



## Fiscal Year 2010-2011

Total DNR spending: \$529.2 million  
 Fish & Wildlife Account funds: \$103 million (19.5%)

The \$103\* million Fish & Wildlife Account comes from the following sources:

Sources of Revenue	Percent (%)
Fishing and hunting licenses and stamps	66.98
Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration	10.21
Misc. grants, donations, other sources	8.85
Pittman-Robertson federal wildlife aid	11.21
Wildlife damage surcharge	2.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* 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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 and motor boat fuels.



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The Wisconsin  
 Department of Natural Resources

# THANKS YOU

for your  
 continued  
 support!



Your Investment in  
 Wisconsin's Fish and Wildlife  
 2010-2011



## A Message from the Secretary



It is my pleasure to present the 2010-2011 Fish and Wildlife Annual Report. Since beginning my work with the Department of Natural Resources, I have had the opportunity to meet and talk with many of our state's hunters and anglers. During these meetings and through our conversations, I find myself humbled and proud to work for such caring, conscientious and dedicated groups and individuals.

Wisconsin has a great tradition of environmental protection and conservation. It's one of the things that sets us apart from just about every other state. Now it is our turn to carry out the tradition so our children and grandchildren experience the hunting and fishing opportunities we enjoy so much.

We carefully and gratefully invest your hunting and fishing license dollars in habitat and programs to sustain the hunting and fishing opportunities you treasure. Hunters and anglers have been and remain committed, key supporters of conserving Wisconsin's beautiful natural resources.

We all know it takes a hunter or angler to make a hunter or angler. So invite a friend to try hunting or fishing. Pass on your passion and conservation stewardship to the next generation.

Wisconsin offers some of North America's best hunting and fishing. I am proud of what we have and look forward to scores of success stories we will share with future generations. See you out there!

Sincerely,

Cathy Stepp, Secretary

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



ROBERT QUEEN

## WILDLIFE

**28.4¢** of each Fish & Wildlife dollar  
**\$29.2** million total  
**179** staff  
**23.9%** of Fish & Wildlife-funded positions

- Assisted 32,494 interpretive program participants
- Helped host a youth outdoor expo attracting 3,000 students
- Expanded the National Archery in the Schools Program and hosted the largest indoor archery tournament in Wisconsin for over 700 students
- Conducted copper bullet demonstrations across the state as an action item of the Lead Action Plan
- Counted the elk herd at 150 animals and moved a small group of elk to expand their range
- Made 5,804 telemetry location determinations and 13,110 telemetry mortality checks during the last elk year (May 13, 2010, to May 19, 2011) and gave 31 elk presentations to 833 participants
- Continued CWD surveillance in southern Wisconsin and sampled over 4,500 deer
- Initiated comprehensive deer research projects in northwest and east central Wisconsin
- Involved hunters in assessing wildlife populations using surveys and deer registration forms
- Collected waterfowl and mammal harvest and age data, conducted license surveys and banded 11,000 birds
- Continued to be a national leader in using surveys for birds difficult to detect by normal survey methods: owls, nightjars, marsh birds
- Initiated the second bear population study using tetracycline
- Recorded a 2010 bear harvest of 5,133, the highest regulated bear harvest on record
- Conducted the Wisconsin spring waterfowl breeding survey with results in 2010 of 386,501 ducks and 165,853 geese
- Partnered with conservation clubs to release 55,000 pheasants on 71 public hunting sites
- Provided wildlife watching opportunities
- Developed, with partners, a Sharp-tailed Grouse Management Plan
- Completed a beaver survey in northern Wisconsin
- Initiated a long-term research effort to better understand bobcat ecology in southern Wisconsin
- Implemented an online turkey registration system and a telephone/online turkey harvest reporting system
- Used turkey, pheasant and duck stamp revenue for wetland, grassland, savanna and forestry projects
- Expanded the number of duck hunting zones
- Acquired and developed wetland and grassland habitat
- Initiated the 473,900-acre Southwest Wisconsin Grassland and Stream Conservation Area project
- Managed 178 state wildlife areas across 620,000 acres for hunting, trapping, fishing, wildlife watching and more

- Added 5,397 acres of wildlife area land through fee title and easement acquisition
- Launched the Voluntary Public Access Program, which added 12,000 acres of new public hunting land
- Developed non-forest biomass harvest guidelines
- Developed the Wild Rice Plan
- Conducted deer research focusing on fawn predation, buck mortality, and using vehicle collisions as a population size index
- Investigated techniques to restore lake shorelands and assessed wildlife response to lake shoreland restoration in northern Wisconsin



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## FISHERIES

**28.6¢** of each Fish & Wildlife dollar  
**\$29.5** million total  
**253** staff  
**33.6%** of Fish & Wildlife-funded positions

- Sampled over 800 lake, river and stream sites to assess fish population and habitat health
- Managed fisheries in 15,000 lakes and 44,000 miles of streams
- Completed construction of the research vessel *RV Coregonus*, which will be used for survey work on Lake Michigan and replaces the 74-year-old *RV Barney Devine*
- Developed a management plan to re-establish spotted musky in Green Bay in cooperation with Michigan DNR
- Raised and stocked over 7.6 million fish
- Improved and maintained habitat on 57 trout streams
- Implemented a bilingual summer youth fishing outreach program at a Latino community center
- Introduced fishing skills and aquatic ecology concepts to 35,000 youth and their families
- Renovated Wild Rose Hatchery's coolwater rearing facilities for walleye, sturgeon, northern pike and musky with production expected to meet or exceed design goals
- Provided technical support for science-based management of several fish species statewide, including muskellunge, walleye, bass, trout, lake sturgeon, catfish and panfish
- Conducted collaborative research to understand factors that would favor bass or walleye dominance in Wisconsin lakes
- Leveraged expertise and regional multi-state partnerships to conduct research in support of fisheries in Wisconsin's rivers and Great Lakes tributaries
- Studied coldwater stream fisheries adaptation to Wisconsin's changing climate and developed best trout management strategies
- Researched the genetics of walleye and musky, and used findings to develop guidelines for maximizing healthy fisheries
- Studied the impact of angling on walleye age, size and populations



DNR FILE

## FACILITIES AND LANDS

**10¢** of each Fish & Wildlife dollar  
**\$10.3** million total  
**46** staff  
**6.1%** of Fish & Wildlife-funded positions

- Funded nine new or renovated boat access sites across the state
- Managed DNR lands for hunting and fishing
- Managed land on 152 fishery areas, several flowages and rivers and hundreds of public boat access sites
- Maintained the DNR managed lands website so people can find a place to hunt and fish
- Maintained the DNR boat access website so people can find a place to launch their boats



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## CUSTOMER SERVICE

**5.5¢** of each Fish & Wildlife dollar  
**\$5.6** million total  
**32** staff  
**4.2%** of Fish & Wildlife-funded positions

- Operated a customer contact center that serves the public by phone, chat or email, 7 days a week, 15 hours per day
- Provided communications with Spanish-and Hmong-speaking staff
- Implemented internet chat function on the DNR website
- Recruited business support specialists to provide personalized training and support to more than 1,300 license agents
- Managed computer systems and vendor network supporting the sale of over 3 million fishing, hunting and trapping licenses
- Maintained an easy-to-use automated licensing system that integrates hunting and fishing, recreational vehicles and safety education
- Developed direct interfaces between electronic citations, the licensing system and the courts
- Distributed millions of regulation pamphlets/brochures



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## REGIONAL MANAGEMENT

**1.1¢** of each Fish & Wildlife dollar  
**\$1.2** million total  
**8** staff  
**1%** of Fish & Wildlife-funded positions

- Assisted and supported local government and conservation groups with fish and wildlife issues
- Interacted with thousands of customers through exhibits at major outdoors 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



DNR FILE

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

**18.6¢** of each Fish & Wildlife dollar  
**\$19.2** million total  
**142** staff  
**18.9%** of Fish & Wildlife-funded positions

- Held over 975 hunter education courses taught by volunteers who trained over 25,000 students
- Responded to over 4,639 hunting, fishing and trapping complaints
- Issued 5,302 citations and 7,786 warnings
- Enforced fishing, hunting and trapping laws
- Entered over 400 individuals into the Wildlife Violator Compact
- Educated anglers and boaters about VHS
- Sponsored, in cooperation with volunteers, over 115 Learn to Hunt events with over 1,700 participants
- Conducted outreach and education about Wisconsin's Hunter Recruitment and Retention Program and goals



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## ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT

**7.8¢** of each Fish & Wildlife dollar  
**\$8.0** million total  
**92** staff  
**12.3%** of Fish & Wildlife-funded positions

- Provided online information for access points to public hunting on state lands
- Managed DNR website and implemented a Gov delivery system allowing customers to subscribe to email, text messages and RSS feeds for specific topics and updates
- Ensured the future of hunting, fishing and trapping through educational programs
- Organized forums for fishing and hunting groups, government agencies, legislators and the public to participate in hunting and fishing policy making
- Managed and distributed 54 County Conservation Aids grants totaling \$148,053 and eight Urban Wildlife Abatement and Control grants totaling \$24,968
- Provided Sport Fish Restoration and Recreational Boating Facilities Funding for boat access facilities totaling \$854,820



MICHAEL KUBITZ