

Buffalo County Land and Water Resource Management Plan 2022- 2031



Cale Severson
Director/ County Conservationist
Buffalo County Land Management Department

Current Layout

Director/County Conservationist-Cale Severson

Conservation Technician-Joe Krumrie

Resource Management Specialist-Vacant

Land Conservation Committee

Dwight Ruff-Chair

Brad Schmidtknecht-Vice Chair

Gary Stanton

John Hadley

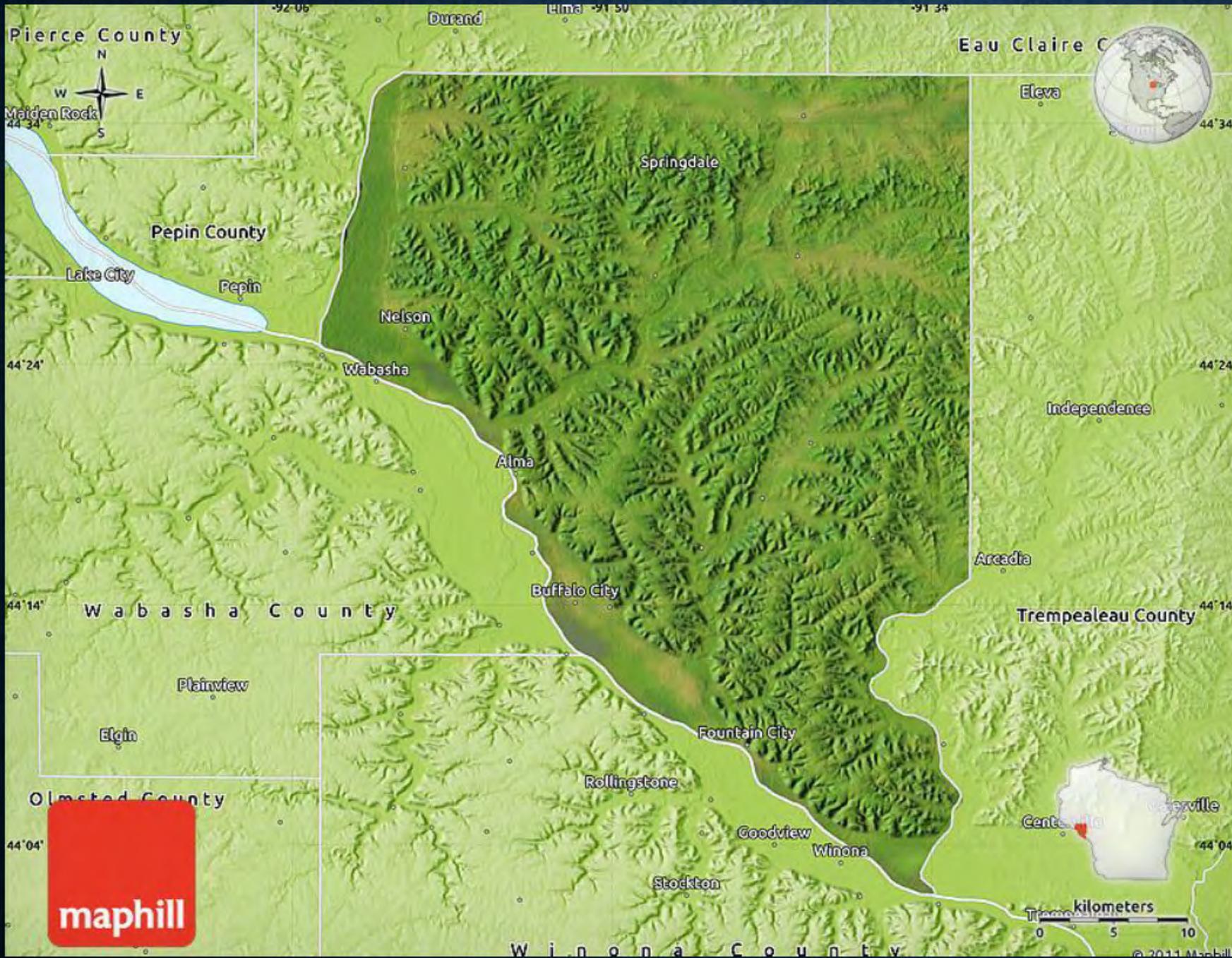
John Sendelbach

Joe Bragger-Citizen Farmer

A rocky road the last few years...

- **5 different Conservationists worked in the last 10-year LW plan**
 - **Combined Land Conservation and Zoning in 2013, County Con was director**
 - **Separated in 2015**
 - **Recombined in 2022 with County Con again Director**
- **I started in November 2021 as the 3rd Conservationist in 2 years, Resource management specialist (5 years exp) left in my 1st week**
- **Most tenured staff was the Conservation technician (10 months)**
- **Hired RMS in January and they left in July**
- **RMS still vacant—sort of...**





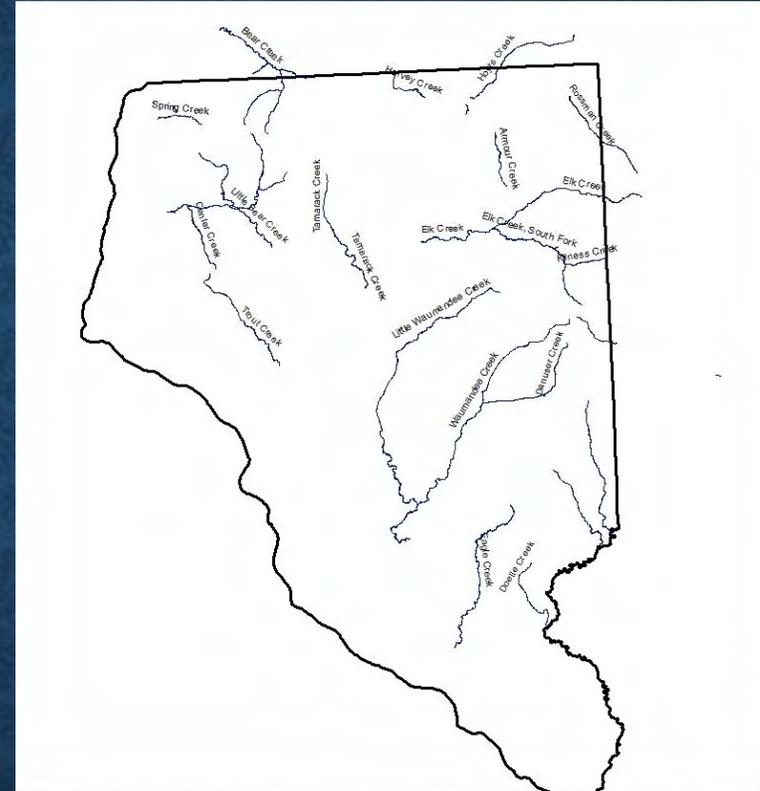
Buffalo County...

Where is it and what does it look like?

- 455,680 ac – 712 sq mi
- Max. elevation-1391 ft.
- Min. elevation-650 ft.



What does Buffalo County look like?



**61 MILES OF
CLASSIFIED
TROUT STREAMS
WHICH IS 3.8% OF THE
WATERWAYS**

What does Buffalo County look like?



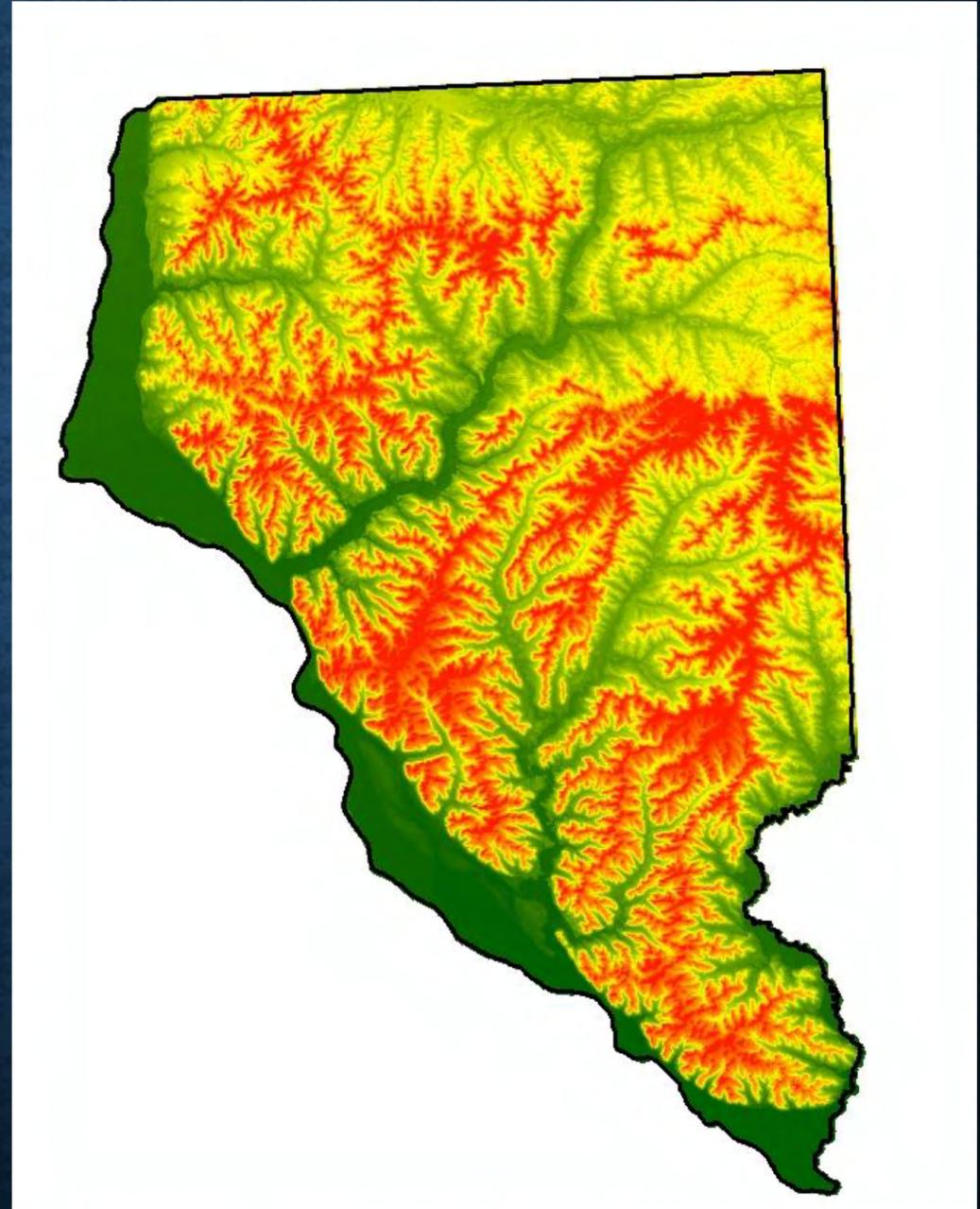
**303(D) IMPAIRED WATERS
194 MILES – 12%**

What does Buffalo County look like?



WETLANDS – 74.8 SQ MI 10.5%

What does Buffalo County look like?



Houston, we have a problem...



Houston, we have a problem...



**Can we fix it? Yes, we can.
(but it might take awhile)**



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PL-566 STRUCTURES

- NRCS built these in the 1950s-1960s
- 12 structures in the county
- NRCS ended O&M of all of them now
 - All county owned
 - It takes a lot of money at times to maintain these and have inspected



Mother Nature isn't always helpful

**HELP
WANTED**

APPLY WITHIN



Thanks,
but no
Thanks







IN SUMMATION

- Buffalo County is a very unique county
 - Very rural- 2020 population of 13,317
 - Town of Montana- 36 sq. mi. population of 212
 - Long history steeped in agriculture
 - It's topography makes it challenging to bridge the gap between conservation and productive agriculture
 - Some farmers at the forefront of land conservation and erosion control. There's lots of good ideas out there!

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

We need lots of money and a really big staff!

Then there's reality...

We have 3 staff and trying to do as much as we can with the resources we can find 😊

