

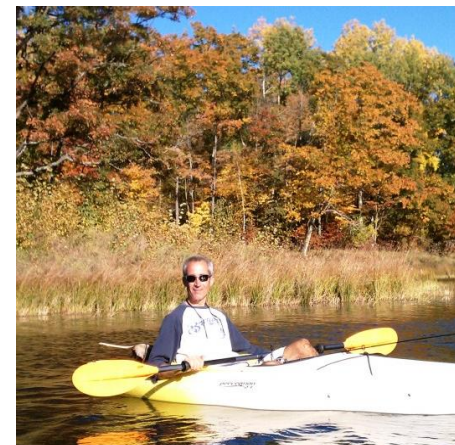
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The following Appendices are available online at the Wisconsin DNR website (dnr.wi.gov):

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Appendix 1:

WISCONSIN WETLANDS STRATEGY

Wisconsin has a wealth of wetlands that are accessible to citizens interested in exploring the state's tremendous diversity of marshes, swamps, bogs, fens, and sedge meadows. These ecosystems provide habitat for a wide range of plant and animal species, some of which are rare and unique to wetland systems.

Why wetlands matter

Wetlands play a critical role in maintaining the overall health and functioning of lakes, rivers, prairies and forests. They also provide critical habitat for Wisconsin plants, fish and wildlife, clean water, protection from floods, recreation, and natural scenic beauty.

- Wetlands reduce flooding peaks by as much as 60 percent and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that an acre of wetlands can store 1 to 1.5 million gallons of floodwaters.
- Polluted runoff from cities, farms and construction sites is filtered by wetlands before entering lakes and rivers. Clean lakes and rivers are the backbone of Wisconsin's tourism industry, which generated \$12 billion in 2009 and supported more than 286,000 jobs.
- The filtering capability of wetlands cuts the cost of treating drinking water. Some wetlands can remove a quantity of pollutants from the watershed equivalent to that removed from a \$5 million treatment plant.

- Nearly 40 percent of Wisconsin's 370 species of birds live in or use wetlands and many important game birds, mammals, fish, amphibians and reptiles are associated with wetlands, among them waterfowl, white-tailed deer, ring-necked pheasants, northern pike and walleye. In Wisconsin, bird-watchers and wildlife watchers spend \$271 million annually waiting for a glimpse of their favorites.
- One-third of the plants and animals on Wisconsin's state endangered and threatened list depend on wetlands.
- Wetlands provide recreation benefits, both for their contribution to improved water quality (and associated activities such as fishing and boating) and their habitats that support activities such as waterfowl hunting, bird watching, canoeing and kayaking.

Wetland protection laws

Wetlands in Wisconsin are protected under state law and most are under the federal Clean Water Act, and in some places, by local regulations or ordinances as well. Landowners and developers are required to avoid wetlands with their projects whenever possible; if the wetlands can't be avoided, they must apply for permits and receive approval to proceed with proposed wetland impacts.

Acquisition

It is important to permanently protect wetlands to maximize benefits to people and a healthy environment. Priority wetlands for protection include unique, high quality and rare types, as well as wetlands that provide critical functions like flood storage, water quality and wildlife habitat. Through the acquisition of land, easements, covenants or deed restrictions, landowners, conservation organizations and government agencies can ensure these wetland systems are permanently protected for future generations.

Land use & community planning

How we use land and the land use decisions we make today influence the long-term environmental quality of Wisconsin wetlands. The vast majority of the state's wetlands, approximately 75 percent, are privately owned and as a result, individual landowners, developers and local governments are the principal land use decision-makers. In order to be successful in addressing environmental concerns, the DNR will continue to work with others to help guide development patterns that maintain Wisconsin's character and minimize negative environmental effects.

Wisconsin will continue to implement the following conservation goals and strategies, as described in the 2011-2016 SCORP:

1. Strengthen and establish partnerships to maximize wetland stewardship and conservation opportunities.

- Work with state, federal, and local agencies and organizations on wetland protection and restoration.

2. Strengthen and develop incentives for wetland conservation on private lands.

- As 75% of wetlands in Wisconsin (over four million acres) are privately owned, policymakers should identify and adopt a package of economic incentives for wetland landowners to restore and manage wetlands.

3. Advance public understanding and connection to Wisconsin wetlands.

- Create awareness of wetland laws through publications and web sites.
- Increase public awareness of wetlands through public events, outreach, and media releases.

4. Avoid and minimize wetland loss and degradation.

- Ensure wetlands are protected at the local, state, and federal level by assuring that standards, policies, and guidance fully address threats to wetlands.
- Take steps to reduce illegal wetland filling and increase permit compliance.
- Develop and implement wetland protection tools for use in local planning and development.

5. Restore lost wetlands and improve health and functions.

- Restore and maintain wetlands in an efficient manner to maximize limited funding and address identified needs, values, and services that will benefit both the natural resource and Wisconsin residents.

- Develop landscape plans that effectively target wetland restoration activities.
- Position Wisconsin to maximize federal and private investments in wetland conservation.

6. Report and track the status of Wisconsin wetlands.

- Establish and refine an integrated program for tracking wetland quantity and quality, including efforts to develop and promote wetland monitoring programs.
- Increase the production, use, and accessibility of the Wisconsin Wetland Inventory and related data using best available technology.
- Develop better tools to evaluate wetland function at the watershed scale and site-specific tools for assessing wetland function, condition, and restoration success.

7. Develop wetland science and address research needs.

- Further develop research and monitoring for invasive species.
- Identify and minimize hydrologic impacts to wetlands from various sources, such as high capacity well pumping and stormwater runoff.

8. Secure stable funding for wetland conservation and stewardship.

- Optimize financial investments for wetland conservation and education.
- Seek full federal funding allocations for federal wetland conservation and environmental programs.