

CONSERVATION

Fish and game harvested in Wisconsin, 2023–24

Fish			
All fish species ¹	13,903,728	Coyote	65,416
Great Lakes trout	195,131	Deer (with guns)	208,828
Great Lakes salmon	595,528	Deer (with bows)	91,142
		Elk	8
Game and fowl²		Bear	3,005
Wild turkey	46,782	Duck	371,200
Pheasant	267,146	Canada goose	129,249
Ruffed grouse	166,377	Furbearers²	
Gray partridge	—	Woodchuck	4,498
Bobwhite quail	222	Muskrat	79,045
Woodcock	49,630	Mink	3,903
Squirrel	185,959	Beaver	48,219
Cottontail rabbit	54,317	River otter	2,887
Snowshoe hare	6,209	Bobcat	1,011
Doves	49,008	Opossum	9,389
Raccoon	78,889	Skunk	4,183
Red fox	4,409	Fisher	785
Gray fox	3,169		

— Represents zero.

1. Data based on 2021–22 diary survey estimating total fish harvested. These are underestimates, because they do not include fish caught or harvested by unlicensed anglers, short-term license holders, or senior citizen discount license holders. 2. Deer, bear, turkey, bobcat, otter, and fisher data are all from hunter-registered harvest. Remaining data are from hunter surveys.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, departmental data, March 2025.

Fish and game stocked in Wisconsin, 2023–24

Game farm pheasants released	77,512
Warmwater fish produced and distributed (includes fry)	37,437,691
Coldwater fish	3,759,148

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, departmental data, March 2025.

Fish and game licenses and recreation permits issued in Wisconsin

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Boats actively registered	609,957	625,273	628,423	618,782	626,471	617,926
Snowmobiles actively registered	211,624	229,118	231,513	226,981	224,145	210,964
All-terrain vehicles actively registered ¹	418,345	447,917	473,433	488,103	502,930	519,289
Off-highway motorcycles actively registered	4,209	5,234	6,738	7,320	7,866	8,379
Gun deer hunting and license tags (including nonresident) ²	460,314	454,394	447,172	437,901	436,452	430,349
Small game hunting license tags (including nonresident) ²	109,943	120,213	113,514	112,265	110,890	109,904
Spring turkey licenses (including nonresident) ²	86,047	90,313	89,405	85,080	84,501	88,203

Fish and game licenses and recreation permits issued in Wisconsin, continued

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Fall turkey licenses (including nonresident) ²	21,114	25,240	22,931	23,297	24,486	23,719
Resident annual fishing licenses ³	647,672	738,472	671,640	643,576	640,200	654,654
Resident husband and wife fishing licenses	179,962	201,922	189,714	176,798	168,424	158,811
1-day resident fishing licenses	9,616	10,912	10,402	9,830	9,329	12,492
Nonresident annual fishing licenses	113,380	132,288	133,317	121,313	123,904	124,315
Nonresident family annual fishing licenses	53,080	58,883	61,197	57,244	54,612	52,230
15-day nonresident family fishing licenses	22,109	21,082	21,583	19,615	19,653	19,155
15-day nonresident fishing licenses	24,326	22,622	25,297	23,381	24,037	25,893
4-day nonresident fishing licenses	50,804	46,555	52,360	47,538	45,142	46,752
1-day nonresident fishing licenses	59,675	58,926	61,453	56,212	49,257	50,426
Resident sports licenses	48,700	56,003	52,819	51,288	50,433	55,566
Nonresident sports licenses	3,344	3,630	3,640	3,551	3,610	3,979
2-day Great Lakes fishing licenses	34,412	32,947	39,067	35,053	34,132	35,923
Resident archer's licenses ²	119,785	125,075	114,845	108,978	103,407	100,752
Nonresident archer's licenses ²	9,452	10,879	10,009	9,733	9,758	9,115
Guide licenses (residents only)	1,790	2,019	2,121	1,995	1,988	1,972
Conservation patron licenses	52,590	55,805	61,264	62,717	63,837	64,389
Nonresident patron licenses	857	1,026	1,045	1,040	964	1,077
Resident crossbow licenses ⁴	93,681	112,905	104,440	107,757	107,793	112,161
Nonresident crossbow licenses ⁴	3,042	3,514	4,158	4,539	4,704	4,776
Elk licenses (residents only)	5	5	4	4	4	8

1. Includes UTVs. 2. Includes mentored licenses. 3. Includes senior and junior fishing licenses. First-time buyer junior and senior licenses were created in 2020. 4. Includes mentored licenses. Does not include upgrades.
 Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, departmental data, March 2025.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources funding sources

	2018–19 (\$1,000)	2019–20 (\$1,000)	2020–21 (\$1,000)	2021–22 (\$1,000)	2022–23 (\$1,000)	2023–24 (\$1,000)
Segregated funds	455,533	453,397	461,976	462,874	529,490	601,637
All-terrain vehicle registration fees	4,174	6,340	7,010	6,673	6,305	9,095
Boat registration fees	5,380	5,428	4,873	6,239	6,212	7,783
Dry cleaner fund	928	437	426	323	558	740
Endangered resources voluntary payments	271	650	693	317	1,367	1,406
Environmental improvement fund	1,752	1,661	701	881	895	1,153
Environmental management account	47,984	46,991	48,177	47,061	44,687	46,439
Federal aids	123,313	112,367	114,909	124,852	176,369	216,237
Fishing, hunting licenses and permits	57,476	66,822	66,048	68,783	61,160	72,324
Forestry mill tax	103,166	101,948	107,002	104,856	110,197	115,718
Gifts and donations	953	798	1,618	522	802	1,124
Heritage State Parks and Forests Trust Fund	183	35	222	41	55	241
Nonpoint source account	14,960	14,646	13,914	12,694	14,039	11,917
Park stickers and fees	23,001	22,590	23,527	23,830	27,494	30,577
Petroleum storage environmental cleanup fund	14,403	11,442	10,866	6,816	6,772	6,762
Program revenue ¹	39,724	43,526	44,149	40,397	49,638	59,385
Snowmobile registration fees	4,370	4,162	5,212	6,225	7,867	5,225
Waste management fund	307	134	113	49	15	19
Water resources account	12,744	12,991	12,037	11,831	14,544	14,908
Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine	444	429	479	484	514	584
General funds	176,422	165,944	168,673	166,158	168,842	182,932
General purpose revenue	113,768	98,444	99,223	100,956	92,621	100,276
Program revenues	20,978	22,866	23,315	20,342	21,146	21,710
Program revenue—services	10,464	12,899	12,544	12,320	12,889	12,450

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources funding sources, continued

	2018-19 (\$1,000)	2019-20 (\$1,000)	2020-21 (\$1,000)	2021-22 (\$1,000)	2022-23 (\$1,000)	2023-24 (\$1,000)
Federal aids	31,212	31,735	33,591	32,540	42,186	48,496
Total	631,955	619,341	630,649	629,032	698,332	784,569

1. Includes all segregated expenditures in assigned or dedicated appropriations.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, departmental data, March 2025.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources expenditures

Program	2018-19 (\$1,000)	2019-20 (\$1,000)	2020-21 (\$1,000)	2021-22 (\$1,000)	2022-23 (\$1,000)	2023-24 (\$1,000)
Fish, wildlife, and parks (FWP)	93,519	93,547	98,509	102,848	113,413	120,754
Wildlife management	27,854	26,819	27,910	29,732	33,530	33,913
Southern forests	5,823	5,783	6,387	6,322	6,965	6,998
Fisheries management	26,441	27,943	28,200	29,655	31,941	35,306
Parks	17,802	17,256	19,637	19,528	22,045	24,087
Endangered resources	8,210	8,288	7,249	8,322	9,182	9,776
Property management	6,168	6,275	7,781	7,497	8,207	8,944
FWP program management	1,221	1,183	1,345	1,792	1,543	1,730
Forestry	58,092	56,441	59,222	59,420	63,057	70,842
Public safety and resource protection (PSRP)	35,315	39,378	37,374	37,315	38,352	44,435
Law enforcement	34,598	39,378	37,374	37,315	38,352	44,435
Enforcement/science program management	717	—	—	—	—	—
Environmental management (EM)	75,960	79,291	82,239	79,503	89,276	98,877
Drinking and groundwater	14,952	15,498	15,784	16,312	18,275	20,673
Water quality	27,044	27,104	24,829	25,428	33,245	36,703
Air management	13,166	13,009	13,365	12,782	11,779	12,823
Waste and materials management	7,376	7,225	8,094	8,068	9,079	9,403
Remediation and redevelopment	12,159	14,985	18,869	15,673	15,721	18,009
EM program management	1,263	1,470	1,298	1,240	1,177	1,266
Conservation aids	47,270	48,501	50,339	56,472	56,187	59,815
Fish and wildlife aids	1,862	1,516	2,329	2,356	1,611	2,124
Forestry aids	9,611	8,091	8,724	8,913	9,316	9,667
Recreational aids	13,694	16,422	15,961	18,342	19,205	20,582
Aids in lieu of taxes	17,229	17,325	17,937	20,764	20,250	20,862
Enforcement aids	2,277	2,532	2,532	2,913	2,913	3,428
Wildlife damage aids	2,597	2,615	2,856	3,184	2,892	3,152
Environmental aids	38,090	33,961	33,656	29,135	31,803	36,756
Water quality aids	6,307	6,269	8,696	8,329	10,372	9,592
Solid and hazard waste aids	20,162	20,411	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Environmental aids	9,011	5,677	4,508	303	1,306	6,762
Environmental planning aids	303	285	452	503	125	402
Nonpoint aids	2,307	1,319	—	—	—	—
Debt service	123,473	105,167	102,627	98,686	88,398	91,285
Resource	93,821	79,788	80,786	78,237	70,529	74,965
Environmental	4,470	4,077	4,050	3,854	3,326	3,311
Water quality	21,282	17,901	14,352	12,891	11,656	9,695
Administrative facility	3,900	3,401	3,439	3,704	2,887	3,314
Acquisition and development	9,276	9,873	8,705	8,403	15,694	19,619
Wildlife	1,497	2,176	2,582	1,306	2,728	1,304
Fish	552	220	227	185	710	961
Forestry	314	1,070	625	643	1,187	11,461
Southern forests	233	475	722	707	347	571
Parks	3,492	2,649	2,457	3,166	5,854	2,771

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources expenditures, continued

Program	2018–19 (\$1,000)	2019–20 (\$1,000)	2020–21 (\$1,000)	2021–22 (\$1,000)	2022–23 (\$1,000)	2023–24 (\$1,000)
Endangered resources	85	121	55	57	38	613
Facilities and lands	1,529	1,657	966	1,532	3,988	633
Property management	1,574	1,505	1,070	807	840	1,060
Law enforcement	—	—	1	—	2	245
Administration	22,180	23,751	26,012	23,916	25,686	30,045
Administration	1,486	1,593	1,510	1,668	1,821	1,654
Legal services	2,439	2,450	2,539	2,638	2,715	3,097
Management and budget	446	612	562	384	386	430
Facility rental	7,676	7,524	7,646	7,570	7,190	7,180
Nonbudget accounts ¹	10,133	11,572	13,755	11,656	13,574	17,684
Internal services (IS)	32,312	32,884	32,450	34,053	35,620	37,274
Finance	6,329	6,396	6,487	7,073	7,284	8,387
Facilities and lands	8,064	8,338	8,318	8,719	8,506	9,610
Technology services	10,812	11,601	11,284	11,716	12,858	11,920
Human resources	2,900	2,645	2,694	2,354	2,651	2,677
IS program management	4,207	3,904	3,667	4,191	4,321	4,680
External services (EX)	96,464	96,527	99,515	99,280	140,844	174,869
Watershed management	16,490	17,505	20,134	9,283	9,944	10,359
Waterways	—	—	—	10,621	11,088	10,575
Office of communication	728	1,246	1,224	1,213	1,369	1,443
Community financial assistance	61,365	60,714	60,581	60,705	99,930	128,149
Customer & outreach services	10,473	10,047	10,017	9,513	10,582	15,258
Environmental analysis & sustainability	5,795	6,104	6,523	6,984	6,906	7,997
EX program management	1,613	911	1,036	961	1,025	1,088
Total	631,951	619,321	630,648	629,031	698,330	784,571

Note: Subtotals and total do not add due to rounding.

— Represents zero.

1. Includes gifts, donations, and nonbudget appropriations.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, departmental data, March 2025.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources land acquisition acres

Fiscal year	Northern forests	Southern forests	Natural areas	Parks	Wild rivers	Wildlife mgt.	Fisheries mgt.	Other	Total
2000 ¹	496	110	3,301	3,705	16,135	11,800	2,808	136	38,489
2005	6,578	475	7,477	3,842	10,692	5,385	2,308	329	37,086
2010	8,547	37	3,498	1,000	818	3,767	785	73	18,525
2015	14,446	10	455	1,049	81	1,404	843	218	18,506
2016	22,340	92	245	358	4	6,671	358	85	30,152
2017	7,285	44	1,040	359	146	990	355	12	10,230
2018	20,816	1	4	17	21	844	444	3	22,150
2019	14,392	—	—	108	—	356	339	10	15,205
2020	—	—	—	412	69	322	182	—	985
2021	843	—	51	287	29	399	166	—	1,775
2022	11,720	109	25	916	104	2,919	91	—	15,775
2023	80	—	—	152	—	681	156	—	1,068
2024	—	110	—	—	—	267	80	—	456
Total	337,029	7,681	78,120	42,223	106,791	129,565	47,784	6,883	756,077

— Represents zero.

1. The Stewardship 2000 program replaced the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program in 2000.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Facilities and Lands, departmental data, March 2025.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources land acquisition cost

Fiscal year	Northern forests (\$1,000)	Southern forests (\$1,000)	Natural areas (\$1,000)	Parks (\$1,000)	Wild rivers (\$1,000)	Wildlife mgt. (\$1,000)	Fisheries mgt. (\$1,000)	Other (\$1,000)	Total (\$1,000)
2000 ¹	550	403	3,472	2,734	12,633	9,061	2,861	352	32,066
2005	2,418	3,050	4,993	16,693	3,591	8,164	5,034	401	44,345
2010	5,867	272	5,448	2,881	2,119	6,693	2,232	122	25,634
2015	1,154	30	782	884	899	2,315	1,390	40	7,493
2016	189	660	719	1,273	7	1,328	682	40	4,896
2017	213	250	2,148	74	520	192	369	—	3,767
2018	3	—	—	—	—	60	71	—	134
2019	4,341	—	—	86	—	176	462	1,100	6,165
2020	—	—	—	693	186	635	528	—	2,042
2021	666	—	87	1,300	379	272	278	—	2,982
2022	4,649	187	46	1,714	54	842	203	—	7,695
2023	176	—	—	636	—	505	504	—	1,821
2024	—	645	—	—	—	277	256	—	1,178
Total	150,122	33,523	69,025	93,435	97,468	132,276	71,100	11,418	658,366

— Represents zero.

1. The Stewardship 2000 program replaced the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program in 2000.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Facilities and Lands, departmental data, March 2025.

