Extension/Land Conservation Committee

Tuesday, September 1, 2026- 10:30 A.M.

Barron County Government Center | Room 2151

335 E. Monroe Avenue- Barron, WI 54812

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Acknowledgement of Public Posting Requirements
3. Public comment
4. Approval of Agenda
   - Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting – 07/07/2026
   - Edit List- July and August
   - Announcements –
5. 2027 Soil & Water Conservation Department Budget – action item
6. 2027 UW Extension Budget-action item
7. 2027 Healthy Rivers & Lakes Grant Resolution- action item
8. 2027 USDA APHIS WDP Program Budget- action item
9. 2027 Wisconsin Deer Donation Agreement- action item
10. UWSP Groundwater Testing Budget- discussion only
11. Certificate of Compliance- action item
    - Duncan Family Living Trust
12. Staff Reports – UWEX, NRCS, FSA, and SWCD (10 minutes) information only
    - Executive Committee Report
    - Fair Board Report
13. Set date for the next meeting – October 6, 2026
14. Adjourn

PLEASE CALL 715-537-6375 IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND.

Any person with a qualifying disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act and requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible format must contact the County Clerk's office at 715-537-6200 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting so that arrangements can be made to accommodate your request.

cc: Cook, Gores, Langman, Kusilek, G. Nelson, Huth, Carsten, County Clerk, County Administrator, Webmaster, Public postings

EXTENSION-LCC COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, July 7, 10:30 a.m.
Room 2106
==========

Members present: Kirsten Huth, Jim Gores, Randy Cook, Fran Langman, Carsten Ellison, Gary Nelson and Audrey Kusilek.
Staff present: Tyler Gruetzmacher Justin Everson, Dave Gifford, Jeff French, Lori Baltrusis, Becky Melton, Ben Cole and Bronson Thalacker.

Cook called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and Melton confirmed proper posting of the meeting. No public comment was received.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes
Motion: (Kusilek/Nelson) to approve the agenda; carried.
Motion: (Elliston/Gores) to approve the minutes of 04/07/2026 meeting; carried.

Announcements: French announced his recommendation of Ben Cole for the Zoning Administrator position, which will be presented to the County Board.
Edit list: No questions

True Wellness Presentation
Natasha Ward gave a presentation on behalf of True Wellness, sharing that the organization's mission is to build health and wellness into the flow of community life. Partnering with the Blue Zones organization and Barron County Extension.

Land Conservation Committee (LCC) Chapter 92 & Training Review
Gruetzmacher gave a presentation on the Chapter 92 rules governing land conservation and outlined the core purpose of the committee. This was followed by a review of the recent LCC training sessions held in Hayward and Black River Falls.

Wisconsin Land + Water Board Representative Appointment
Gruetzmacher discussed the importance of having an LCC member serve on the Wisconsin Land + Water Board of Directors.
Motion (Kusilek/Ellison): To appoint Randy Cook as the representative to the Board of Directors; carried.

NR 151 Statewide Survey Project Update
Thalacker and Gruetzmacher presented an update on the NR 151 statewide survey project. Out of 1,200 survey sites statewide, 19 are located within Barron County.

West Central Clark County Tour Overview
Gruetzmacher and Thalacker provided an overview of the West Central Clark County tour. While visiting several area farms, they noted how these operations have diversified to maximize earning potential while successfully maintaining robust land conservation practices.

Groundwater Center Proposal Discussion
Gruetzmacher reviewed three drafted proposals for groundwater studies in Barron County, followed by discussion and questions from staff and committee members.
Motion (Langman/Kusilek): To proceed with the 5-year testing program plan, with a recommendation to add a budget line item for Option #1; carried.

Farmland Preservation Annual Review
Everson and Gruetzmacher reviewed the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Farmland Preservation annual program review.

Certificate of Compliance: Sarah A. York
A Certificate of Compliance for Sarah A. York was presented for approval.
Motion (Kusilek/Gores): To approve the certificate; carried.

Note: Gores exited the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

Staff & Committee Reports

- **UWEX:** Baltrusis reiterated her excitement regarding the True Wellness presentation, emphasizing what a significant opportunity this program represents for Barron County.
- **NRCS:** No report.
- **FSA:** Huth reviewed upcoming deadline dates for farmers to report their information for various federal programs.
- **Executive Committee:** French provided a brief overview of the upcoming committee agenda.
- **Fair Board:** An update was provided regarding the upcoming county fair.

Next Meeting Date
The next meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

Adjournment
Motion: By unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting at 12:07 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Melton
Administrative Secretary, Land Services

July & August Edits

7/9/2026	Hey Everything	C0096249	Small Equipment	SWCD- 06/30/26	$5.39	
7/9/2026	Barron Co Fair	C0096250	Educational Material	4 Wristbands for Fair	$40.00	
7/30/2026	Deyong Revocable Trust	C0096431	Assigned Reserve Phopherus MDV	SWCD 26 MDV	$10,350.00	CSA 26MDV001
7/30/2026	Synergy Cooperative	C0096432	Invasive Species Control	SW LC Invasive species control	$130.44	
8/6/2026	Deyong Revocable Trust	C0096489	Conservation Payments	SWRM -Waterway cost share	$10,350.00	CSA 25BC029
8/13/2026	Deyong Revocable Trust	C0096563	Conservation Payments	SWRM -Waterway cost share- remaining balance	$775.05	CSA 25BC029
8/13/2026	US Dept of Agriculture	C0096579	USDA Aphis	damage	$7,881.31	
8/27/2026	Amazon Capital	C0096788	Small Equipment	LS SWCD Repair parts	$9.99	
8/27/2026	Amazon Capital	C0096788	New equipment	LS SWCD New sprayer	$89.99	
					$29,632.17	

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION - 2027 BUDGET		2025 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	2026 Current Actual	2027 Budget Request
100-12-43528-000-000	STATE AID - SOIL & WATER SALARIES	163,876	224,876	289,379	-	335,338
100-12-43538-000-000	OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL AIDS	13,315	-	-	13,315	-
100-12-43599-000-000	ST AID - LAND & WATER PLAN	71,149	61,000	62,000	-	90,000
100-12-44450-000-000	PHOSPHORUS VARIANCE FEES - C/O	8,940	8,940	-	-	-
100-12-44500-000-000	NR-135 ANNUAL PERMITS	76,325	75,000	64,500	65,005	60,000
100-12-46821-000-000	NATIVE PLANT PROGRAM	8,621	-	3,961	3,961	-
100-12-46823-000-000	NR-135 REVIEW FEES	-	800	800	1,600	800
100-12-46824-000-000	REVENUE - LCD SEED C/O	375	-	-	-	-
100-12-46826-000-000	REVENUE - EQUIPMENT C/O	1,225	1,075	300	300	
100-12-46827-000-000	REVENUE - TREE PROGRAM C/O	15,536	15,536	16,057	16,057	
100-12-48110-000-000	INTEREST - DATCP WATERSHED C/O	1,540	758	-	-	
	TOTAL REVENUES	**360,901**	**387,985**	**436,997**	**100,238**	**486,138**
100-12-56010-000-000	**LAND SERVICES - GENERAL**					
100-12-56010-111-000	SALARIES	761,078	738,848	768,337	377,389	740,598
100-12-56010-112-000	OVERTIME @ 1.5	-	-	-	-	500
100-12-56010-113-000	OVERTIME @ STRAIGHT TIME		-	-	-	-
100-12-56010-151-000	SOCIAL SECURITY	43,587	44,631	46,485	20,513	45,948
100-12-56010-152-000	EMPLOYER RETIREMENT	51,136	50,030	53,983	25,510	53,729
100-12-56010-154-000	HEALTH & LIFE INSURANCE	250,031	252,540	265,053	141,710	301,600
100-12-56010-156-000	WORKER'S COMPENSATION	13,510	17,581	15,911	13,513	13,967
100-12-56010-157-000	EDUCATION & TRAINING	720	750	750	288	750
100-12-56010-159-000	MEDICARE INSURANCE	10,194	10,438	10,872	4,797	10,746
100-12-56010-164-000	EMPLOYER 401A CONTRIBUTION MGT CONF	1,200	1,200	1,200	600	1,200
100-12-56010-225-000	TELEPHONE	6,127	7,000	7,000	3,005	7,000
100-12-56010-249-000	REPAIR & EXPENSE	-	1,000	1,000	-	1,000
100-12-56010-310-000	OFFICE SUPPLIES	3,932	9,000	8,200	1,885	8,200
100-12-56010-311-000	POSTAGE	5,065	6,200	7,000	4,575	7,000
100-12-56010-322-000	SUBSCRIPTIONS		-	-	-	-
100-12-56010-324-000	ASSOCIATION/MEMBERSHIP DUES	2,160	3,750	3,750	2,502	3,750

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION - 2027 BUDGET

		2025 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	2026 Current Actual	2027 Budget Request
100-12-56010-325-000	CONFERENCE REGISTRATION	2,062	3,750	3,750	1,398	3,750
100-12-56010-332-000	TRAVEL & EXPENSE	2,187	3,000	3,000	1,472	3,000
100-12-56010-813-000	NEW EQUIPMENT	279	6,300	6,300	75	6,300
		1,153,269	1,156,018	1,202,591	599,233	1,209,039

RPL wage/fringe transferred to Treasurer's Dept for 2025.

100-12-56211-000-000 SWCD-ITEMS FOR RESALE

100-12-56211-340-000	SUPPLIES		-	-	-	-
100-12-56211-999-000	ASSIGNED RESERVE	-	9,007	9,382	-	-
		-	9,007	9,382	-	-

100-12-56212-000-000 SWCD CONSERVATION RESERVE

100-12-56212-310-000	OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,015	-	-		-
100-12-56212-314-000	SMALL EQUIPMENT	11			48	-
100-12-56212-348-000	EDUCATIONAL	-	-	-	334	-
100-12-56212-813-000	NEW EQUIPMENT				1,000	-
100-12-56212-999-000	ASSIGNED RESERVE - DATCP		42,208	55,083	750	52,848
		2,027	42,208	55,083	2,132	52,848

100-12-56215-000-000 NR-135 REVIEW FEES

100-12-56215-310-000	OFFICE SUPPLIES	-	200	200	-	200
100-12-56215-321-000	PUBLICATIONS		300	300	69	300
100-12-56215-813-000	EQUIPMENT (DRONE)		-	-	6,665	9,998
		-	500	500	6,734	10,498

100-12-56216-000-000 NR-135 FORFEITURE DOLLARS

100-12-56216-310-000	OFFICE SUPPLIES	-	-	-	-	-
100-12-56216-999-000	ASSIGNED RESERVE - NR-135 FORF DOLLARS	-	3,458	3,458	-	3,458
		-	3,458	3,458	-	3,458

100-12-56217-000-000 STATE LAND & WATER PLAN

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION - 2027 BUDGET

		2025 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	2026 Current Actual	2027 Budget Request
100-12-56217-790-000	CONSERVATION (CLIENT) PAYMENTS	71,149	61,000	62,000	14,936	62,000
		71,149	61,000	62,000	14,936	62,000
100-12-56220-000-000 LAND CONSERVATION						
100-12-56220-222-000	ELECTRICITY	232	350	350	118	350
100-12-56220-310-000	OFFICE SUPPLIES		-	-	-	-
100-12-56220-313-000	NEWSLETTER	-	1,800	1,800	-	1,800
100-12-56220-340-000	INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL	7	2,200	2,200	596	2,200
100-12-56220-348-000	EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL	869	2,000	2,000	745	2,000
100-12-56220-511-000	INS ON BLDGS	387	75	387	69	400
100-12-56220-512-000	VEHICLE INSURANCE	-	325	325	286	325
100-12-56220-790-000	CONSERVATION COST SHARING	19,200	20,000	20,000	1,000	20,000
100-12-56220-999-000	ASSIGNED RESERVE - LAND CONSERVATION					
		20,695	26,750	27,062	2,814	27,075
100-12-56221-000-000 LCD EQUIPMENT						
100-12-56221-351-000	GAS, OIL, ETC	-	-	-	-	-
100-12-56221-353-000	REPAIR & EXPENSE	580	-	-	55	-
100-12-56221-999-000	ASSIGNED RESERVE - LCD EQUIPMENT	-	6,843	6,263	-	6,208
		580	6,843	6,263	55	6,208
100-12-56222-000-000 UWSP WATER QUALITY STUDY						
100-12-56222-210-000	PROF SVCS - WATER QUALITY STUDY	1,548	14,402	12,854	-	12,854
		1,548	14,402	12,854	-	12,854
100-12-56223-000-000 RED CEDAR LAKE SHORE FUND						
100-12-56223-999-000	ASSIGNED RESERVE - RED CEDAR LAKE	-	7,660	7,660	-	7,660
		-	7,660	7,660	-	7,660
100-12-56224-000-000 PHOSPHORUS VARIANCE						
100-12-56224-2170-000	SOIL & WATER TESTING	134	-	-	-	-

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION - 2027 BUDGET

		2025 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	2026 Current Actual	2027 Budget Request
100-12-56224-310-000	OFFICE SUPPLIES		-	-	-	-
100-12-56224-790-000	CONSERVATION PAYMENTS	29,063	-	-	-	-
100-12-56224-999-000	ASSIGNED RESERVE - PHOSPHORUS VARIANCE	-	68,992	39,796	-	29,446
		29,196	68,992	39,796	-	29,446
100-12-56225-000-000 LCD TREE PROGRAM						
100-12-56225-151-000	SOCIAL SECURITY	1	-	-	-	-
100-12-56225-159-000	MEDICARE	0	-	-	-	-
100-12-56225-333-000	VEHICLE LEASE/RENT	-	-	-	-	-
100-12-56225-335-000	MEALS & LODGING	12	-	-		-
100-12-56225-341-000	TREE PURCHASES	10,542	-	-	11,437	-
100-12-56225-349-000	SUPPLIES	147	-	-	81	-
100-12-56225-351-000	GAS & OIL	95	-	-	106	-
100-12-56225-999-000	ASSIGNED RESERVE - LCD SEEDLING	-	15,536	16,057	-	4,434
		10,798	15,536	16,057	11,623	4,434
			ANNUAL PROCEEDS TRANSFERRED TO CONSERVATION RESERVE			
100-12-56226-000-000 TREE PLANTER EXPENDITURES						
100-12-56226-242-000	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE				12	
100-12-56226-999-000	ASSIGNED RESERVE - TREE PLANTER	-	20,504	20,954	-	20,942
		-	20,504	20,954	12	20,942
100-12-56229-000-000 NATIVE PLANT PROGRAM						
100-12-56229-341-000	NATIVE PLANT PROGRAM PURCHASES	8,560	-	-	5,920	-
100-12-56229-999-000	ASSIGNED RESERVE - NATIVE PLANT PROG		8,621	4,022	-	116
		8,560	8,621	4,022	5,920	116
100-12-56415-000-000 RED CEDAR LAKE PROJECT						
100-12-56415-999-000	ASSIGNED RESERVE	-	16,267	16,267	-	-

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION - 2027 BUDGET	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	2026 Current Actual	2027 Budget Request
	-	16,267	16,267	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**1,297,822**	**1,457,766**	**1,483,949**	**643,459**	**1,446,577**

EXTENSION BUDGET - 2027

		2025 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	2026 Current Actual	2027 Budget Request
100-25-46771-000-000	PESTICIDE REVENUE	-	-			
100-25-46773-000-000	4-H REVENUE	2,331	-	2,000	1,806	2,000
100-25-46775-000-000	FAMILY LIVING REVENUE	2,849	-	1,500	2,337	2,000
100-25-46777-000-000	WORKSHOP REVENUE		-			
100-25-46778-000-000	UW-EXTENSION REVENUE	62	2,000	2,000	75	100
	TOTAL REVENUE	**5,242**	**2,000**	**5,500**	**4,218**	**4,100**
100-25-55620-000-000	**EXTENSION OFFICE**					
100-25-55620-159-000	MEDICARE INSURANCE		-	-		
100-25-55620-214-000	COMPUTER FEE	-	750			
100-25-55620-219-000	U OF WI 136 CONTRACTS	139,071	159,586	153,392		155,601
100-25-55620-225-000	TELEPHONE	-	300	420		420
100-25-55620-249-000	EQUIPMENT REPAIR	-	100	100	-	100
100-25-55620-311-000	POSTAGE	1,610	6,000	6,000	-	6,000
100-25-55620-313-000	PRINTING & PUBLISHING	1,222	8,000	8,000	-	8,000
100-25-55620-319-000	OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,498	6,000	5,500	538	5,500
100-25-55620-330-000	TRAVEL	-	1,000	500	-	500
		144,400	181,736	173,912	538	176,121
100-25-55621-000-000	**AGRICULTURAL AGENT**					
100-25-55621-200-000	PROGRAMMING	-	500	500	-	500
100-25-55621-313-000	PRINTING & PUBLISHING	-	-	-	-	-
100-25-55621-332-000	TRAVEL & EXPENSE	-	-	-	-	-
		-	500	500	-	500
100-25-55622-000-000	**FAMILY LIVING AGENT**					
100-25-55622-200-000	PROGRAMMING	-	2,500	1,500	-	1,500
100-25-55622-313-000	PRINTING & PUBLISHING	-	-	-	-	-
100-25-55622-332-000	TRAVEL & EXPENSE	200	1,500	1,000	-	1,000
100-25-55622-999-000	ASSIGNED RESERVE - FAMILY LIVING	10,326	10,326		-	-
		10,525	14,326	2,500	-	2,500
100-25-55623-000-000	**4-H AGENT**					

EXTENSION BUDGET - 2027

		2025 Actual	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	2026 Current Actual	2027 Budget Request
100-25-55623-200-000	PROGRAMMING	2,046	3,000	4,000	-	4,000
100-25-55623-313-000	PRINTING & PUBLISHING		-			
100-25-55623-332-000	TRAVEL & EXPENSE	-	500	1,000	-	1,000
100-25-55623-733-000	4-H YOUTH RECOGNITION	381	3,000	3,000	-	3,000
100-25-55623-999-000	ASSIGNED RESERVE	9,283	9,283	-	-	-
		11,710	15,783	8,000	-	8,000
100-25-55629-000-000	**PESTICIDE**					
100-25-55629-999-000	ASSIGNED RESERVE	1,774	1,774	-	-	-
		1,774	1,774	-	-	-
100-25-55630-000-000	**WORKSHOPS incl Farm Books & Bulletins**					
100-25-55630-325-000	WORKSHOPS		-	-	-	-
100-25-55630-999-000	ASSIGNED RESERVE - WORKSHOPS	3,391	3,391	-	-	-
		3,391	3,391	-	-	-
100-25-55634-000-000	**SHOPPING MATTERS GRANT**					
100-25-55634-348-000	EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS	-	-	-	-	-
100-25-55634-999-000	ASSIGNED RESERVE	695	695	-	-	-
		695	695	-	-	-
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**172,496**	**218,204**	**184,912**	**538**	**187,121**

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2026 –

Barron County Healthy Lakes & Rivers Grant Application

TO THE BARRON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

WHEREAS, the Barron County Soil & Water Conservation Department (SWCD) is interested in obtaining a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of continuing SWCD efforts to implement and install conservation practices related to Healthy Lakes & Rivers to improve surface water quality; and

WHEREAS, the applicant attests to the validity and veracity of the statements and representations contained in the grant application; and

WHEREAS, a grant agreement is requested to carry out the project; and

WHEREAS, this resolution was approved by the Extension-Land Conservation Committee on September 1, 2026, on a vote of ~~*insert voting, attendance and decision information.*~~

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Barron County SWCD will meet the financial obligations necessary to fully and satisfactorily complete the activities and hereby authorizes and empowers the following officials or employees to submit the following documents to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for financial assistance that may be available:

TASK	TITLE/AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE	EMAIL & PHONE NUMBER
Sign and submit grant application	Director of Land Services	ben.cole@co.barron.wi.us 715-537-6375
Enter into grant agreement with DNR	Director of Land Services	ben.cole@co.barron.wi.us 715-537-6375
Submit quarterly and/or final reports to DNR	Lakeshore Technician	pat.brown@co.barron.wi.us 715-537-6313
Submit reimbursement request(s) to DNR	Administrative Assistant III	becky.melton@co.barron.wi.us 715-537-6375
Sign and submit Admin Forms	Director of Land Services	ben.cole@co.barron.wi.us 715-537-6375

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the applicant will comply with all local, state and federal rules, regulations and ordinances relating to this project and cost-share agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that publication of this resolution may occur through posting in accordance with Section 985.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

OFFERED THIS 14th day of September, 2026.

EXAMPLE

BARRON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2026 –

Barron County Healthy Lakes & Rivers Grant Application

Number of readings required: One (X) Two ( ) Vote required for passage: Majority (X) 2/3 Entire Board (20) ( ) Source of funding: Budgeted ( ) General Fund ( ) Grant (X) Contingency ( ) Other ( ) Details _____ Fiscal impact: - Current year total amount: $ - Future years total amount: $ - Effect on tax levy – current year - $ - Effect on tax levy – future years - $ Fiscal impact reviewed by County Finance Department _____ Michelle Drury, Finance Director Approved as to form by: _____ Jeffrey French, Administrator _____ John Muench, Corporation Counsel	_____ Randall Cook, Extension LCC Chair (The Committee Chair signature verifies the action taken by the Committee.) Board Action: Adopted ( ) Failed ( ) Tabled ( ) **Motion: ( )** to approve. Carried.

EXAMPLE

Section *V - COUNTY BUDGET/FINANCIAL PLAN - required by all Parties
Barron County **(Cooperator)**

Cost Element	Price Charged to Cooperator, paid to APHIS WS	Additional WDNR Funding Requested By Cooperator (County is reimbursed directly from WDNR)	Cost Shared by WS	Full Cost
Salaries (includes venison donation administration)	$27,359.94	$0.00	$3,865.55	$31,225.49
Abatement Materials (includes temp fence, repellant, bear abatement, other abatement)	$ 2,416.20	$0.00	$0.00	$ 2,416.20
Mileage/Travel/Services	$ 1,684.60			$ 1,684.60
Subtotal Direct Costs	**$31,460.74**	**$0.00**	**$3,865.55**	**$35,326.29**
Pooled job costs (ex, vehicle usage, etc)	$3,460.68	$0.00	na	$3,460.68
Deer Donation Processing	na	$10,000.00	na	$10,000.00
County Administration	na	$200.00	na	$200.00
Indirect Costs (Administrative Overhead)	$5,080.91	$0.00	na	$5,080.91
Permanent Fence	na	$0.00	na	$0.00
Agreement Total	***$40,002.33***	***$10,200.00***	***$3,865.55***	***$54,067.88***
The distribution of the budget (with the exception of the mandatory percentage line items) from this Financial Plan may vary as necessary to accomplish the purpose of this agreement, but may not exceed:	**$50,202.33**			

We expect to assist 22 growers with damage that may result in wildlife damage requests equaling or exceeding $1,200 of assessed damage.

Signatures of Intention:

COUNTY: _____ Date: _____

WDNR: _____ Date: _____

USDA-APHIS-WS: _____ Date: _____

2027 Barron County Budget

Approved amount to be provided by:

	County Request	County Admin	USDA-WS Funding Approved		WDNR Funding Approved		Total Funding Approved
Salaries (includes County Admin)	$26,859.94	$200.00	$3,865.55		$26,859.94		$30,725.49
Mileage/Travel/Services	$5,145.28		$0.00		$5,145.28		$5,145.28
Office Overhead	$5,080.91		$0.00		$5,080.91		$5,080.91
Permanent Fencing	$0.00		$0.00		$0.00		$0.00
Temporary Fencing	$2,053.77		$0.00		$2,053.77		$2,053.77
Bear Abatement							
Repellant	$120.81				$120.81		$120.81
Other Abatement	$241.62				$241.62		$241.62
Venison Admin	$700.00		$0.00		$700.00		$700.00
Venison Processing	$10,000.00				$10,000.00		$10,000.00
Total	**$50,202.33**		**$3,865.55**		**$50,202.33**		**$54,067.88**
The distribution of the budget (with the exception of the mandatory percentage line items) from this Financial Plan may vary as necessary to accomplish the purpose of this agreement, but may not exceed:	**$50,202.33**						

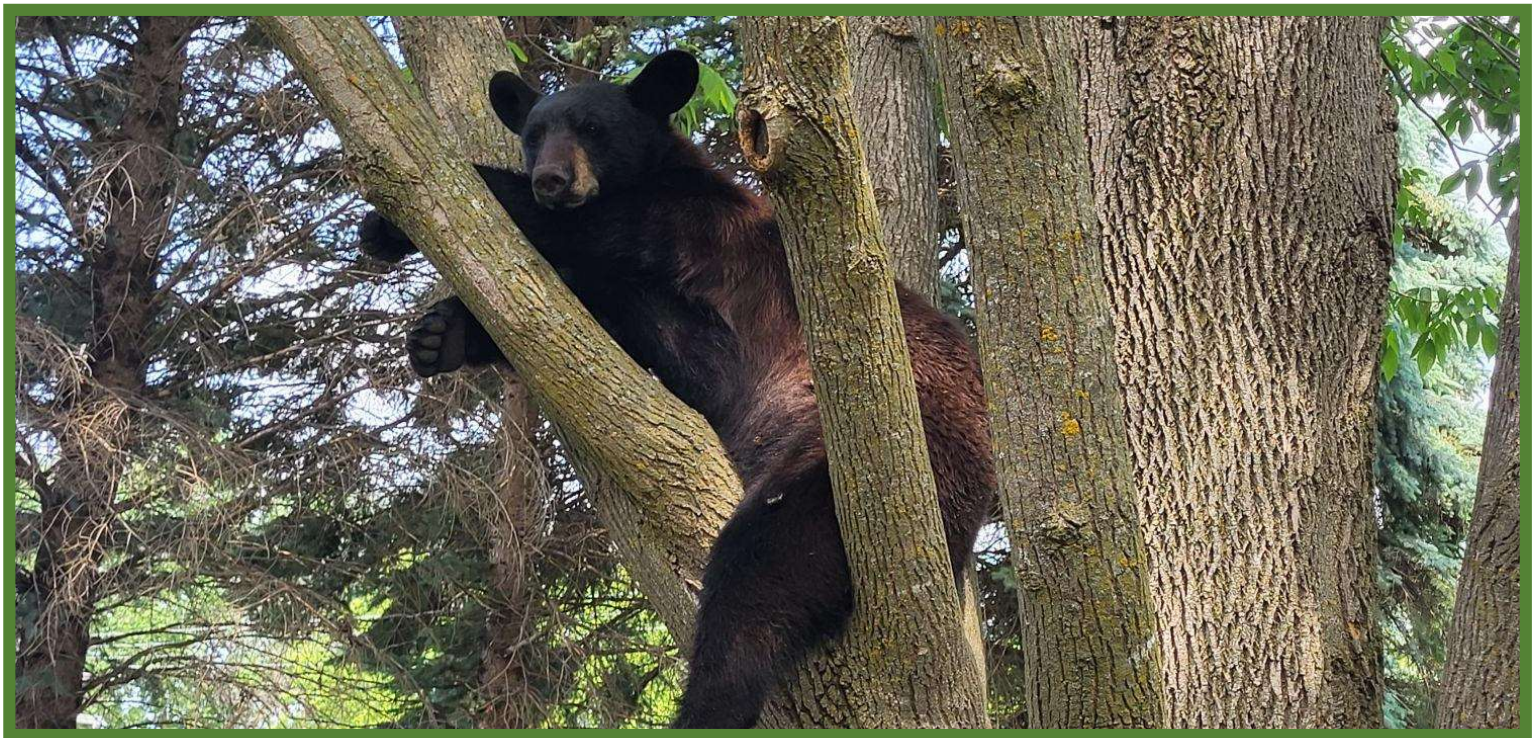
We expect to assist 22 growers with damage that may result in wildlife damage requests equaling or exceeding $1,200 of assessed damage.

Signatures of Intention:

COUNTY: _____ Date: _____

WDNR: _____ Date: _____

USDA-APHIS-WS: _____ Date: _____



COOPERATIVE BEAR DAMAGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES & WDNR
PRELIMINARY BLACK BEAR NUISANCE & DAMAGE REPORT

January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



Photo Credits: (above) WDNR Warden Joe McMahon – River Falls, WI, June 2025. (Below) local resident - Cable, WI, August 2025.

Prepared by (USDA-WS employee): Biological Science Technician, Erin Danke
This is raw data and has not been validated by WS Headquarters

PURPOSE

BEAR CONFLICT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM – WISCONSIN

Black bears are perhaps the single wildlife species most emblematic of Wisconsin's Northwoods, and they have distinct cultural, social, and economic value. Bears are of high cultural significance to Wisconsin's Native American tribes, are an integral component of northern Wisconsin's ecosystems, support strong and vibrant hunting traditions, and are popular among wildlife photographers, tourists, and residents who enjoy viewing wildlife. However, bears also cause damage to agricultural crops, property, and occasionally pose a threat to human health and safety. The complex relationship between people and bears in Wisconsin has fostered a diverse array of public values and opinions regarding black bears.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services (USDA-Wildlife Services) co-manages bear damage/nuisance abatement and responses to bear complaints with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) since 1990. The USDA-Wildlife Services program is administered from a State Office in Madison and District Offices in Rhinelander and Waupun. The Rhinelander District covers roughly the northern half of the state, while the Waupun Office covers the southern half.

Since 2021, Wisconsin has been a BearWise® state. BearWise is an education and outreach program of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies with the mission of helping people live responsibly with bears. BearWise materials are developed and managed by a team of North American bear biologists and communications professionals and focus on ways to prevent conflicts, resources to solve problems, and encouraging communities to keep bears wild. USDA-Wildlife Services and WDNR partner to implement BearWise in Wisconsin.

Conflict management is an important component of bear management in Wisconsin. While bear-human conflicts on a statewide level may not be significant, impacts to individuals can be significant and serious. Bear range expansion, human development, changes in agriculture production and crop prices, natural food availability, and other factors can greatly influence human tolerance toward bears and the number and severity of bear complaints that wildlife professionals respond to each year. Bear complaints received by USDA-Wildlife Services District Offices on the toll-free lines are screened 7-days a week to determine the type and severity of the complaint. Conflicts are placed in two categories: 1) Technical Assistance and 2) Direct Control.

1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: Includes recommendations, information on bear biology, removal of attractants, literature, instructions, and materials provided to others for use in managing bear conflicts.

1) DIRECT CONTROL ASSISTANCE: Includes field activities/investigations conducted by USDA-Wildlife Services personnel. Is implemented when it has been determined that a problem cannot be resolved with technical assistance. USDA-Wildlife Services personnel may set a culvert/cage trap in an attempt to trap and relocate the bear if appropriate.

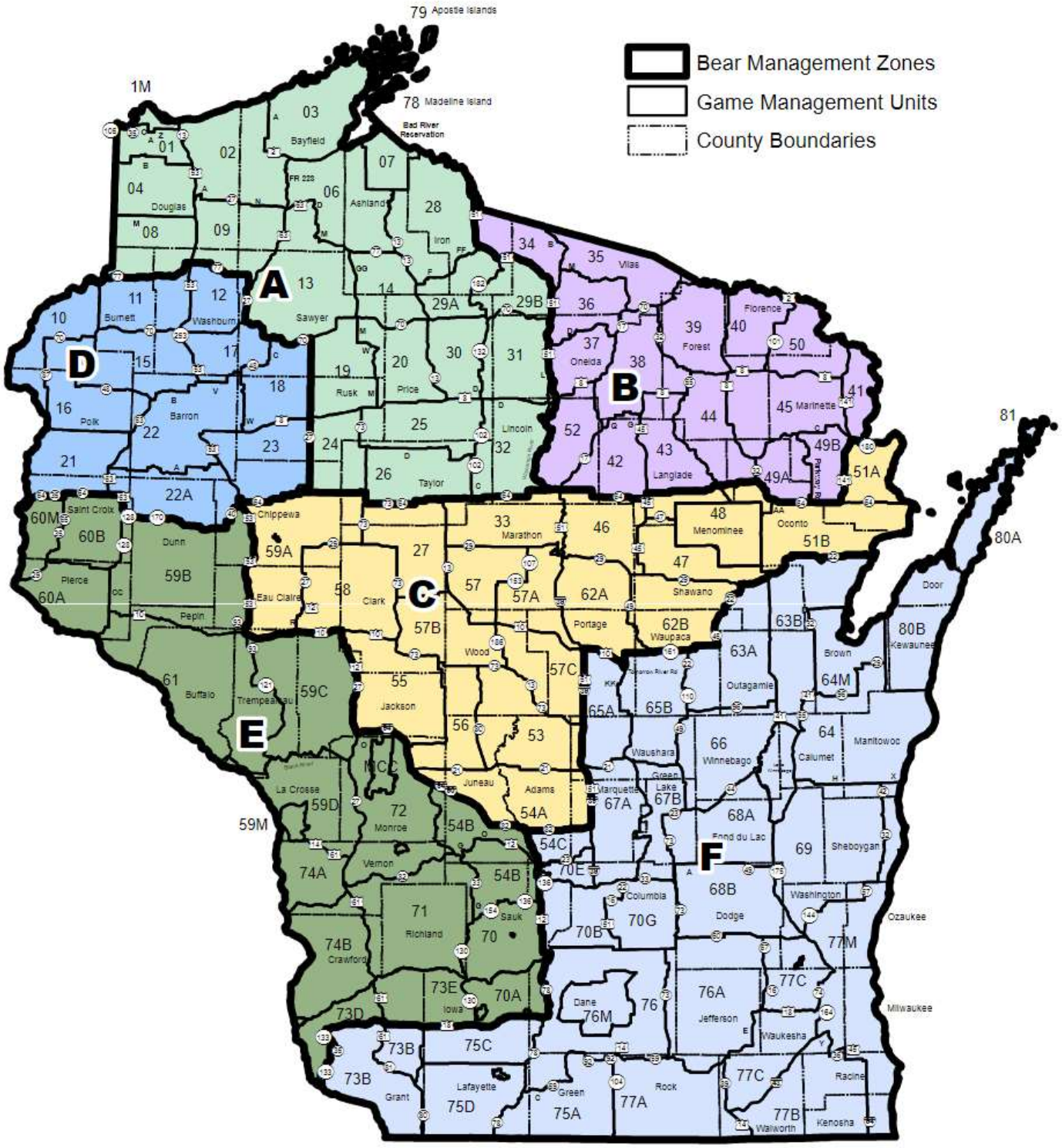
In Wisconsin, human-bear conflicts are separated into three categories: 1) Agriculture Damage, 2) Nuisance, and 3) Property Damage.

2) AGRICULTURE DAMAGE: Includes bear damage to agricultural crops, apiaries (beehive), stored livestock feed, and livestock depredation. Bear commonly damage corn, especially when corn is in the "milk" stage. Bear depredation to livestock is a rare event in Wisconsin.

3) NUISANCE: Includes bear causing problems to bird feeders, garbage cans, dumpsters, campgrounds or similar situations that generally involve attractants.

4) PROPERTY DAMAGE: Includes bear damage to structures (non-residential or residential), vehicles, pets/hobby animals, and sap collection equipment valued greater than $100.00.

Black Bear Management Zones and Game Management Units



Will Ceelen
GIS Service Section
06/04/2021

*State Park Boundaries and Metro Sub-units are not labeled

TABLE 1

NUMBER OF BEAR COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AND BEARS CAPTURED BY RESOURCE

USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES

January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025

COMPLAINT TYPE	NO. OF COMPLAINTS	HANDLED TA*	HANDLED DC**	BEARS CAPTURED
APIARY	16	11	5	11
CROPS	85	13	72	498
LIVESTOCK	11	5	6	3
NUISANCE	633	539	94	125***
PROPERTY	102	40	62	44****
TOTALS	**847**	**608**	**239**	**681**

** Technical assistance (TA) includes all complaints which were resolved with education, advice, recommendations.*

*** Direct control (DC) includes all complaints where a trap was set.*

**** 1 bear captured related to incidental catch*

*****9 bears captured related to research projects*

TABLE 2

BEAR COMPLAINTS BY BEAR MANAGEMENT ZONE AND RESOURCE

USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES

January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025

BMZ	APIARY	CROPS	LIVESTOCK	NUISANCE	PROPERTY		TOTALS
A	6	34	0	241	55		336
B	1	4	1	73	9		88
C	4	6	0	96	15		121
D	2	37	3	141	12		195
E	0	4	6	54	11		75
F	3	0	1	28	0		32
TOTALS	**16**	**85**	**11**	**633**	**102**		**847**

TABLE 3

BEAR CAPTURES BY BEAR MANAGEMENT ZONE AND RESOURCE

USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES

January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025

BMZ	APIARY	CROPS	LIVESTOCK	NUISANCE	PROPERTY		TOTALS
A	4	315	0	74**	36*		429
B	0	3	2	4	2		11
C	4	0	1	5	3		13
D	3	180	0	37	2		222
E	0	0	0	4	1		5
F	0	0	0	1	0		1
TOTALS	**11**	**498**	**3**	**125**	**44**		**681*** **

**9 bears captured related to research projects in BMZ A*

***1 bear captured related to incidental catch in BMZ A*

**** Total: 9 bears captured related to research projects and 1 bear captured related to incidental catch*

Prepared by (USDA-WS employee): Biological Science Technician, Erin Danke

This is raw data and has not been validated by WS Headquarters

TABLE 4

BEAR COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES BY COUNTY AND RESOURCE

January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025

COUNTY	AGRICULTURE	NUISANCE	PROPERTY		TOTALS
ADAMS	0	1	0		1
ASHLAND	4	14	3		21
BARRON	6	36	4		46
BAYFIELD	5	49	9		63
BROWN	0	1	0		1
BUFFALO	1	1	1		3
BURNETT	8	26	2		36
CHIPPEWA	5	23	2		30
CLARK	1	3	1		5
DANE	0	2	0		2
DODGE	0	1	0		1
DOUGLAS	3	84	20		107
DUNN	1	1	2		4
EAU CLAIRE	1	4	1		6
FLORENCE	0	1	3		4
FOND DU LAC	0	6	0		6
FOREST	1	3	2		6
IRON	1	8	0		9
JACKSON	2	0	0		2
JUNEAU	0	9	0		9
LA CROSSE	0	5	0		5
LANGLADE	2	5	0		7
LINCOLN	0	18	1		19
MARATHON	3	16	6		25
MARINETTE	2	14	1		17
MARQUETTE	0	2	0		2
MONROE	0	1	0		1
OCONTO	3	14	1		18
ONEIDA	2	38	2		42
OUTAGAMIE	0	3	0		3
PEPIN	0	1	0		1
PIERCE	0	10	4		14
POLK	3	23	1		27
PORTAGE	1	12	3		16
PRICE	7	16	4		27
RUSK	17	17	3		37
SAINT CROIX	2	34	4		40
SAUK	0	5	0		5
SAWYER	13	57	16		86
SHAWANO	1	14	0		15
TAYLOR	2	4	1		7
TREMPEALEAU	5	4	0		9
VILAS	0	7	2		9
WASHBURN	9	27	3		39
WAUPACA	0	2	0		2
WAUSHARA	0	2	0		2
WINNEBAGO	0	1	0		1
WOOD	1	8	0		9
TOTALS	**112**	**633**	**102**		**847**

Prepared by (USDA-WS employee): Biological Science Technician, Erin Danke
This is raw data and has not been validated by WS Headquarters

TABLE 5

BEAR CAPTURES BY USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES BY COUNTY AND RESOURCE

January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025

COUNTY	AGRICULTURE	NUISANCE	PROPERTY		TOTALS
ASHLAND	8	5	6*		19
BARRON	17	8	0		25
BAYFIELD	38	14	3		55
BURNETT	22	12	0		34
CLARK	1	0	0		1
DANE	0	1	0		1
DOUGLAS	10	21	8		39
DUNN	0	0	1		1
EAU CLAIRE	0	0	1		1
FLORENCE	0	0	1		1
IRON	30	3	0		33
LANGLADE	2	0	0		2
LINCOLN	0	2	0		2
MARATHON	4	1	0		5
MARINETTE	2	3	3		8
OCONTO	0	1	0		1
ONEIDA	2	1	1		4
PIERCE	0	2	0		2
POLK	18	9	0		27
PORTAGE	0	1	0		1
PRICE	6	2	3		11
RUSK	133	5	2		140
SAINT CROIX	0	2	0		2
SAWYER	170	25**	15***		210
TAYLOR	15	0	0		15
WASHBURN	34	6	0		40
WOOD	0	1	0		1
TOTALS	**512**	**125**	**44**		**681****

**6 bears captured related to research projects*

***1 bear captured related to incidental catch*

****3 bears captured related to research projects*

*****Total: 9 bears captured related to research projects, 1 bear captured related to incidental catch*

Prepared by (USDA-WS employee): Biological Science Technician, Erin Danke

This is raw data and has not been validated by WS Headquarters

TABLE 6

EUTHANIZED BEARS

USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES

January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025

1 = RHINELANDER DISTRICT: WI			*3 = WAUPUN DISTRICT: WI*				
DISTRICT	**DATE**	**COUNTY**	**RESOURCE TYPE**	**RESOURCE NAME**	**QUANTITY**	**FATE**	**PROJECT**
1	27-JAN-25	LINCOLN	HEALTH AND SAFETY	HLTH/SFTY, HUMAN Z-(GENERAL)	1	KILLED	BMU A
1	24-MAY-25	LANGLADE	AGRICULTURE	CATTLE CALVES (BEEF)	1	KILLED	BMU B
3	22-MAY-25	CLARK	AGRICULTURE	GOATS, Z- (OTHER ADULTS)	1	KILLED	BMU C
1	25-JUN-25	SAWYER	PROPERTY	BUILDINGS, RESIDENTIAL	1	KILLED	BMU A
1	14-JUL-25	ONEIDA	AGRICULTURE	FEED, LIVESTOCK	2	KILLED	BMU A
1	8-SEP-25	SAWYER	HEALTH AND SAFETY	HLTH/SFTY, HUMAN Z-(GENERAL)	1	KILLED	BMU A

TABLE 7

VERIFIED DEPREDATIONS

USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES

January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025

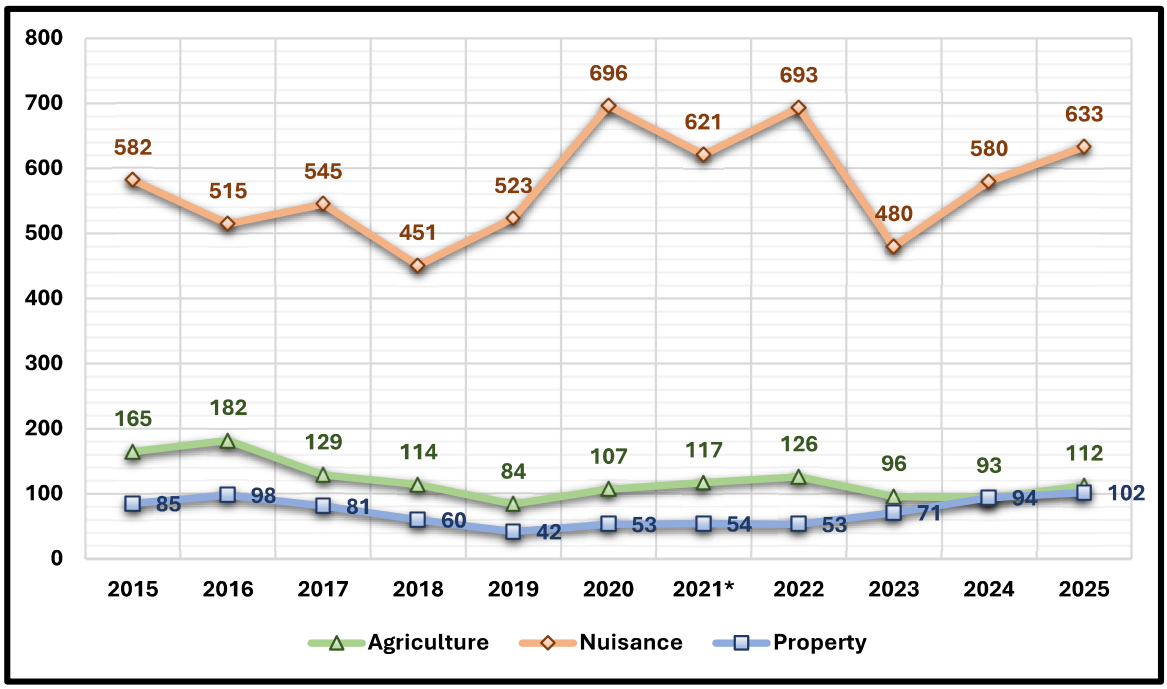
DATE	**COUNTY**	**RESOURCE TYPE**	**RESOURCE NAME**	**QUANTITY**	**DAMAGE**	**LOSS (EACH)**	**PROJECT**
30-APRIL-25	CHIPPEWA	PROPERTY	PETS (COMPANION/HOBBY ANIMALS)	1	PREDATION	$400	BMU C
1-MAY-25	LANGLADE	AGRICULTURE	CATTLE CALVES (BEEF)	1	PREDATION	$1,000	BMU B
10-JUN-25	JACKSON	AGRICULTURE	SHEEP (ADULT)	1	PREDATION	$300	BMU E
13-JUN-25	CHIPPEWA	AGRICULTURE	CATTLE CALVES (DAIRY)	1	PREDATION	$3,360	BMU D
18-JUN-25	JACKSON	AGRICULTURE	GOATS, MEAT (ADULTS)	3	PREDATION	$1,800	BMU E
10-SEP-25	ST CROIX	AGRICULTURE	CATTLE CALVES (BEEF)	1	PREDATION	$2,500	BMU E

CHART 1

STATEWIDE BEAR COMPLAINTS BY RESOURCE

USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES

January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



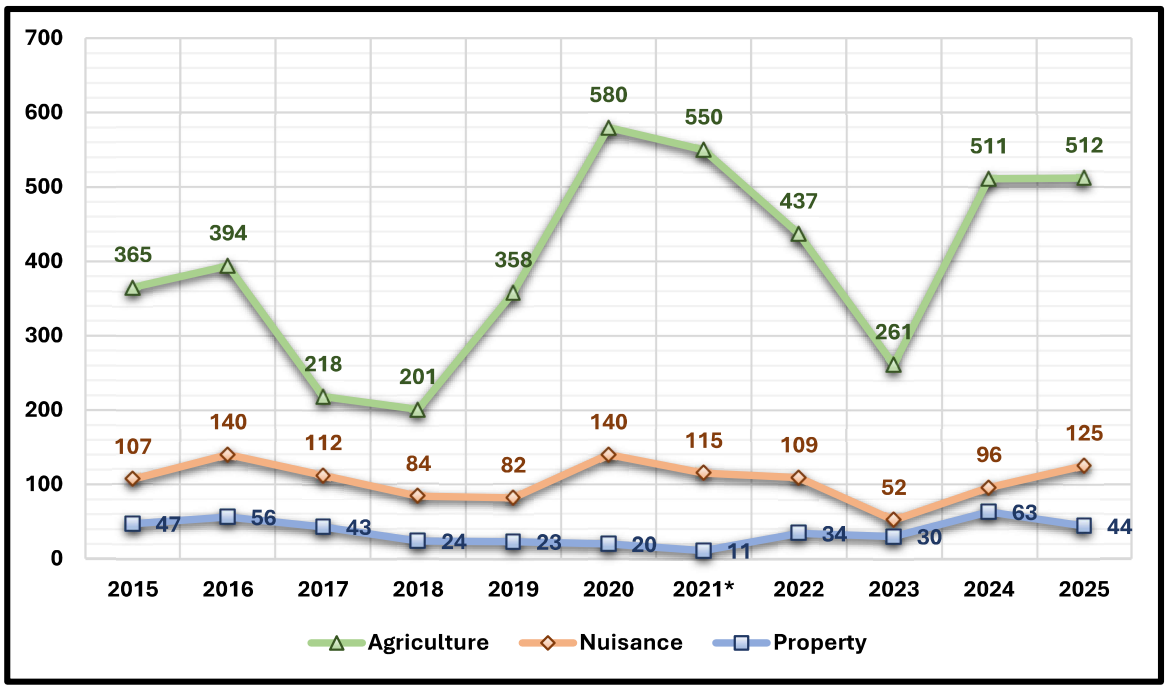
**2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)*

CHART 2

STATEWIDE BEAR CAPTURES BY RESOURCE

USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES

January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



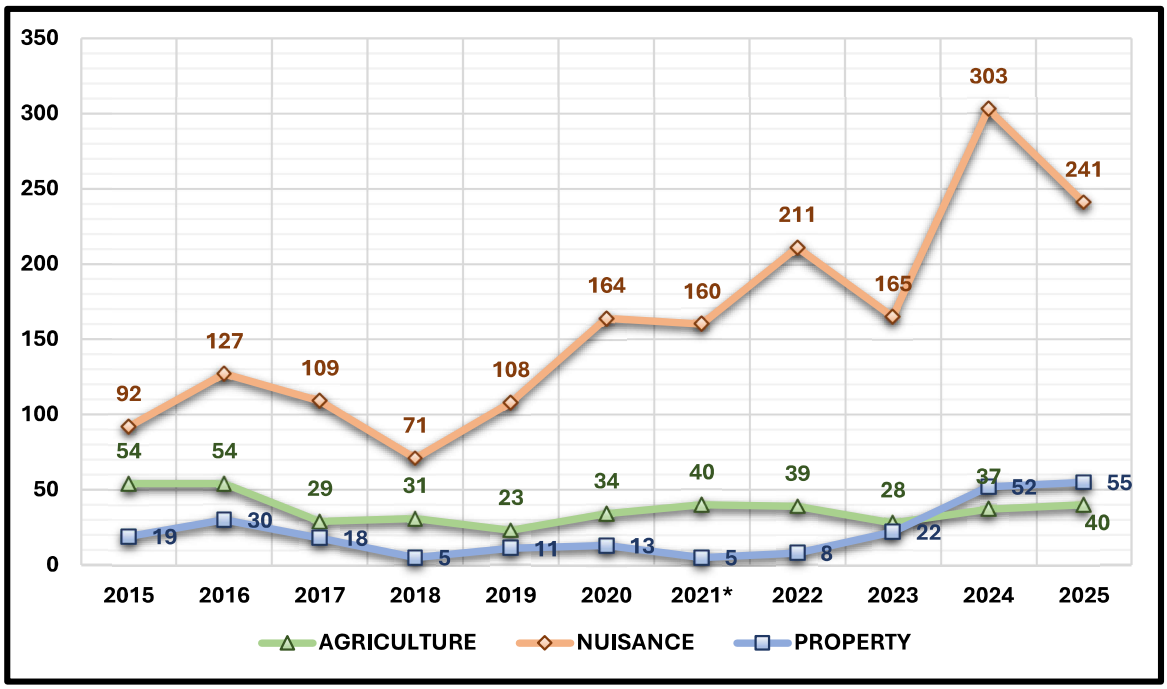
**2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)*

CHART 3A

BEAR COMPLAINTS – BMZ A

USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES

January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



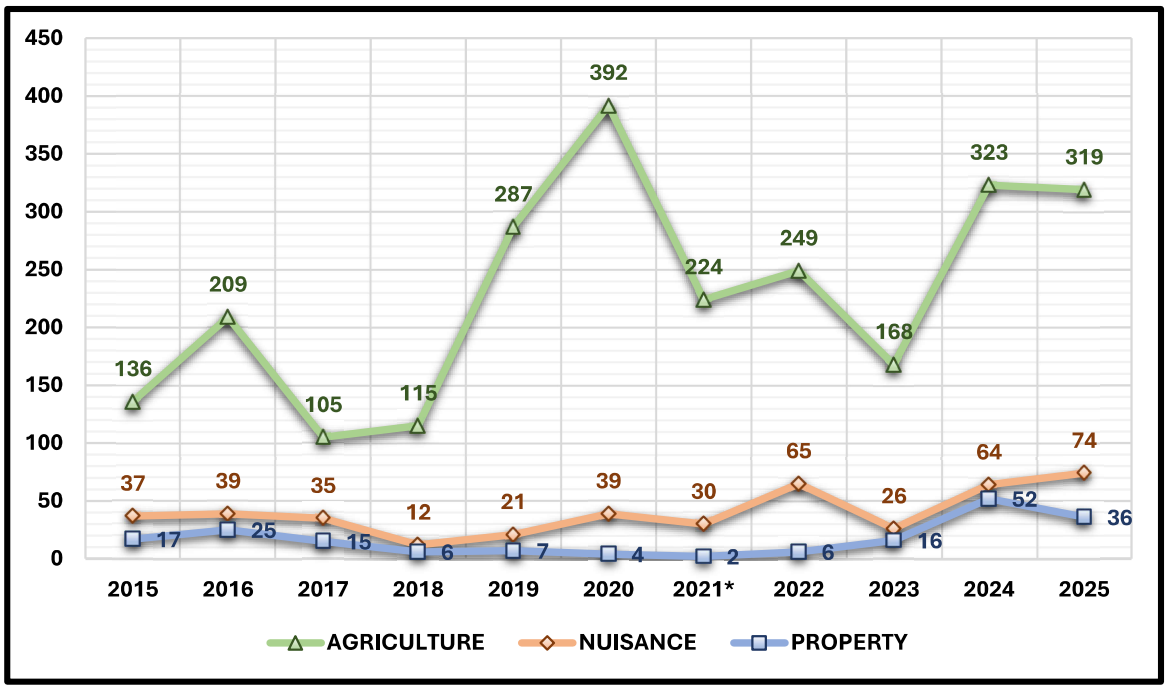
**2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)*

CHART 3B

BEAR CAPTURES – BMZ A

USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES

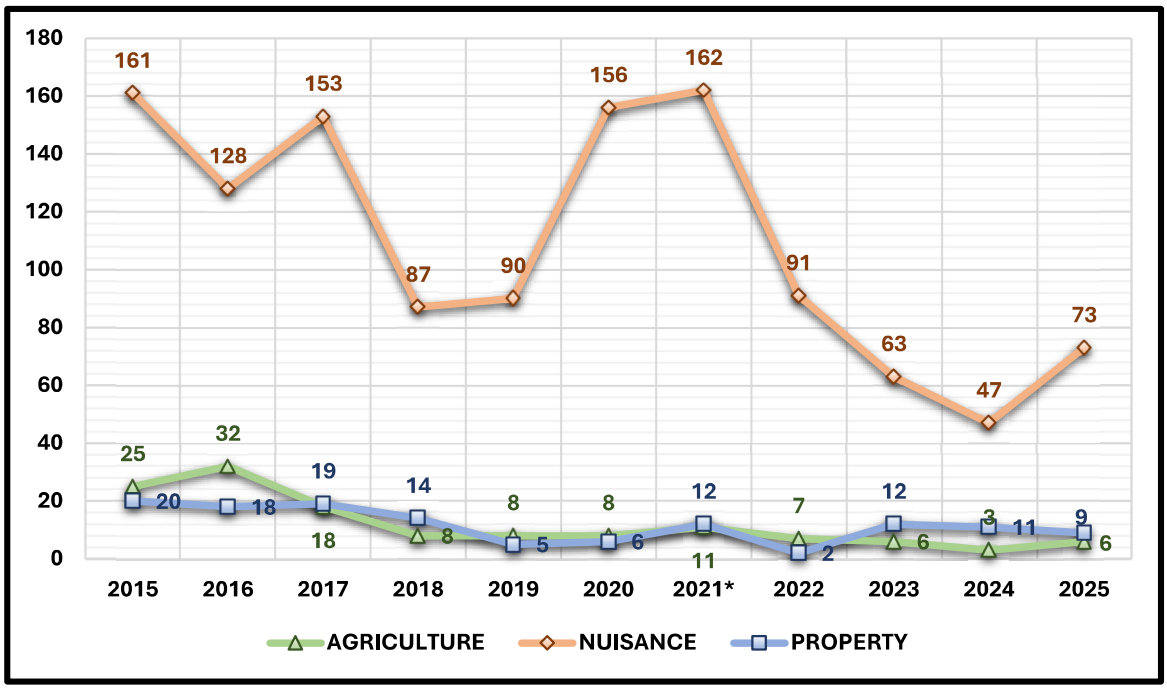
January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



**2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)*

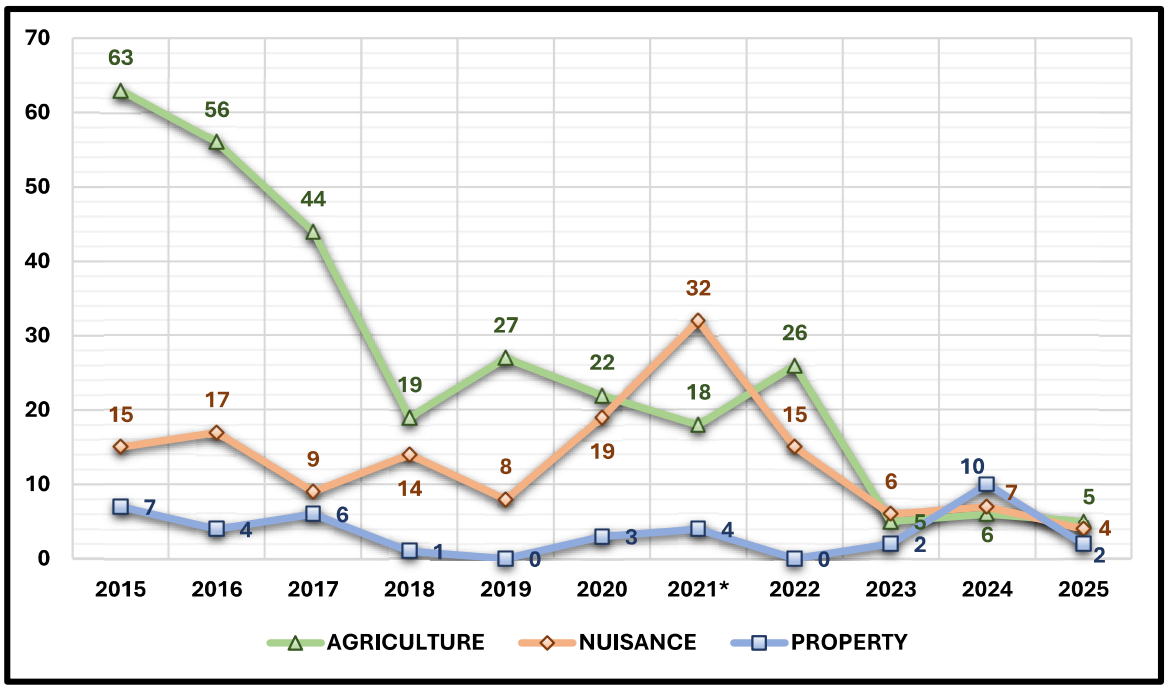
Prepared by (USDA-WS employee): Biological Science Technician, Erin Danke
This is raw data and has not been validated by WS Headquarters

CHART 4A
BEAR COMPLAINTS – BMZ B
USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES
January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



**2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)*

CHART 4B
BEAR CAPTURES – BMZ B
USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES
January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



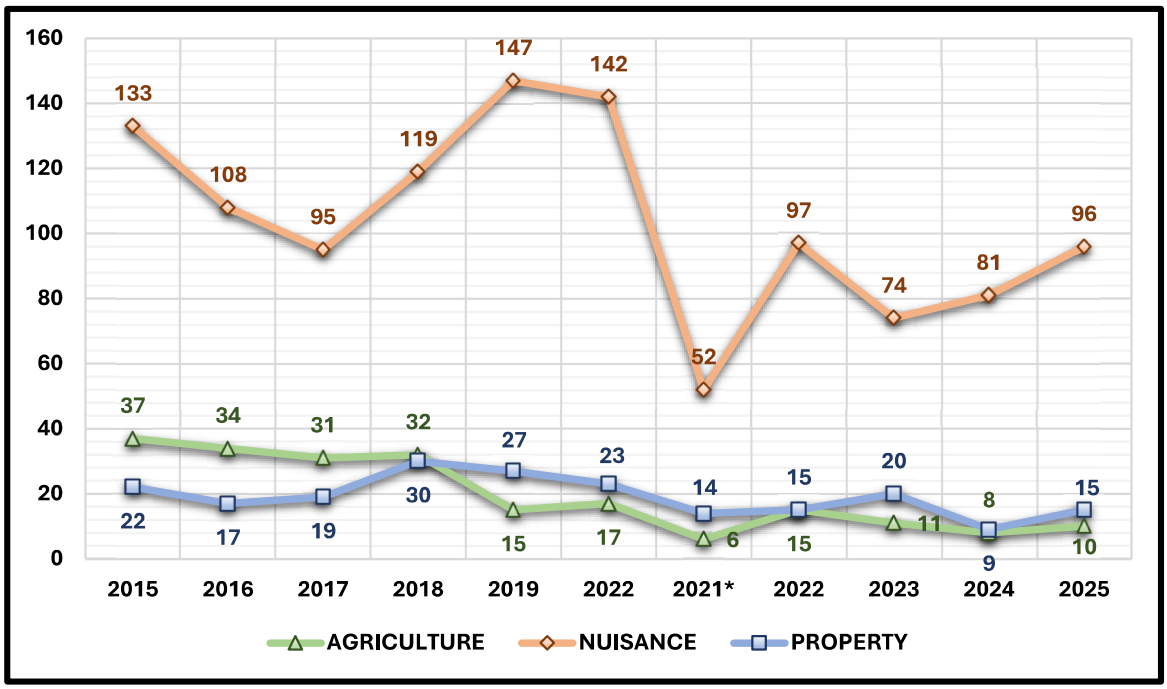
**2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)*

CHART 5A

BEAR COMPLAINTS – BMZ C

USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES

January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



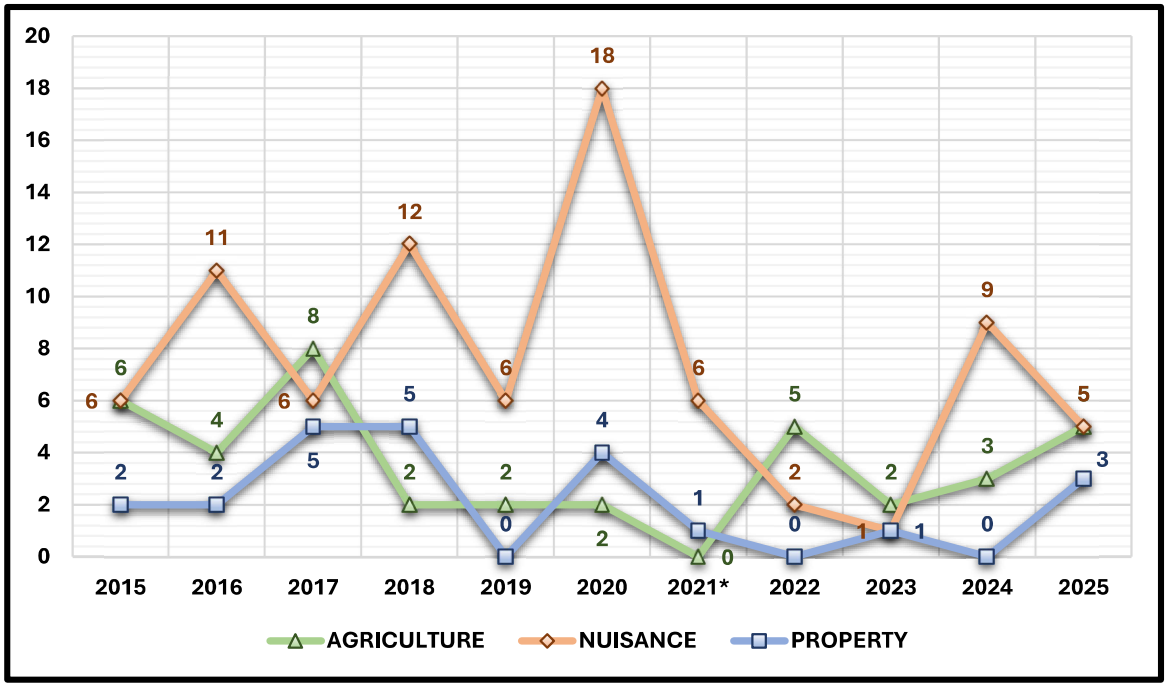
**2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)*

CHART 5B

BEAR CAPTURES – BMZ C

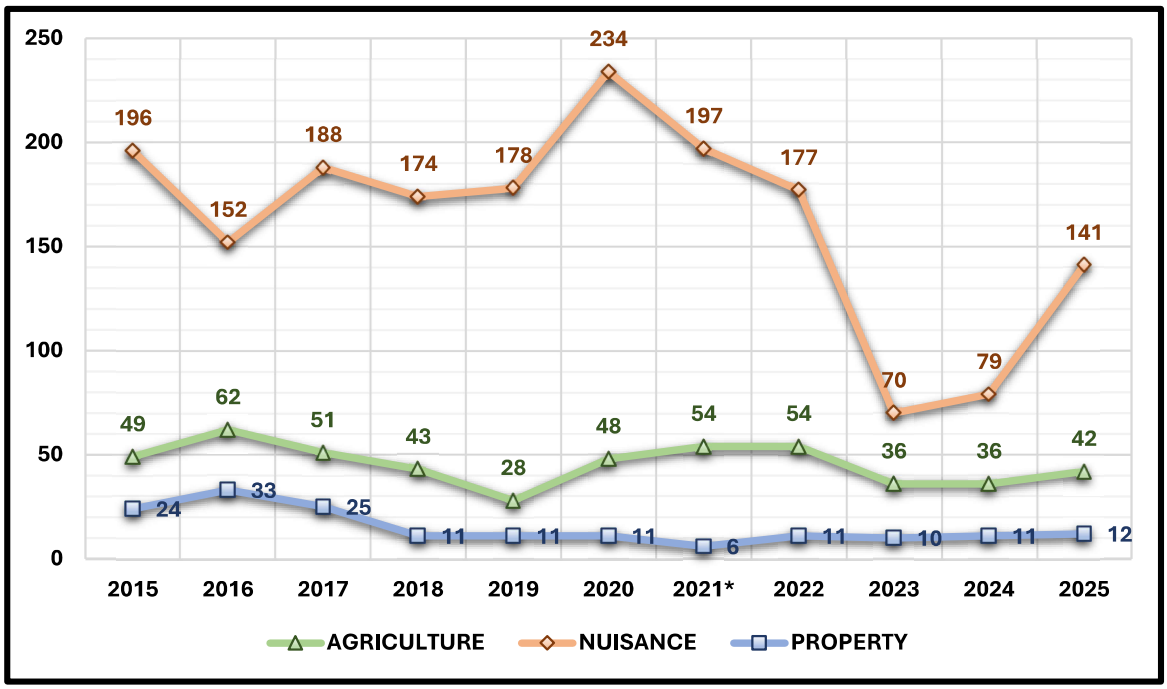
USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES

January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



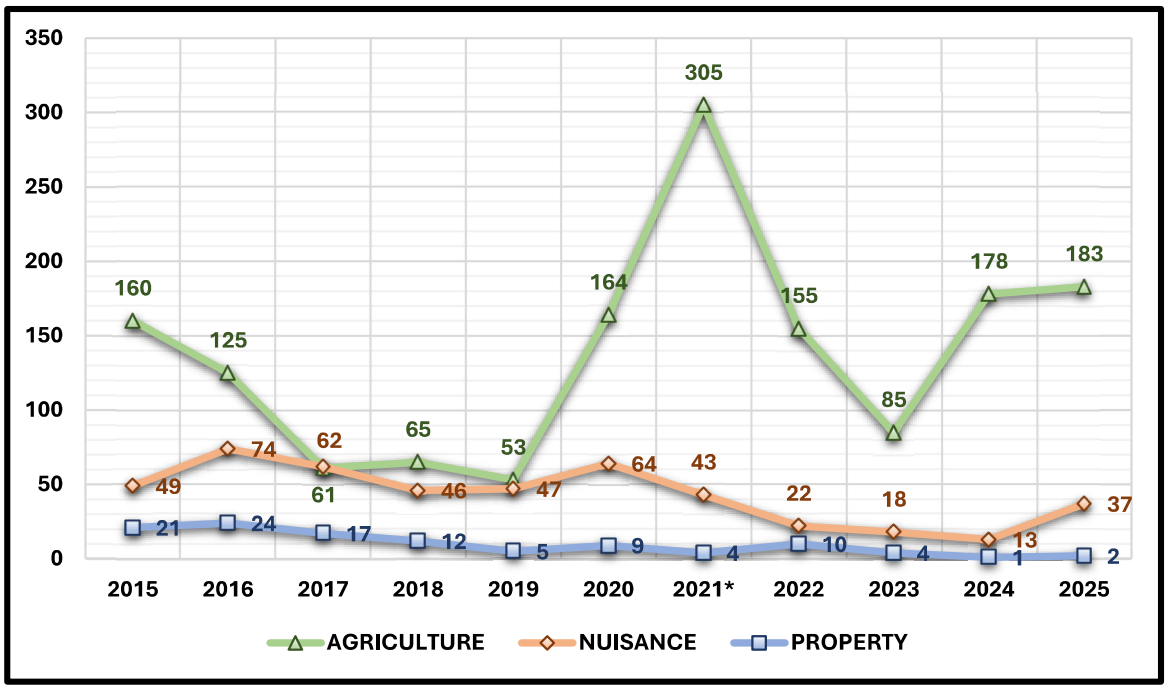
**2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)*

CHART 6A
BEAR COMPLAINTS – BMZ D
USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES
January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



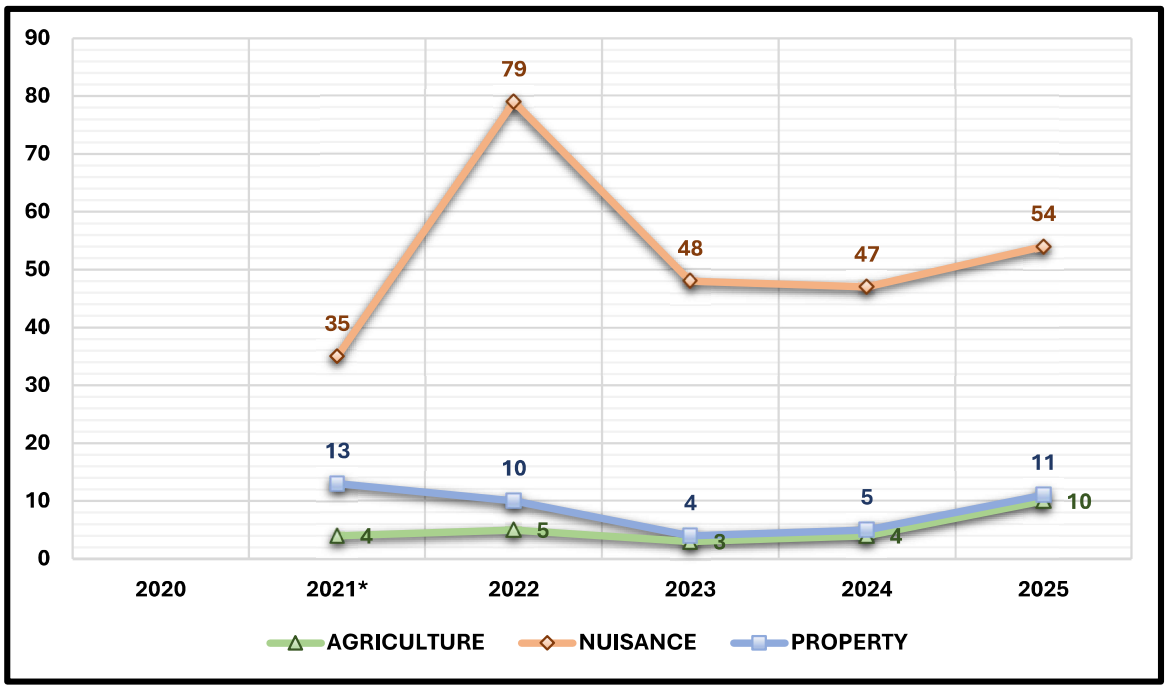
**2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)*

CHART 6B
BEAR CAPTURES – BMZ D
USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES
January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



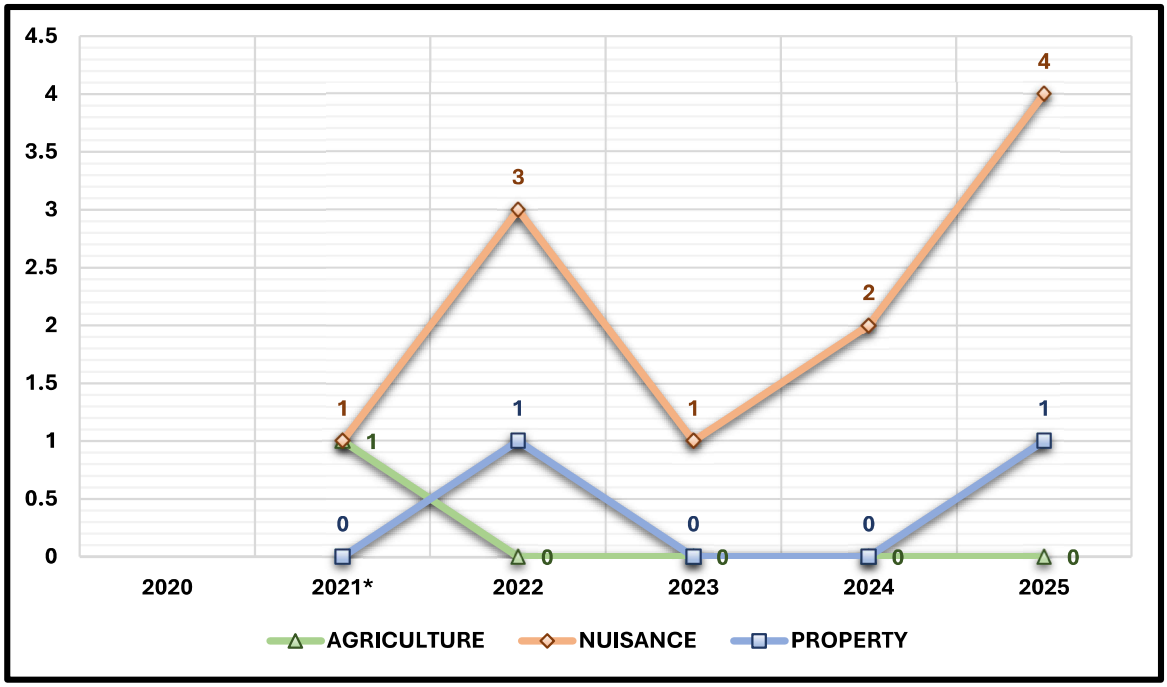
**2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)*

CHART 7A
BEAR COMPLAINTS – BMZ E
USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES
January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



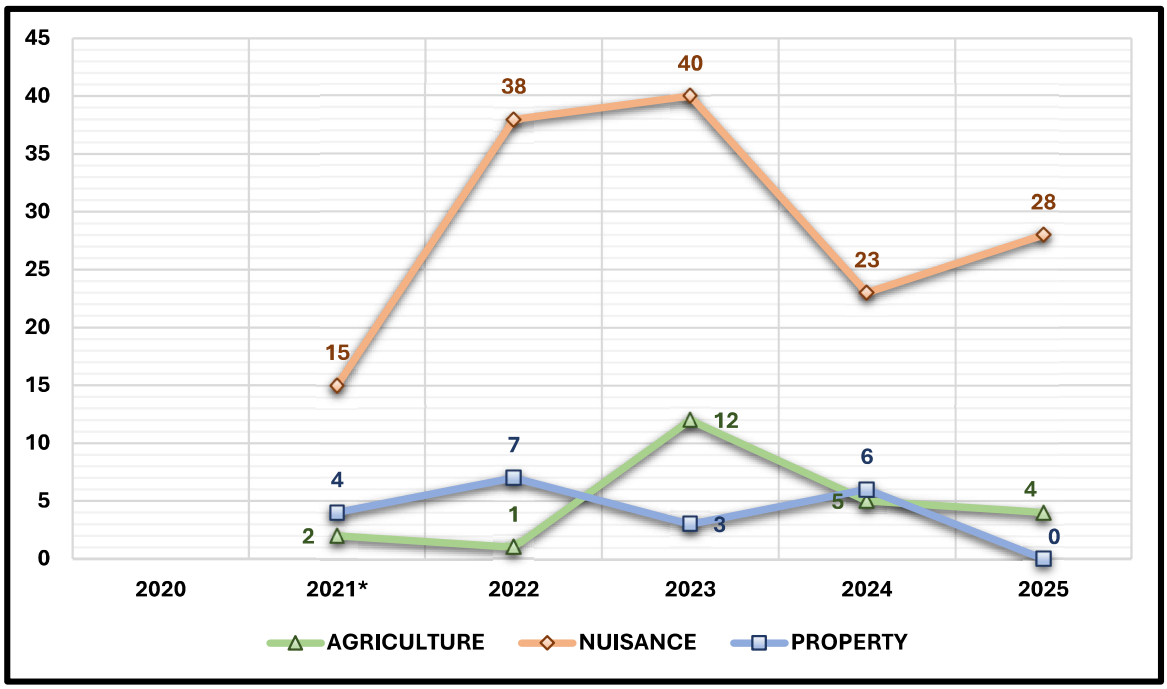
**2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)*

CHART 7B
BEAR CAPTURES – BMZ E
USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES
January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



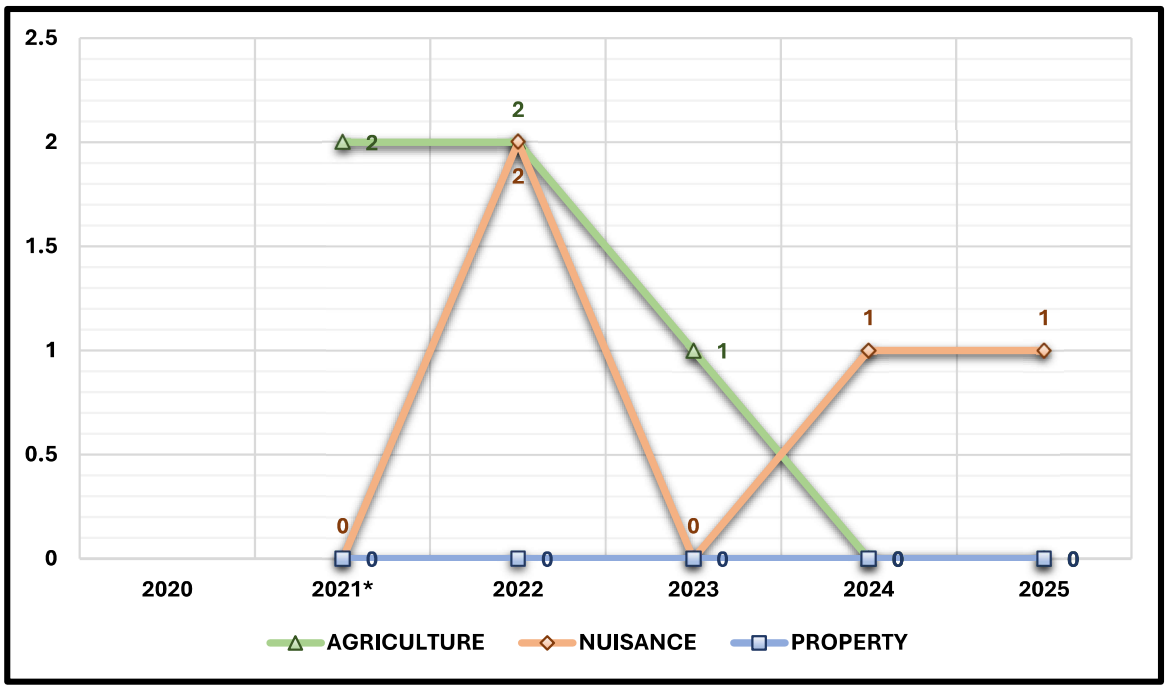
**2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)*

CHART 8A
BEAR COMPLAINTS – BMZ F
USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES
January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



**2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)*

CHART 8B
BEAR CAPTURES – BMZ F
USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES
January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



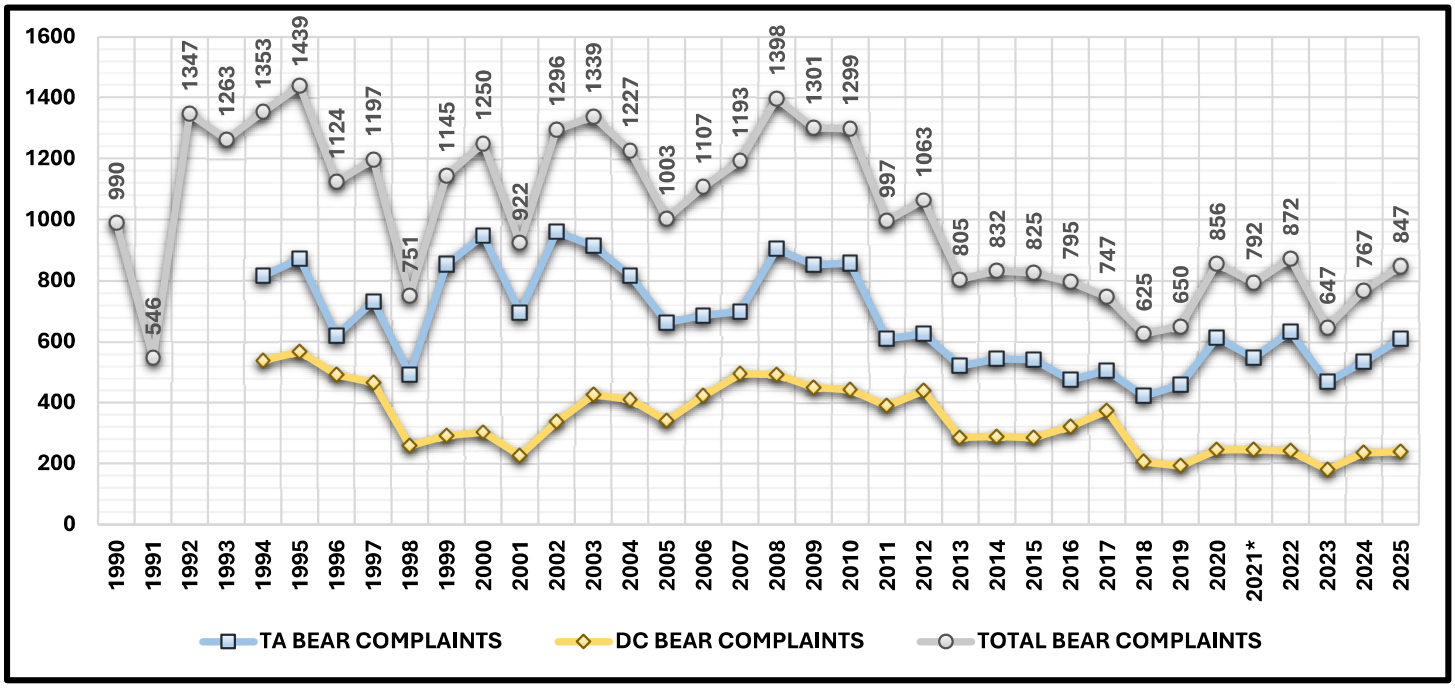
**2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)*

FIGURE 1

TOTAL NUMBER OF BLACK BEAR COMPLAINTS, COMPLAINTS HANDLED WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA), AND COMPLAINTS REQUIRING DIRECT CONTROL (DC)

USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES

January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



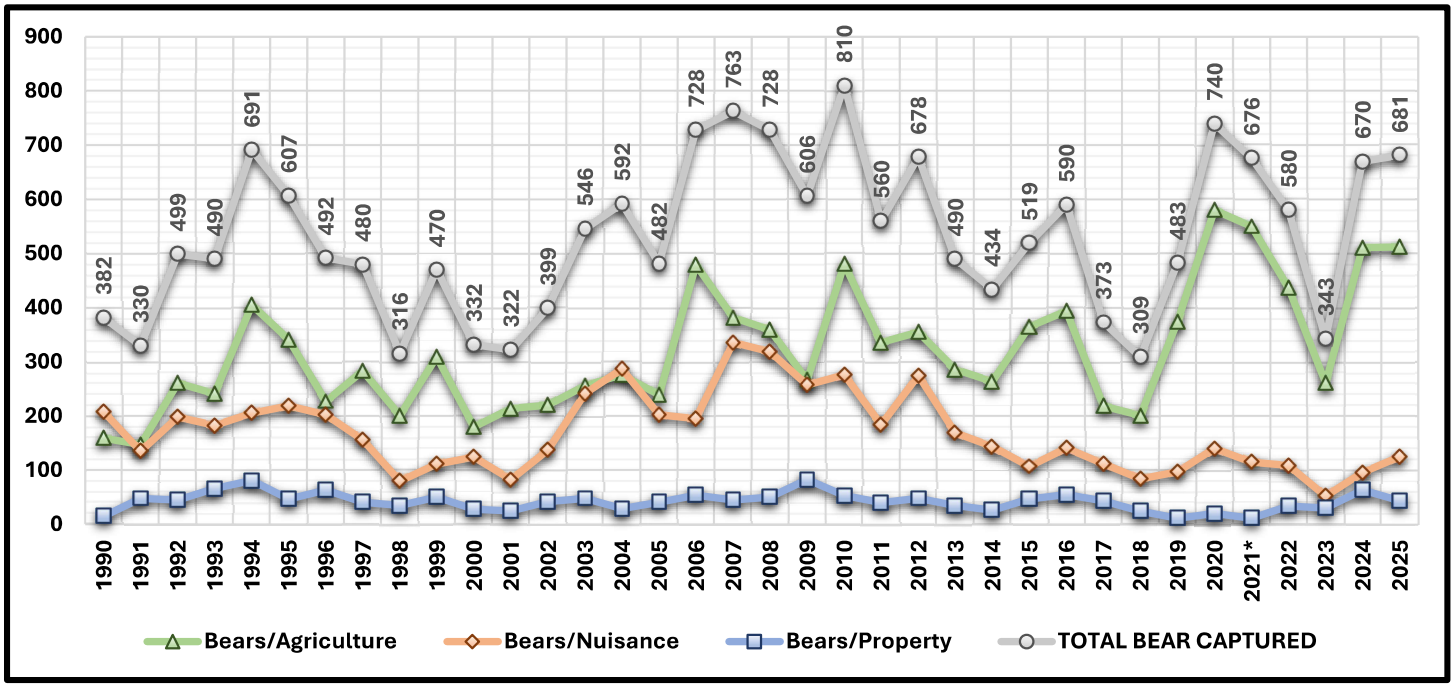
**2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)*

FIGURE 2

TOTAL NUMBER BLACK BEAR CAPTURES BY WILDLIFE SERVICES BY TYPE OF COMPLAINT

USDA-APHIS-WILDLIFE SERVICES

January 1, 2025 - November 14, 2025



**2021 – WDNR Bear Management Zone Boundaries changed from 4 zones(A-D) to 6 zones (A-F)*

Prepared by (USDA-WS employee): Biological Science Technician, Erin Danke
This is raw data and has not been validated by WS Headquarters

Wisconsin Deer Donation 2027

County Agreement to Participate

Choose an item. County agrees to participate in the WDACP venison donation program in **2027** and to administer the program as set forth in the Wisconsin Deer Donation County Information Packet. The WDNR WDACP agrees to fully reimburse the county for all administrative and venison processing costs associated with the deer donation program.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____

State of Wisconsin

Department of Natural Resources

For the Secretary

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Director, Bureau of Wildlife Management

Budget & Budget Justification
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Barron County Groundwater Quality Index – FY27 – FY31

Budget

FY27

Services	**$11,752.00**
Supplies & Expenses	**$2,704.00**
Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)	**$14,456.00**
Indirect Costs (38.3% applied to MTDC)	**$5,537.00**
Total Costs	**$19,993.00**

FY28

Services	**$12,105.00**
Supplies & Expenses	**$2,785.00**
Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)	**$14,890.00**
Indirect Costs (38.3% applied to MTDC)	**$5,703.00**
Total Costs	**$20,592.00**

FY29

Services	**$12,468.00**
Supplies & Expenses	**$2,869.00**
Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)	**$15,336.00**
Indirect Costs (38.3% applied to MTDC)	**$5,874.00**
Total Costs	**$21,210.00**

FY30

Services	**$12,842.00**
Supplies & Expenses	**$2,955.00**
Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)	**$15,796.00**
Indirect Costs (38.3% applied to MTDC)	**$6,050.00**
Total Costs	**$21,847.00**

FY31

Services	**$13,227.00**
Supplies & Expenses	**$3,043.00**
Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)	**$16,270.00**
Indirect Costs (38.3% applied to MTDC)	**$6,232.00**
Total Costs	**$22,502.00**

Budget Justification

Services

The Water and Environmental Analysis Lab in Stevens Point, WI will be processing approximately 208 samples at $52.50 per sample in FY27 for a total of $10,920. As part of their analytical services, the Water and Environmental Analysis Lab is responsible for the outgoing shipping of water sample test kits. This service is $4 per sample in FY27 for a total of $832. Total service costs for FY27 are $11,752. An anticipated annual increase in analytical and outgoing shipping costs of 3% has been applied to years FY28-FY31. Due to potential annual participation attrition, the number of samples may decrease in years FY28-FY31.

Supplies & Expenses

In FY27, approximately $624 will be used for sample packaging costs, labels, participant recruitment, printing, and letter postage. Approximately $2,080 will be used for the cost of return postage for participants mailing sample kits back to the lab for a total of $2,704. An expected annual supplies cost increase of 3% has been applied to FY28-FY31.

Indirect Costs

UW-Stevens Point has a federally negotiated indirect cost rate of 38.3% based on Modified Total Direct Costs ($5,537 in FY27).

Barron County Groundwater Quality Index – FY27 – FY31

Project proposal

Background

A Barron County 2022-2023 well water quality inventory (738 samples) showed that 10% of private wells exceeded the 10 mg/L nitrate-nitrogen drinking water standard. This is greater than the statewide average of 7.3% (DATCP, 2023). Furthermore, results indicated that the Towns of Clinton, Barron, Stanley, Maple Grove, Prairie Lake, Chetek, and Dovre had mean nitrate-nitrogen concentrations greater than 5 mg/L (ppm) in their private well water. While the health standard for nitrate-nitrogen is 10 mg/L, nitrate-nitrogen concentrations above 5 mg/L in private wells indicate contamination from external sources. Elevated nitrate levels generally occur in areas of agricultural activity or areas of dense rural development (i.e. small lot sizes with septic systems, lawn fertilizers, etc.).

Recommendations

- Focus testing efforts on townships with prior data indicating elevated nitrate levels (>5 mg/L nitrate-nitrogen).
- Track groundwater quality over time via nitrate-nitrogen and chloride testing. Nitrate and chloride tests provide valuable information on land use impacts and will help researchers identify wells where nitrate and/or chloride are increasing or decreasing.
    - Additional parameters, such as pH, conductivity, alkalinity, and hardness allow us to better understand water quality changes in relationship to factors such as weather/climate. These additional parameters also add confidence to results and provide important metrics about other water quality characteristics.
- By using historical data to focus testing efforts to selected areas instead of another county-wide study, the focus can be on higher sample counts per township.

Methodology & Timeline

Multiple years of data from the same wells increases our ability to understand whether measured increases or decreases represent a true trend or simply a change in concentration between two points in time. Five years is the minimum number of years recommended for this work to be useful in detecting short-term trends. The longer the period of record, the more information that can be learned about long-term changes of Barron County groundwater.

The proposed contract period is from July 1, 2026 – December 31, 2030. The proposed programming work timeline is as follows:

- Recruitment (September)
- Mail sample kits to participants (October)
- Water Analysis (November - December)
- Mail sample results to individual participants (January-February)
- Annual Report (June-July)

Tests

<u>Nitrate</u>

Nitrate is an important test for all private well owners because 1) it provides insight into land use impacts to groundwater/private wells, and 2) nitrate at elevated levels is associated with negative health outcomes. Levels greater than 10 mg/L nitrate-nitrogen should not be consumed by infants or

women who are or trying to become pregnant. Everyone is encouraged to avoid long-term consumption of nitrate greater than 10 mg/L.

Nitrate is a chemical commonly found in agricultural and lawn fertilizer. It is also produced when organic rich materials such as manure, bio-solids, septic system effluent, etc. decompose. Nitrate is a very soluble form of nitrogen and can easily leach past the root zone of plants into our groundwater. Levels of nitrate in groundwater are generally less than 1 mg/L in natural or areas of little human influence. Elevated levels generally occur in areas of agricultural activity or areas of dense rural development (i.e. small lot sizes with septic systems, lawn fertilizers, etc.). Soils and geology make certain areas more prone to nitrate losses to groundwater. For these reasons, nitrate is a good test to perform if trying to understand the impacts of land use on groundwater quality as well as trends over time.

Chloride

Like nitrate, chloride is a useful tool for understanding the impacts of land use. Major sources of chloride to groundwater include fertilizer, road salting and septic system drainfields. Potash is used to add potassium to soil. The most common form of potash is potassium chloride; the chloride is susceptible to leaching. Road salt (usually sodium chloride) helps in deicing roads but is then washed off roads into ditches or other pervious areas where it soaks into the soil and can eventually leach to groundwater. Septic system drainfields dispose of wastewater which contains chloride from human waste and water softener salt. Unlike nitrate, there are no negative health outcomes associated with chloride at levels typically found in Wisconsin's groundwater.

Alkalinity

Alkalinity is a measure of water's ability to neutralize acid. It is generated by the dissolution of carbonate minerals common to Wisconsin. Groundwater alkalinity measurements are relatively stable from one year to the next. Testing for alkalinity would help in understanding if a particular sampling event was influenced by rainfall or snowmelt because alkalinity should be relatively consistent under normal conditions. Also useful for verifying that sample has not been treated with reverse osmosis.

Conductivity

Conductivity is a measure of the amount of total dissolved ions in water but does not give an indication of which minerals are present. In most uncontaminated waters, however, conductivity is about twice the total hardness value in an unsoftened water source. Changes in conductivity over time may indicate changes in overall water quality. There are no health concerns at levels of conductivity found in Wisconsin's groundwater.

Hardness

Hardness measures the amount of calcium and magnesium in water. Hard water can cause scale deposits on fixtures, in pipes or water heaters. Water that is naturally low in hardness is often referred to as soft and can be corrosive. There are no health concerns associated with drinking hard water. Water less than 150 mg/L is considered soft while values greater than 200 mg/L are considered hard. Concentrations are expressed as mg/L as CaCO3. Also useful for verifying that sample has not been treated with a water softener or reverse osmosis.

pH

The pH test is a measure of acidity. The lower the pH, the more corrosive the water. There is no health standard for pH, however corrosion of metal plumbing or fixtures is more likely to occur when pH levels

are less than 7. Water greater than 7 is more likely to result in scaling. Low pH water may be more likely to result in elevated levels of copper and/or lead if those elements are included in your plumbing system.

Well Selection & Recruitment

A minimum of 208 wells in Barron County will be sampled for this project. Potential participants will be selected from wells in the Towns of Clinton, Barron, Stanley, Maple Grove, Prairie Lake, Chetek, and Dovre as those townships have had mean nitrate-nitrogen concentrations greater than 5 mg/L. The 5 mg/L threshold is indicative of land use impacts. These potential participants will be contacted via mail and asked to respond within a certain time frame. Expectations of and benefits to participants will be conveyed at that time. Recruitment materials will include the caveat that testing will be capped at 208 participants. Well owners in the seven towns who participated in the 2022-2023 well water quality inventory will be given recruitment preference (271 wells). If participants decline or we do not hear back, we will continue recruiting from other wells in the area until our goal of 208 wells in year one is reached.

Additional recruitment beyond the 271 well owners who previously participated will have selection preference for wells drilled post-1988 that have an existing well construction report (i.e. known well depth, casing depth, depth to water, depth to rock, etc.). This ensures a higher likelihood that wells selected are up to modern day code. Having access to well construction information also allows us to maximize what we are able to learn about groundwater quality at different depths or relate results to specific geologic differences.

Testing

Participants will be mailed a sample bottle with instructions. Participants will collect their sample and send it back to the laboratory using a pre-paid mailer. Samples will be analyzed at the Water and Environmental Analysis Laboratory at UW-Stevens Point, which is state-certified to perform the tests of interest. Following sample analysis participants will be mailed a copy of their individual result along with interpretive information.

Reporting & Education

An annual summary of results will be generated for Barron County that provides an overview, summary data, and interpretation of results. Important metrics that we typically report on include average, median, minimum, maximum concentrations by county, towns, aquifer category, land use, and casing depth. Maps will be generated to provide understanding of water quality across Barron County.

Our intent is not to display or share the data at a parcel level but provide a general idea of groundwater quality spatially. As a result, we plan to map display data at a county-wide scale to the centroid of a section (1 square mile area). As the dataset grows, additional data analysis will be performed and information added to help interpret trends and changes to groundwater quality that may be occurring.

Outreach materials, both written and web-based, will be generated and updated throughout the project to communicate results.

Data & Project Deliverables

This work will result in the following project deliverables:

1. An annual in-person update or educational webinar.

2. An annual report will be provided to Barron County at the completion of each year summarizing results from the annual testing.
3. After each well test, each well owner will receive a copy of their individual test results along with interpretive information.
4. An online interactive data visualization tool will be updated with each additional year of data.
5. Data will be archived in the Center for Watershed Science and Education database and integrated into the WI Well Water Viewer. The viewer aggregates well water data to a 1 square mile area.
6. Any databases, raw data files, or other electronic files generated as a result of this project will be provided via preferred format to Barron County.

DARM-BLWR-016

Certificate of Compliance Number 03 - 00260

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Division of Agricultural Resource Management
PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911
More information: https://farmlandpreservation.wi.gov

Certificate of Compliance with Soil & Water Conservation Standards

(Farmland Preservation Program, ss. 91.80 and 91.82, Wis. Stats.)
Personally identifiable information provided may be used for purposes other than that for which it was collected. Wis. Stat §15.04 (1)(m).

Landowner Information

To claim the farmland preservation tax credit under subch. IX of ch. 71, Stats, this completed certificate of compliance form is required to be submitted with your tax return filed with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, if you did not claim a tax credit for the preceding year.

LANDOWNER(S)		
Duncan Family Living Trust		
STREET ADDRESS		
1338 12th Ave. .		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
Barron	WI	54812
PHONE	E-MAIL	

-Enter Property Information on Reverse-

Certification *(To be completed by the county land conservation committee)*

The undersigned, on behalf of the **Barron** County Land Conservation Committee, hereby certifies that the land identified on this form is a part of a farm, all of which is in compliance with soil and water conservation standards under s. 91.80, Wis. Stats.

Certification based upon:

☒ Farm Inspection Date of Inspection: 07/08/26

☐ Other Demonstration of Compliance Explanation:

Applicable Year: 2026

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE	DATE
PRINTED NAME AND TITLE	PHONE
Randall Cook Sr. - Barron Co. LCC Chairman	(715) 537 - 6315
STREET ADDRESS	
335 E. Monroe Ave. Rm. 2104	

CITY	STATE	ZIP
Barron	WI	54812

Contact the County Land Conservation Department in the county where your farm is located to verify updates to this certificate including sale or purchase of land, entity name change, or other.

Property Location

Certificate of Compliance Number 03 - 00260

Please complete the table for all parcels under common ownership regardless of whether you are eligible to claim the farmland preservation tax credit on all parcels. Contact your local zoning authority to confirm whether your land is located in a farmland preservation zoning district (FP district). Contact your county conservation department to confirm whether you have an eligible farmland preservation agreement (FP agreement) or easement under s. 93.73, Wis. Stats.. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Township	*Range*	*Section*	*Town, Village, City*	*Parcel Tax ID #*	*Total Acres in Parcel*	*Eligible acres*[1]		
						Total acres of parcel subject to FP Agreement and located in a FP District *$12.50/acre*	*Total acres of parcel located in FP District* *$10.00/acre*	*Total acres of parcel covered by an eligible FP Agreement or easement*[2] *$10.00/acre*
34N	12W	32	Town of Barron	006-3200-12-000	20.0	0.0	20.0	0.0
34N	12W	32	Town of Barron	006-3200-15-000	19.63	0.0	19.63	0.0
34N	12W	32	Town of Barron	006-3200-16-000	24.36	0.0	24.36	0.0
34N	12W	32	Town of Barron	006-3200-17-000	5.01	0.0	5.01	0.0
33N	12W	04	Town of Maple Grove	028-0400-09-000	40.0	0.0	40.0	0.0
33N	12W	04	Town of Maple Grove	028-0400-10-000	34.09	0.0	34.09	0.0
33N	12W	04	Town of Maple Grove	028-0400-16-000	41.5	0.0	41.5	0.0
						0.0		0.0
						0.0		0.0
						0.0		0.0
						0.0		0.0

Sum of eligible acres for which credit is claimed (by category): _____ 184.59 _____

[1] *"Eligible acres" means acres covered by a farmland preservation agreement, eligible easement and/or located in a certified farmland preservation zoning district for the town, village, or city in which the land is located. "Eligible acres" does not necessarily include all acres on the farm, though the entire farm must be in compliance with soil and water conservation standards.*

[2] *"Eligible easement" for the purpose of the farmland preservation tax credit is limited to easements acquired under s. 93.73, Wis. Stats.*