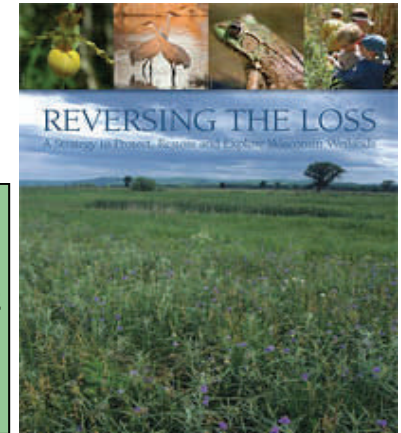


Reversing the Loss

2011 - 2012 Wisconsin Wetland Team Priorities & Action Plan



The Wisconsin Wetland Team has identified the following key priorities and actions team organizations will work on in 2011 and 2012. This Action Plan recognizes that the condition of our economy and our water resources in the state are changing and that we must adapt to accomplish the state's overarching vision to *Reverse the Loss* of Wisconsin's wetland resources. To learn more about the strategy visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/wetlands/strategy.html>.

WI Wetland Team Priority

ONE: Monitor and Assess the Status of Wisconsin Wetlands so decision makers have the best possible information on the extent, type, and health of our state's wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide. Assessment tools also provide the means to identify trends in wetland status.

This priority addresses *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goals 6 and 7 and EPA Core Element - Monitoring and Assessment.

TWO: Develop a Watershed Approach for Wetland Restoration & Protection using inventory and assessment data to better understand the roles wetlands play within watersheds and to help determine goals for wetland restoration and protection that address watershed needs.

This priority address *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goals, 3, 4, 5 and 7 and EPA Core Elements - Regulatory, Voluntary Restoration & Protection, Monitoring and Assessment.

WI Wetland Team Actions

- Participate in the National Wetland Condition Assessment and Conduct Intensification Study along Lake Michigan.
- Prepare Annual Report for Trackable Wetland Gains & Losses.
- Update the WI Wetland Inventory Maps for Six Counties, Digitize Nine Counties and Incorporate into the National Wetland Inventory.
- Update Wisconsin Rapid Assessment Methodology.
- Conduct Wetland Change Analysis in Southeastern Wisconsin.
- Translate Wetland Ecosystem Services into a Dollar Value on the Upper St. Croix Watershed Plan Project.

- Develop and Pilot Tools to Apply Watershed Approaches within Targeted Watersheds including the Duck-Pensaukee and Upper St. Croix River for Protecting and Restoring Wetlands.
- Incorporate Wetlands into DNR Watershed and TMDL Plans.
- Translate Wetland Ecosystem Services into Dollars for the Upper St. Croix Watershed Project.



WI Wetland Team Priority

THREE: Improve Wetland Regulatory Approaches so they are straight-forward, fair and understandable to the public to ensure the state continues to maintain a strong and effective program that fully protects against wetland loss and degradation.

This priority addresses *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goal 4 and EPA Core Element - Regulatory.

FOUR: Increase Wetland Restoration on Private Lands by sustaining, promoting and delivering voluntary wetland restoration programs to private landowners, sharing expert knowledge on restoration techniques and by reducing barriers to improve state property tax for wetland conservation. Wetland restoration benefits extend well beyond private land boundaries to provide intrinsic functions and values for wildlife, water quality, and flood abatement.

This priority addresses *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goal 2 and EPA Core Element - Voluntary Restoration & Protection

WI Wetland Team Actions

- Implement Wetland Permit Program Improvements.
- Seek Sufficient Funding to Initiate Wetland Identification Program per 2009 Wisconsin Act 373.
- Develop Federal Wetland Conservation General Permit per 2009 Wisconsin Act 391.
- Identify & Close Wetland Protection Gaps:
 - CAFO Rules—Chapter NR 243.
 - Storm Water Rules—Chapter NR 151.
 - Nutrient Rules—Chapters NR 102 & NR 217.

- Develop Outreach, Marketing, and Promotional Strategies for Conservation Delivery on Private Land .
- Reduce Barriers to Improve State Property Tax Structure for Wetland Conservation.
- Streamline Federal and State Permit Process for Wetland Restoration.



WI Wetland Team Priority

WI Wetland Team Actions

FIVE: Prevent and Control Wetland Invasive Species by developing a strategic plan specific for wetland invasive species and utilizing successful control methods currently in practice.

This priority addresses *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goals 4, 5 and 7 and EPA Core Elements - Monitoring & Assessment and Voluntary Restoration & Protection.

- Conduct Invasive Species Control throughout Wisconsin.
- Update and Implement Invasive Species Regulations (NR 40) and Examine Other Species Classification.
- Develop a Comprehensive Wetland Invasive Species Strategy.

SIX: Increase Wetland Ecosystem Resiliency by utilizing the understanding of land use and climate change to strategically restore wetlands where they can buffer the impacts on the landscape and infrastructure of WI. Take management actions to ensure wetlands continue to provide adequate plant and wildlife habitat.

This priority addresses *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 and EPA Core Element - Monitoring and Assessment.

- Work with the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts and FWS Great Lakes Landscape Conservation Cooperative to Understand and Quantify Wetland Impacts to Recommend Adaptation Strategies.
- Integrate Climate Change Considerations into Watershed Based Pilot Projects.
- Conduct a Pilot Project to Restore Wetlands in the Rock River Basin as an Adaptation Strategy to Minimize Climate Change Impacts from Flooding.



WI Wetland Team Priority

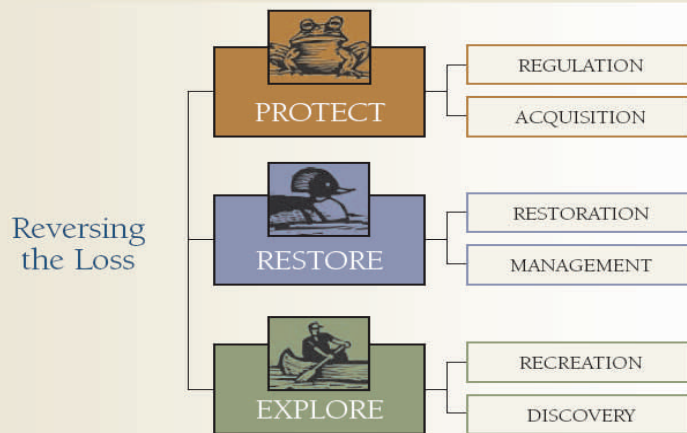
WI Wetland Team Actions

SEVEN: Team Up for Wetland Conservation by facilitating and engaging new and existing partners to take a more active role in wetland protection, restoration and exploration in Wisconsin.

This priority addresses all eight *Reversing the Loss* Strategic Goals and all four EPA Core Elements.

- Provide Recommendations to Local Governments on How They Can Increase Wetland Protection in Their Communities.
- Provide Outreach to Public and Tribal Land Managers About the Tools Available for Wetland Stewardship.
- Promote “Explore Wisconsin Wetlands”.
- Team with Universities to Further Wetland Research & Education.
- Seek Federal & State Grant Funding for Wetland Conservation.
- Partner to Develop a Statewide Wetland Restoration Priority Map.

Wisconsin's Wetland Strategy



Wisconsin Wetland Team

- * Ducks Unlimited
- * Natural Resources Foundation of WI
- * Oneida Nation of Wisconsin
- * Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
- * University of Wisconsin—Extension
- * U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- * U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- * U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- * USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- * WI Coastal Management Program
- * WI Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection
- * WI Department of Natural Resources
- * WI Department of Transportation
- * WI Waterfowl Association
- * WI Wetlands Association
- * WI Wildlife Federation
- * Joy Zedler, Restoration Ecologist