



LAKE SUPERIOR COLLABORATIVE

December Newsletter



Headwaters to Coast: December Update

The Headwaters to Coast initiative continues to make progress toward a conservation blueprint for Wisconsin's Lake Superior Basin. Draft goal statements and objectives, developed from the Lake Superior Collaborative Symposium workshop, are now available for review. Join us in January 2025 for virtual workshops to refine these drafts!

News & Updates

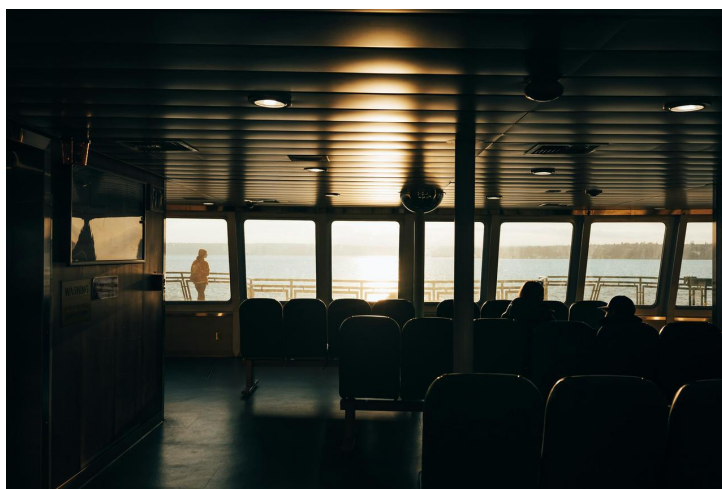
EPA Announces New 5-Year Plan to Accelerate Restoration of the Great Lakes



The EPA's new five-year plan for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (2025-2029) focuses on accelerating restoration efforts, addressing toxic substances, invasive species, pollution, and habitat protection. Building on past successes, the plan aims to improve the health of the Great Lakes while providing economic benefits through targeted investments and partnerships.

[Learn More](#)

Floating classroom set to sail at UW-Superior



The University of Wisconsin-Superior is getting ready to introduce an exciting new learning space—the Sadie Ann. This 65-foot vessel, designed as a floating classroom, is currently being completed at a Louisiana shipyard and is expected to arrive this spring.

[Learn More](#)

Wetlands provide \$23 billion in flood control across Wisconsin and Midwest. But they're in distress.



A recent report reveals that wetlands in Wisconsin and the upper Midwest save nearly \$23 billion annually in flood control. In Wisconsin alone, wetlands contribute about \$4.6 billion to this total. Each acre of wetland provides significant flood mitigation benefits, protecting homes from flood damage. However, wetland loss is a growing concern, with around half of the state's wetlands drained for development. Additionally, recent legal changes have reduced federal protections, leaving these critical ecosystems vulnerable.

[Learn More Here](#)

Minnesota reaps windfall from epic comeback of lake trout in Lake Superior



Minnesota's efforts to restore lake trout in Lake Superior have paid off, with the species thriving once again. This

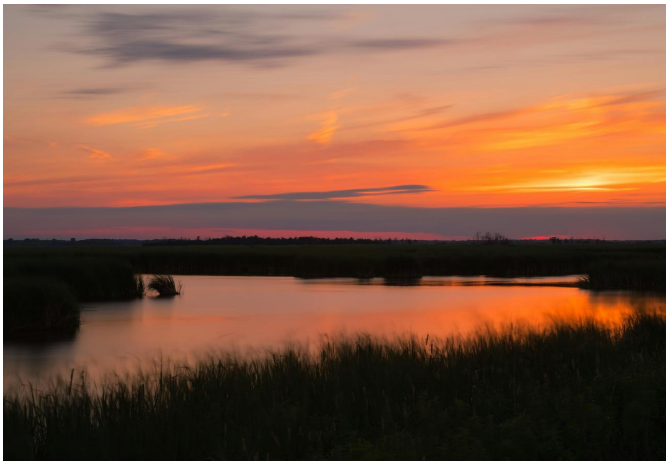
success has led the Department of Natural Resources to use Lake Superior’s lake trout for stocking other inland lakes across the state. After years of decline due to overfishing and sea lamprey, the population is now stable, with 98% of the fish being wild, compared to only 6% in 1980. The shift away from traditional stocking methods will help improve the health of inland lakes, potentially expanding the reach of lake trout restoration to more locations throughout Minnesota.

[Learn More Here](#)

Upcoming Events & Trainings

Integrating Climate into Extension Programming update

Illinois Extension has developed a short on line course for all interested Extension educators and specialists that wish to incorporate climate change into their existing programming. The course was started in early 2024, and has gone through two cohorts. Climate Specialist Duane Friend will provide an update on the course , how it is being received, and talk about its use in other states.



Date: December 16, 2024
1:00 pm CT

[Register Here](#)

Life Hacks over Lunch: A Virtual Meet-up Series for Watershed Professionals

Fall 2024 Series. This free, virtual meet-up series is a peer-learning opportunity for watershed professionals to share ideas and advice for solving real-life challenges of watershed projects. If you work with farmers and communities on watershed-scale projects to improve water quality and have ever found yourself thinking, “I don’t want to recreate the wheel,” this meet-up series is for you. Registering here will sign you up for all 4 meet-ups. You can attend whichever ones fit your schedule. Brought to you by The Confluence for Watershed Leaders.



Date: December 17, 2024
11:30 am CT

[Register Here](#)

Great Lakes Virtual Mixer

The year-end virtual mixer has become an annual event for the Great Lakes community to connect with old colleagues, meet someone new, and reflect on the year's accomplishments. Whether you're a student or you have been working in the field for decades, this event aims to connect those who share a passion for the Great Lakes. Attendees will participate in multiple rounds of small group networking.



Date: December 18, 2024
5:00 pm CT

[Register Here](#)

Funding and technical assistance for stormwater management and green infrastructure

Communities across the U.S. face stormwater infrastructure challenges, with an estimated \$115 billion needed to address water quality and public health concerns. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has provided the largest investment in water infrastructure, expanding technical assistance to help communities meet their needs. Central to solving these challenges is green infrastructure, supported by the EPA and other federal agencies through the Green Infrastructure Federal Collaborative. These efforts aim to promote the environmental, economic, and social benefits

of green infrastructure, focusing on funding, technical assistance, and resources available at federal, regional, and state levels.



Date: December 19, 2024
10:00 am - 12:00 pm CT

[Register Here](#)

Wetland Coffee Break: Aerial herbicide application on invasive wetland plants: Planning, process and lessons learned

Wisconsin DNR has contracted aerial herbicide application services for several years to combat invasive phragmites, cattail, and other wetland invasive plant species. Jason Fleener, wetland habitat specialist with WDNR, will outline the various steps to plan out and implement a successful spraying project, discuss how to choose the best method for application (helicopter or drone), and how to choose the right chemicals for a project. He will also share the results of treatments and lessons learned.



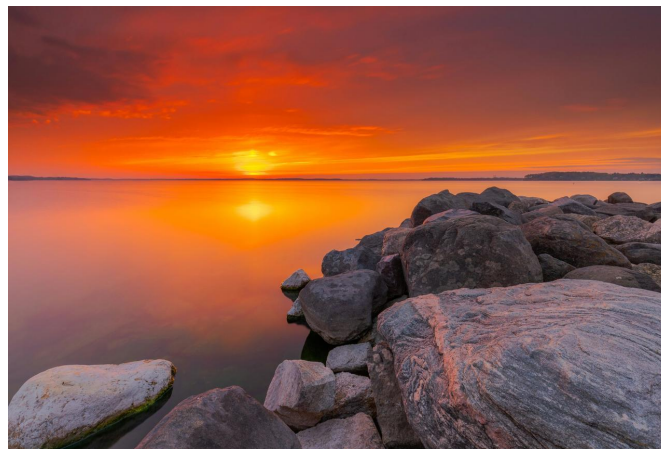
Date: December 20, 2024
10:30 am CT

[Register Here](#)

Wisconsin Conservation Retreat

For the third year, WI Green Fire is collaborating with the UW-Oshkosh Student Environmental Action Coalition to

host the Wisconsin Conservation Retreat for students and professionals. During this three-day event, join for networking, skill-building, and fun winter activities!



Date: January 8, 2025 – January 10, 2025

[Register Here](#)

Watershed Forestry Webinar: Emerald Ash Borer and Riparian Forest Management

Riparian forests play a key role in regulating water, providing habitat, and supporting biodiversity, but invasive pests like Dutch elm disease and emerald ash borer (EAB) threaten these ecosystems. In this one-hour webinar, Andrea Scholer from the USDA Forest Service will cover EAB's impact on riparian forests and management strategies. Gini Breidenbach from the Minnesota Land Trust will discuss their restoration work along the St. Louis River. Jim Kettler, Amy Lentz, and Melissa Curran will share efforts to restore Lake Michigan's riparian forests, focusing on climate-informed species selection and invasive species management.



Date: January 9, 2025
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

[Register Here](#)

5th Annual Virtual Harmful Algal Bloom Symposium

The Algal Bloom Action Team is once again hosting their Virtual Harmful Algal Bloom Symposium. 2024's event

brought over 600 water professionals from across the region together to hear the latest research on HAB monitoring, treatment, outreach and communication. This year's event will focus on three broad key themes: monitoring and detection, prediction, prevention and treatment, and human dimensions.



Date: January 9, 2025 – January 10, 2025

[Register Here](#)

Wisconsin Forests at Risk - Webinar

Our expert panel will discuss key threats to Wisconsin's forests and our forest-based economy and share opportunities for action on forest conservation. This interactive webinar will be a forum to share experiences and ideas to address the challenges facing our forests.

We want everyone who cares about the future of Wisconsin's forests to be part of this conversation. Help plan and shape the next century of forest conservation in Wisconsin!



Date: January 15, 2025
12:00- 1:00pm CT

[Register Here](#)

Ecology and Conservation of the Nation's Spring Ecosystems

In this webinar, Dr. Larry Stevens will define spring ecosystems, exploring their emergence, distribution, and structure. He will highlight the past efforts to classify springs and propose a simple geomorphological solution. Dr. Stevens will

also discuss their biological diversity, cultural significance, and key roles as ecosystems and economic resources. He will challenge the audience to consider why springs have been overlooked by policymakers and scientists, concluding with a discussion on research and conservation strategies for sustainably managing these valuable yet underappreciated ecosystems.



Date: January 22, 2025
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm CT

[Register Here](#)

Online Adaptation Planning and Practices Training 2025

"Adaptation Planning and Practices" is an online training starting in January for forest and natural resource managers, landowners, and stewards in the Midwest and Northeast U.S. This interactive program covers climate change impacts and helps participants identify adaptation actions for ecosystems, habitats, and resource areas. Over eight weeks, participants will develop climate adaptation plans using the Adaptation Workbook, with coaching and feedback provided through weekly web-based lectures and discussions. Technical support is available throughout. The training is free, thanks to the USDA Forest Service and USDA Northern Forests Climate Hub.



Date: January 27, 2025- March 17, 2025 2:00pm ET

[Register Here](#)

The Stewardship Network Conference

The Stewardship Network Conference is the moment where theory meets practice and curiosity leads to solutions. Each annual convening unifies hundreds of professionals, students, and volunteers from a dazzling array of environmental fields. Here they share their setbacks and successes, compare advancements and techniques, and revel in diverse perspectives and creative expressions — all in support of our shared mission to care for the natural world.



CONFERENCE 2025

January 23rd - 24th

Date: January 23- 24, 2025

Location: East Lansing, Michigan

[Register Here](#)

2025 Wetland Science Conference

Join wetland professionals from Wisconsin and the upper Midwest to share research, learn new techniques, explore wetland integration, discuss science and protection issues, and look ahead to future practices. This 3-day conference features keynotes, symposia, sessions, posters, field trips, and networking opportunities, drawing over 350 attendees annually.



Date: February 25-27, 2025

Location: La Crosse, WI

[Learn More Here](#)

15th Annual St. Louis River Summit

The 15th Annual St. Louis River Summit will be hosted once again at the Yellowjacket Union on the campus of UW-Superior. The Summit is a multi-day event that features a single main session track of speakers as well as an evening poster and art session and one breakout networking session. Like an estuary, the St. Louis River Summit is a place where people meet and mix. It provides a diversity of solutions and strategies for a healthy St. Louis River watershed and nourishes the community with education and outreach opportunities. Since 2010, the St. Louis River Summit has brought together key audiences working in the region.



Date: March 4-6, 2025

Location: Superior, WI

[Learn More Here](#)

Exploring Dam Removal: Learning the Basics and Leveraging Opportunities

U.S. Forest Service staff, partners, and collaborators are invited to a two-day training event focused on the fundamentals of dam removal projects in Great Lakes rivers. Participants will hear from national experts about managing dam removals, engineering design and construction, and how to use the U.S. Forest Service's dam removal prioritization tool. The event will also include opportunities for discussing potential projects and collaborations. A site visit to a local dam will offer a hands-on case study, highlighting how dam removal projects progress and the challenges that can be successfully addressed.



Date: April 29 & 30, 2025

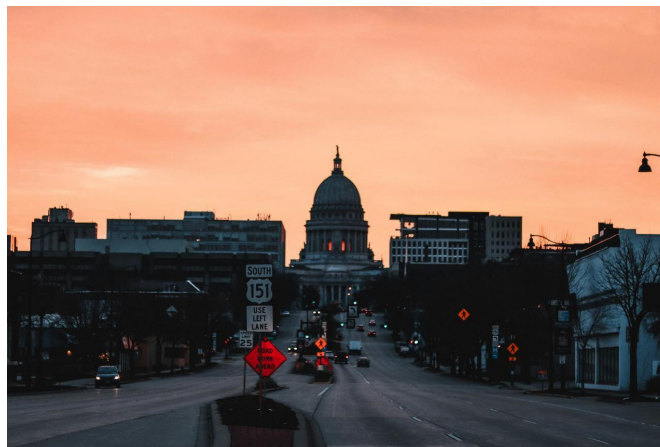
Location: Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, Ashland, WI 54806

[Learn More Here](#)

Midwest Climate Summit 2025

The Midwest Climate Summit is a three-day gathering of climate leaders, researchers, and professionals focused on expanding knowledge, accelerating climate action, and catalyzing new partnerships for an equitable Midwestern

response to the climate crisis. It is the premiere event in the region for those responding to the climate crisis in the Midwest.



Date: April 30 - May 2, 2025

Location: Madison, WI

[Register Here](#)

Lake Superior Youth Symposium 2025

This event takes place every two years in a community on the shores of Lake Superior. The purpose is to inspire and motivate teachers and students in grades 8-12 to become stewards of Lake Superior and the Great Lakes.



Date: May 15-18, 2025

Location: Duluth, MN

[Learn More](#)

Funding Opportunities

Cooperative Forestry Funding- UW Center for Cooperatives

The University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives is accepting proposals for funding of **\$5,000-\$25,000 to develop Wisconsin-based cooperatives or cooperative groups in areas such as forest management, forest-related products, biomass energy, and forest-owner policy initiatives.** Eligible applicants include non-profit and cooperative organizations (note: UW/County Extension offices can no longer apply but may partner with other applicants). A

50% match is required, which can be in the form of money or in-kind services. **Proposals are due by February 15, 2025.** Award notifications will be made by March 17, 2025. For more details, contact Kelly Maynard at kelly.maynard@wisc.edu.

Cooperative Forestry Funding

\$40 Million in Grants Available for Underserved Communities in the Great Lakes Region

The Great Lakes TCGM Partnership is offering \$40 million in grants to organizations supporting underserved communities in the Great Lakes region. The program aims to promote community-led innovation and remove barriers to federal funding for environmental and public health projects. Eligible applicants include tribal governments, Native American organizations, community-based nonprofits, local governments, and higher education institutions within Region 5 (Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin, and 36 federally recognized tribes). Grant tiers range from up to \$150,000 for assessment and engagement to up to \$350,000 for project development. **Applications open on December 5, 2024, with the first review round due by January 31, 2025.**

The Great Lakes TCGM Partnership

DNR Now Accepting Grant Applications To Grow Wisconsin's Fishing Community

The Wisconsin DNR is now accepting applications for the Angler Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation (Angler R3) grant program. This funding supports efforts to grow Wisconsin's angler community through programs like angler education, fly fishing classes, and youth camps. Programs targeting adults who haven't learned to fish and those offering more than one-day events are encouraged. **Grants offer up to \$5,000 for two-year projects**, with a total of \$30,000 available. **Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. CST on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025.** More information and application materials are available on the DNR's Angler R3 webpage.

Angler Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation (Angler R3) grant program

2026-2028 Minnesota-Wisconsin Sea Grant Joint Request for Proposals

The Minnesota and Wisconsin Sea Grant College Programs invite proposals from collaborative interstate teams. **For this special solicitation, only projects involving both Minnesota and Wisconsin researchers will be considered.** By partnering, these two Great Lakes Sea Grant programs can support broadscale projects to tackle challenges at a regional scale. In addition, generating collaborations across state lines can enrich the expertise of our in-state research teams. Each preproposal should describe a single project with researchers participating and collaborating from each of the two states. Projects should start February 1, 2026. **The deadline for preproposals is Friday, January 17, 2025, 3 p.m. CST.**

Funding Opportunity: Rapid Response to Aquatic Invasive Species

Funding is available for projects addressing the detection and response to new aquatic invasive species. Eligible applicants include federal and state agencies, U.S. territories, interstate organizations, and federally recognized Tribal governments or Native American organizations. Proposals must focus on planning or deploying response measures to newly detected species and exclude activities like species identification, risk evaluation, long-term management, or outreach.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until September 30, 2025, or until funds are depleted. Submit through Grant Solutions, Grants.gov, or email the Rapid Response Coordinator at anstaskforce@fws.gov. Proposals are reviewed quarterly.

Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species

Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Challenge Cost Share

This program supports National Park Service (NPS) mission-aligned projects that enhance climate resiliency, restore lands and waters, or expand outdoor recreation opportunities.

Eligible projects must benefit NPS-administered National Parks, Trails, or Wild and Scenic Rivers and foster strong partnerships to deliver lasting outcomes. Funding prioritizes initiatives like green infrastructure, nature-based solutions, and sustainable energy development, as well as efforts to protect or restore lands and waters. **Applications are open from October 21, 2024, to January 10, 2025 (5 PM PST).**

Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Challenge Cost Share

Job Opportunities

Coastal Wetland Research Intern- Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve

The Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve seeks a Coastal Wetland Research Intern to develop and implement a robust wetland monitoring plan in a high-quality Great Lakes Coastal Wetland to inform and enhance regional wetland restoration efforts. Climate Change threatens to impact Lake Superior coastal wetlands in ways that are not fully understood. Pokegama Bay, a high-quality wetland within the St. Louis River estuary has shown resilience against recent dramatic water level changes and flood events. The Coastal Wetland Research Intern will develop a monitoring plan for Pokegama Bay to uncover key attributes that contribute to its climate resilience and provide a robust reference site dataset that can be used as a comparative tool for regional wetland restoration projects.

[Learn More Here](#)

Environmental Specialist- The 1854 Treaty Authority

An Environmental Specialist is needed to provide technical and policy support to the 1854 Treaty Authority and its member reservations, the Bois Forte and Grand Portage Bands. This position will focus on consultation and project activities related to the environmental health of the 1854 Ceded Territory.

[Learn More Here](#)

Reply to this message if you have a project update, Collaborative member spotlight, upcoming event, or other news to share in next month's edition!

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The Lake Superior Collaborative is a network of organizations working together in partnership to coordinate protection, restoration, & climate resilience efforts in the Wisconsin portion of the Lake Superior watershed.

[Learn More](#)



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