

Only Red-eared Sliders with a carapace (top shell) length less than 4 inches are restricted under NR40

Geographic Range: This is an introduced pet not yet established in the wild of Wisconsin.

Distinguishing characteristics: Red-eared Sliders have an aggressive disposition and are highly adaptable. This turtle is bigger than many native turtles, and females can lay more eggs than smaller native female turtles. Large female sliders also draw male turtle's attention away from native females. Red-eared sliders are capable of over-winter hibernation. Adult turtles have thick shells, so adults have few predators. Omnivorous diet.

Competition with native species: This turtle is known to compete with other turtles. A study in California states that these turtles are affecting western pond turtles. Red-eared sliders are affecting red-belly turtles in North Carolina. This turtle may hybridize and hurt the yellow-eared sliders. They also compete with native turtles for food, space, and nesting areas. The red-eared slider is a more aggressive turtle which displaces native turtles.



Management:

Prevent red-eared sliders from spreading beyond their native range by eliminating them from trade, then work to control them where they have become established in the wild. Collect eggs and hatchlings and hunt/trap adults. Another approach is capture-sterilization-release