



# Wisconsin Water Use

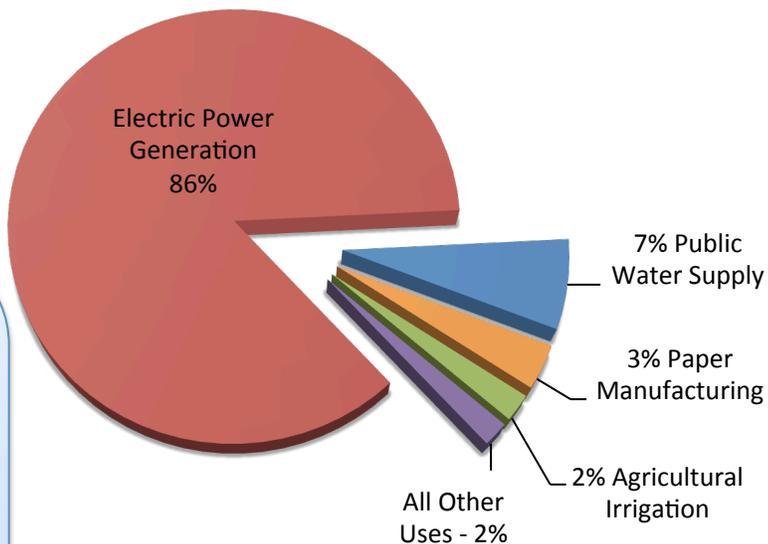
## 2010 Reported Withdrawals

In Wisconsin, water supply systems capable of withdrawing 100,000 gallons per day are required to register and report withdrawals. For 2010, reported withdrawals exceeded 1.79 trillion gallons of water from over 9000 wells, ponds, streams, rivers and lakes.

### Tracking Withdrawals

In Wisconsin, a withdrawal is considered to be taking water from a surface or groundwater source making it unavailable for other purposes, even if only temporarily. The impact of this on the resource or to other potential withdrawers depends on a number of factors. For instance, most groundwater withdrawals are used and then discharged to lakes and streams. With surface water withdrawals, the majority of water is used and eventually returned near to the source. Tracking water withdrawals by sector, source type and location is a first step that will allow us to estimate the scale and impact of water use in Wisconsin and promote sustainable water use.

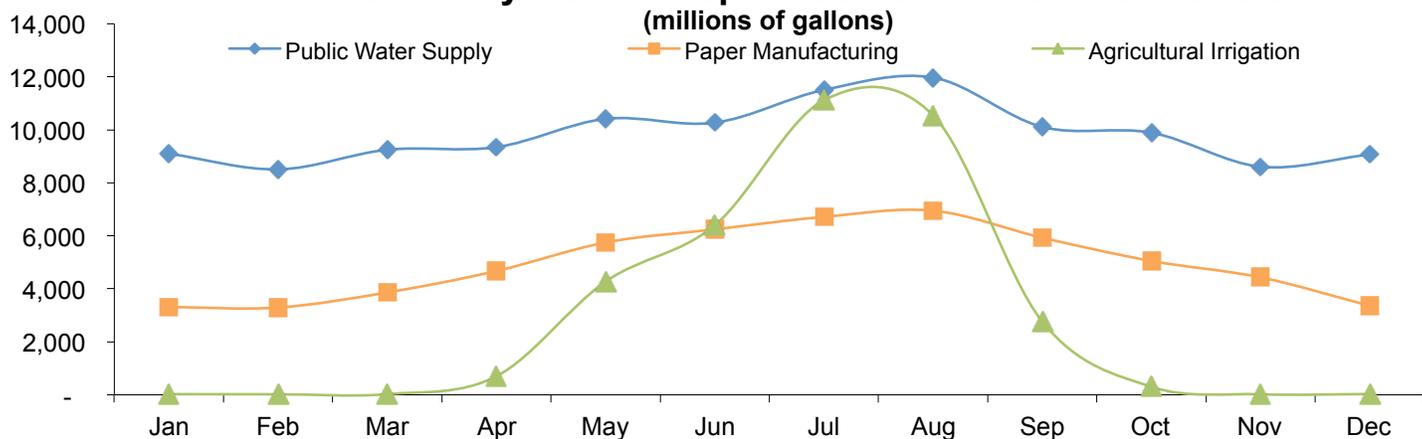
### Power - Public - Paper - Produce Wisconsin's Top Reported Water Withdrawals



### Monthly Variation in Withdrawals

Reported water withdrawals varied greatly throughout 2010 linked closely with temperatures and growing seasons. Monthly withdrawals peaked at 195 billion gallons in July when cooling demand for power was greatest and when irrigation for crops and lawns peaked. This was up from a low of 113 billion gallons pumped in February.

### Withdrawals by Month - Top Three Non-Power Withdrawals



## 2010 Water Use Reporting Facts

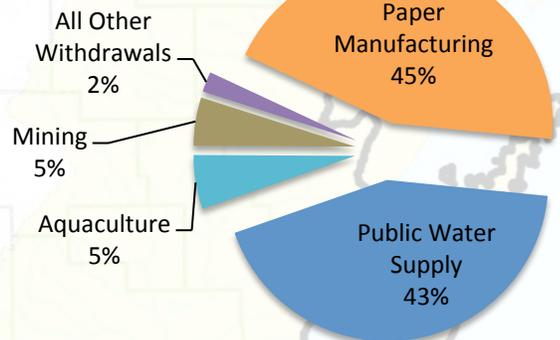
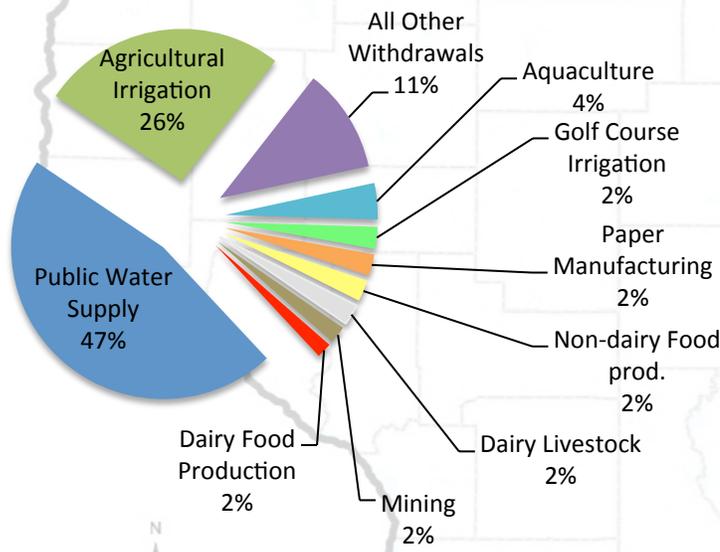
- Registered surface and ground water sources in Wisconsin exceeded 12,000 in 2010.
- Reports were submitted for over 9,300 sources.
- Users reported 1,300 unused sources.

Lake Superior

Lake Superior Basin  
Mississippi River Basin

## 2010 Reported Surface Water Withdrawals: Total 126 billion gallons statewide (excluding power generation)

## 2010 Reported Groundwater Withdrawals: Total 137 billion gallons statewide (excluding power generation\*)



Mississippi River Basin

Lake Michigan Basin

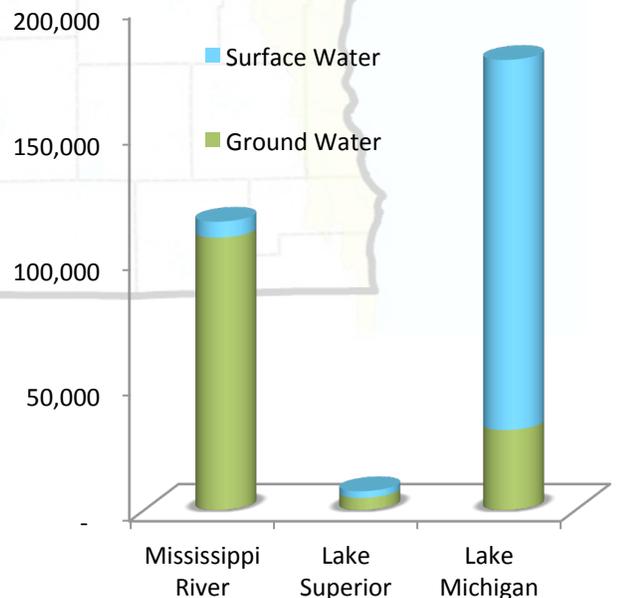
Lake Michigan



## Water Use Reporting Program

- The main goal of the water use reporting program is to improve knowledge of water in the state. Analysis of this data will help inform future decisions and policies.
- The 2010 report represents a 'snapshot' of water use in Wisconsin. In future reports, it will be possible to analyze changes in withdrawals through time. From this it will be possible to observe how variation in weather, climate, land use, demographics and technology affect our water use.
- For more information on reporting data, contact the water use section at 608.266.2299 or email [DNRWaterUseRegistration@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRWaterUseRegistration@Wisconsin.gov)

## Reported Water Withdrawals by Basin and Source: (excluding electric power generation\*)



\*Given the disproportional amount of water used in power generation, it is conventionally excluded from calculations that present a higher level of detail.