

Northern Lake Michigan Islands: A Collaborative Governance Approach to State Land Management



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Quick Overview

- The Public Trust Doctrine
- Governance
- Public Land Management:
Is collaborative governance
the answer?



Public Trust Doctrine

- Common law describing who owns and manages natural resources
- Management of natural resources is the administrative responsibility of government



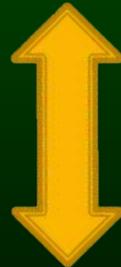
Elements of a Trust

Assets

Beneficiaries



Trust



Trustees

Assets of the Trust



Beneficiaries



How the trust is managed

- Trust Administrators
 - Elected and appointed officials
 - Policy-level and decision-making authority
 - Career professionals
 - Implement policies



Legislature



Governor



Commissioners & Director



Goals of the Department

- Protect natural and cultural resources
- Ensure sustainable recreational use and enjoyment
- Enable strong natural resource-based economies
- Improve and build strong relationships and partnerships
- Foster effective business practices and good governance



Governance

- Policies, laws, rules, processes, and decision-making authorities ...
- Governance is what governments do
- However ... not only governments are responsible for governance

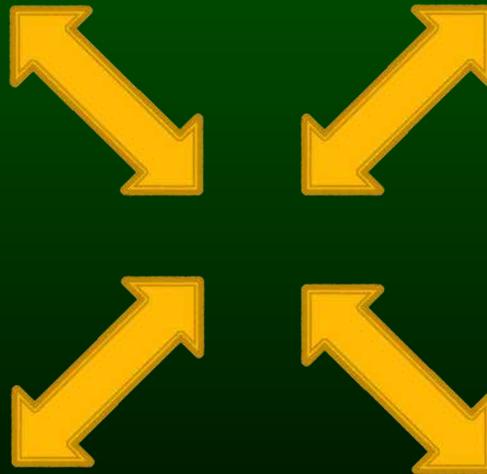
We live in a democracy!

Governance

- Top down



- Collaborative

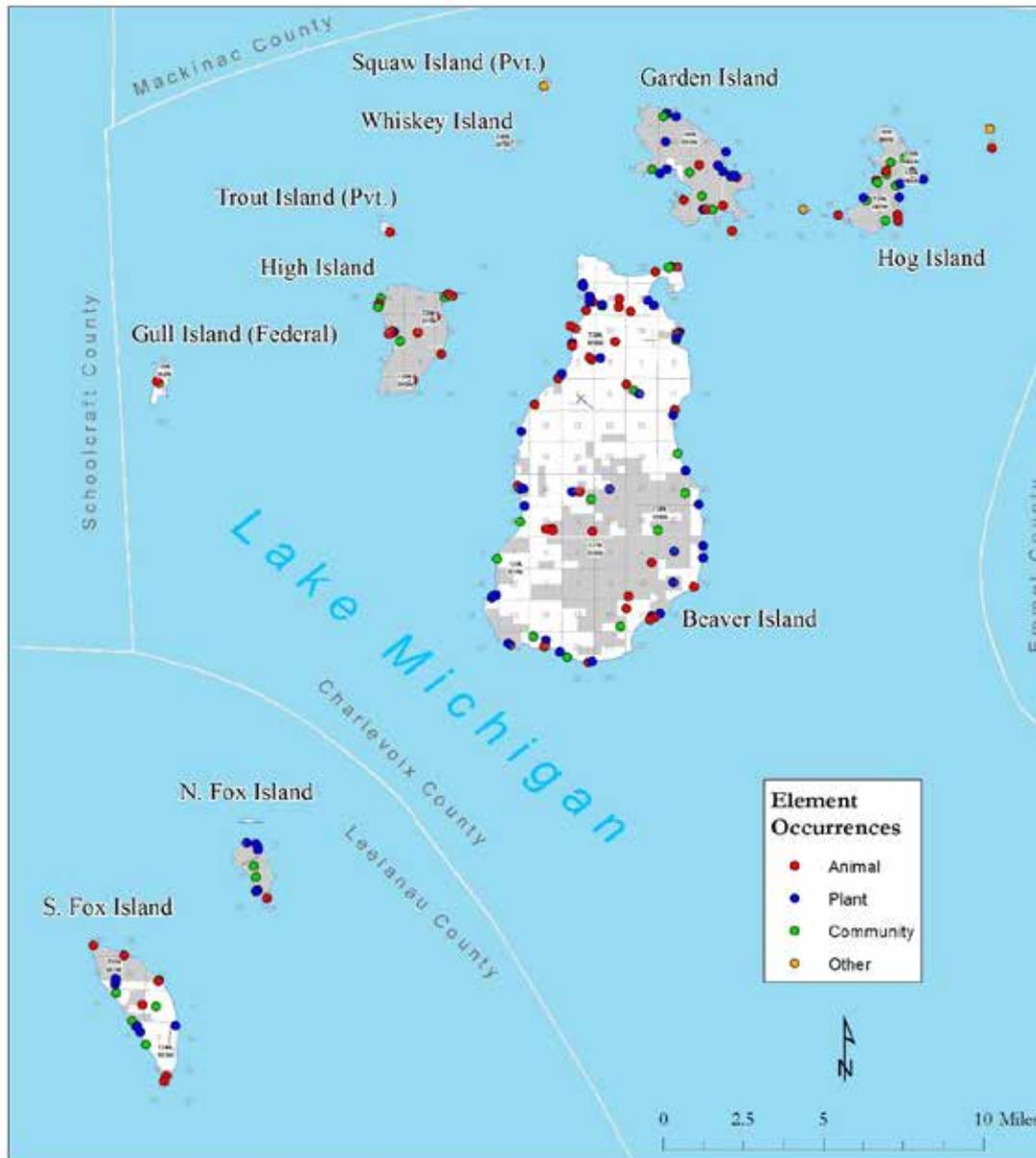




State-owned land

- 7 islands
- ~26,000 acres
- many unique features
- We need a plan!

**Biodiversity Element Occurrences in
Relation to State-Administered Lands (Gray)
Beaver Island Wildlife Research Area
Northern Lake Michigan
Charlevoix & Leelanau Counties, MI**



How should these properties be managed?

- Consistent with Department goals
- Consistent with stakeholders desires
- Sometimes these are in conflict!



The collaborative governance approach

- Greater demand for *public* participation in *public* decision making about *public* resources
- Requires certain behaviors
 - By the agency
 - By stakeholders
 - By decision makers



The planning process

- Public meetings
- Discussions with tribal governments
- Meetings with other groups
- Discussions and correspondence
- Writing team meeting
- Public review



We are lucky!

- *Recommendations for Natural Resource Management in the Beaver Island Archipelago*
- *Managed Public Land Strategy*
- Many other documents and reports
- Passionate stakeholders!



Vision

Respect the ecological and cultural integrity ... while providing island-appropriate opportunities within the context of a broader natural resource-based economy, ... effective administration of state-owned properties – **a distinctly unique class of State lands.**

Goals

- Partnerships and collaborative governance
- Manage important ecological resources
- Promote respect and understanding of cultural resources
- Enhance opportunities for island-based recreation
- Integrate natural resource-based activities with protection of ecological and cultural features
- Effective administration of state lands

Partnerships and collaborative governance

- Establish diverse partnership group
 - Formulate rules of engagement
- Share governance responsibilities
 - Participation will vary depending on the issue
- Identify short- and long-term challenges and opportunities



**Trust the process, continue
engagement, celebrate
success**

