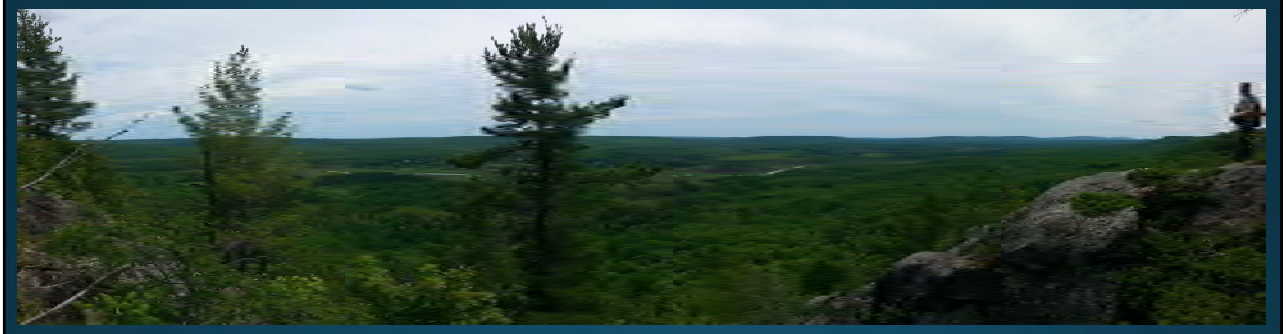


Iron County Land & Water Resource Management Plan 5-Year Extension Request

Presented by: Heather Palmquist, County Conservationist
Iron County Land & Water Conservation Department

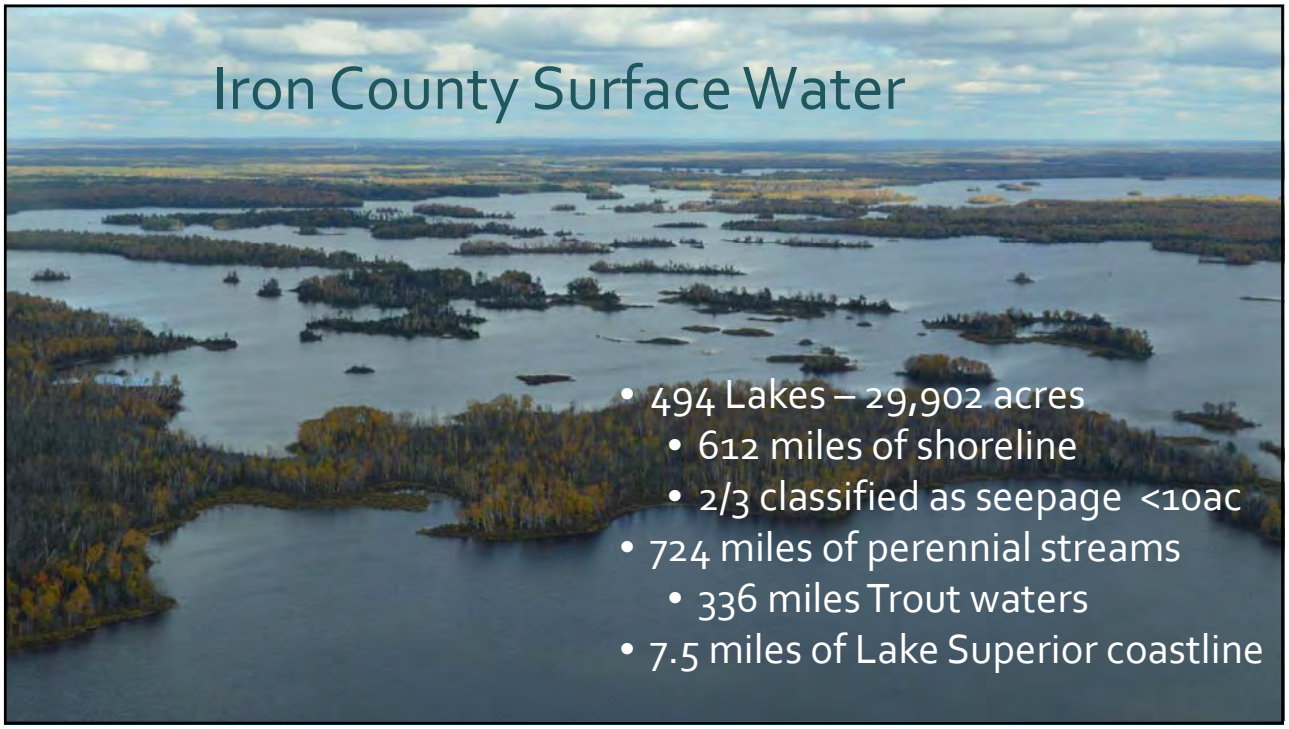
Iron County

County – 484,660 acres

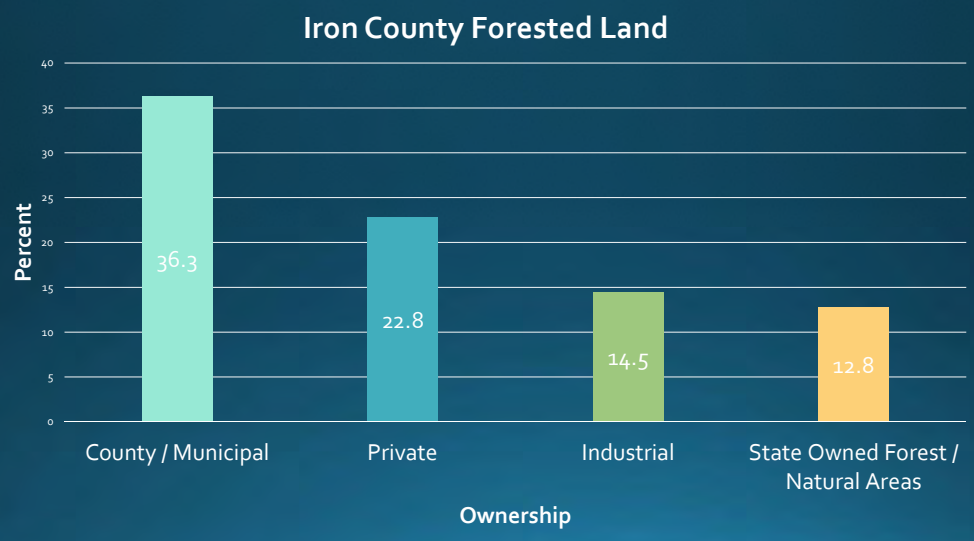
- 86.4% Forested
- 32% Wetlands – majority are forested
- 6% Surface Water
- 1.6% Agriculture Lands

Resource Concerns:

- Lake & stream protection
- Groundwater protection
- Invasive/exotic species
- Develop more hiking/biking trails
- Motorized recreation impacts



86.4% Forested Land – 418,746 acres



Organizing Goals

Surface Water

Goal 1: Promote sound shoreland stewardship through shoreland & streambank management & enhancement of littoral & riparian habitat.

Goal 2: Develop long-term strategy to protect & improve the quality of Iron County lakes & streams.

Groundwater

Goal 3: Protect drinking water/groundwater through monitoring, education, responsible land use practices & proper well abandonment.

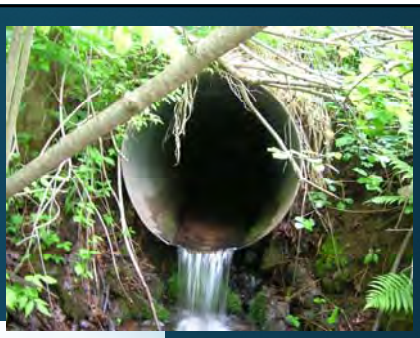
Watershed

Goal 4: Protect Land & Water Resources from non-native aquatic & terrestrial invasive species.

Goal5: Promote sound stewardship practices to protect agriculture lands, encourage sustainable forestry & maintain healthy watersheds while sustaining Iron County's economy.

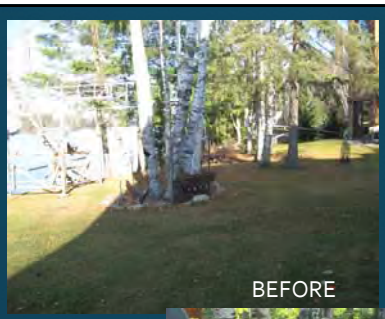
Goal 6: Protect natural resources by reducing non-point source pollution on roads & trails.

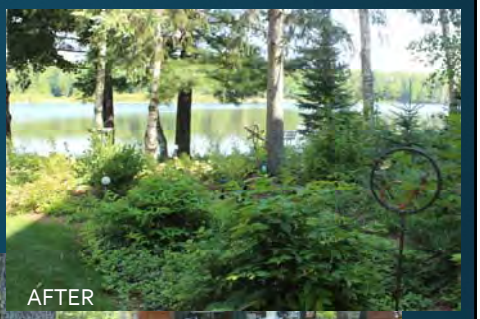
Technical Assistance



SURFACE WATER INITIATIVES

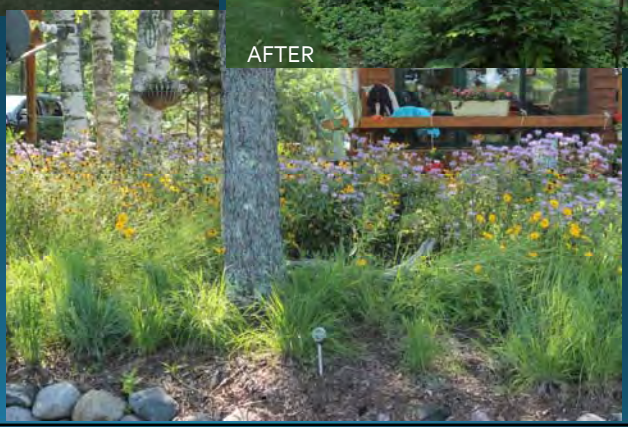
Shoreland & Streambank





- Designed 27 Shoreland/Streambank Projects
- Restored 49,908 square feet of shoreline/ 2,732 linear feet of frontage
  - Total Cost - $202,195
  - DATCP CS - $62,324
  - Grants - $123,611

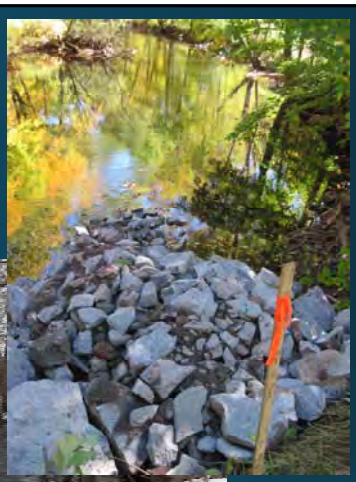
Provided technical assistance for an additional 28 shoreland projects

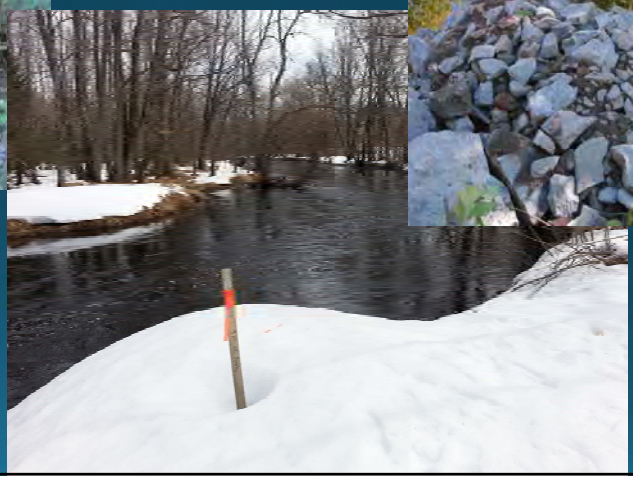


Shoreland & Streambank

BEFORE

AFTER





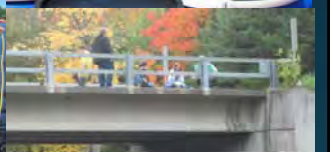
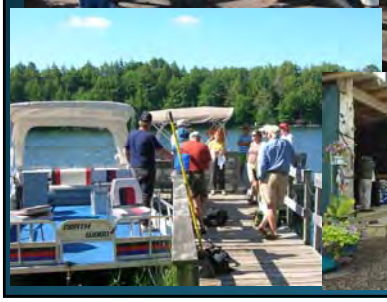
WATERSHED INITIATIVES
Agriculture

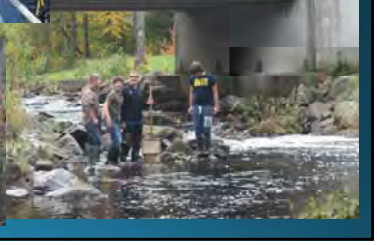
- Designed 6 farm projects – fencing, filter strips, heavy use, livestock watering
- Total Cost – $150,502
- DATCP CS – $83,626
- Other – $47,929
- Project design completed for 1 project – cancelled
- NM Workshops

WATERSHED INITIATIVES
Roads/Trails

- Provided technical assistance for 20 fish passage barriers
  - **Total Cost - $219,280**
  - **DATCP CS - $42,187**
  - **Grants - $165,846**
- Project design for 2 projects – cancelled

Achieving our Goals

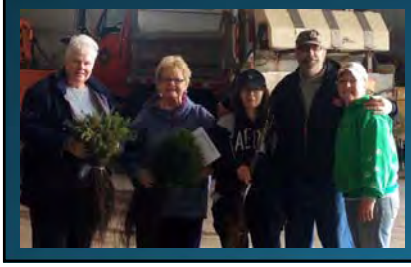
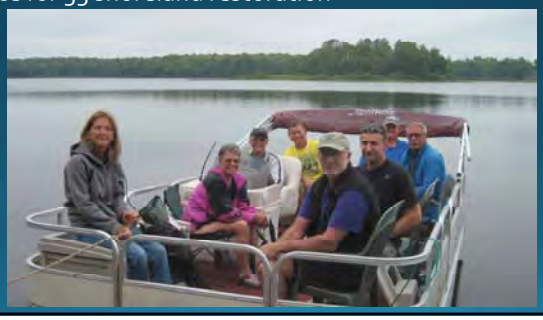
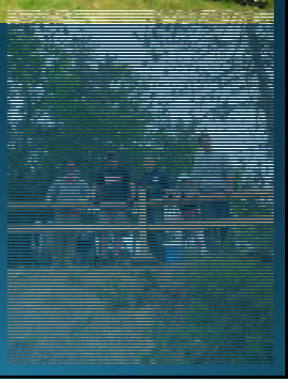





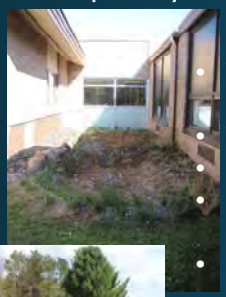
Goal 1: Promote sound shoreland stewardship through shoreland & streambank management & enhancement of littoral & riparian habitat.

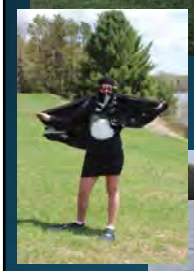
Highlights :

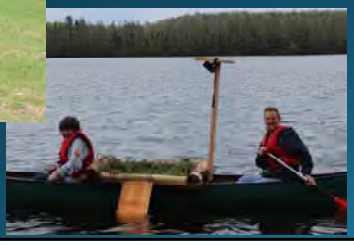
- 45,425 native trees & shrubs 11,178 native grasses & wildflowers sold through our native plant sale
- Shoreland programs 66 programs – 2,425 participants
- Shoreland project checks – minimum of 3/year
- 2 Shoreland Restoration demonstration sites installed
- Provided technical assistance for 55 shoreland restoration sites

Goal 2: Develop long-term strategy to protect & improve the quality of Iron County lakes & streams.

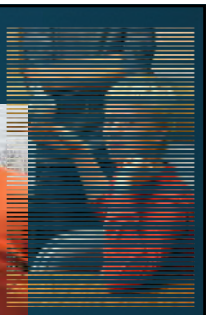


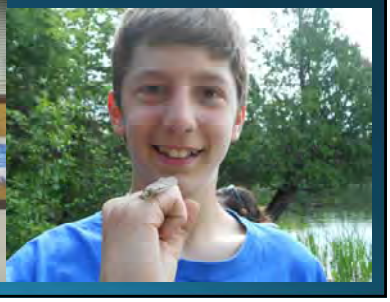




Highlights

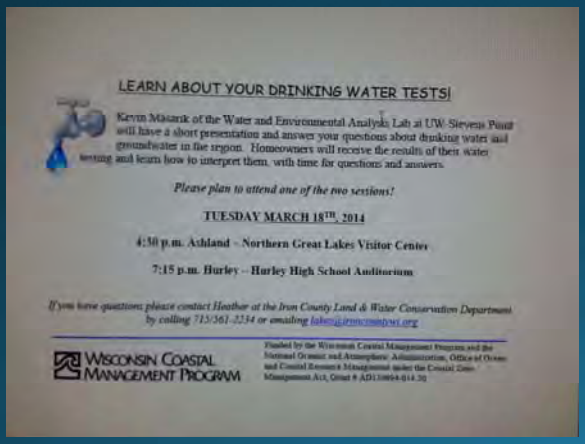
- Youth conservation programs – 89 programs – 1,713 kids reached
- Woods/Waters Program – 479 students
- 150+ Rain barrels distributed
- 4 rain gardens installed – 2 designed/cancelled
- Conservation Speaking/Posters – 283 posters; 66 speakers
- Wisconsin Youth Conservation Camp – 135 campers





Goal 3: Protect drinking water/groundwater through monitoring, education, responsible land use practices & proper well abandonment.

Lake Superior Watershed Well Testing Program



LEARN ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER TESTS!

Kevin Masarik of the Water and Environmental Analysis Lab at UW-Stevens Point will have a short presentation and answer your questions about drinking water and groundwater in the region. Homeowners will receive the results of their water testing and learn how to interpret them, with time for questions and answers.

Please plan to attend one of the two sessions!

TUESDAY MARCH 18TH, 2014

4:30 p.m. Ashland – Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center

7:15 p.m. Hurley – Hurley High School Auditorium

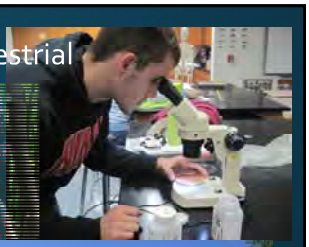
If you have questions please contact Heather at the Iron County Land & Water Conservation Department by calling 715/561-3234 or emailing lakes@ironcountywi.org

WISCONSIN COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Coastal Management Grant

- 125 wells tested
  - 57 in Iron County
  - 34 in Ashland County
  - 34 on the Bad River Reservation
- Presentation given by WEAL
  - 30 attendees in Iron County
  - 12 attendees in Ashland County

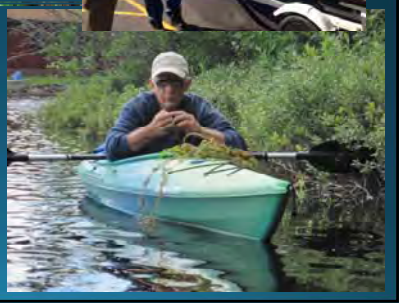
Goal 4: Protect Land & Water Resources from non-native aquatic & terrestrial invasive species.



Highlights

- Held 8 Volunteer AIS monitoring workshops – trained 67 volunteer monitors
- Conducted 8 Clean Boats Clean Waters workshops – 81 volunteer inspectors trained
- Staff CBCW – have inspected 6,153 boats, educating 11,810 people
- 68 Educational programs on invasive species – 1,154 attendees
- Posted 76 boat landings with AIS signage
- 75+ miles of ATV trails monitored for invasive species

- Monitored 46 lakes for AIS/WQ
- Over 85,000 Galerucella beetles raised/released to treat Purple loosestrife
- Actively monitor/treat EWM, PL, JK, SK, GM & GH
- Annual Garlic mustard pull with Hurley school – pulled over 1,825 lbs.



Goal5: Promote sound stewardship practices to protect agriculture lands, encourage sustainable forestry & maintain healthy watersheds while sustaining Iron County's economy.

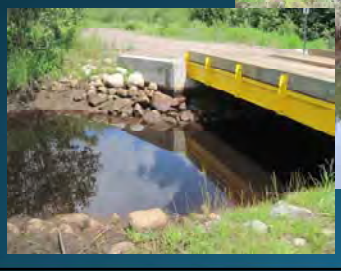
Highlights

- Actively work with all of our producers on conservation practices
- NM Workshops held to update plans
- Currently working on updating our Farmland Preservation Plan
- Support the Woods- American marten research project with the schools
- Educated 700+ students on Forestry BMP's related to wetlands & soil loss at the "Log-A-Load" Day hosted by Iron County Forestry Dept.

Goal 6: Protect natural resources by reducing non-point source pollution on roads & trails.

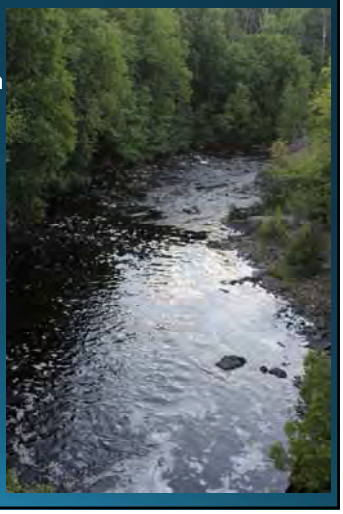
Highlights

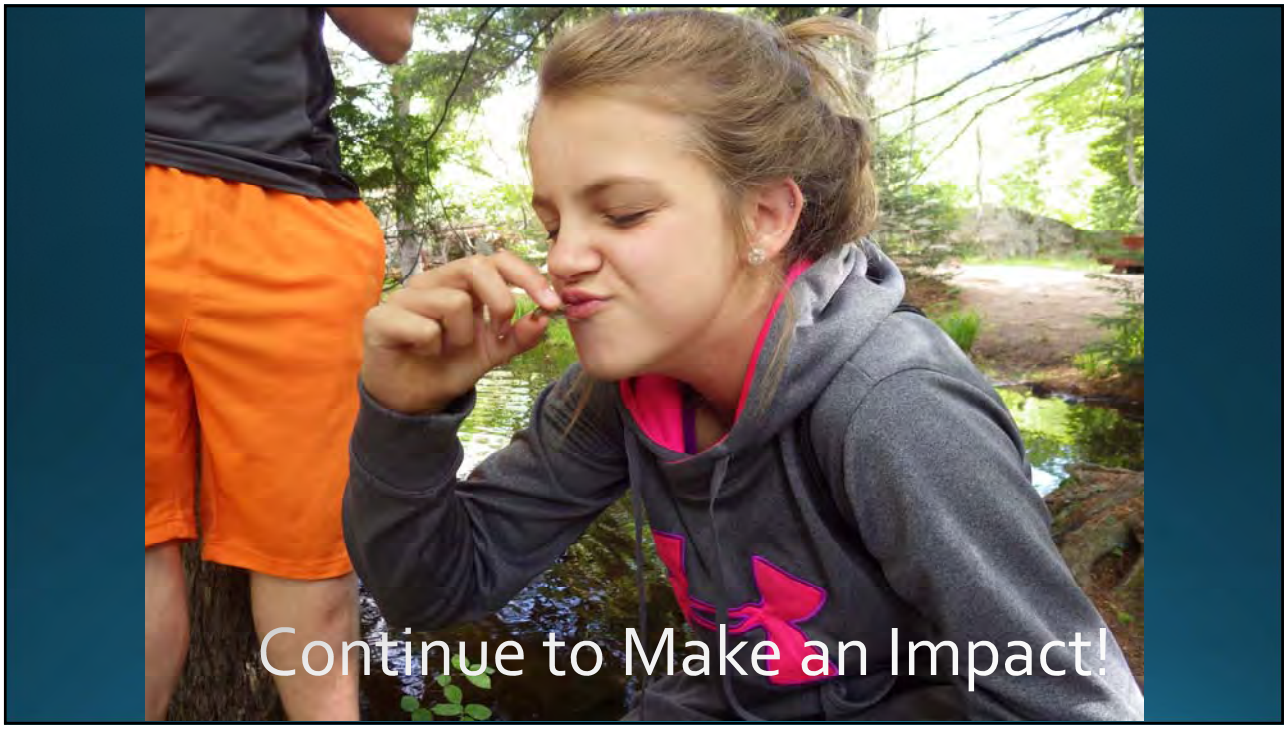
- 20 Projects stream projects installed
- Assisted Forestry Department on trail/road work
  - 2 bridges – replacing culverts
  - Road dips



Plans For The Future 2015-2019

- Continue educating the public through youth education programs, Conservation on Tap series, Lake Group programs, etc.
- Coordinate the Woods Project- American marten research – teaching sustainable forestry management
- Continue working on LWCD awareness – programing, website, Facebook
- Continue to offer landowners technical/financial assistance for conservation practices
- Farmland Preservation Plan
- Build our volunteer programs
- Continue fostering our partnerships – WDNR, DATCP, WLWCA, USFS, USFWS, GLIFWC, NRCS, UWEX, BRWA, Iron County Forestry, Iron County Zoning, Iron County Health Department, Rive Alliance, ICORE, ICLRA, WWA, NCWMA




Continue to Make an Impact!

Thank you!
Questions?