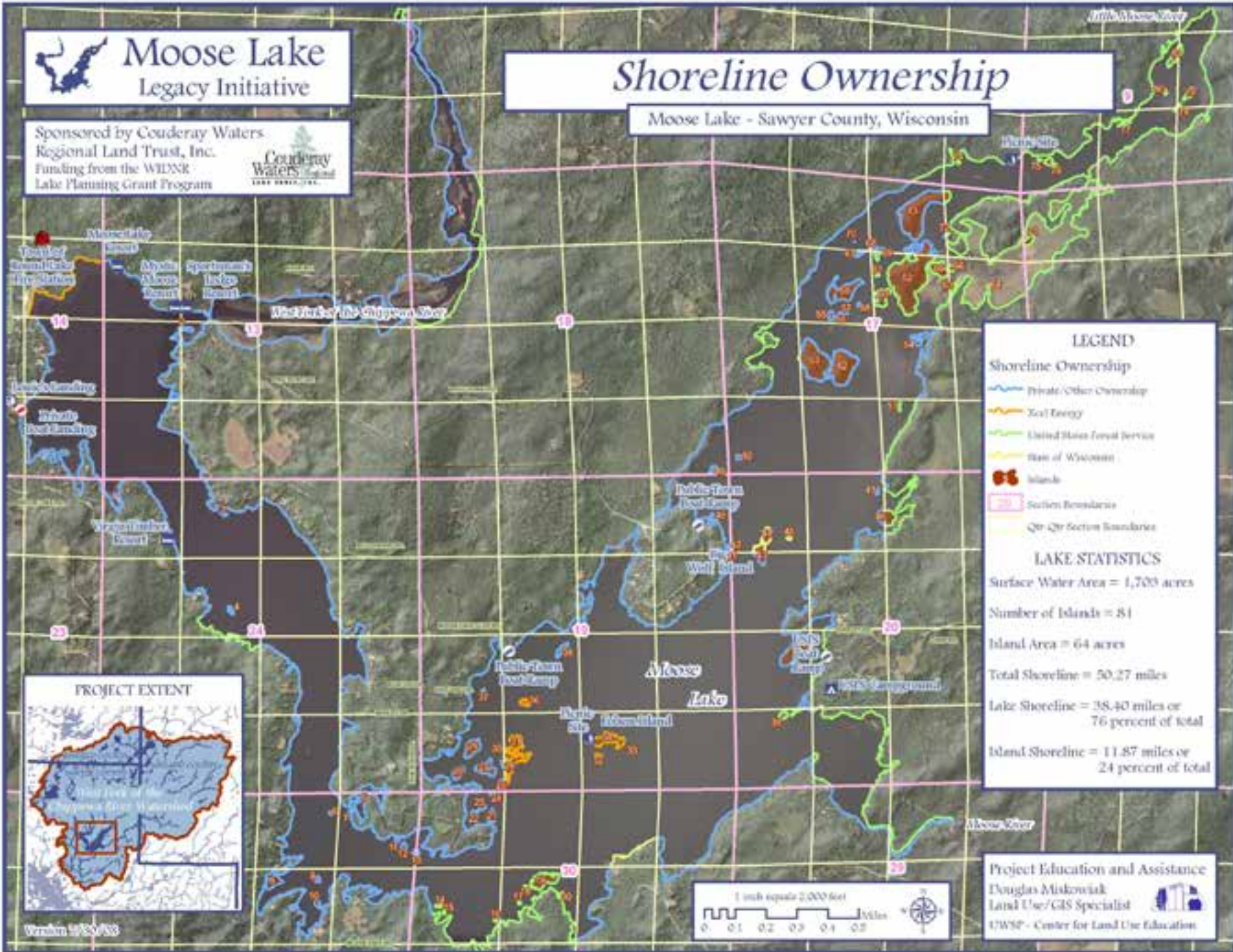
Moose Lake Legacy Initiative

Sponsored by Couderay Waters
Regional Land Trust, Inc.
Funding from the WIDNR
Lake Planning Grant Program



Shoreline Ownership

Moose Lake - Sawyer County, Wisconsin



LEGEND

Shoreline Ownership

- Private / Other Ownership
- Xcel Energy
- United States Forest Service
- State of Wisconsin
- Islands
- Section Boundaries
- Qtr-Qtr Section Boundaries

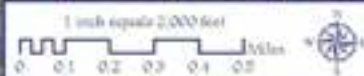
LAKE STATISTICS

- Surface Water Area = 1,700 acres
- Number of Islands = 81
- Island Area = 64 acres
- Total Shoreline = 50.27 miles
- Lake Shoreline = 38.40 miles or 76 percent of total
- Island Shoreline = 11.87 miles or 24 percent of total

PROJECT EXTENT



Version 10/20/08



Project Education and Assistance
Douglas Miskowiak
Land Use/GIS Specialist
UWSP - Center for Land Use Education

Multi-Purpose Cadastre

- Conservation agreements require a cadastre
 - Research of ownership
 - Monitoring the agreements and limitations on land
- Sawyer County does not have a modern cadastre
 - County recognized only 6 of 82 islands
 - USFS ownership records in error

Moose Lake Legacy Initiative

Phase II

- Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust – Lake Planning Grant.
 - Research land title
 - Hired a professional abstract and title company
 - Review ownership of 24 islands
 - Cost \$5,663.00
 - Search back 30 years

Result?

- n Ownership search was inconclusive on all, but one island.
 - n U.S. Patents and Warrantee Deeds
 - n Chippewa Lumber and Boom Company, Chippewa Valley Construction Company, Chippewa Farm Land Co or successors was given ownership of the lands.
 - n Flowage Rights to Wisconsin Minnesota Light and Power Company, or successors.
 - n In 1926 Northern States Power Company Quit Claim Deeded to Chippewa & Flambeau Improvement Company all land that was below 1377 feet above sea level as determined by the records of the United States Geological Survey the flowage rights that they may have.

Sawyer County Parcel Record Completed July 2014

- n 16 islands mapped and identified correctly
 - n 4, 13, 19, 28, 31, 32, 34, 36, 38, 39, 45, 49, 50, 51, 58, 59

Sawyer County Parcel Record Completed July 2014

- n 17 islands not mapped by Sawyer County
- n 24 islands mapped as mainland
- n Islands mapped, with no owner
- n 13 separate islands mapped as single larger islands
- n Flowage bottom with no owner

Act 20 Narrative

- What story will we be able to tell?
 - What is the impact of WLIP in
 - 2013 (\$741,084)
 - 2014 (\$1,272,000)
 - 2015 (\$2,817,920)
 - Has Act 20 improved accuracy? Access?
 - How has it improved people's lives