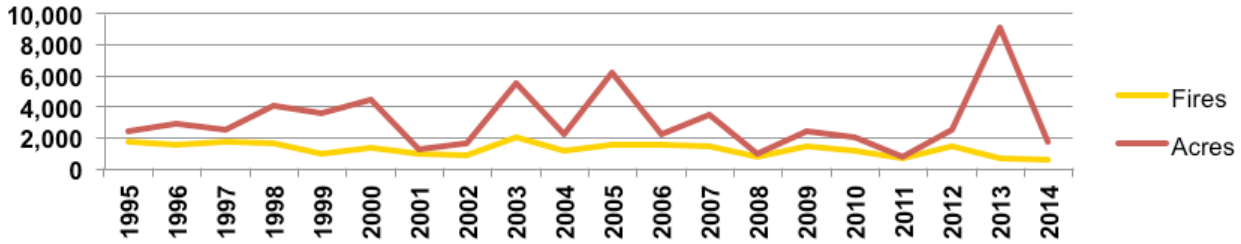
Wisconsin Forestry Facts:
Wildfire Suppression

Rapid response a focus of fire suppression efforts

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources officials use a variety of strategies to protect human life, property and natural resources from wildfire. These strategies include prevention and safety programs, extensive training in fire suppression and partnerships with other agencies and local governments to enhance rapid initial attack of initiating forest fires.

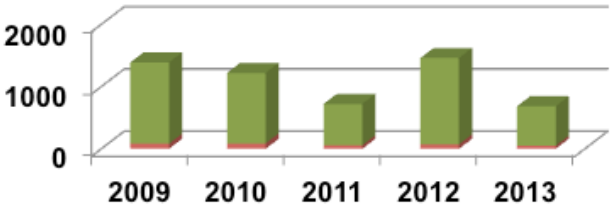
DNR wildfire statistics

The graph below shows the number of wildfires and acres burned since 1985. The state experienced nearly 600 wildfires that burned more than 2,700 acres in 2014.



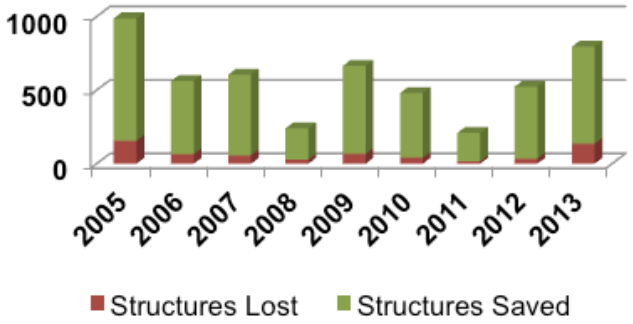
Source: Wisconsin DNR

DNR fire suppression accomplishments

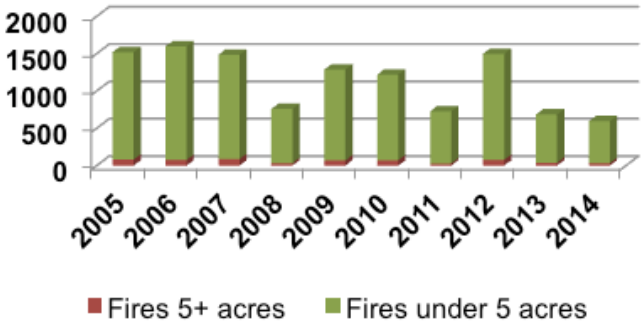


95 percent of forest fires are responded to within 30 minutes

All forest fires are controlled within the first 12 hours



90 percent of all structures will be saved when threatened

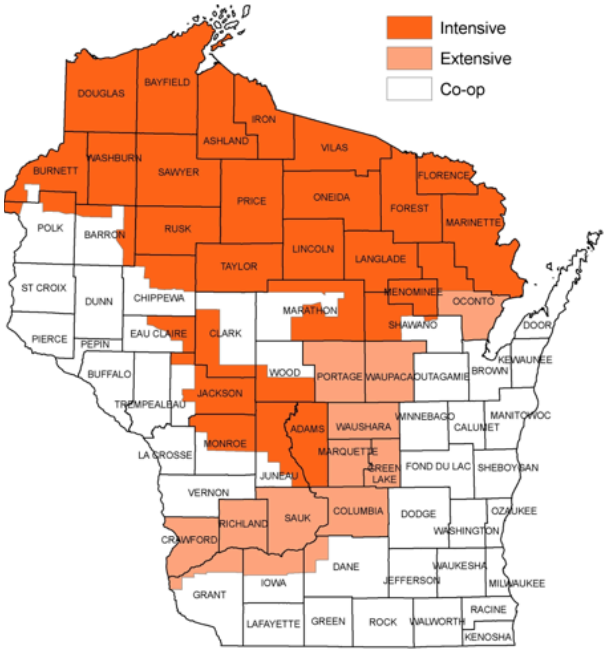


95 percent of forest fires are kept to under 5 acres in size

Source: Wisconsin DNR

Forest protection in the state of Wisconsin is organized into three categories based on the need for DNR forestry support.

- **Intensive** forest protection areas involve significant commitments of DNR forestry staff and suppression equipment in traditionally heavily forested areas of the state.
- **Extensive** forest protection areas involve DNR forestry and equipment over larger, less forested areas of the state.
- **Cooperative** forest fire protection areas rely on town boards and local fire departments to provide forest fire protection.



Source: Wisconsin DNR

DNR RESPONSE ON LARGE WILDFIRES

Cottonville Fire, 2005

- 3,410 acres
- 199 personnel
- 76 engines
- 38 tractor-plows
- 4 aircraft
- 22 fire departments
- 7 private dozers
- 5 hand crews
- 2 additional aircraft
- $287,000 in suppression costs

Germann Road Fire, 2013

- 7,442 acres
- 167 DNR personnel
- 96 engines
- 31 tractor plows
- 5 aircraft
- 44 fire departments
- 4 private dozers
- 1 hand crew
- 8 additional aircraft
- $602,766 in suppression costs

The Germann Road fire was the state's largest wildfire in 33 years.

FORESTRY DIVISION PROVIDES MORE THAN FIRE SUPPRESSION

DNR's forestry division supports and trains four incident management teams for incident response. Beyond responding to forest fires, DNR team members also assist with responses to natural events such as tornadoes and floods as well as human-related events including protests and search and rescue operations.

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