

From the Secretary

Everyone in Wisconsin, from hunters and anglers to landowners and engaged citizens, cares about the fish in our waters and the wildlife on our lands. My priority as Secretary is to ensure that the Department of Natural Resources is listening to you, to understand your concerns in order to serve you better and ensure that we are more open, accessible and transparent. Put simply, you spoke and we listened.

We've increased our hours at service centers, held online chats with DNR experts, expanded our outdoor safety programs, continued implementing the first recommendations of the Deer Trustee Report and launched two new mobile apps to connect with a new generation of sportsmen and sportswomen. We also compiled the Public Access Lands Atlas and online mapping application, which provides an invaluable tool for finding public lands for hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking and other outdoor activities.

We are dedicated to ensuring the future of our sporting heritage is in good hands by introducing kids and adults to hunting and fishing, and connecting them to conservation through programs and outdoor skills at centers across the state. We have also established a new grant program dedicated to hunter recruitment, development, training and education, so that everyone can learn to be a safe and ethical hunter.

In the coming year, we again look forward to hearing from you, and for the new partnerships we hope to forge all across Wisconsin. It is truly my pleasure to present the 2013-2014 Fish and Wildlife Annual Report. Thank you for your continued support and I'll look for you outdoors!

Sincerely,



Cathy Stepp, Secretary



CONNECT WITH US!



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YOUR INVESTMENT IN WISCONSIN'S FISH AND WILDLIFE

2013-2014

Fish and Wildlife Account
Annual Report

Your Dollars at Work for Wisconsin's Fish and Wildlife

Fiscal Year 2013-2014

Total DNR spending: \$574.3 million
Fish & Wildlife Account funds: \$100.6 million (17.5%)
The \$100.6* million Fish & Wildlife Account comes from the following sources:

Sources of Revenue	Percent (%)
Fishing and hunting licenses and stamps	64.91
Pittman-Robertson federal wildlife aid	12.50
Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration	10.19
Misc. grants, donations and other sources	9.17
Wildlife damage surcharge	3.23
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.



WILDLIFE

28.7¢ of each Fish & Wildlife dollar
\$28.8 million total
185 staff
25.3% of Fish & Wildlife-funded positions

- Implemented the Deer Trustee Report by taking action items from the public involvement process, including:
 - Transitioned from 143 Deer Management Units to units based primarily on county and tribal boundaries.
 - Developed a pilot automated deer registration process that will be fully implemented in 2015.
 - Created public and private land antlerless tags for each county.
 - Created publicly-driven County Deer Advisory Councils for each of the 72 counties to provide input on deer management goals.
 - Implemented a Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) to assist private landowners.
- Radio-collared over 750 white-tailed deer and nearly 200 fawns to assess survival rates in northern and east-central Wisconsin. Over 1,000 volunteers provided assistance and over 800 landowners participated.
- Implemented a comprehensive survey in northern Wisconsin to assess wild turkey distribution to better inform turkey hunting regulations.
- Developed the first ever early teal duck hunting season in Wisconsin.

Please turn panel to keep reading.

- Examined the body and nutritional condition of over 500 deer in late winter to determine the impact of severe winter weather on deer populations.
- Partnered with conservation clubs to release 78,820 pheasants on 92 public hunting sites.
- Assisted hunters in the Food Pantry Program, donating 2,265 deer, equaling about 90,000 pounds of ground venison.
- Simplified Canada goose harvest reporting in the Horicon Zone and increased hunting opportunity by reducing the size of this limited harvest zone.
- Conducted wildlife education and outdoor skills programs for nearly 40,000 participants at DNR's wildlife conservation education centers.
- Provided wildlife conservation education hands-on activities at the MacKenzie Center for the Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo.
- Banded over 10,000 waterfowl and doves to assist in developing season frameworks and harvest quotas.
- Conducted the spring waterfowl breeding survey with an estimate of 400,000 ducks.
- Worked with partners to implement the third Great Wisconsin Birdathon, which raised \$55,000 for the Bird Protection Fund.
- Implemented a Wingshooting for Migratory Bird Hunters program along with 10 partner groups which trained 49 instructors, offering 10 clinics to 114 participants.
- Conducted contaminants monitoring on bald eagle, common loon and waterfowl populations.
- Continued Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance in CWD management areas and sampled over 4,300 deer statewide.
- Developed health testing protocols to gain authority to import wild elk to western and northern Wisconsin as part of the ongoing elk reintroduction program.
- Established a Wildlife Rehabilitation Advisory Council and initiated a Keep Wildlife Wild campaign to educate the public about wild animals.
- Completed master plans for 16 wildlife areas, six fishery areas and three state natural areas encompassing 50,000 acres.
- Added 4,267 acres of new wildlife area land through fee title and easement acquisition.
- Facilitated wetland habitat projects, including 20 ongoing federal North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants and completed 13 waterfowl stamp projects.



DNR FILE

FISHERIES

26.5¢ of each Fish & Wildlife dollar

\$26.7 million total

238 staff

32.5% of Fish & Wildlife-funded positions

- Raised and stocked 6.1 million fish.
- Increased the stocking of large fingerling walleye in Wisconsin's public lakes and waters from 142,121 in 2012 to 719,670 in 2014.
- Initiated hatchery infrastructure improvements at state walleye producing hatcheries.
- Identified factors associated with successful walleye reproduction and developed new ways to estimate and assess walleye populations in Wisconsin lakes.
- Improved and maintained habitat on 79 trout streams, and removed beaver dams from over 100 streams.
- Awarded the Best North American Research Study of 2014 by the American Fisheries Society, for project that classifies fish species and predicts water temperature, stream flow and the occurrence of these 79 fish species in Wisconsin streams.
- Introduced fishing skills and aquatic ecology concepts to 27,000 youth and their families.
- Developed a trout regulation proposal with thorough public input which will simplify regulations, retain quality fishing and increase fishing opportunities.
- 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.
- Revised the streambank easement acquisition process to increase angler access and habitat protection on 100 miles of streams.
- Completed a statewide population assessment of cisco (an important forage fish for musky and walleye).
- Completed the 26th consecutive year of annual monitoring of smallmouth bass in southwestern Wisconsin streams, the 28th consecutive year for walleye and sauger in the Lower Wisconsin River, and the 68th consecutive year for walleye and other game fish in Escanaba Lake in Vilas County.
- Evaluated methods to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness of raising musky for stocking in public waters.
- Managed fisheries in 15,000 lakes and 44,000 miles of streams.

- Sampled over 1,000 lakes, river and stream segments to assess fish population, habitat health and angler harvest.
- Evaluated existing panfish and northern pike fishing regulations and contributed to the development of new approaches to panfish and pike management.
- Continued collaborative research with fishing guides and clubs in northwestern Wisconsin to tag and recapture muskellunge to provide vital statistics critical for sustainable management of this species.



DNR FILE

LAW ENFORCEMENT

19.0¢ of each Fish & Wildlife dollar

\$19.1 million total

141 staff

19.3% of Fish & Wildlife-funded positions

- Held over 1,254 hunter education courses taught by volunteers who trained over 32,000 students.
- Enforced fishing, hunting and trapping laws and responded to over 5,433 hunting, fishing and trapping complaints.
- Issued over 3,281 citations and over 8,769 warnings.
- Entered over 330 individuals into the Wildlife Violator Compact.
- Sponsored (with volunteers) nearly 100 Learn to Hunt events with 2,000 novice hunter participants.
- Conducted outreach and education about Wisconsin's Hunter Recruitment and Retention Program.



DNR FILE

FACILITIES AND LANDS

11.0¢ of each Fish & Wildlife dollar

\$11.1 million total

49 staff

6.7% of Fish & Wildlife-funded positions

- Managed funding, engineering design and construction of 432 new projects including buildings, roads, trails, water/wastewater systems and other improvements totaling \$14.7 million.
- Managed over 152 properties including the Lower Wisconsin Riverway, northern flowages, fishery areas, wild rivers and over 200 public boat access sites for hunting and fishing.
- Purchased land or land rights to over 16,900 acres, 99 percent of which is open to hunting or fishing.
- Renovated and funded new boat access sites across the state.
- Produced the Public Access Lands Atlas, available online and in print, to help users find and explore public lands in Wisconsin.



DNR FILE

ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT

8.1¢ of each Fish & Wildlife dollar

\$8.2 million total

85 staff

11.6% of Fish & Wildlife-funded positions

- 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 45 County Conservation Aids grants totaling \$128,980 and seven Urban Wildlife Abatement and Control grants totaling \$24,670.



DNR FILE

CUSTOMER SERVICE

5.6¢ of each Fish & Wildlife dollar

\$5.6 million total

26 staff

3.5% 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.
- Designed and tested deer harvest registration pilot.
- Managed electronic registration for turkey harvests.
- Began design and development of next generation licensing systems.
- Provided training and support to over 1,300 license agents.
- Distributed millions of regulation pamphlets and brochures.



DNR FILE

REGIONAL MANAGEMENT

1.1¢ of each Fish & Wildlife dollar

\$1.1 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.