

Department of Natural Resources Impact in Rusk County

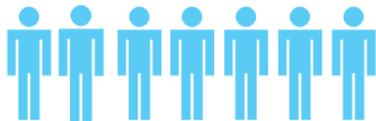
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources aims to excel at working and partnering with the public to protect and manage the state's natural resources while supporting the economy and the well-being of our citizenry.



Did you know?

In 2011, Wisconsin had

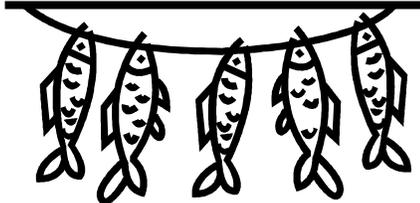
763,384



RESIDENT HUNTERS

In 2011, fishing in Wisconsin had an economic impact of over

\$1.4 billion



In Rusk County, **20,174** licenses were sold in 2013-14.

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Investments in Recreation

4,783 extended growth walleye were stocked in **Bass, Potato and Pulaski Lakes** under the **Wisconsin Walleye Initiative** in the fall of 2014. The initiative aims to strengthen Wisconsin walleye waters.

DNR offers a variety of safety classes around the state annually. In 2013, a total of **315 citizens became hunter, ATV, boating and snowmobile certified** in Rusk County.

Polk County has over **18,912 acres of state owned lands** open for public hunting and outdoor recreation.

The DNR has recently invested **\$157,125 in capital development funds** to improve state managed lands in Rusk County, including Flambeau River State Forest and Washington Creek Wildlife Area.

Community Partnerships

DNR granted a total of **\$17,955** to the **Rusk County Sheriff Department** for ATV, snowmobile and boat patrol activities.

Rusk County has **78 public water systems** that the DNR oversees to ensure they deliver safe water. Wisconsin has more public water systems than any other state in the nation.

DNR staff held a **demonstration of fishery survey equipment** for **160 sixth-grade students** from four schools at Trails End Youth Camp.

Snapshot of grants in Rusk County

A total of **\$956,151** was awarded in Rusk County for **water quality, outdoor recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, public health and safety and forestry activities**. A snapshot of projects include: ADA accessible fishing on Potato Lake, aquatic plant management planning on Amocoy Lake, trail maintenance and grants to individuals to plan and develop private forests.

**Numbers reflect the July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 time period.

Forestry Activities

Forestry is the largest employer in the county and produces the most economic output of \$182 million, providing \$54.8 million in added value to the county.

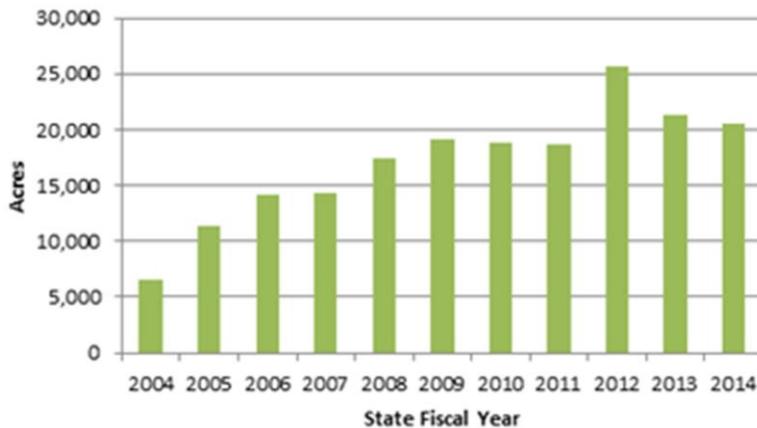
In the last three fiscal years, **Rusk County Forest has received over \$196,000 in grants** from the DNR for the purchase, development, preservation and maintenance of the county forest lands.

Since 2011, Rusk County has received **\$517,000 in Stewardship grants** to purchase over **516 acres** to add to their county forest.

Through the Forest Tax Law programs (Forest Crop and MFL), **90,509 acres** of private land in Rusk County are being properly managed for timber, wildlife, water quality and a healthy environment. Additionally, **55,200 acres** of those privately owned lands are open for public access for hunting and recreation.

The following graph represents the average acres of timber sales established on state lands in Wisconsin annually.

State Timber Sale Establishment



Environmental Cleanup Efforts

DNR approved **cleanups at 256 contaminated properties** resulting in **69 acres** being made available for reuse. DNR staff assures these cleanups provide **long-term protection of public health and environment.**

DNR responded to 13 spills of hazardous materials over the past three years.

DNR provided **\$412,153 in reimbursements** over the past three years for expenses related to the **investigation and cleanup of petroleum contamination** from product storage systems.

Deer Management in Rusk County

In 2014, Rusk County established a County Deer Advisory Council. One council per county, they provide input and recommendations to the DNR on deer management.

DNR is working with five landowners who have over 500 acres of land enrolled in the Deer Management Assistance Program to improve wildlife habitat on their property.

In 2013, a total of 5,482 deer were registered in Rusk County with 1,234 harvested during archery deer season and 4,248 harvested during the gun deer season.