

# Department of Natural Resources Impact in Vilas 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

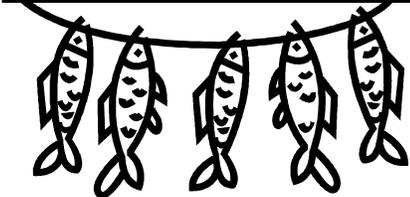
**763,384**



**RESIDENT HUNTERS**

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

**\$1.4 billion**



In Vilas County, **48,014** licenses were sold in 2013-14.

## Contact Information

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[Facebook.com/widnr/](https://www.facebook.com/widnr/)

## Investments in Recreation

The **Northern Highlands American Legion State Forest (NHAL)** is a major tourism destination with over 950 campsites.

**21,214 extended growth walleye** were stocked in **six bodies of water in Vilas County** under the **Wisconsin Walleye Initiative** in the fall of 2014. The initiative aims to strengthen Wisconsin walleye waters.

DNR has recently invested **\$883,866 in capital development funds** to improve state managed lands in Vilas County, including the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest and Caywood Shooting Range.

Vilas County has over **154,937 acres of state owned lands** open for public hunting and outdoor recreation.

DNR offers a variety of safety classes around the state annually. In 2013, a total of **257 citizens became hunter, ATV, boating and snowmobile certified** in Vilas County.

## Community Partnerships

**Land O' Lakes Library** in Vilas County was one of **17 libraries** chosen to test pilot **Outdoor Explorer Backpacks**. The backpacks encourage kids and families to get outdoors and explore Wisconsin's natural resources.

With the help of both public and private funding, a boat landing parking lot for **Big Lake**, a boat ramp access and parking area for **Sparkling Lake** and additional parking for **Big Saint Germain Lake** were constructed to improve recreational enjoyment for visitors.

DNR granted a total of **\$6,785** to the **Vilas County Sheriff Department and Town of Manitowish Waters Boat Patrol** for snowmobile and boat patrol activities.

Vilas County has **449 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.

## Snapshot of grants in Vilas County

A total of **\$2,511,093** was awarded in Vilas County for **water quality, outdoor recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, public health and safety and forestry activities**. A snapshot of projects include: grants to individuals to plan and develop private forests, the Eagle River Chain of Lakes aquatic invasive species project and trail maintenance.

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

## Forestry Activities

Since 2005, **over 541,217 cord equivalents of timber products have been harvested from state-owned land** in Vilas County. The harvests provided more than **\$22 million in revenue** to the state and contributed employment opportunities and raw materials to the local economy.

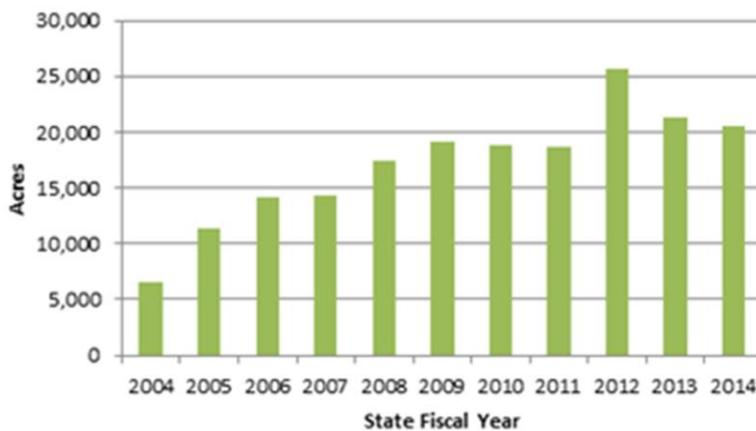
The Vilas County forestry industry is **8<sup>th</sup>** in total economic output, producing **\$24 million** and providing **\$6.7 million** in added value.

In the last three fiscal years, **Vilas County Forest has received over \$139,000 in grants** from the DNR for the purchase, development, preservation and maintenance of the county forest lands.

Through the Forest Tax Law programs (Forest Crop and MFL), **38,017 acres** of private land in Vilas County are being properly managed for timber, wildlife, water quality and a healthy environment. Additionally, **17,040 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 55 contaminated properties** resulting in **10 acres** being made available for reuse. DNR staff assures these cleanups provide **long-term protection of public health and environment**.

DNR provided **\$24,111 in Brownfield Grants** to Vilas County and River Valley State Bank to turn a foreclosure into a business incubator in Eagle River.

## Deer Management in Vilas County

In 2014, Vilas 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 11 landowners who have over 1,500 acres of land enrolled in the Deer Management Assistance Program to improve wildlife habitat on their property.

In 2013, a total of 3,145 deer were registered in Vilas County with 1,011 harvested during archery deer season and 2,134 harvested during the gun deer season.