

# Exploring How Lake Associations Think about Their Lakes and the Shared Responsibility to Sustain Them

Guided by Burney Fischer

HCCOLA Big Mantrap Lake Association Rep

Where the ideas for this discussion come from

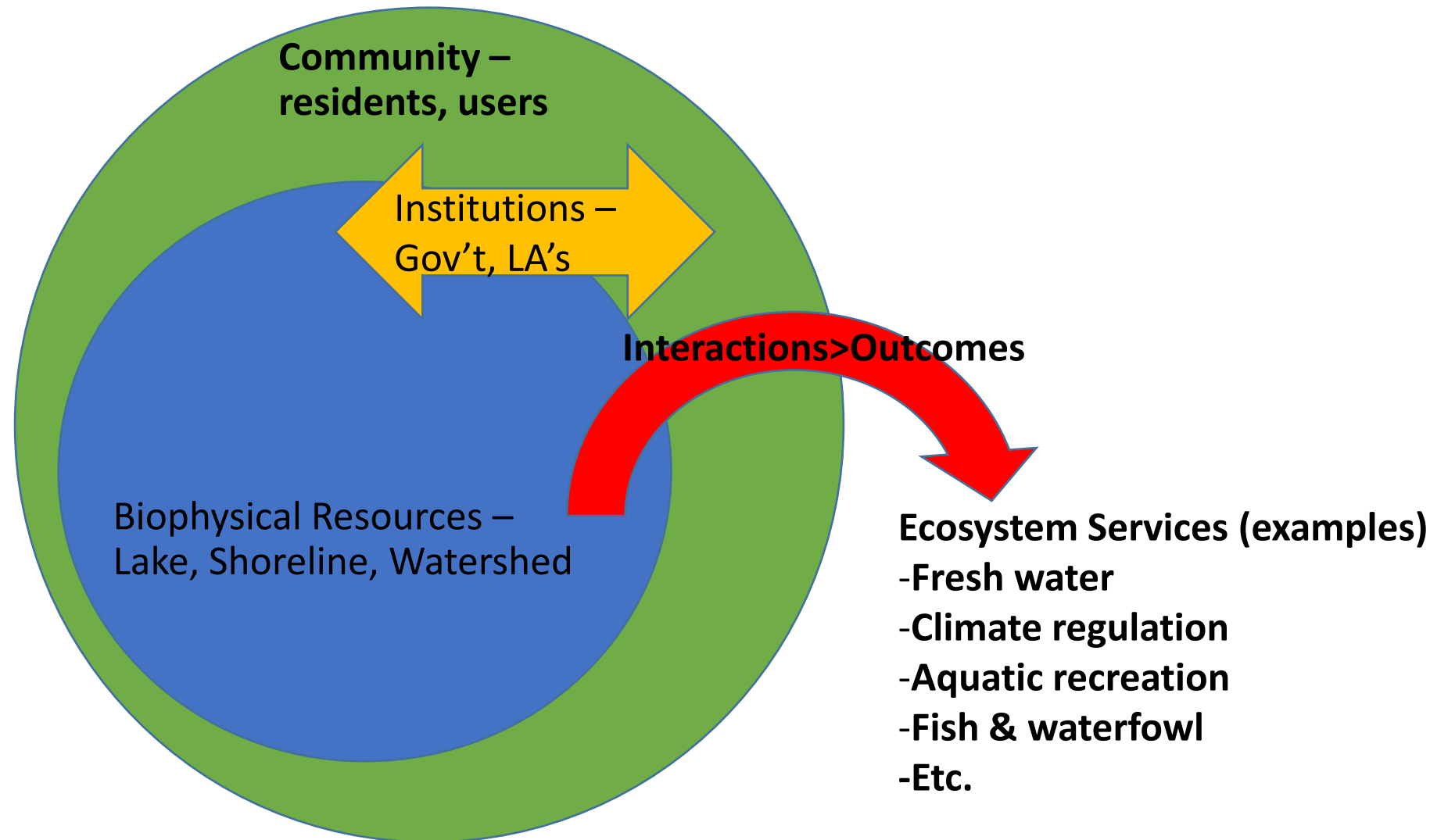
**Social-ecological institutional fit in volunteer-based organizations: A study of lake management organizations in Vilas County, Wisconsin, U.S.A.**

Dane Whittaker, Alise Crippen, Corinne Johnson, Marco Janssen

Center for Behavior, Institutions, and the Environment

School of Sustainability, Arizona State University

# Lakes are Social-Ecological Systems (SES)



# My Objective/Goal

Lakes, the shoreline communities that border them and the lake watersheds that feed them are a complex social-ecological system (SES) with the lake itself being thought of as a common pool resource or public good. Sustaining lakes requires collective action and is a shared responsibility among – government (cities, towns, townships, county and state), lake associations, homeowners, lake users, etc. Although there are many possible players, many times it is a lake association that actually facilitates collective action and coordinates effort.

**The goal of this two-part series is to explore pathways for lake associations to better understand their lakes and the challenges of management to keep them healthy for future generations.**

# My Approach

The approach I will take begins with an exercise (Today) using a tool - a Lake Change Worksheet, to capture thoughts from HCCOLA Lake Association members on changes in their lakes over the past 10 years. I will summarize the input provided in a short presentation the next month (June). Also in June I'll briefly present an overview of some collective action traits that many resource-based organizations (i.e. lake associations) have in common. Future discussions within HCCOLA are always possible.

**Lake Change Worksheet** – Take home task, complete and return to Burney ([bufische@iu.edu](mailto:bufische@iu.edu)) – one per LA  
Here's the first part of the Worksheet (*Big Mantrap Response*):

1. For which lake(s) are you answering the questions below? Big Mantrap

2. Give your Lake Association's Mission Statement –

*Maintaining and improving the natural resources of Big Mantrap Lake, Hubbard County, Minnesota, a public lake*

3. Please summarize how your lake changed over the past 10 years in 1-2 sentences.

*The lake seems to have become ever more popular for Muskie fishing. The introduction of EWM suggests other AIS introductions will occur.*

In the following table please check the box that most accurately describes the current state of the lake attribute listed (20 total) and indicate whether it has increased (+), stayed the same (=), or decreased (-) over the past 10 years.

<u>Attribute</u>	<u>Very Low</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Very High</u>	<u>Change (+,=,-)</u>
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Amount of Fish						
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Diversity of Fish						
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Invasive Plant						
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Prevalence						
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Invasive Animal						
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Prevalence						
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Wildlife Diversity						
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Others - Pollution Levels, Natural Shoreline, Property Values, Watershed Quality, Personal Watercraft Prevalence, Local Visitors, MN Visitors, Out-of-State Visitors, Volunteer Turnout, Annual Meeting Turnout, Social Event Turnout, Lake Organization Membership, Housing Density Amount of Fish Stocking.

## Big Mantrap Lake Example

In the following table please check the box that most accurately describes the current state of the lake attribute listed (20 total) and indicate whether it has increased (+), stayed the same (=), or decreased (-) over the past 10 years.

Attribute	Very Low	Low	Moderate	High	Very High	Change (+,=,-)
Amount of Fish			*			=
Diversity of Fish				*		=
Invasive Plant Prevalence			*			+
Invasive Animal Prevalence	*					=
Wildlife Diversity				*		=

Others - Pollution Levels, Natural Shoreline, Property Values, Watershed Quality, Personal Watercraft Prevalence, Local Visitors, MN Visitors, Out-of-State Visitors, Volunteer Turnout, Annual Meeting Turnout, Social Event Turnout, Lake Organization Membership, Housing Density Amount of Fish Stocking.



# Closing Questions (*Big Mantrap*)

4. Please list and indicate the state and change of any other attributes that you find important.

*Waterfowl Hunting - high, +; Lake trash - low, =*

5. In general how does your lake organization compare on the attributes above to other lake organizations in Hubbard County you are familiar with? Please include the names of the organizations.

*The BMLA is both more active than any other LA's regarding loons (loon artificial nests and monitoring program) and less active regarding other types of monitoring, LA business, etc. This a comparison to HCCOLA LA's in general.*

# Discussion/Questions?

Burney contacts:

[bufische@iu.edu](mailto:bufische@iu.edu)

765-414-4198 (cell)