

Department of Natural Resources Impact in Polk County

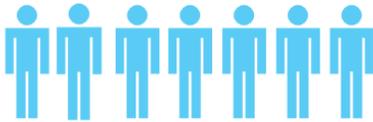
The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources aims to excel at working and partnering with the public to protect and manage the state's natural resources while supporting the economy and the well-being of our citizenry.



Did you know?

In 2011, Wisconsin had

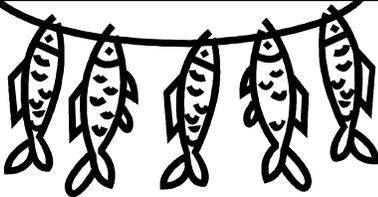
763,384



RESIDENT HUNTERS

In 2011, fishing in Wisconsin had an economic impact of over

\$1.4 billion



In Polk County, **48,883** licenses were sold in 2013-14.

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[Facebook.com/widnr/](https://www.facebook.com/widnr/)

Investments in Recreation

24,243 extended growth walleye were stocked in **Balsam, Bear Trap, Wapogasset and Ward Lakes** under the **Wisconsin Walleye Initiative** in the fall of 2014. The initiative aims to strengthen Wisconsin walleye waters.

In fiscal year 2014, **Interstate State Park** had close to **271,574** visitors making an **estimated local impact of \$11,547,326**.

DNR offers a variety of safety classes around the state annually. In 2013, a total of **887** citizens became **hunter, ATV, boating and snowmobile** certified in Polk County.

The DNR has recently **invested \$2,087,384** in **capital development funds** to improving state managed lands in Polk County; over \$1.5 million of that was spent on improvements to Interstate State Park.

Polk County has over **25,835 acres of state owned lands** open for public hunting and outdoor recreation.

Osceola and St. Croix Falls fish hatcheries both had successful years of domestic and feral trout production for Wisconsin's inland fishery, including brown, brook and rainbow trout in 2014.

Community Partnerships

Clear Lake Public Library in Polk County was one of **17** libraries chosen to test pilot **Outdoor Explorer Backpacks**. The backpacks encourage kids and families to get outdoors and explore Wisconsin's natural resources.

DNR granted a total of **\$18,321** to the **Polk County Sheriff Department and Village of Balsam Lake** for ATV, snowmobile and boat patrol activities.

Polk County has **177** **public water systems** that the DNR oversees to ensure they deliver safe water. Wisconsin has more public water systems than any other state in the nation.

Snapshot of grants in Polk County

A total of **\$1,765,609** was awarded in Polk County for **water quality, outdoor recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, public health and safety and forestry activities**. A snapshot of projects include: grants to individuals to plan and develop private forests, aquatic plant management and trail maintenance.

**Numbers reflect the July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 time period.

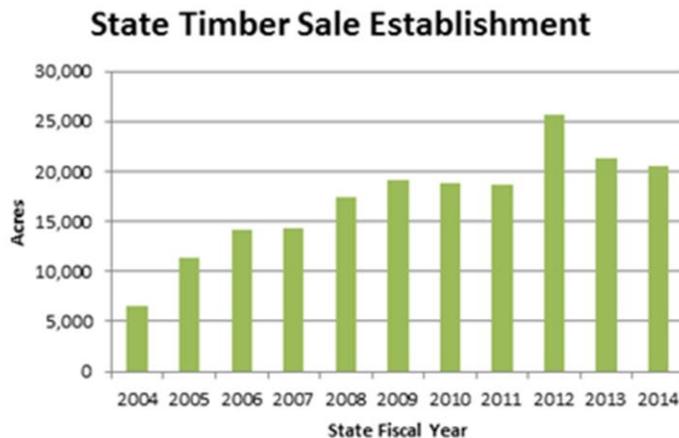
Forestry Activities

Since 2005, **over 63,700 cord equivalents of timber products have been harvested from state-owned land** in Polk County. The harvests provided more than **\$1.6 million in revenue** to the state and contributed employment opportunities and raw materials to the local economy.

In the last 3 fiscal years, **Polk County Forest has received over \$164,000 in grants** from the DNR for the purchase, development, preservation and maintenance of the county forest lands.

Polk County has **7,155 acres of private land open for public access** as a result of the tax law programs (Forest Crop and MFL). The Tax Law Programs encourage proper management of timber, wildlife, water quality and the environment through written management plans for a landowner's property.

The following graph represents the average acres of timber sales established on state lands in Wisconsin annually.



Environmental Cleanup Efforts

DNR approved **cleanups at 395 contaminated properties** resulting in **14 acres** being made available for reuse. DNR staff assures these cleanups provide **long-term protection of public health and environment**.

DNR responded to 21 spills of hazardous materials over the past three years.

DNR provided **\$246,515 in reimbursements** over the past three years for expenses related to the **investigation and cleanup of petroleum contamination** from product storage systems.

Deer Management in Polk County

In 2014, Polk County established a County Deer Advisory Council. One council per county, they provide input and recommendations to the DNR on deer management.

DNR is working with four landowners who have over 300 acres enrolled in the Deer Management Assistance Program to improve wildlife habitat on their property.

In 2013, a total of 8,779 deer were registered in Polk County with 1,911 harvested during archery deer season and 6,868 harvested during the gun deer season.