Wisconsin’s Wetland Plan & Benefits

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Presentation Goals:

- Overview of WI Wetland Plan
- Outline of WI’s Plans Framework
- Benefits of Wetland Plans
Reversing the Loss –
A Strategy for Protecting and Restoring
Wisconsin’s Wetlands

2000 - Initial Wetland Strategy
2001-2007

Reverse the Loss of WI’s wetlands by restoring lost wetlands in acreage, health and function and by avoiding and minimizing impacts to remaining wetlands.
2001-2007 Major Accomplishments

- DNR’s Official Wetland Policy in Law
- State Isolated Wetlands Protection Law
- Wetland Compensatory Mitigation Rule
- Annual Wetland Gains & Losses Report
- WI Wetland Inventory Maps On-Line
- Purple Loosestrife Beetle Control
2008 WI Wetland Strategy Updated

- A Strategy to Protect, Restore & Explore
- Expanded Partners
- Broadened & Restructured
WI Wetland Team = DNR + Partners
8 Strategic Goals:

1. Strengthen and establish partnerships;
2. Develop incentives for wetland conservation on private lands;
3. Avoid and minimize wetland loss and degradation;
4. Restore lost wetlands and improve wetland health and functions;
8 Strategic Goals:

5. Advance public understanding & connection to WI wetlands;

6. Report and track the status of Wisconsin’s wetlands;

7. Further develop wetland science and research needs;

8. Secure stable funding for wetland conservation and stewardship.
Implement - 2-Year Action Plans

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 and Voluntary Restoration & Protection.

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.
2011-2012 Priorities & Actions

Monitor & Assess the Status of WI Wetlands

1. Participate in the National Wetland Condition Assessment & Conduct Intensification Study along Lake MI
2. Prepare Annual Report for Trackable Wetland Gains & Losses
3. Update the WWI for 6 Counties, Digitize 9 and Incorporate into the NWI
4. Update WRAM
5. Conduct Wetland Change Analysis in SER WI
6. Translate Wetland Ecosystem Svcs. to Monetary Value for Upper St. Croix Watershed Plan
Biennial Progress Report

Reversing the Loss: 2008 - 2010 Wisconsin Wetland Team Accomplishments

The following highlights some of the key 2008 - 2010 accomplishments made by the Wisconsin Wetland Team organizations for each of the Reversing the Loss strategic approaches - Protect, Restore and Explore.

Reversing the Loss Approach

PROTECT Wisconsin Wetlands through sound land-use planning, acquisition and implementation of wetland protection laws.

WI Wetland Team Accomplishments

- State and federal wetland regulations continue to balance the needs of development and job growth with the protection of Wisconsin's wetlands from loss and degradation. See 2008 - 2010 Data Analysis of State Wetland Permit Program for more detail.

- 2009 Wisconsin Act 373 passed requiring wetland and waterway notification on local building permit applications and establishing a new Wetland Identification Program to be implemented by the WI Department of Natural Resources. This early notification helps citizens recognize when their projects may impact wetlands and what permits may apply. This also allows them an opportunity to tailor their project to avoid and minimize wetland impacts.

- A Wetland Real Estate Addendum was developed providing buyers the opportunity to verify wetland presence or absence before they buy.

- The Wisconsin Wetland Inventory (WWVI) Maps were made available online along with newly created Wetland Indicator Maps. Additionally, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed a crosswalk for the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) and the WI Wetland Inventory ~ 75% of the NWI is now complete for WI.

- An evaluation of the State Wetland Permit Program was conducted and recommendations made for improvements.

2008 - 2010 Data Analysis of the State Wetland Permit Program shows:

- 94% of applicant’s projects are approved.
- WI citizens and business continue to avoid and minimize wetland impacts with their projects. An average of 250 acres of wetland loss and 515 acres of wetland disturbance is approved annually. Prior to WI’s wetland law, adopted in 1991, an average of 1,400 acres were lost annually through issuance of federal 404 Clean Water Act Permits.
- State wetland permit decisions are made within the required timeframes set by law.
WI Wetland Plan
Framework

Reversing the Loss
✓ Broad Strategy (Vision, Approaches & Goals)
✓ Outlines Common Wetland Message

2-Year Action Plans
✓ Implementation of Broad Strategy
✓ Identifies Team Priorities & Actions Team

Biennial Progress Reports
✓ Actions Completed Toward Accomplishing Strategy and EPA Core Elements
Wetland Plan Benefits

1. Establishes a vision for WI wetlands and charts a course for how collectively we can achieve it.

- Is the foundation for wetlands work being done in WI - easily understood and publically available.

- Establishes priorities and actions in 2-year increments where WI Wetland Team organizations will focus wetland efforts to achieve progress.
Wetland Plan Benefits

2. Improves wetland communication and understanding for many audiences.

- Establishes a common wetland message that is simple and can easily be communicated by anyone.

- The Broad Vision, Approaches & Goals are non-threatening “feel-good” that many people will embrace and/or support.
Wetland Plan Benefits

3. Increases collaboration with partners and engages others toward achieving the shared vision.

- Identifies several ways people and organizations can get involved to do their part - there is a role for anyone.

- With more people and funding resources we will be more effective and make greater progress.