



Throughout Wisconsin's history, the well being of its people has been tied to the well being of its natural resources. The fresh water, fertile soil, clean air, vast forests, flourishing and abundant wildlife constituted the basis of life, livelihood, and recreation for many generations of native and newly arrived Wisconsinites.

Recognizing that the valuable natural resources of our state could only be protected and wisely managed through a coordinated effort, the Wisconsin Legislature created the Department of Natural Resources in 1967. In creating the Department, the Legislature brought together closely related traditional conservation functions such as fisheries, parks, wildlife, and forest management and combined them with newly emerging environmental protection responsibilities such as air and water pollution control, solid waste management, and environmental and conservation law enforcement.

The Department of Natural Resources is dedicated to the preservation, protection, management, and maintenance of Wisconsin's natural resources. It is responsible for implementing the laws of the state and, where applicable, the laws of the federal government that protect and enhance the natural resources of our state.

It is the one agency charged with full responsibility for coordinating the many disciplines and programs necessary to provide a clean environment and a full range of outdoor recreational opportunities for Wisconsin citizens and visitors.

The DNR works to protect Wisconsin's air, land and water as well as its fisheries, wildlife and forests. The department also works to restore and protect habitat for wildlife fish, plants, forests and native ecosystems.

Wisconsin was the first state in the nation to officially partner with the Whooping Crane Recovery Team in the effort to establish an eastern migrating population of whooping cranes and was chosen by the recovery team as the summer nesting site for the cranes. The state maintains and manages a portion of the wetland complex that will support the whooping crane flock and department staff plays a key role in the project.

For more information on the Department of Natural Resources, visit the department's Web site at: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/>

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