

# NON-DNR MONITORING PROGRAMS

## 19. NON-DNR MONITORING PROGRAMS

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Multiple resource agencies, educational institutions, and other entities across Wisconsin conduct water monitoring activities that provide key data for various types of management activities. Many of these efforts are done autonomously, while some are carried out in conjunction with WDNR staff or using WDNR-provided funding. The tables below list a range of non-DNR monitoring programs for both surface waters (Table 13) and groundwater (Table 14). Numerous special projects are also underway at any given time; these are not listed individually here.

*Table 13. Non-DNR agencies that monitor surface water in Wisconsin.*

Agency	Surface Water Monitoring Programs
USGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operates the network of 126 streamflow gaging stations described in Tier 1 of this document, to provide real-time streamflow data. One hundred fifty four of these sites have greater than 5 years of record. WDNR contributes funds to support a portion of these sites.</li> <li>• Operates a network of 98 high stream flow stage sites to provide information on flood frequency.</li> <li>• Water-quality and elevation is monitored at 10 lake stations in the State to provide long-term information</li> <li>• Fifteen lakes are monitored for stage on a continuous or periodic basis</li> <li>• One hundred seventeen water-quality sites are monitored continuously or on a periodic basis to meet the needs of various USGS District projects</li> <li>• Thirty-three sites provide continuous record of precipitation quantity</li> <li>• Sediment information is collected at 16 sites on a daily or periodic basis (these sites are part of other USGS monitoring efforts and the number varies annually)</li> <li>• Conducts about 60 special surface-water projects every year that help to support the monitoring described in this table. A variety of organizations contribute resources to these projects *</li> <li>• USGS Midwest Environmental Sciences Center - Mississippi River monitoring sediments, contaminants, nutrients, fisheries, macroinvertebrates, etc.</li> <li>• USGS National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) collects fish, macro-invertebrate, algae, habitat, and water quality data at one long-term site (Popple River) and at a number of short-term project sites focusing on mercury, nutrients, and urban land use impacts.</li> <li>• USGS Great Lakes Science Center - Lake Michigan and Lake Superior lake-wide forage surveys</li> </ul>
DATCP	<p>DATCP staff periodically collect pesticide data from surface waters while evaluating impacts associated with agricultural chemical storage/transfer facilities. WDNR serves in an advisory capacity to help DATCP staff understand the magnitude of</p>

	any detected pesticides. WDNR have recently discussed the ability for the two agencies to share these data.
DOT	Conducts monitoring associated with road projects, primarily through private contractors
NRCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitors all wetland restoration projects constructed under the Wetland Reserve Program. Currently vegetation is the primary focus.</li> <li>• Some monitoring is being conducted on the early watershed-based EQIP projects</li> <li>• Effectiveness of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is to be evaluated through stream monitoring; WDNR will be a cooperater on this project</li> </ul>
Army Corps of Engineers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitors Mississippi River for flood control and navigation</li> <li>• Monitors Great Lakes water levels</li> <li>• Monitors up to 1,000 wetland restoration sites in MN and WI. Restorations were for purposes of compensatory mitigation.</li> <li>• Does contractual, short duration work on a variety of projects</li> </ul>
WI Geological & Natural Hist. Survey	Maintains long term data and special studies of aquatic plants on 50 lakes
Metropolitan Council (Twin Cities, MN)	Long Term Trend monitoring stations on the St. Croix River
WI Valley Improvement Corps	Manages water levels and flows for the Wisconsin River and several lakes and flowages, primarily for flood control purposes
University of WI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) sites</li> <li>• Discovery Farms, a multi-agency partnership coordinated through UW-Extension, conducts monitoring to determine how alternative farm practices impact water quality. Pioneer farms also conduct some surface water monitoring through the UW.</li> <li>• UW-Madison Center for Limnology maintains the North Temperate Lakes - Long Term Ecological Research spatial data catalog (Madison lakes and Trout Lake Regions)</li> <li>• UW Environmental Remote Sensing Center provides statewide water clarity data</li> <li>• UW-Milwaukee WATER Institute operates a pelagic monitoring buoy in Lake Michigan. It is equipped for both meteorological measurements and water quality measurements (profiling surface to bottom).</li> <li>• UW-Stevens Point Water &amp; Environmental Analysis Lab (WEAL) supports research and provides analytical services on lake and stream water for homeowners throughout the state, businesses, and consulting firms</li> <li>• Various other monitoring projects/activities throughout the state, including water quality, fish, sediments, among others</li> </ul>
US Fish & Wildlife Service	Inter-jurisdictional waters (i.e., Great Lakes, Mississippi River), sea lamprey, ruffe, etc. Also assists GLIFWC with monitoring on tribal lands.
Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission	Conducts fish and water quality monitoring in the ceded territory in conjunction with tribal governments and USFS Fishery Resource Office (FRO) in Ashland
Tribal governments	Monitor shared resources in the ceded territory
Local governmental units, lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lake planning and management grants fund an assortment of short and medium duration efforts that may involve counties, municipalities and lake</li> </ul>

associations, etc.	<p>associations and districts. WDNR provides 75% funding for these activities, sometimes supplemented by USGS funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local governments conduct a variety of surface water monitoring programs, often in partnership with one another or state or county agencies.</li> </ul>
Local Public Health Departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Health Departments throughout the state have jurisdiction over beach closures and/or advisories in the event of elevated pathogen counts or blue-green algae capable of producing toxins. Currently, no formal program is coordinated statewide and some counties actively monitor local swimming areas while many do not.</li> <li>Local health departments and students from UW Oshkosh as a part of the Wisconsin Beach Monitoring Program are monitoring waters from 123 beaches along Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. This effort is done in accordance of the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act.</li> </ul>
County Health or Land Cons. Depts.	A few fund surface water monitoring efforts
Schools & Citizen-based programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some local schools operate short and long term surface water monitoring</li> <li>A variety of locally based citizen monitoring groups may conduct local monitoring (many of these belong to the WDNR-sponsored statewide Citizen Lake Monitoring Network &amp; Water Action Volunteers described in Tier 1)</li> <li>In the future, citizens and partner groups may also conduct monitoring under the WDNR’s proposed Citizen-Based Water Monitoring Network, described in Appendix A of this document.</li> </ul>
Sewerage Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) monitors water quality in Milwaukee-area rivers and Lake Michigan</li> <li>Green Bay Sewerage District monitors Green Bay-area rivers and L. Michigan</li> </ul>
Wastewater Permittees	Permittees that need to justify higher metals limits based on dissolved metals criteria may hire the Lab of Hygiene to take receiving stream samples for total and dissolved metals monitoring. Other water quality parameters are also generated as part of this monitoring.
Hydroelectric Dam owners	Can be required to do short term water quality monitoring as part of their FERC licensing process, to assess the effects of dam operation on in-lake and downstream water quality. Some monitor on a regular basis.

Table 14. Non-DNR agencies that monitor groundwater in Wisconsin.

Agency	Groundwater Monitoring Programs
Department of Commerce	Petroleum Environmental Cleanup Fund Act (PECFA)
CWGC	Research, outreach and private well sampling
DATCP	Pesticide monitoring and evaluation of atrazine rule
Department Of Transportation	Highway salt contamination along right of ways
State Laboratory of Hygiene (SLOH)	Private wells sampling and research
USGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fifteen groundwater wells will be monitored about every two years for stage and water quality constituents as part of the Western Lake Michigan NAWQA land use studies.</li> <li>Fifteen groundwater wells will be monitored about every 2-5 years for stage and</li> </ul>

	<p>water quality constituents as part of NAWQA major aquifer studies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A GW level monitoring network of 174 wells throughout the state are monitored on a continuous or periodic basis</li> <li>• About 10 special GW water quality and ground water flow studies are conducted in cooperation with a variety of governmental entities annually.*</li> </ul>
WGNHS	Special studies, groundwater level network
County Health or Land Cons. Depts.	A few fund groundwater monitoring efforts
UW-Stevens Point Water & Environmental Analysis Lab (WEAL)	Supports research and provides analytical services on drinking and groundwater for homeowners throughout the state, businesses, and consulting firms

\* Contributions to these efforts come from federal, state, and local agencies (cities, counties, villages, sewerage districts and regional planning districts), regulated dam owners, Native American Tribes, and individual lake districts.