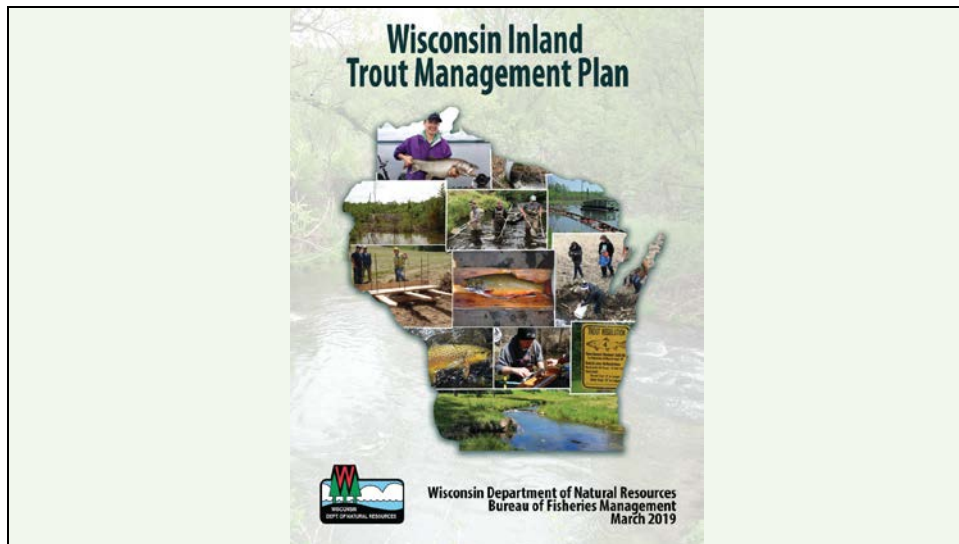


Slide 1



Welcome everyone. We appreciate and thank you for taking the time to learn about our trout management plan for the state of Wisconsin.

## Vision

***We want...***

*Outstanding trout populations and cold-water resources as part of a healthy ecosystem that provide enjoyment for people of all ages and backgrounds.*

The trout management plan vision is: *Outstanding trout populations and cold-water resources as part of a healthy ecosystem that provide enjoyment for people of all ages and backgrounds*

Slide 3



We began the trout management plan process in late 2017 when we formed a stakeholder team. DNR staff met twice with the stakeholder team, once in January 2018 and a second time in March. The DNR trout team compiled all the materials and feedback from the stakeholders and then gathered additional information.

Slide 4



The DNR trout team drafted a management plan. This draft was reviewed by the stakeholder team and other DNR staff.

We will finalize the plan this summer following additional public input from a series of public meetings and a public comment period.

## Stakeholder Team Formation

Fisheries District



- anglers
- land owner
- non-consumptive user
- WCC
- business owner/tourism
- member at large

As you saw in the timeline, we formed a stakeholder team. Within each DNR district (North, South, East, West) this team was made up of 2 anglers (one of which representing Trout Unlimited), 1 land owner, 1 non-consumptive user, 1 Wisconsin Conservation Congress rep, and 1 business owner or tourism rep.

We included a member at large for each in our team. The member at large application process was designed to build a more diverse stakeholder group and to find stakeholders who are interested in trout management but who may not fit into one of the predefined groups. We randomly selected one applicant for each district.

## Stakeholder Team Formation

Statewide Representation



- Tribal Nations
- Youth fishing
- Agriculture
- APHIS Wildlife Services
- Natural Resources Board
- Lake trout anglers

Additional statewide members included representation from tribal nations, youth fishing organizations, agriculture, USDA APHIS WS, Natural Resources Board, and lake trout anglers.

## Role of stakeholders



- Advisory
- Broad goals
- Issues
- Desires and Preferences
- Liaison

7

The stakeholders served in an advisory, consulting role. They helped set broad goals, brainstormed issues, identified preferences and served as a liaison to the community.

## Purpose

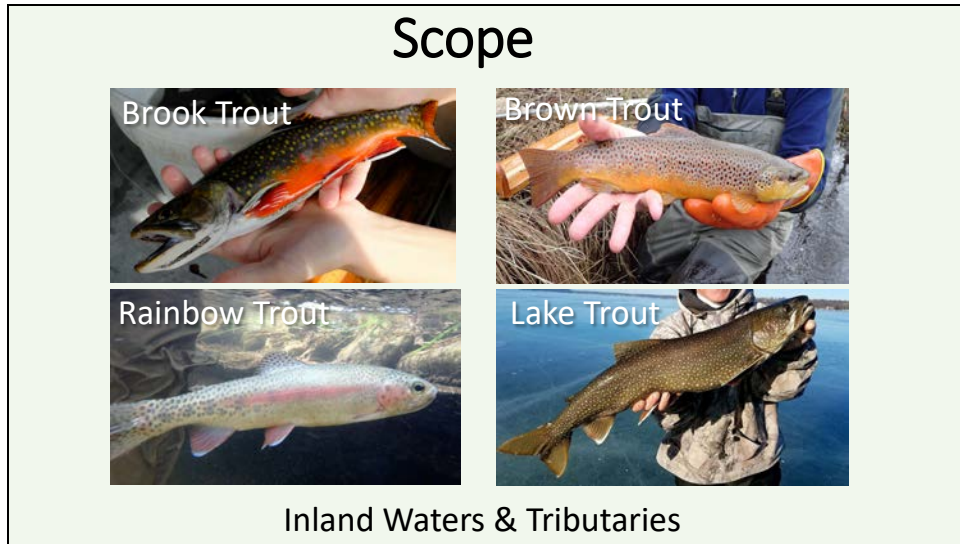


- Direction
- Resource
- Constraints
- Where
- Priorities
- Communication

This is the first trout management plan for the DNR. The purpose of the document is to

- Provide direction for inland trout management in Wisconsin
- Guide direction of resources
- Identify constraints
- Determine location and prioritization of where work should be done
- Guide DNR trout team charges and priorities
- Provide an internal and external communication tool





This plan covers brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout and lake trout in inland lakes, ponds and streams and Tributaries of the Great Lakes, upstream from impassable barriers

## Scope



- Fisheries management program activities
- Collaboration with other DNR programs


This plan will guide the major fisheries management program activities: surveys and sampling, habitat projects, trout stocking, trout fishing regulations and land management and acquisition.

Water quality and watershed protection and improvement management activities are critical for trout. We also recognize the need for continued efforts in trout angler recruitment and retention. These programs and policies are not directly under fisheries management authority. However, collaboration with other programs will be essential in the implementation of this plan.



This plan includes background information on trout life histories, threats and challenges to trout fisheries, and a description of current trout management and research. This plan sets goals, objectives, strategies, and actions for Wisconsin trout management over the next 10 years.

## Framework



- Core Strategy
- To the Extent Feasible
- Additional Resources Required

Each strategy in the plan is prioritized as being either core, to the extent feasible or needs more resources.

**Core Strategies** are the highest priority for allocation of resources and work towards completing the objectives within the goals.

**Strategies prioritized as To the Extent Feasible** are also high in priority, but resources may not be available to address or complete them. Work will continue in these areas as allowed by available funding.

**Strategies prioritized as Additional Resources Required** are important, but additional staff, partners or funding will be necessary to address or complete them.

**Goal 1** - Protect, enhance, and restore sustainable cold-water aquatic habitats and ecosystems.



- Trout populations need quality habitat
- Degraded habitat
- Regulations, land protection, habitat restoration and enhancement

Now I will talk more specifically about each goal and highlight some objectives and strategies within each goal.

Goal 1 is – Protect, enhance, and restore sustainable cold-water aquatic habitats and ecosystems.

Quality trout populations and cold-water ecosystems depend on quality habitat. Many cold-water habitats have been impacted and degraded through a variety of historical and contemporary actions.

However, cold-water habitats have also been protected and improved through Federal, State and local regulations, land protection, habitat restoration and enhancement projects and other conservation efforts.

**Goal 1** - Protect, enhance, and restore sustainable cold-water aquatic habitats and ecosystems.



- Habitat work is a priority
- Costs are increasing
- Partnerships are important

Habitat work is a priority and core strategy within this goal, yet the costs of habitat work have increased over time. Attaining the goal will require additional assistance through increased partnerships and collaboration, and/or increased or additional fees. However, increasing the amount of habitat work accomplished is not likely because the costs of habitat work has been increasing over time.

Objectives and strategies have been identified to better assess and understand cold-water habitat needs, and specific methods and plans are listed to protect, restore, and enhance cold-water habitats and ecosystems. Water quality protection and other water quality/watershed protection & improvement management activities are critical for trout. In this plan there are numerous mentions of collaborating with other programs on water quality and quantity issues. However, many factors impacting these aspects of trout habitat are governed by other DNR programs and by state and Federal laws which are not part of this Trout Management Plan.

Slide 15

**Goal 2** - Protect, develop, enhance, and restore trout populations and trout angling opportunities for the diverse preferences and needs of our participants



- Wild trout populations are vulnerable
- Populations have improved and are maintained

Goal 2 is Protect, develop, enhance, and restore trout populations and trout angling opportunities for the diverse preferences and needs of our participants

Wild trout populations are vulnerable to a variety of human-caused stressors. These include habitat degradation, overharvest, loss of genetic diversity, and competition with

other introduced fish species. The DNR has improved and maintained wild trout populations and angling opportunities through a variety of management actions throughout recent history.

**Goal 2** - Protect, develop, enhance, and restore trout populations and trout angling opportunities for the diverse preferences and needs of our participants



- Balance conservation with angling opportunities

Continued and additional actions are listed in the plan to better understand and improve wild trout populations and angling opportunities within Wisconsin. Angler opportunities go beyond the fish populations and also relates to improving physical angler access to trout waters and providing diverse angling opportunities (ie. – put/take fisheries, harvest opportunities, action waters, trophy waters).

Goal 2 seeks to balance concerns with wild trout population conservation and provide varied trout angling opportunities throughout the state of Wisconsin.



**Goal 3** – Collect, develop and use the best science to guide trout management decisions



- Decisions on sound science
- Trout management should be effective and justifiable

Goal 3 is Collect, develop and use the best science to guide trout management decisions

Fisheries management is an established science. To provide the public with trout management that is effective and justifiable, fisheries managers should base decisions on sound scientific research. Fisheries managers and researchers should also strive to use the best available scientific methods when collecting and analyzing fishery data and pursue research that advances our ability to effectively manage trout fisheries in the state.

**Goal 3** – Collect, develop and use the best science to guide trout management decisions



- Costs are increasing
- Balance workload and cost
- Obtain most appropriate data

Recognizing that the science of fisheries management is dynamic and constantly improving, a quality trout fisheries management program requires opportunities for staff to stay up to date on advances in the field of trout fisheries management. The cost of certain surveys and management activities (e.g. creel, habitat enhancement) is high. The DNR needs to continue to evaluate and improve upon its activities to be effective and efficient to balance workload and cost to obtain the most appropriate data within means.

**Goal 4** – Maintain and expand partnerships and engage diverse anglers, stakeholders, and the general public on trout management and angling opportunities



- Engage stakeholders, general public, and WCC
- Maintain and expand partnerships

Goal 4 is Maintain and expand partnerships and engage diverse anglers, stakeholders, and the general public on trout management and angling opportunities

Stakeholder engagement is crucial for effectively managing our trout fisheries throughout the state of Wisconsin. The DNR needs to actively engage stakeholders to help guide decisions as well as directly participate in management actions. Maintaining and expanding partnerships will help the DNR accomplish more and develop better management projects and strategies.

**Goal 4** – Maintain and expand partnerships and engage diverse anglers, stakeholders, and the general public on trout management and angling opportunities



- Outreach and education are important
- Collaborate with other programs
- Engage more anglers

Knowledge of the fisheries that our state contains, as well as the productivity of the fisheries drive anglers and non-anglers to participate in our program.

Therefore, goal 4 focuses on outreach and education to inform anglers and non-anglers alike on what the trout program has to offer. This helps the DNR keep the public informed and engaged on new and emerging issues, research priorities, and management goals.

Slide 21



We appreciate and thank you for listening to this presentation on the trout management plan for the state of Wisconsin. We look forward to receiving your comments! Look on our website, search for “trout plan” for additional information or to submit comments.