



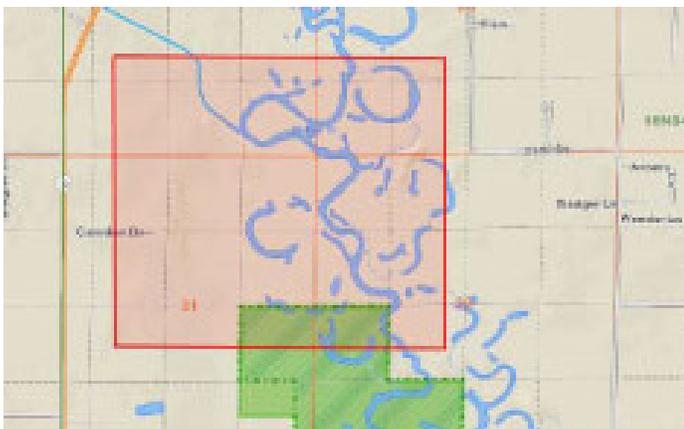
# Wisconsin Land Facts:

## Natural Heritage Conservation

The department's Natural Heritage Conservation bureau provides tools and information that allow individuals, private industry and the state to work as partners in protecting and enhancing our natural resources.

The program assists businesses and the state in complying with federal and state law by maintaining the needed data, tools, and guidance necessary to effectively conduct:

- land management and planning;
- utility and development projects;
- timber harvests; and
- other activities affecting species and habitat.



### Natural Heritage Inventory Public Portal

The program **reduces the regulatory hurdles** associated with federal and state endangered and threatened species laws. In 2014, the program:

- launched the Natural Heritage Inventory Public Portal, a **free online mapping tool** for property owners that provides immediate results and guidance on the steps needed to successfully conduct projects (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/PublicPortal.html>);
- continued to **reduce turn-around times** (less than 10 business days) associated

with reviewing and approving public and private projects;

- expanded broad incidental take permits which require no application or costs for public and private projects;
- provided liaison support to state and private industries for road and utility projects and the farming and forestry industries; and
- worked with public and private industry to represent their needs to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the impact of listing the northern long-eared bat.



### State Natural Areas

**State natural areas** provide opportunities for the public to enjoy the state's unique landscapes. They:

- represent Wisconsin's best and most intact landscapes; including unique habitats and geological formations that are open to hunters, anglers, trappers, birders and other outdoor enthusiasts, as well as researchers and school groups to enjoy.

## State Natural areas support tourism

Wisconsin's natural areas provide critical support for game and non-game bird species and are considered premier birding locations for Wisconsin's 1,678,000 birders.

State natural areas increase state tourism and are open to Wisconsin's more than 1 million hunters. These areas also mitigate the economic impact that can result from species declines.

**1.7 Million Birders  
in Wisconsin**

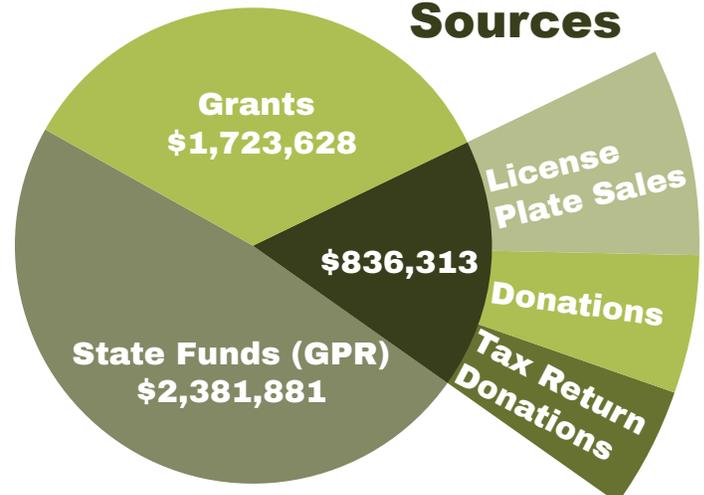


## Natural Heritage Conservation is self-supporting

Natural Heritage Conservation's network of volunteers and supporters bring in millions of dollars annually in grants, donations and on-the-ground work.

- The program represents **less than 1 percent of DNR's budget**, utilizes minimal state GPR funding and relies on donations and grants for the majority of its operations.
- The program generated \$6.3 million in grants during FY 2012 -2014.
- In FY 2014, more than 24,000 individuals supported the program through donations, E/T license plate purchases and as volunteers.
- The program supports more than 150 Wisconsin conservation organizations by providing data, expertise, guidance and seed money. In turn, these organizations provide the citizens of Wisconsin with more than \$1 million annually in volunteer hours.

### NHC Funding Sources



#### Contact:

Erin Crain  
Natural Heritage Conservation Bureau Director  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

**Phone:** 608 267-7479  
**Email:** Erin.Crain@Wisconsin.gov