

Project Summary

Wisconsin has been a state for just 167 years – about 2 human lifetimes. In that short time, our population has grown from 300,000 to nearly 6 million. Our food needs have grown dramatically, and our natural environment has been radically transformed. More changes are on the way, and the pace is accelerating. Our lives depend, in thousands of ways, on our land and water resources. But we also affect those resources in powerful, and potentially destructive, ways.

This project invites Wisconsin stakeholders of all kinds to look forward *together* – to take a strategic look at Wisconsin's food, land and water resources, and the human demands that will affect them in the decades ahead. It is a chance to look beyond the concerns of the moment, to see the big picture, to learn and discuss, to build new working relationships, and to think about our shared resources in a more systematic, collaborative way. The project will:

- **Facilitate respectful stakeholder discussions around key topics.** Representative stakeholders will meet in workgroups focused on selected topics. First, stakeholders will be provided with background information relevant to food, land and water resource trends. The workgroups will then focus on emerging challenges related to surface water runoff, groundwater quantity and quality, and competing land use demands. Stakeholders will listen, share perspectives, and work toward problem-solving consensus (where possible) in a respectful environment.
- **Provide a face-to-face forum for sharing information and building partnerships.** A two-day conference, involving a wide range of invited stakeholders, will present strategic background information and results of the stakeholder workgroups described above. Attendees will have a chance to listen, discuss, build new connections and working relationships, and think about our shared resources in a more systematic and collaborative way. Attendees will help shape future initiatives and follow-ups.
- **Continue the discussion on-line.** WI Land+Water will explore an on-line facility that will allow stakeholders to continue the discussion on-line, at their convenience. It will also make project information available to a wider audience, and expand the discussion to an even wider range of stakeholders.

Project sponsored by the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association & the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service.

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