

Wisconsin's Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Wisconsin has developed a Nutrient Reduction Strategy as part of a national effort to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus discharges to the Mississippi River and Great Lakes. The discharges have, among other things, caused the "Dead Zone" in the Gulf of Mexico. The discharges come from both "point" and "nonpoint" sources, but the vast majority now come from "nonpoint" sources.

Since 1995, discharge control efforts have reduced phosphorus discharges from Wisconsin watersheds to the Mississippi River by about 23 percent, and to Lake Michigan by about 27 percent. Most of these reductions have come from control of "point" source discharges.

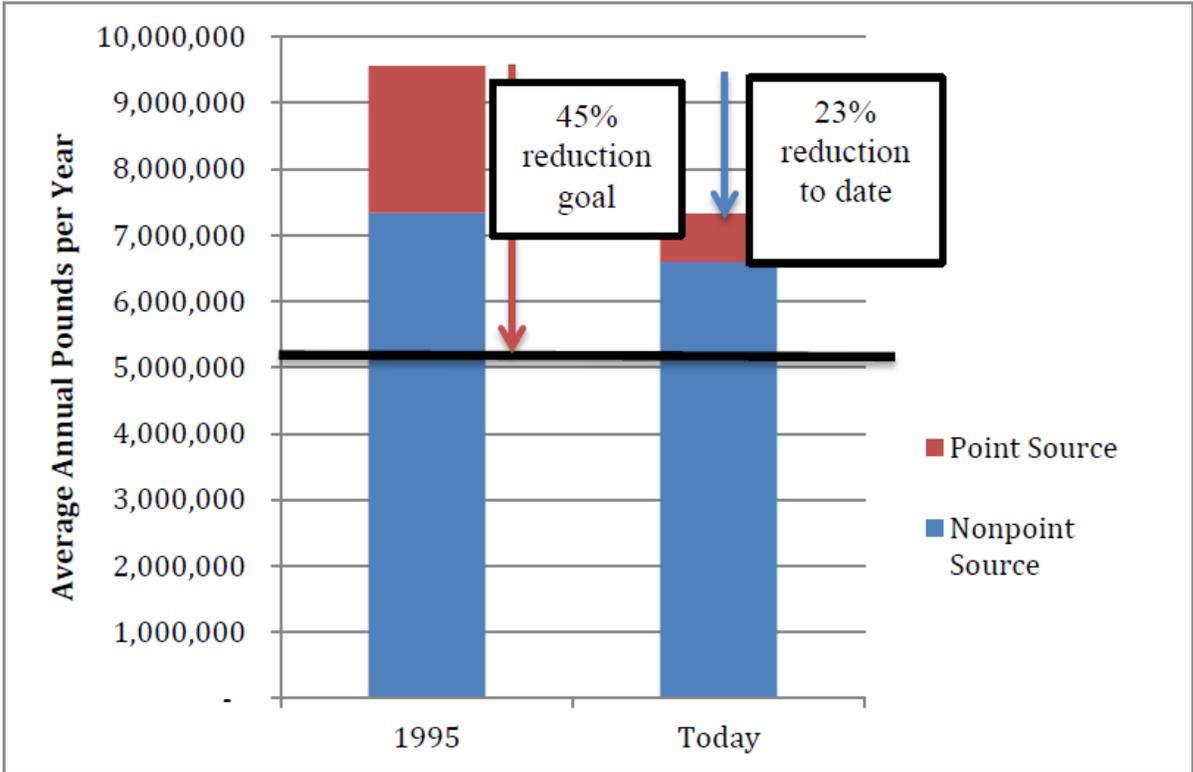
Wisconsin eventually hopes to achieve a 45 percent reduction in phosphorus discharges to the Mississippi River Basin as compared to the 1995 discharge level. Wisconsin believes it can achieve the 45 percent reduction goal by continuing to implement existing state and federal programs; however, the current strategy does not specify a timeframe or a total cost for the reductions. The 45% total reduction goal cannot be achieved through "point" source reductions alone. Most of the reductions will have to come from "nonpoint" sources.

The strategy relies on current programs including existing "nonpoint" cost-share programs, and does not call for new "non-point" regulations or funding. "Point" sources, by rule have new compliance options, including adaptive management and trading options. These may allow funding transfers from "point" sources to "nonpoint" sources to achieve more cost-effective phosphorus reductions.

State and federal governments currently provide cost-share funding for "non-point" discharge reductions. Much of this funding comes from USDA-NRCS voluntary cost-share programs. Existing funding is distributed statewide, and may be difficult to target to priority watersheds identified in Wisconsin's Nutrient Reduction Strategy. The priority watersheds identified in the Nutrient Reduction Strategy exclude many locally important impaired waters.

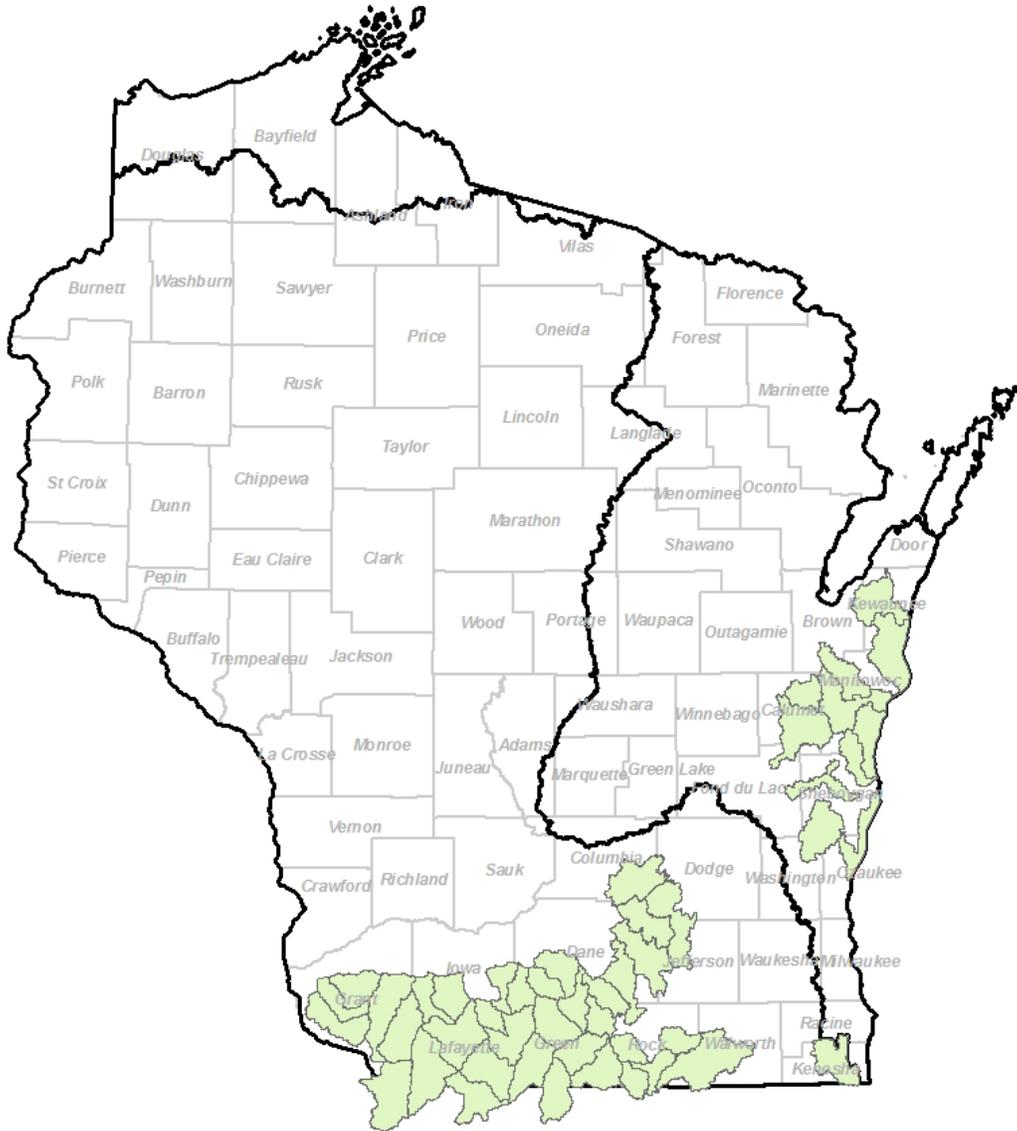
Funding transfers from "point" sources, such as metropolitan sewerage districts, may add significant "non-point" cost-share funding as part of adaptive management or trading options. This funding will vary greatly by region and by watershed.

WI Land+Water estimates that achieving full compliance with Wisconsin's current conservation practice standards would require \$1 to 2 billion in cost-share funding over the next 20 years, or up to \$100 million per year. Among other things, this would likely achieve significant *statewide* nutrient discharge reductions (not just in priority watersheds identified in the Nutrient Reduction Strategy). But more stringent standards may be needed to achieve water quality goals for some specific water bodies.



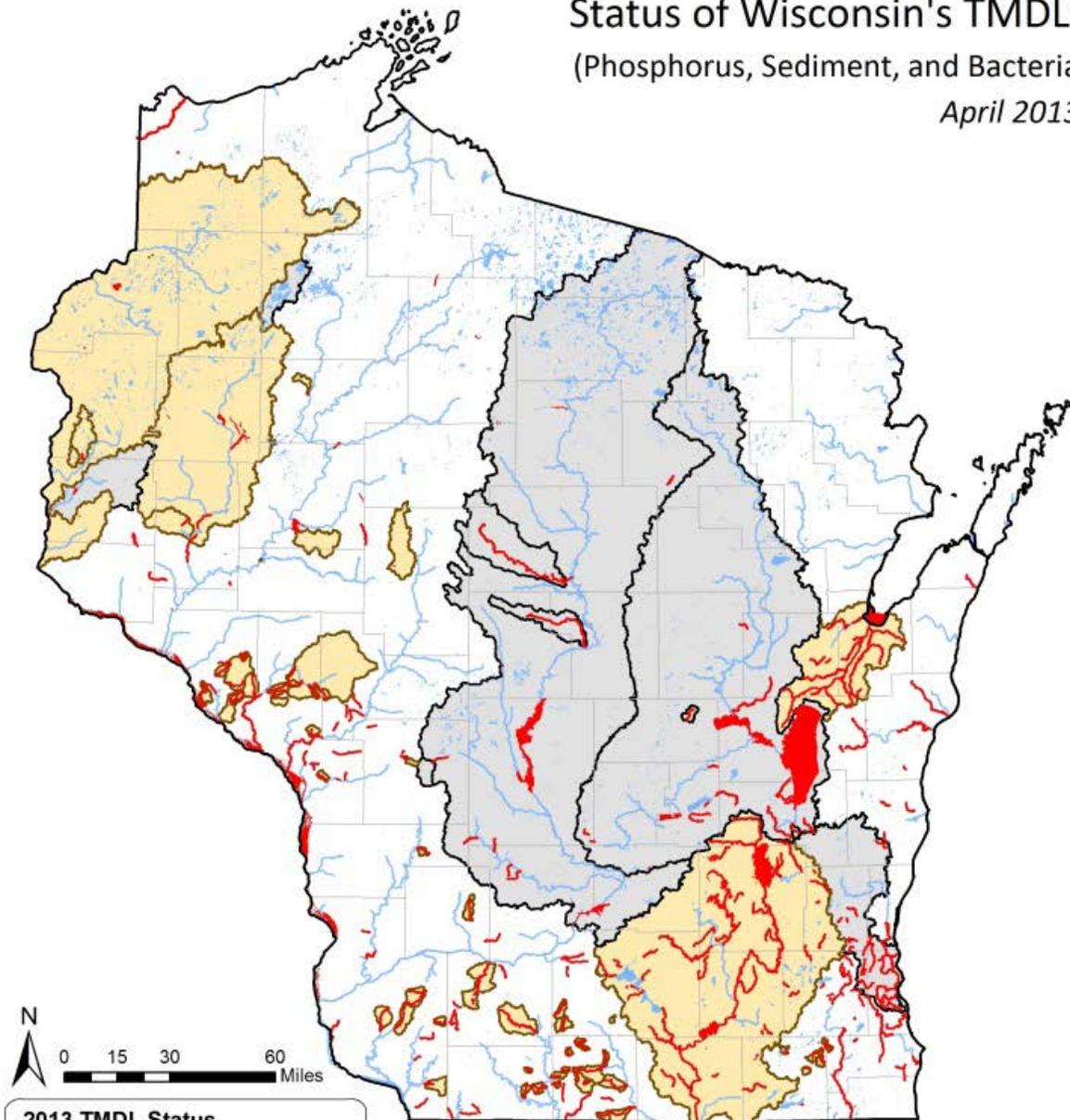
Mississippi River Basin: Wisconsin Phosphorus Reduction Goal and Estimated Progress to Date

Wisconsin Nutrient Reduction Strategy: Top Priority Watersheds for Nitrogen Reduction



Wisconsin Impaired Waters (Phosphorus, Sediment, and Bacteria) and Phosphorus "Total Maximum Daily Load" Watersheds

Status of Wisconsin's TMDLs (Phosphorus, Sediment, and Bacteria) *April 2013*



2013 TMDL Status

- TMDL Development
- TMDL Approved
- 303d Impaired Water (TP, TSS, Bacteria)
- River Network
- County Boundary

Notes:

1. The map reflects TMDLs for total phosphorus, total suspended sediment, and bacteria reported in the WDNR WATERS database as of April 2013.
2. Sub-HUC12 watersheds were delineated using the WDNR PRESTO model
3. The reaches identified as 303d waters reflect total phosphorus, total suspended sediment, and bacteria impairments as of the 2010 303d listing

