

FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013

Total DNR spending: \$540.3 million
 Fish & Wildlife Account funds: \$100.2 million (18.5%)
 The \$100.2* million Fish & Wildlife Account comes from the following sources:

| Sources of Revenue | Percent (%) |
|---|-------------|
| Fishing and hunting licenses and stamps | 65.63 |
| Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration | 9.95 |
| Misc. grants, donations, other sources | 9.88 |
| Pittman-Robertson federal wildlife aid | 11.25 |
| Wildlife damage surcharge | 3.29 |
| Total | 100% |

* Revenues are actual cash received during the fiscal year. Due to timing differences for bills, receipts and federal grants, actual revenue may fluctuate from year to year.



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Designed by Michelle Voss, DNR Science Services

Front cover - Walleye: DNR File, Inside - Boy and Fish: Margaret Paque, Inside - White Prairie Clover: DNR File, Back cover - White-tailed Deer: Herb Lange

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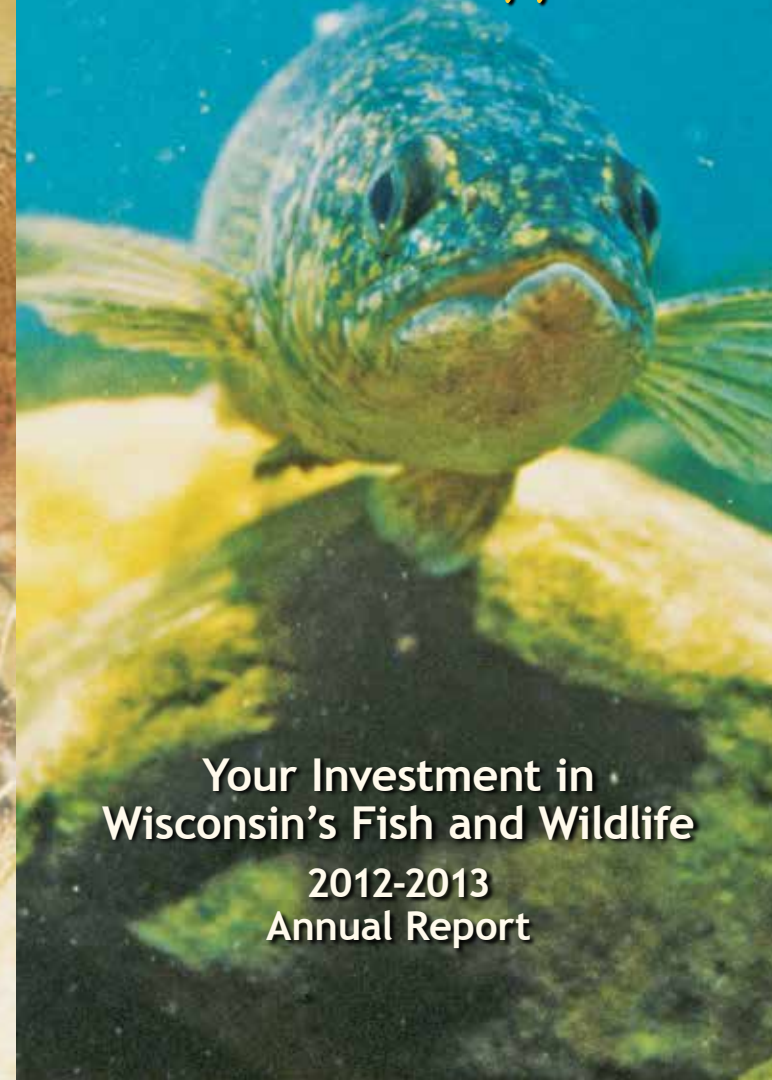
Federal Aid Project
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 hunting and fishing equipment
 and motor boat fuels.



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 Wisconsin Department
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THANKS YOU
 for your
 continued support!



Your Investment in
 Wisconsin's Fish and Wildlife
 2012-2013
 Annual Report



DNR FILE

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Wisconsin has always been at the forefront of fish and wildlife management and over the last three years it has been an honor to lead the DNR in continuing to enrich our great sporting traditions. Since becoming Secretary, I have worked with our staff to make the DNR, "Your DNR."

We are proud of our record in keeping Wisconsin a national leader in hunting, fishing and trapping, but we always strive to be better. We are committed to increasing transparency and improving communication among the public, DNR staff and private landowners, as well as being responsive to the priorities supported by sportsmen and sportswomen. We've held meetings across the state to listen to and engage our customers on many issues, including the Deer Trustee Report - with the goal of enhancing deer management; and the Wisconsin Walleye Initiative - to get feedback from anglers and others for our stocking strategy.

We have kept our commitment to making hunting and fishing affordable and accessible to all Wisconsin residents and visitors by holding the line on license fees. We understand the future of our sporting heritage is dependent on recruiting and retaining new sportsmen and sportswomen, and we are dedicated in our efforts to encourage youth participation in the outdoors.

It is my pleasure to present the 2012-2013 Fish and Wildlife Annual Report. This report highlights the Fish and Wildlife Account Funds which are derived from hunting and fishing license fees and stamps, federal aid, grants and other sources. Please read on to learn how these funds are being spent for the benefit of everyone in Wisconsin.

Thank you for your continued support and investment in our state's natural resources!

Sincerely,

Cathy

Cathy Stepp, Secretary



DNR FILE

YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK FOR YOU AND WISCONSIN'S FISH AND WILDLIFE



DNR FILE

WILDLIFE

28.7¢ of each Fish & Wildlife dollar
\$28.8 million total
182 staff

24.7% of Fish & Wildlife-funded positions

- Collared over 500 adult white-tailed deer and 220 fawns to assess causes and rates of mortality.
- Developed, tested and implemented a new and more effective sampling design and protocol for ring-necked pheasant surveys.
- Assessed bobcat distribution and abundance in central Wisconsin using trail cameras and collaborated with UW-Stevens Point on bobcat research.
- Implemented research to assess the nutritional and reproductive condition of road-killed white-tailed deer.
- Conducted wildlife education and outdoor skills programs for nearly 41,000 participants at DNR's wildlife conservation education centers.
- Co-hosted the Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo.
- Partnered with conservation clubs to release 75,000 pheasants on 92 public hunting sites.
- Worked with a design firm to begin the final design and construction of the Horicon Marsh Explorium – an interpretive exhibit focusing on the cultural and natural history of the marsh.
- Banded over 11,000 waterfowl and doves to assist in developing season frameworks and harvest quotas.
- Conducted the spring waterfowl breeding survey.
- Expanded the Bird City Wisconsin program to 73 communities statewide.
- Worked with partners to implement the second Great Wisconsin Bird-a-thon, which raised \$55,000 for the Bird Protection Fund.
- Conducted extensive public outreach for bird conservation via presentations, social media, radio shows, online chats and other media.
- Worked with the Wisconsin Trappers Association (WTA) to graduate over 2,000 participants in trapper education and participated in national humane trapping research.
- Worked with the WTA and USDA-Wildlife Services in conducting four wolf trapper education workshops for 143 permit holders.
- Chaired the Technical Working Group of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.
- Trained 29 high school agriculture teachers as trapper education instructors, allowing trapping to become part of their curriculum.
- Worked with the Beaver Task Force on a new beaver management plan.
- Used nearly \$2 million in Voluntary Public Access program funds to open 43,000 acres of private land through August 2017.
- Completed master plans for 23 wildlife areas, six fishery areas and five state natural areas encompassing 59,000 acres.
- Managed 178 state wildlife areas (630,000 acres) and added 15,978 acres of new wildlife area land through fee title and easement acquisition.

- Used \$3.3 million in state Stewardship funding for conservation infrastructure improvements, new signage, boundary markers, road maintenance, and the development of 209 new parking lots in state wildlife areas.
- Facilitated wetland habitat projects, including 16 ongoing federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants and completed 19 waterfowl stamp projects.
- Worked to revise the Wisconsin Wild Turkey Management Plan and the Wisconsin Prairie Chicken Management Plan.
- Developed a Wingshooting for Migratory Bird Hunters program to educate shooters and refine their wing shooting skills using proper equipment and non-toxic ammunition.
- Continued Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance in CWD management areas and sampled over 4,700 deer.
- Assisted hunters in the Food Pantry Program, donating 3,121 deer, equaling about 140,000 pounds of ground venison.
- Developed rules and worked with lawmakers to gain authority to import wild elk to western and northern Wisconsin as part of the ongoing elk reintroduction program.
- Worked to provide hunting opportunities and over 70,000 acres of private land for a special nine-day deer hunt for disabled hunters.
- Produced a one-hour television special about deer management.
- Worked with the public and stakeholder groups to develop recommendations as part of the deer management program review.



DNR FILE

FISHERIES

27.2¢ of each Fish & Wildlife dollar
\$27.3 million total
236 staff

32.1% of Fish & Wildlife-funded positions

- Provided technical support for science-based management of fish species including muskellunge, walleye, bass, trout, lake sturgeon, catfish and panfish.
- Conducted walleye lake stocking based on environmental characteristics associated with successful recruitment, and developed tools to more accurately predict adult walleye population size.
- Studied the vulnerability and sensitivity of coldwater streams and trout populations to Wisconsin's changing climate, and developed trout management adaptation strategies including angler access in Wisconsin's Driftless Area.
- Researched the genetics of muskellunge and used the findings to develop guidelines for maximizing healthy musky fisheries.
- Sampled 900 lakes, rivers and streams to assess fish population, habitat health and angler harvest.
- Managed fisheries in 15,000 lakes and 44,000 miles of streams.
- Raised and stocked over 6.4 million fish.
- Improved and maintained habitat on 76 trout streams, or about 56 total miles.

- Held five bilingual summer youth fishing outreach programs.
- Introduced fishing skills and aquatic ecology concepts to 28,000 youth and their families.
- Used public review of the inland trout program to simplify and update regulations.
- Developed a new general permit process for lake habitat restoration projects to plant trees along lake shores.
- Completed a statewide safety audit and biennial project-based work planning for all aspects and funding sources in the Fisheries Program.
- Worked with the Menominee Tribe to restore a successfully spawning and reproducing lake sturgeon population in the upper Wolf River – the first spawning of lake sturgeon on the Menominee Indian Reservation in over 100 years.



DNR FILE

LAW ENFORCEMENT

19.2¢ of each Fish & Wildlife dollar
\$19.2 million total
143 staff

19.4% of Fish & Wildlife-funded positions

- Held over 1,200 hunter education courses taught by volunteers who trained over 32,000 students.
- Enforced fishing, hunting and trapping laws.
- Responded to over 3,000 hunting, fishing and trapping complaints.
- Issued over 4,600 citations and over 10,000 warnings.
- Entered over 270 individuals into the Wildlife Violator Compact.
- Educated hunters, anglers and boaters about VHS and aquatic invasive species.
- Sponsored (with volunteers) over 150 Learn to Hunt events with over 2,600 novice hunter participants.
- Conducted outreach and education about Wisconsin's Hunter Recruitment and Retention Program.



DNR FILE

FACILITIES AND LANDS

10.2¢ of each Fish & Wildlife dollar
\$10.2 million total
48 staff

6.5% of Fish & Wildlife-funded positions

- Managed funding, design, and construction of 400 new projects for public lands totaling \$13.7 million.
- Managed 152 fishery areas, several flowages, wild rivers and over 250 public boat access sites.
- Purchased land or land rights to over 56,000 acres, 99 percent of which is open to hunting or fishing.
- Managed DNR lands for hunting and fishing.
- Funded new and renovated boat access sites across the state.
- Maintained the DNR managed lands website for people to find a place to hunt and fish, and the DNR boat access website for people to find a place to launch their boats.



DNR FILE

ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT

7.8¢ of each Fish & Wildlife dollar
\$7.8 million total
83 staff

11.3% of Fish & Wildlife-funded positions

- Provided online information for public access to state lands.
- Managed the DNR website and Gov Delivery system to inform subscribers through email, text messages and RSS feeds about hunting and fishing updates.
- Conducted hunting, fishing and trapping education programs.
- Organized forums for fishing and hunting groups, government agencies, legislators and the public to participate in natural resources policy making.
- Managed and distributed 48 County Conservation Aids grants totaling \$140,463 and seven Urban Wildlife Abatement and Control grants totaling \$28,450.



BOB MANWELL

CUSTOMER SERVICE

5.7¢ of each Fish & Wildlife dollar
\$5.7 million total
36 staff

4.9% of Fish & Wildlife-funded positions

- Operated a customer contact center that served the public by phone, chat or email, seven days a week, 15 hours per day.
- Provided communications with Spanish and Hmong speaking staff.
- Managed electronic registration for turkey harvests.
- Conducted listening sessions to plan the next licensing system.
- Held comprehensive training for new customer service staff.
- Provided training and support to over 1,300 license agents.
- Streamlined the application process for disabled hunting and fishing permits.
- Analyzed automated system data to meet customer needs.
- Distributed millions of regulation pamphlets and brochures.



DNR FILE

REGIONAL MANAGEMENT

1.2¢ of each Fish & Wildlife dollar
\$1.2 million total
8 staff

1.1% of Fish & Wildlife-funded positions

- Assisted and supported local government and conservation groups with fish and wildlife issues.
- Interacted with thousands of customers at major outdoor events.
- Surveyed lakes infested with invasive aquatic plants and planned lake management actions.
- Conducted citizen workshops on aquatic plant identification and helped identify invasive aquatic plants.