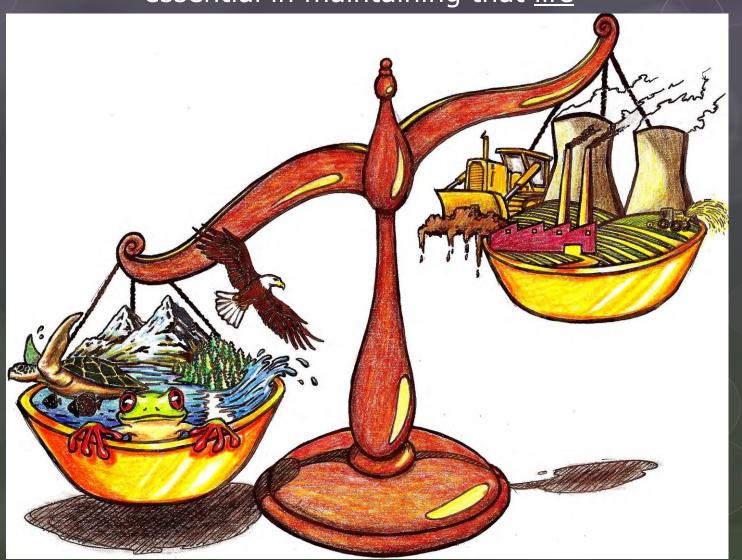
Healthy Soil/Healthy Water

Preserving our Land and Water Legacy in the
Wisconsin River Basin through Locally Led Conservation



Our Soil & Water is essential for <u>life</u> and is unendingly being utilized for fulfilling our worldly needs – Finding a healthy balance is essential in maintaining that <u>life</u>



Linking Agricultural Trends to Water Quality Improvement

- Agricultural is changing at a very rapid pace. Small family owned farms face the most difficult challenges do to economic restraints and don't always have the resources necessary to weather the storm
- Tools, technology and a changing workforce are driving changes in the agriculture landscape – changes that can have a positive impact on the agriculture industry & the environment in Wisconsin
- Producer Led Watershed Protection Success means having strong farmer leadership and a commitment to improving water and soil quality on Wisconsin farmland. This effort includes learning about best management practices, installing conservation practices, and forming partnerships to strengthen their efforts tailored to their local conditions
- The population of the world is estimated to hit 9 billion people by 2050, the demand to supply enough food, fiber and energy to supply the world will be a daunting task. Production & precision agriculture will be our focus as we look forward into the future
- The Wisconsin River Basin TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) Study has been the tool our area of Wisconsin will use to move forward

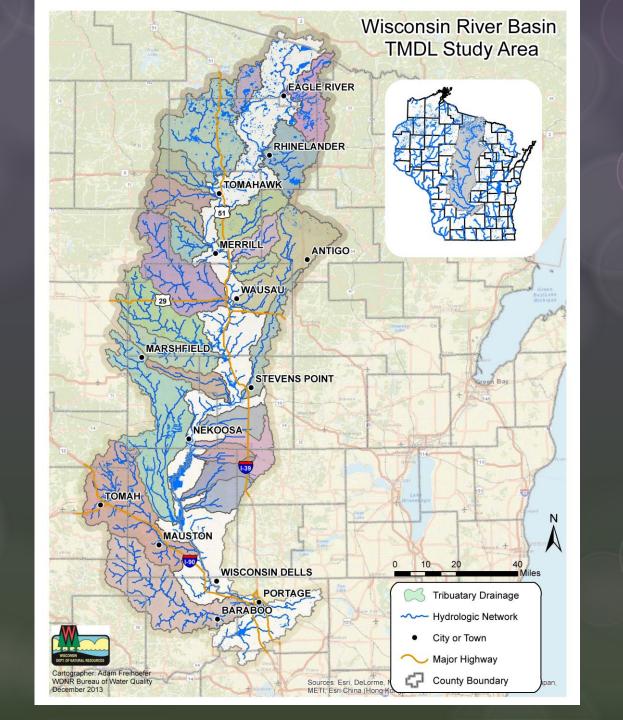


What Approach is Wisconsin Taking

Impaired waters in Wisconsin are addressed through an analysis, known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). A TMDL is the amount of a pollutant a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards. Basically it is a pollution "budget" for a water body or watershed that establishes the pollutant reduction needed from each pollutant source to meet water quality goals.

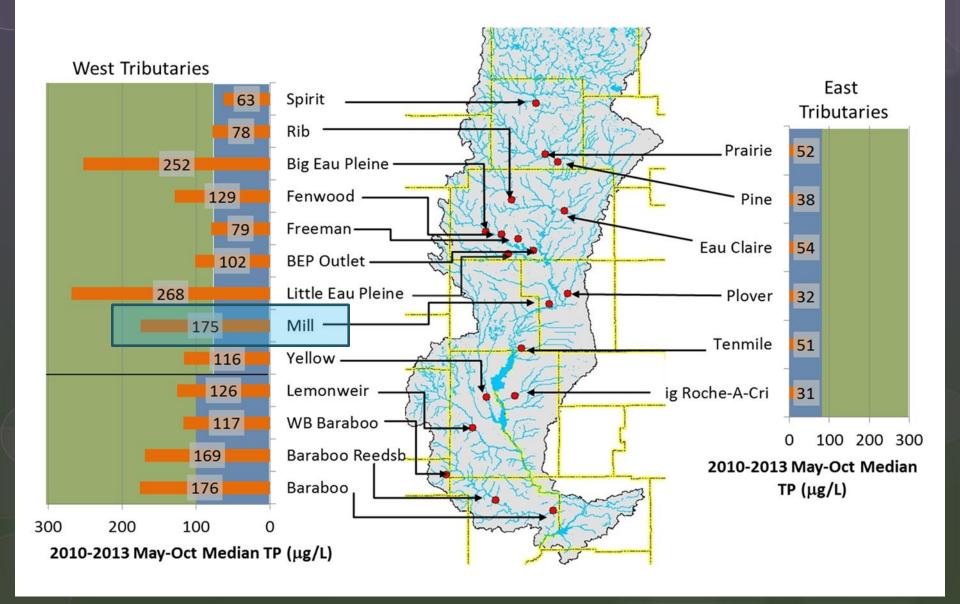
The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program, established under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, focuses on identifying and restoring polluted rivers, streams, lakes and other surface waterbodies. TMDLs are prepared for waters identified as impaired on the 303(d) list

A TMDL is a written, quantitative assessment of water quality problems in a waterbody and contributing sources of pollution. It specifies the amount a pollutant needs to be reduced to meet water quality standards (WQS), allocates pollutant load reductions, and provides the basis for taking actions needed to restore a waterbody

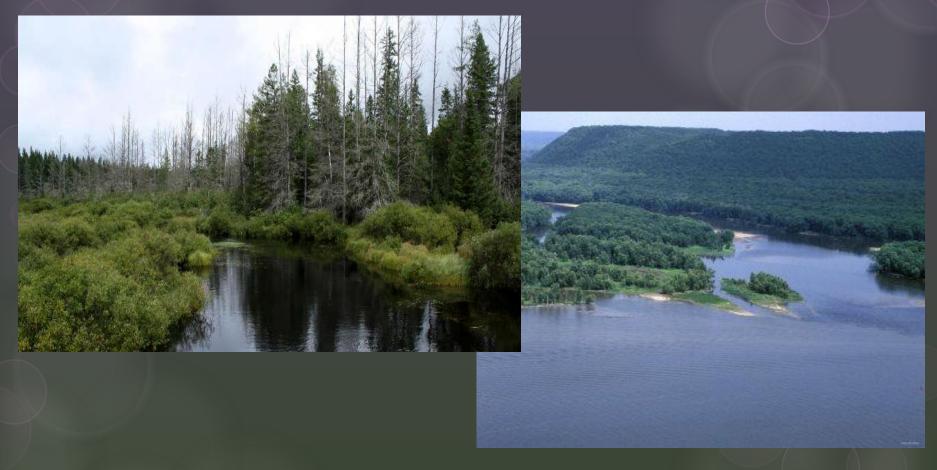




Tributary Phosphorus Concentrations



Wisconsin River – From the Headwaters to the Mississippi River



The 430-mile Wisconsin River is the longest river in Wisconsin. It begins as a small stream at the Lac Vieux Desert dam and flows diagonally southwest across Wisconsin to the Mississippi River just south of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.

Success Then & Moving Forward

- Although maintaining the water quality of the river remains a continual challenge, the river is winning. People care. Industry, government, and countless communities are working together because they recognize the value of a healthy source of freshwater. The Wisconsin River is now a cultural and economic treasure
- The Wisconsin River's revitalization is a story about determination, collaboration, and success. As a community we took the chance and it paid off. Those paper mills that embraced the change are still in operation. They are not only surviving but thriving. Similarly, the municipalities that initially resisted the environmental regulations are now making more money on tourism than the ever could have expected. Protecting our environment is important. The story of the Wisconsin River demonstrates the environmental and economic case for working together.
- What is next? More of the same! This is a turning point in the way
 Wisconsin is going to view Point & Non-Point Sources. You as individuals
 have the ability to make change through collaboration, engagement &
 networking. Your way of thinking does make a difference.

Wisconsin River History

Facts about the river:

- Basin covers 1/5 of the state through 25 counties
- Drops 1,067 feet in elevation
- 430 miles long
- The River has 26 dams, 14 paper mills, and 43 municipalities, the Wisconsin River is known as the hardest working river in America
- Just 40 years ago you couldn't swim in the river without getting sick. Contamination of the
 river resulted in widespread deformities of fish and other aquatic life. Residents knew from
 experience that eating a fish from the river would most certainly make you sick. Pictures of
 the river from this time period showed excessive sludge on the waters surface
- Then in the 1970s something amazing happened. People started to work together. It didn't
 happen overnight. It took a lot of time, money, and compromise. Paper mills, energy
 companies and municipalities invested hundreds of millions of dollars to modernize
 following new environmental regulations established by the government

Healthy Soil

What is a healthy soil? A healthy soil is an undisturbed soil which performs valuable services that are not obvious, such as flood control, waste (nutrient) recycling, water filtration/storage and soil stability through minimizing soil disturbance. Tillage is the most difficult agricultural habit to change. Intact soil works for you; disturbed soil costs you time and money

No-Till & Cover Crops

- Reduces soil disturbance
- Reduces root damage to crops
- Every tillage pass can cause available plant moisture to drop .25 inch.
- Crop residue moderates soil temperatures, reducing soil moisture evaporation, especially in the top two inches.
- Corn stalks can help trap snow, which can add up to 2 inches of soil moisture after snow melt in the spring.



Conservation Practices







"A nation that destoys its soil destroys itself." -FDR



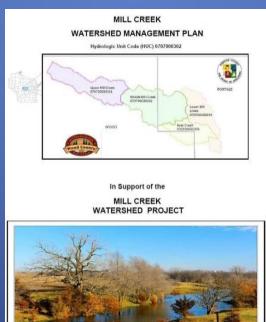
NEW INITATIVES IN THE WOOD COUNTY LAND & WATER CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

















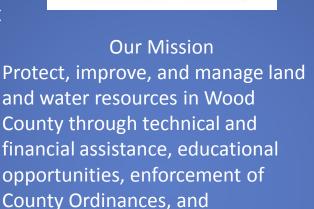
Building: Partnerships & Collaboration Trust Friendships **Common Goals Solutions Not Problems** A Sense Of Accomplishment Compromise & Resolution













administration of State programs to

resources for it's citizens.





Wood County Land & Water Conservation











Regular People Who Love These Lakes

HEALTHY SOIL HEALTY WATER



Thursday, March 22, 2018, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

UW-Marshfield/Wood County 2000 W. 5th Street | Marshfield, WI

Workshop Agenda

TOPICS:

- Agricultural Practices and Economics to Improve Soil Health
- Linking Agricultural Trends to Water Quality Improvement
- Success Stories from Producer-led Councils
 Featured Speaker: Andy Bendsend (Dallas, WI)

Over the years, Bensend has developed a successful formula based on no-till, integrated pest management, crop rotation, cover crops and perseverance. Today, his enterprises include more than 4,000 acres of primarily corn and soybeans using no-till or strip-till practices.

Workshop Panels: The first panel will feature speakers on ag practices and on-farm affects of conservation practices. The second panel will address tools to help build leadership in communities around healthy soil and conservation practices.

General registration opens Feb 22. Space is limited, register now to reserve your spot!

\$25 registration includes materials, lunch and snacks. Early bird registration \$15 for farmers registering by March 9. No walk-ins

http://fyi.uwex.edu/healthysoilwater/

Workshop Planning Partners and Sponsors

















WOOD COUNTY CRANBERRY PRODUCTION

Wood County is the top producer of cranberries in the top cranberry producing state in the country.

5,451 acres in cranberries





WOOD COUNTY CROP PRODUCTION AND CROP ACREAGE

- Farms
- Land in farms
- Average size farm
- Alfalfa and other forage
- Corn and grain
- Soybeans
- Corn silage
- Cranberries
- Oats for grain
- Christmas trees

1,067 units

222,730 acres

209 acres

43,109 acres

32,301 acres

21,961 acres

13,586 acres

5,451 acres

2,011 acres

402 acres

Wood County Dairy Farms

Farm by Size:

- 0 to 99 cows 209 farms 84%
- 100 to 249 cows 27 farms 11%
- 250 to 499 cows 10 farms 4%
- 500 to 999 cows 2 farms 0.8%
- 1000 or more cows 1 farm 0.2%

This is the third Annual Workshop

- Over the last two years we have hosted two workshops and had around 230 participants with 50% being Producers
- Our planning committee and sponsors donated \$5,500 to host the first two events
- In March of 2018, we are hosting a third event and have received another \$3,000 in donations.



Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Counsel

The Farmers of Mill Creek in cooperation with UW-Extension and Wood and Portage county land and water conservation depts.

Farmers of Mill Creek Goals

- Educate ourselves and our neighbors on phosphorus best management practices with the goal of improving water quality in Mill Creek.
- Focus on adopting more environmentally friendly farming practices to ensure clean water and healthy soils for future generations.
- The ultimate goal of the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council is to <u>be stewards of environmental sustainability</u> for our land and water in our watershed.



Council Members

John Eron 715-498-5222

Kyle Altmann 715-498-0024

Mike Berdan 715-486-6190

Tyler Bulgrin 715-897-1242

Jim Coenen 715-213-4450

Abraham Guzman 715-347-4607

Brian Otto 715-204-0521

Pat Slattery 715-570-3596

Jeff Wiernik 715-630-8836

Ken Schroeder
Portage County
UW-Extension
Agriculture Agent
715-346-1316



FMCWC Conservation 2019 Incentives

The funding for these incentives comes from a Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection 2019 Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant.
Funding is limited and will be first-come, first-served.

This project continues to evolve. We'd appreciate any feedback you might have about other incentives you would be interested in.

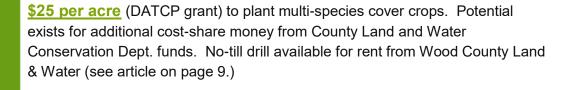


\$25 per acre if planted before Sept 10.

\$20 per acre if planted after Sept 10 but before Oct 10.

\$15 per acre if planted after October 10.

Potential exists for additional cost-share money from County Land and Water Conservation Dept. funds.



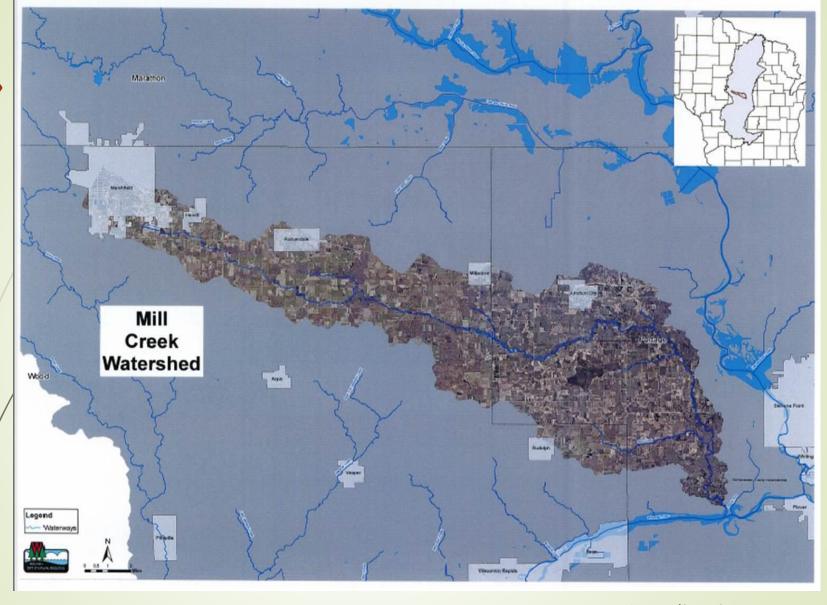
\$15 per acre (DATCP grant) to try no-till planting. The intent is to encourage no-till on new parcels. Potential exists for additional cost-share money from County Land and Water Conservation Dept. funds.

\$100 per acre (DATCP grant) for installation and maintenance of buffer strips along Mill Creek, including in-field waterway buffers. Potential exists for additional cost-share money from County Land & Water Conservation Dept. funds.

"My grandfather used to say that once in your life you need a doctor, a lawyer, a policeman, and a preacher but every day, three times a day, you need a farmer."







47 miles long 165 sq. mi. 105,600 acres









Soil & Water Resource Management Program

This grant from the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection provides funds to carry out soil and water conservation activities that include providing cost share assistance to landowners to install best management practices throughout Wood County. The goal is to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff and to improve water quality in the lakes, streams, and drinking water of Wood County. With an approved Land and Water Resource Management Plan the LCD receives grant funds to hire staff to implement the LWRM plan. SWRM funds are available to pay for salaries, support costs, and to provide cost sharing to landowners. This is a continuing grant. This program provides funding to the equivalent of 1.6 FTE positions to support carrying out our soil and water protection. To reduce this effort would really effect the local producers who rely heavily on our technical expertise. This is a state mandated program.









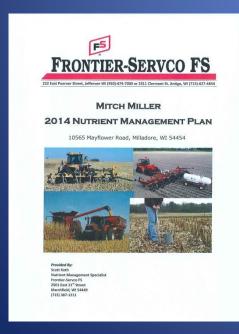


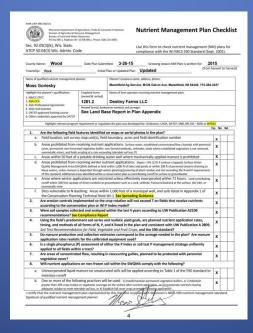


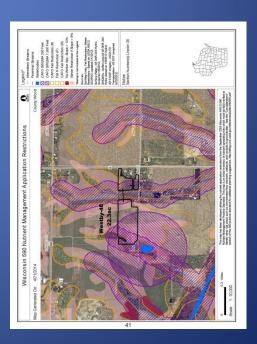




Nutrient Management Plans Completed 85





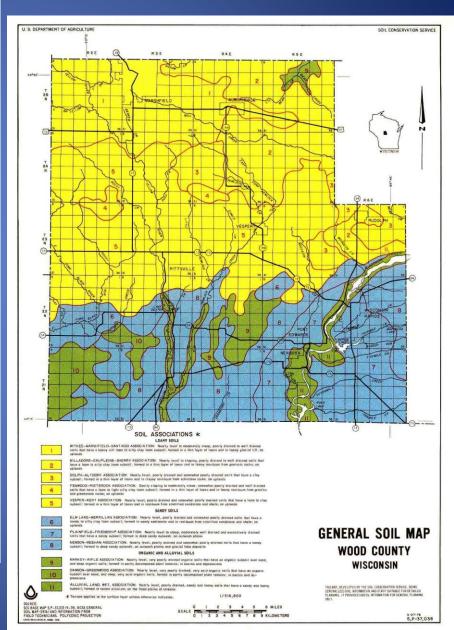


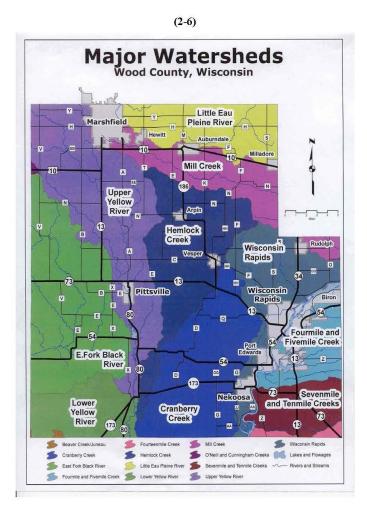


LAND AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

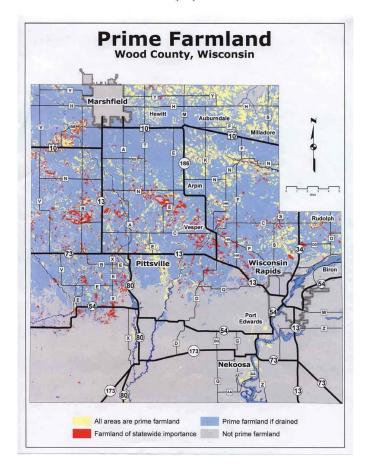


February 2015





(2-3)



Wood County Land Conservation Department

2 - 16

Wood County Land Conservation Department

2 - 21

Animal Waste Storage And Groundwater Protection Ordinance 801



Provides administration of the ordinance to regulate the location, design, construction, installation, alteration, abandonment, and use of animal waste and manure storage facilities and the application of waste and manure from all storage facilities covered by the ordinance in order to prevent surface and groundwater pollution. This ordinance was required to be adopted by the Wood County Board as a condition to participating in the State funded Upper Yellow River Priority Watershed Project and to meet State Statutes outlined in ATCP 50. The LWCD administers this ordinance utilizing both county tax levy and state SWRM grant funds. The ordinance is essential to protect ground water for County Residents. This is a state mandated program.

Waste Storage Facilities Active 238
Waste Storage Facilities Closed 14
Waste Storage Facilities Idle 3









Shane Wucherpfennig
Wood County Land & Water
Conservation Department





Wisconsin River Basin Water Quality Improvement Project

General Information:

Nitrogen from fertilizers, animal wastes, septic systems, and other biosolids breaks down into nitrate, a very mobile form of nitrogen. Nitrate is a health concern but is also a good indicator of whether nearby land-uses are impacting your well water quality.

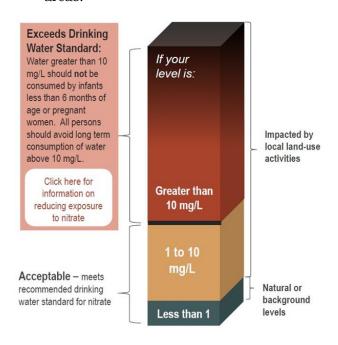
Health Concerns:

Methemoglobinemia in infants under 6 months of age. Infants with this condition need immediate medical care. Possible links to birth defects, miscarriages and various cancers.

Additional Information:

Every well should have their water tested for nitrate at least once, more often if you live within 1/4 mile of an agricultural field where fertilizers, animal wastes or other bio-solids are applied.

In general, shallow wells and wells with short or cracked casings have the highest risk of contamination: however, deep wells are also at risk in some areas.



WOOD COUNTY
LAND AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DEPARTMENT

Wood County Land and Water Conservation Department

111 West Jackson Street Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 (715)421-8475

Why Should I Test My Well?

As one of Wisconsin's 900,000 private well owners or private well water consumers, you probably use groundwater for doing your family's laundry, drinking, cooking, bathing and watering your garden.

Municipalities are required to test their water supplies regularly to ensure the water is safe to drink. Since there is no requirement to test a private well except for bacteria when it is first drilled or the pump is changed, you are responsible for making sure your water is safe.

Most private wells provide a clean, safe supply of water; however, contaminants can pollute private wells, and unfortunately you cannot see, smell or taste most of them. Consequently, you should test your water on a regular basis. The decision on what to test your water for should be based on the types of land uses near your well. Am I or my family at risk?

Proposed Private Well Water Sampling Program 2019



A 2001 random survey of Wisconsin domestic wells found nitrate above the 10 parts per million (ppm) standards in 14% of the wells. Forty-eight percent had nitrate above 2 ppm.

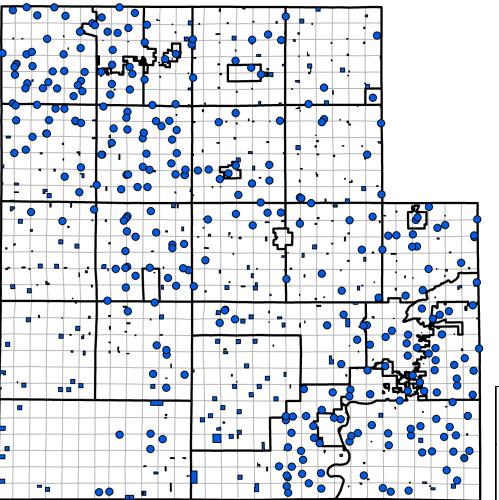
Wood County Land and Water & Wood County Health have been partnering up to combine datasets for the purpose of offering a County Wide water sampling effort to County resident at no charge. The Land and Water Conservation has been preparing a map with well locations identified which will target a minimum of one well per section in all of the 22 townships in Wood County.

- The following would outline a budget for the cost associated with the County Wide sampling effort:
- 22 Townships (36 sections per township
 1 with 72) = 828 sections 828 private
 wells
- 828 sections @ \$10.00 per sample run through Wood County Health Nitrate lab = Total Cost \$8,280
- If the effort was split into two years the cost would be 414 wells @ \$10.00 per sample = \$4,140 per year for two years.

Due to the fact that some areas of the County have very low population and low residency these numbers may vary. Once LWCD completes the map work and mail list, we will have a more true count.

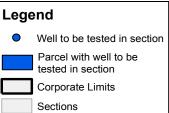
Sampling Effort in 2018

Wood & Juneau County Health Department coordinated a water sampling effort in the spring of 2018 in the Port Edwards/Armenia areas and offered reduced costs to sample private wells. From the collective well sampling results came back at a staggering 42% of wells testing above 10 ppm Nitrate, which is the State drinking water standard. Many of the wells had levels in the 20's, 30's & even 40 ppm. This is very alarming.



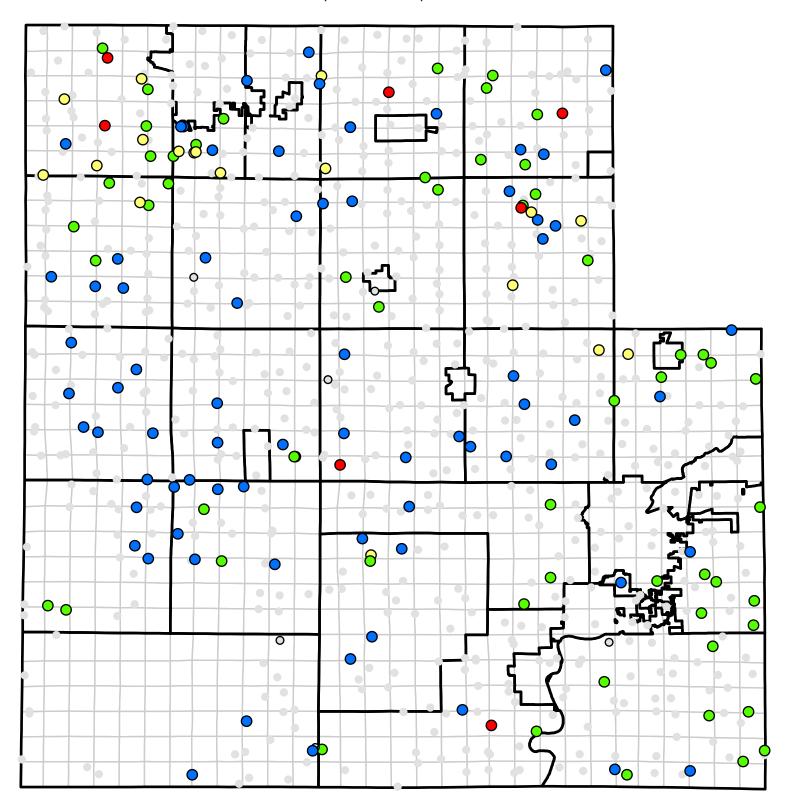
The map to the left is a visual what the well sampling could look like. The map breaks down Wood County into corporate limits and then further into 1x1 mile sections.

Most sections have a point or a parcel highlighted in blue. The point indicates a well that has been tested in the past. If a section didn't have a well tested in the past, a parcel was selected randomly. Some sections didn't have any obvious signs of having a drinking well.



Nitrate Test Results

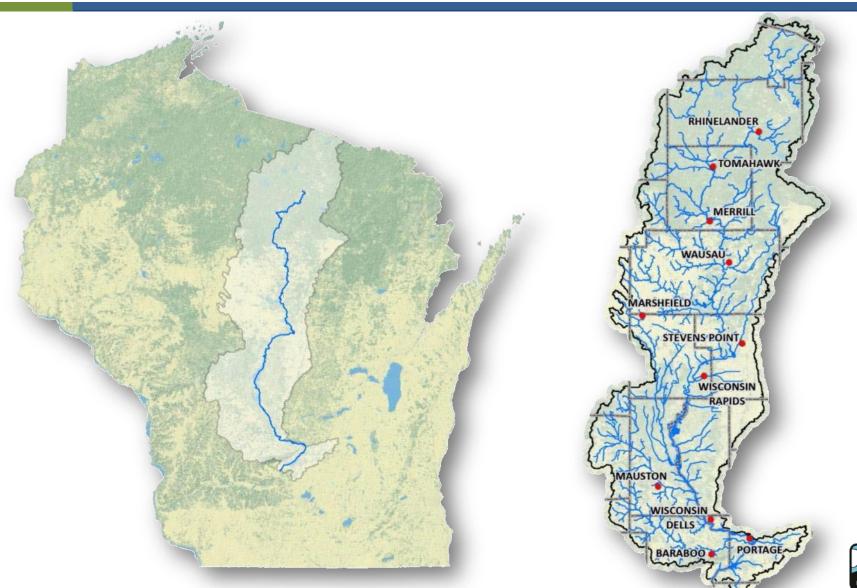
(as of 6-6-2019)



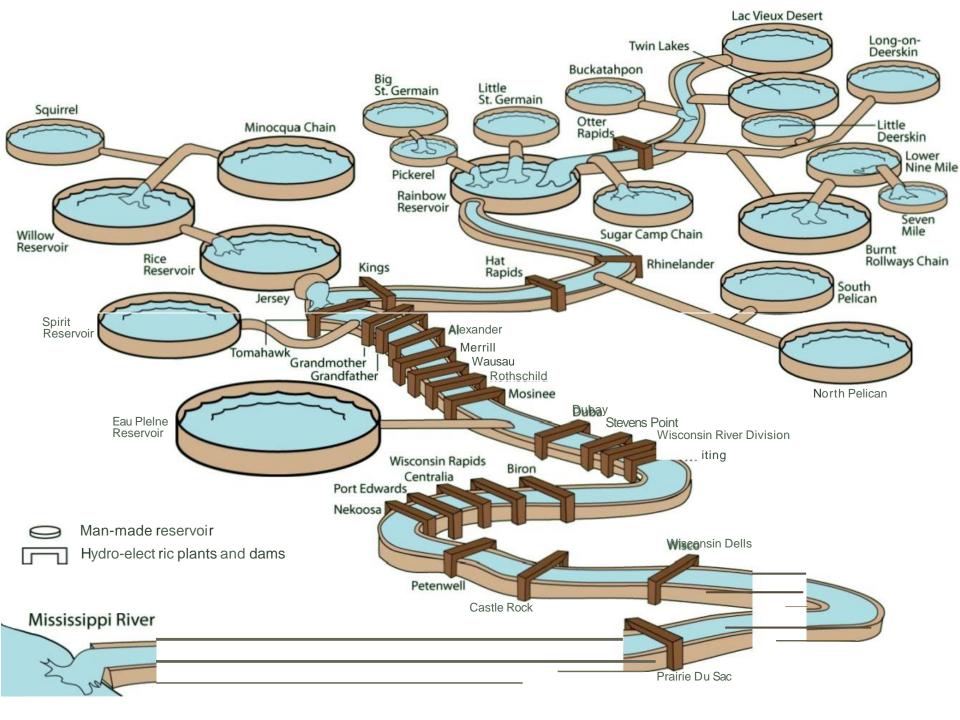
Nitrate Testing Results

- Below Detection Limit (73)
- O Less than 5 ppm (57)
- O Between 5-10 ppm (18)
- Greater than 10 ppm (7)
- No Response

The Wisconsin River Basin (WRB) Water Quality Improvement Project









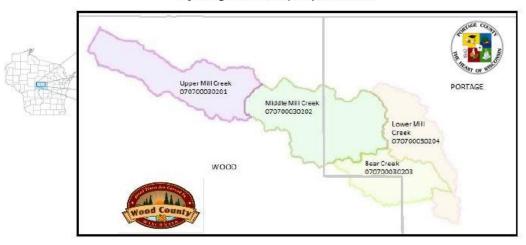






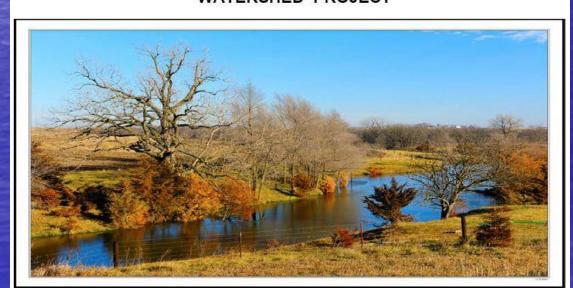
MILL CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 0707000302



In Support of the

MILL CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT





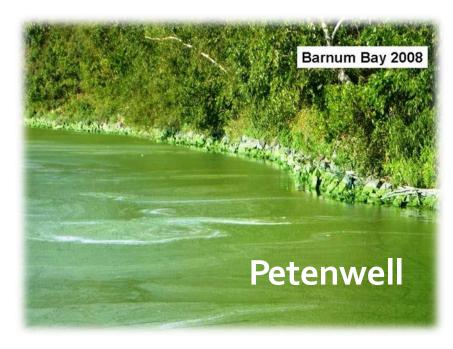
"9 Key Elements" for Watershed-Based Plans EPA Nonpoint Source (Section 319) Program

- 1. An identification of the causes and sources or groups of similar sources that will need to be controlled to achieve the load reductions estimated in the watershed-based plan (and to achieve any other watershed goals identified in the watershed-based plan), as discussed in item (2) immediately below. Sources that need to be controlled should be identified at the significant subcategory level with estimates of the extent to which they are present in the watershed (e.g., X number of dairy cattle feedlots needing upgrading, including a rough estimate of the number of cattle per facility; Y acres of row crops needing improved nutrient management or sediment control; or Z linear miles of eroded streambank needing remediation).
- 2. An estimate of the **load reductions expected for the management measures** described under paragraph (3) below (recognizing the natural variability and the difficulty in precisely predicting the performance of management measures over time). Estimates should be provided at the same level as in item (1) above (e.g., the total load reduction expected for dairy cattle feedlots; row crops; or eroded streambanks).
- 3. A description of the NPS management measures that will need to be implemented to achieve the load reductions estimated under paragraph (2) above (as well as to achieve other watershed goals identified in the watershed-based plan), and an identification (using a map or a description) of the critical areas in which those measures will be needed to implement the plan.
- 4. An estimate of the amounts of technical and financial assistance needed, associated costs, and/or the sources and authorities that will be relied upon, to implement the plan.
- 5. An information/education component that will be used to enhance public understanding of the project and encourage their early and continued participation in selecting, designing, and implementing the NPS management measures that will be implemented.
- 6. A schedule for implementing the NPS management measures identified in the plan that is reasonably expeditious.
- 7. A description of interim, measurable milestones for determining whether NPS management measures or other control actions are being implemented.
- 8. A set of criteria that can be used to determine whether loading reductions are being achieved over time and substantial progress is being made towards attaining water quality standards and, if not, the criteria for determining whether the plan needs to be revised or, if a NPS TMDL has been established, whether the NPS TMDL needs to be revised.
- 9. A monitoring component to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation efforts over time, measured against the criteria established under item (8) immediately above.











TMDL Allocations & Implementation



Industrial Wastewater
Municipal Wastewater
Urban Stormwater

Rural/Agricultural Nonpoint Source





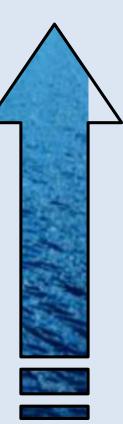
Phosphorus
Toxic algae blooms
Public health risks

Clean Water Fish & Wildlife Recreation

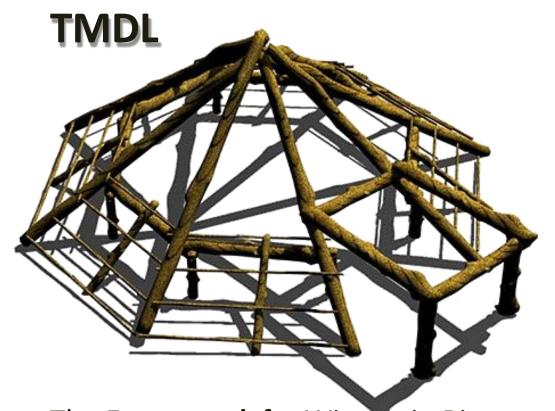








Project Framework = Total Maximum Daily Load



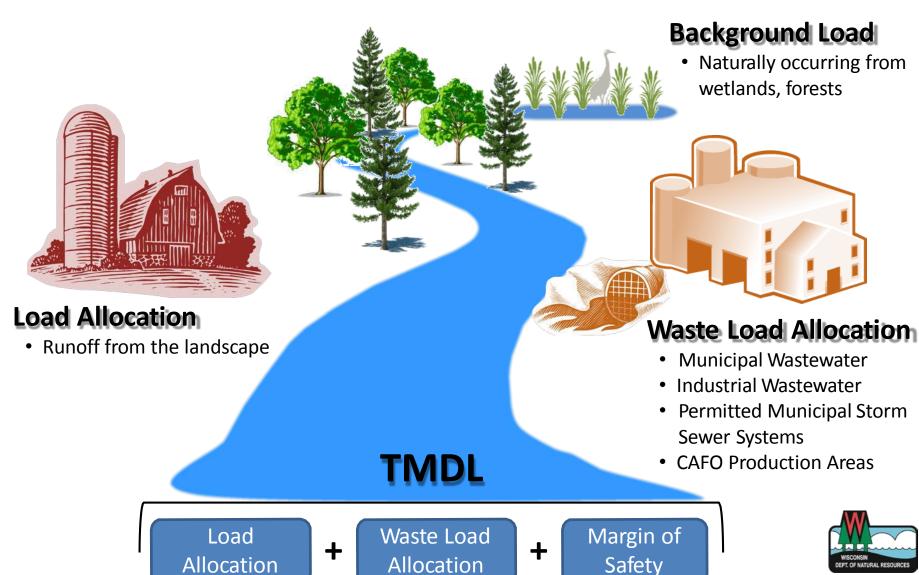
The **Framework** for Wisconsin River Basin Water Quality Improvement Project

A TMDL answers the following questions:

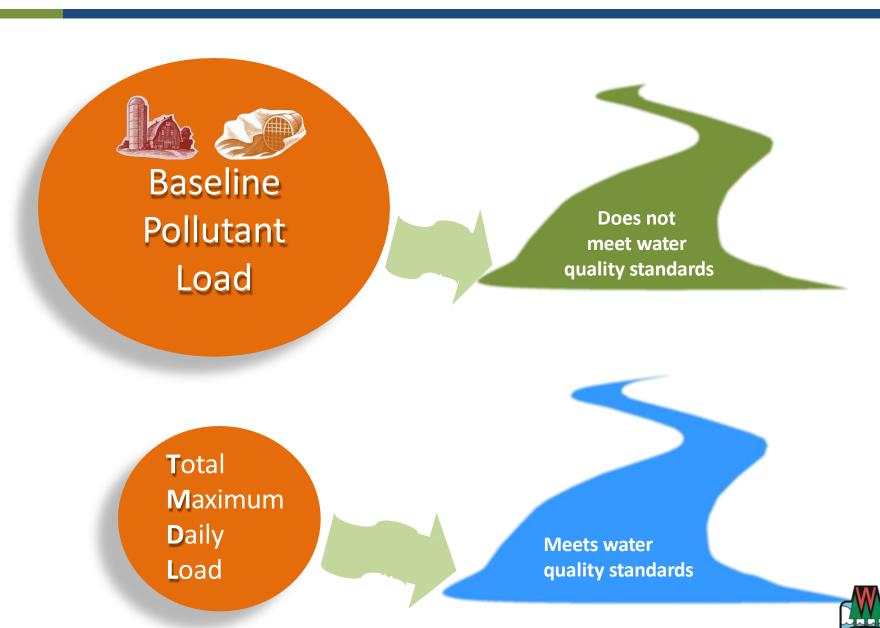
- How much is the existing pollutant load? What is the contribution from each source?
- How much does pollution need to be reduced in order for waterways to achieve water quality standards?
- How will the pollutant load reductions be achieved?

WRB Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

Each subwatershed is assessed for:

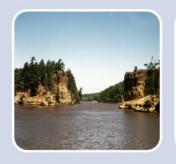


Why develop a TMDL?





Statewide Phosphorus Criteria











Rivers 100 μg/L Streams ¹
75 μg/L

Reservoirs

- Not Stratified = 40 µg/L
- Stratified = 30 μg/L

Inland Lakes²

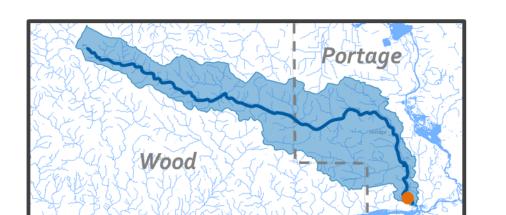
Ranges from 15-30 μg/L

Great Lakes

- Lake Michigan = 7 μg/L
- Lake Superior = 5 μg/L

¹All unidirectional flowing waters not in NR 102.06(3)(a). Excludes Ephemeral Streams. ²Excludes wetlands and lakes less than 5 acres

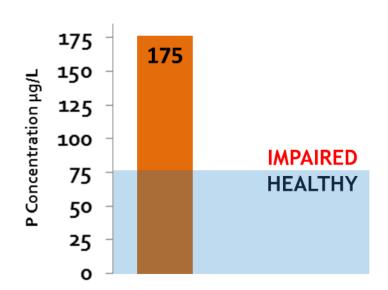




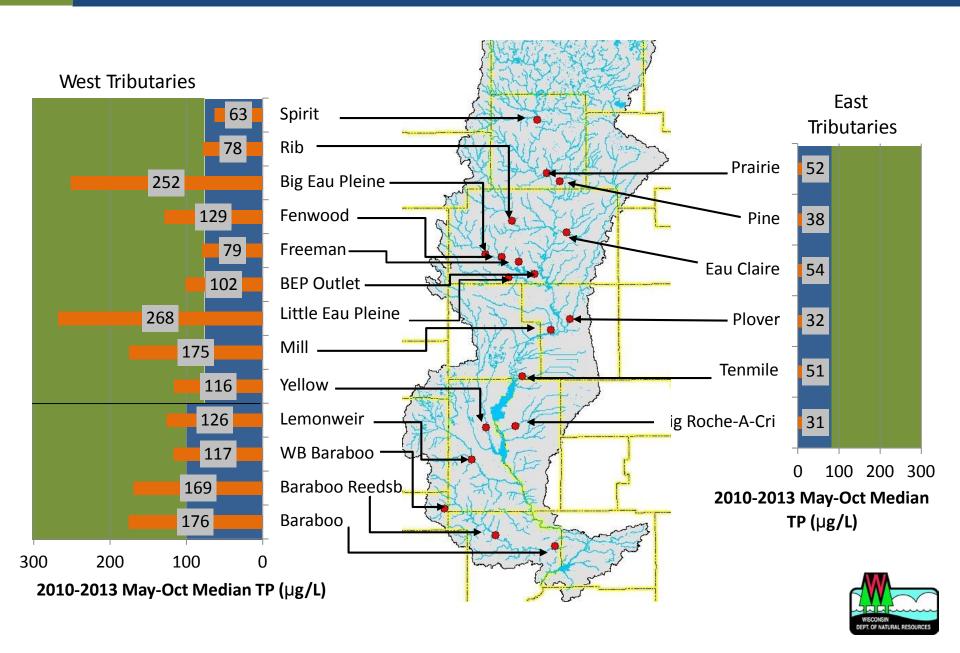


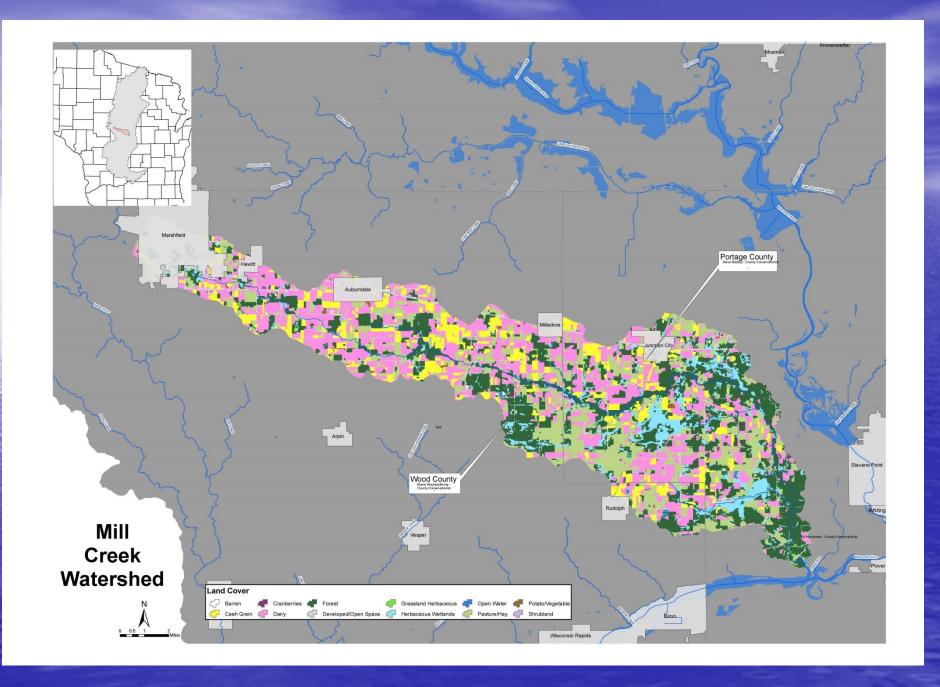
Total Phosphorus concentration μg/L

Mill Creek



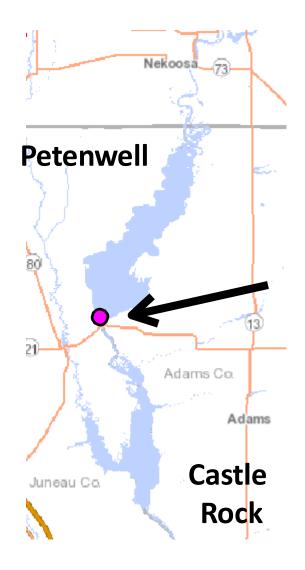
Tributary Monitoring Results – Total P Concentration





Total Monthly Phosphorus Loads (lbs)

@ Petenwell Dam monitoring site

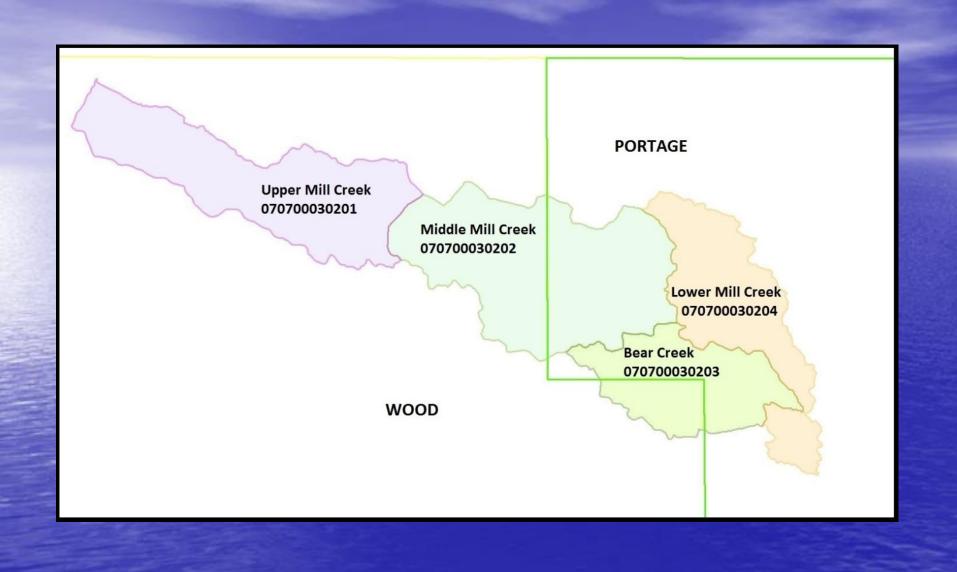


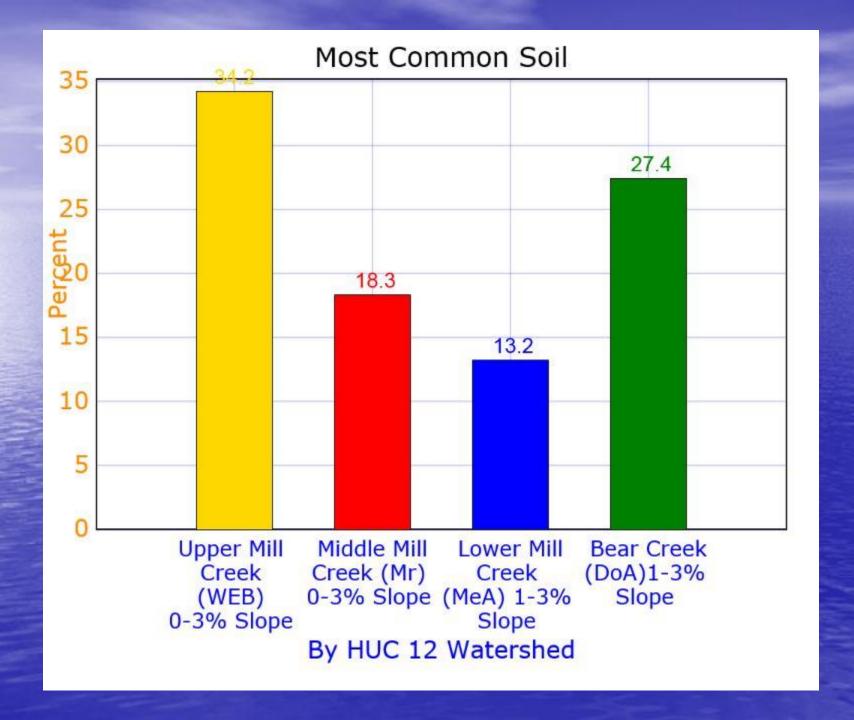
August 2011 85,000 lbs P

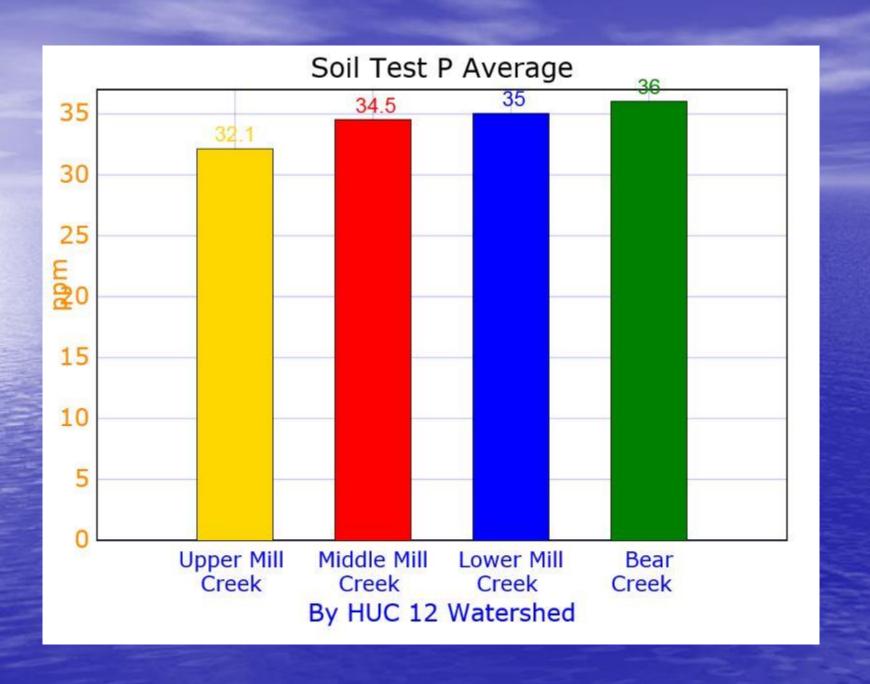
1 lb P : 500 lbs algae

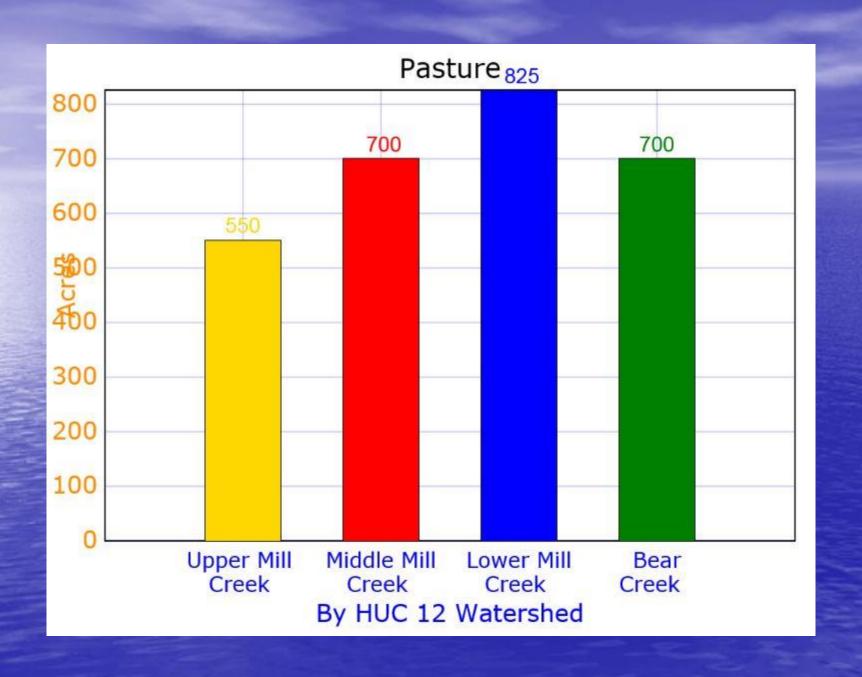




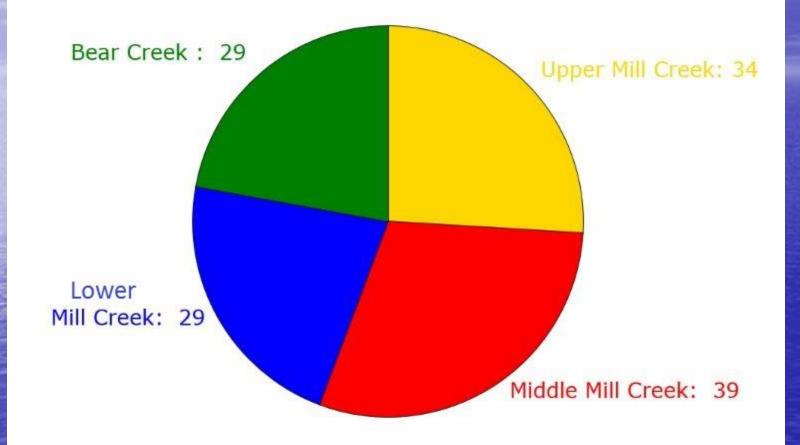




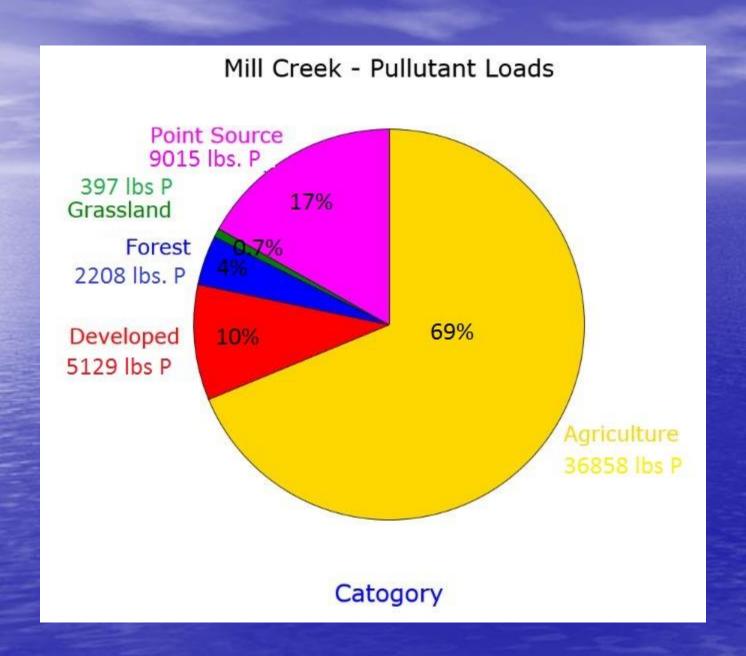


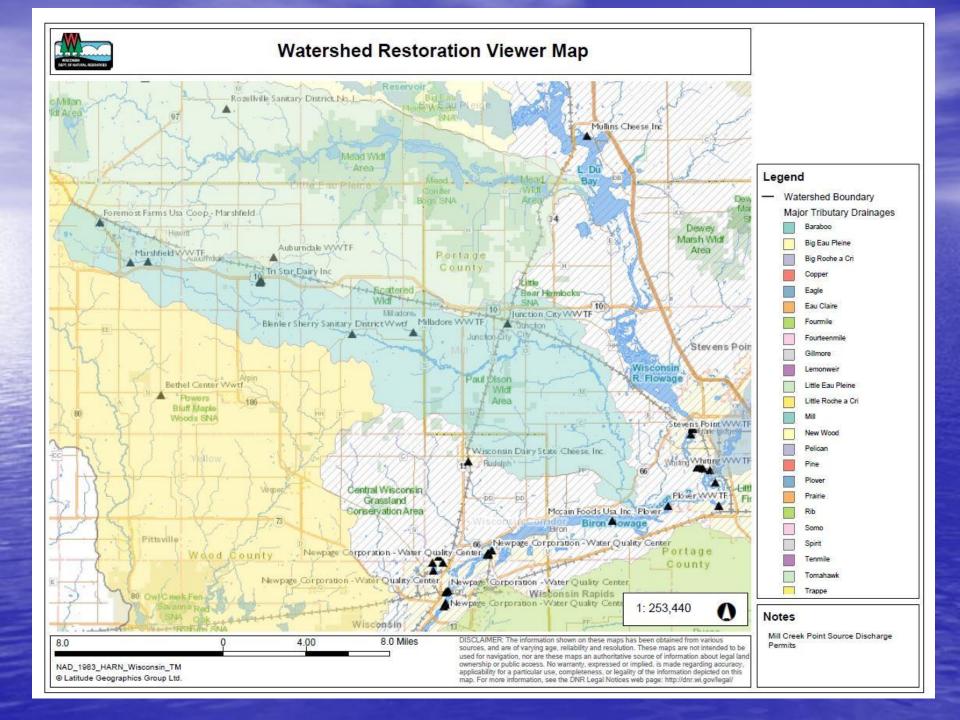


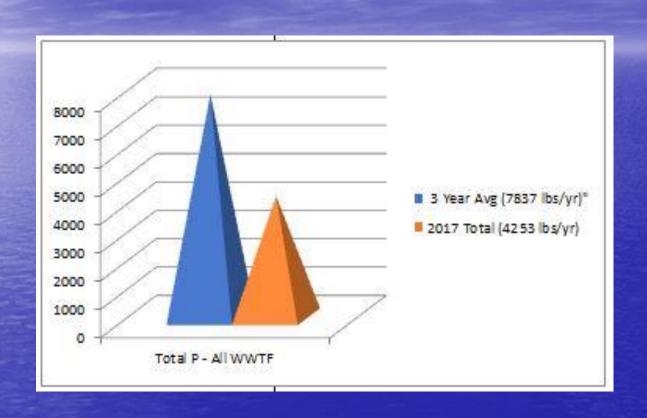


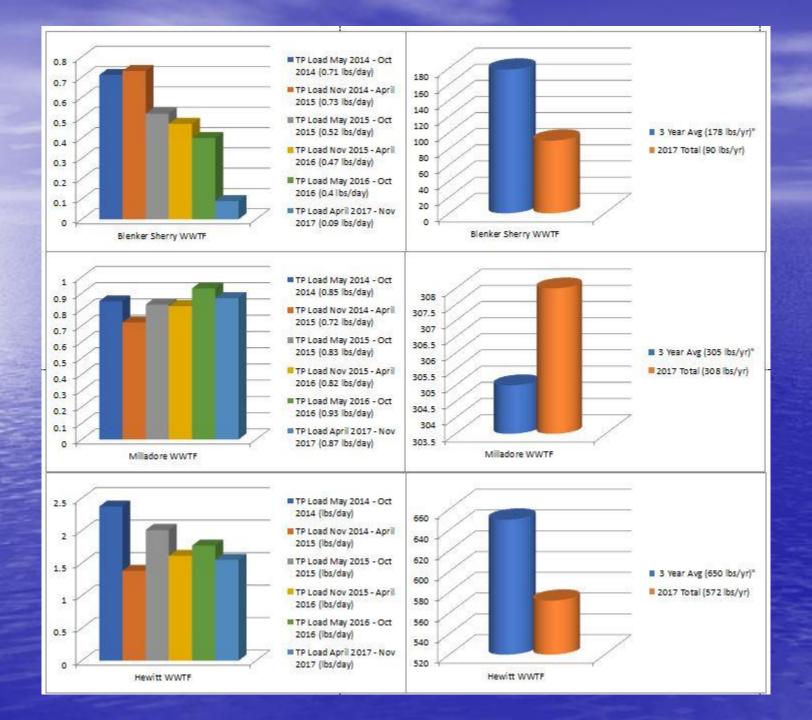


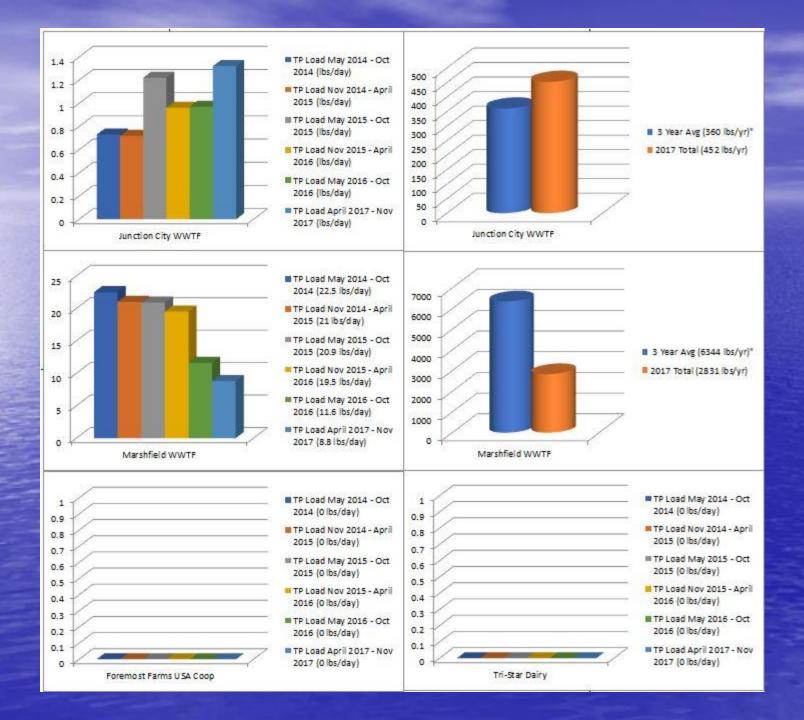
By HUC 12 Watershed

















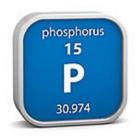
7,600 lbs







....but keeping in mind that P comes from a variety of urban and agricultural sources

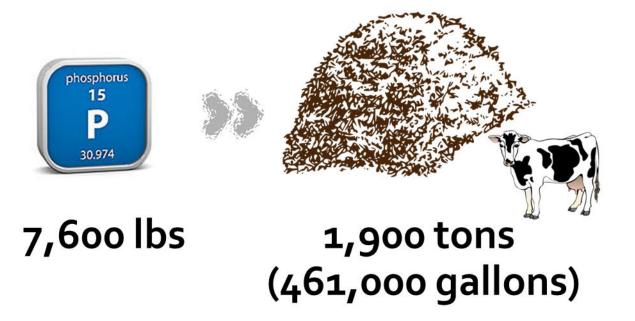


7,600 lbs











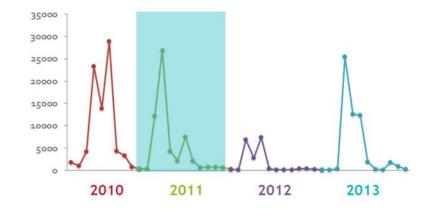






How much is that P worth?

Total 2011:







2,400 tons sediment











2,400 tons sediment

- **880 tons** in 2010
- **210 tons** in 2012







= 500 - 1000 years!



2,400 tons sediment

- **880 tons** in 2010
- **210 tons** in 2012







= 500 - 1000 years!

And...



2,400 tons sediment

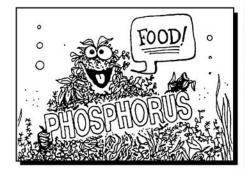
- **880 tons** in 2010
- **210 tons** in 2012







= 500 - 1000 years!





And...



