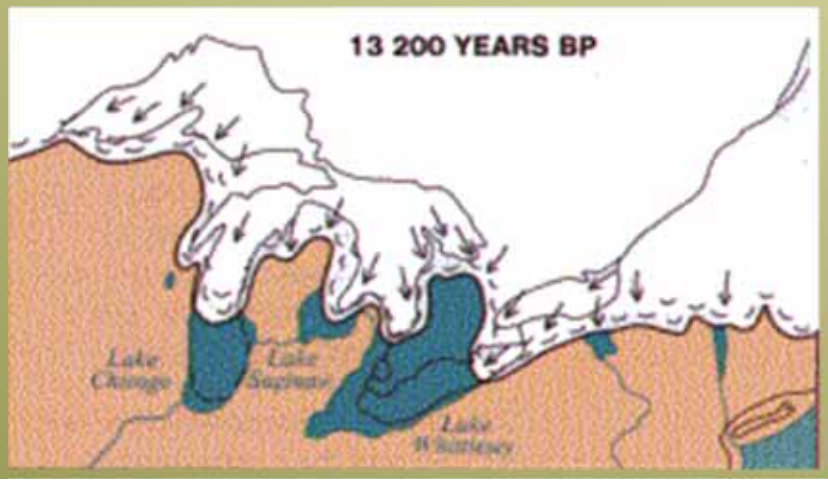
WISCONSIN LAKES

Courtesy of Lake Partnerships

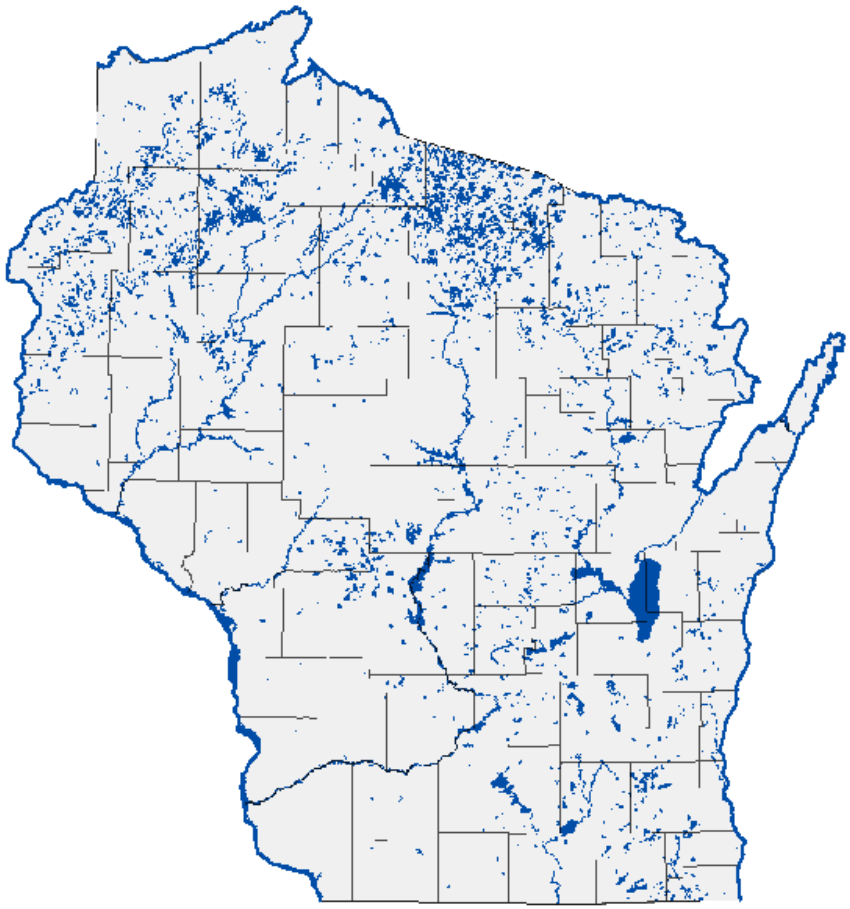
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Wisconsin Association of Lakes
University of Wisconsin Extension

Definitions & Background

Wisconsin's Glacial Legacy



Wisconsin's lakes



Wisconsin has one of the largest concentration of fresh water glacial lakes on the planet.

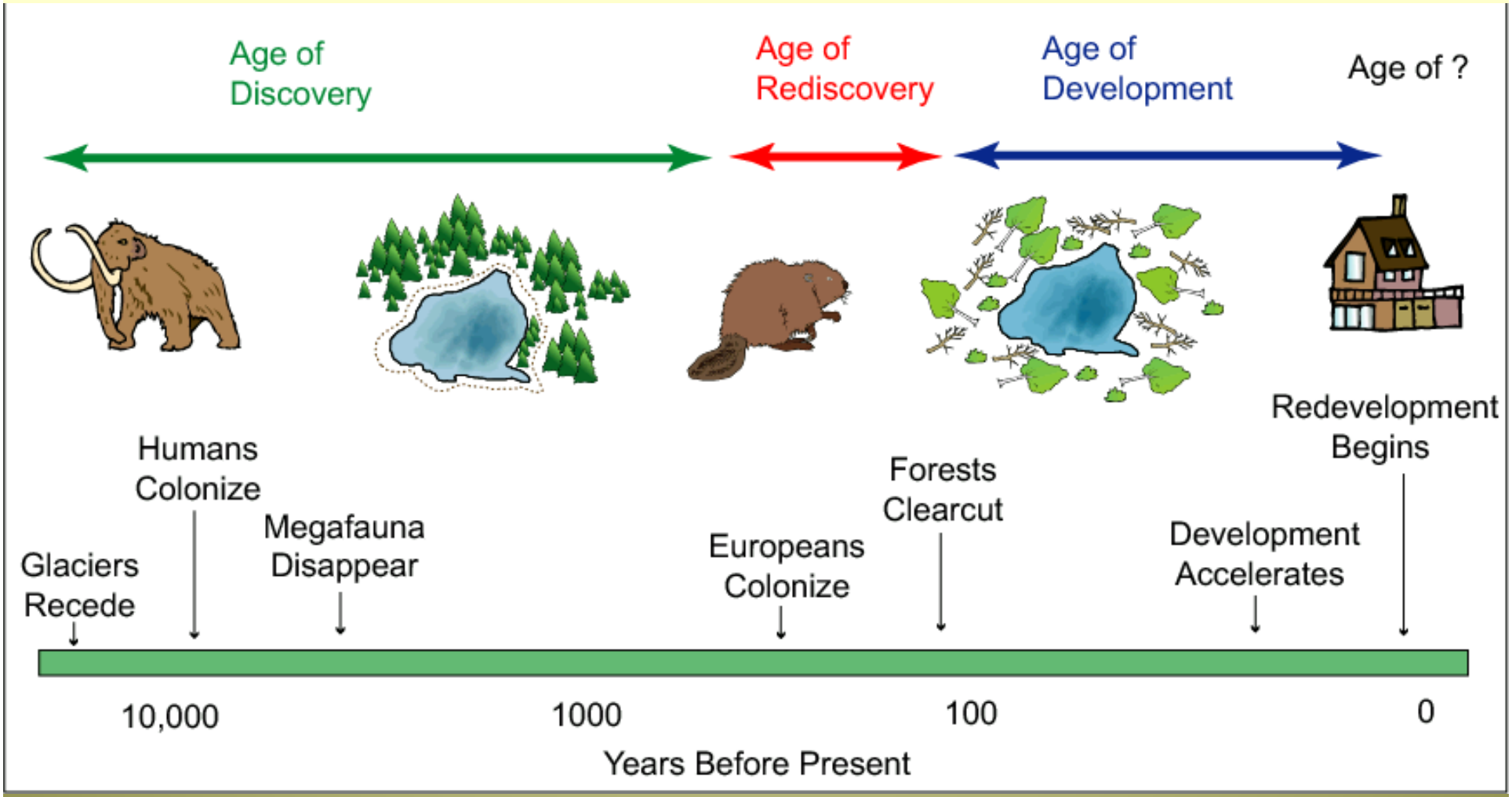
Lakes Provide Services

Ecosystem

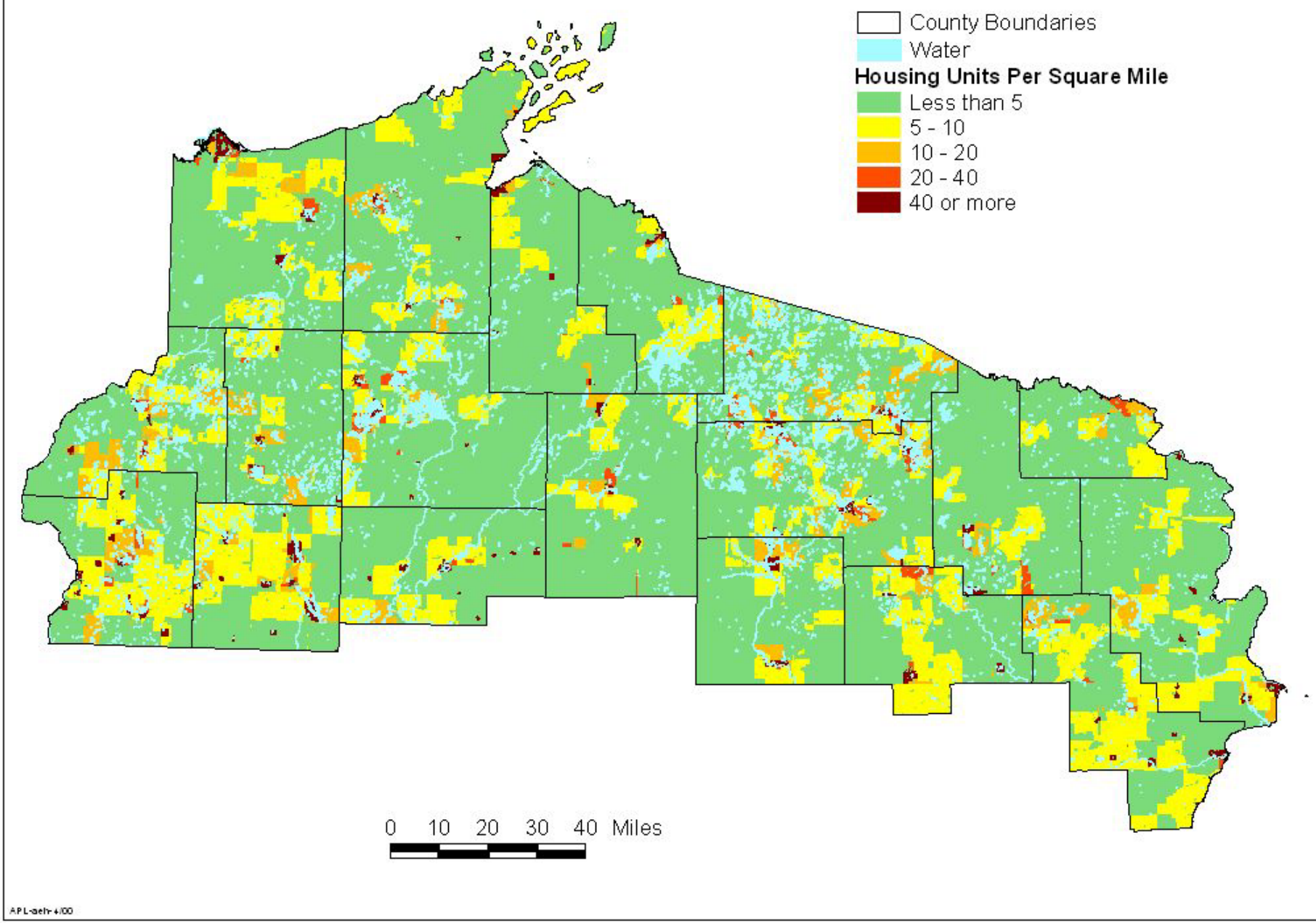
Cultural

Societal

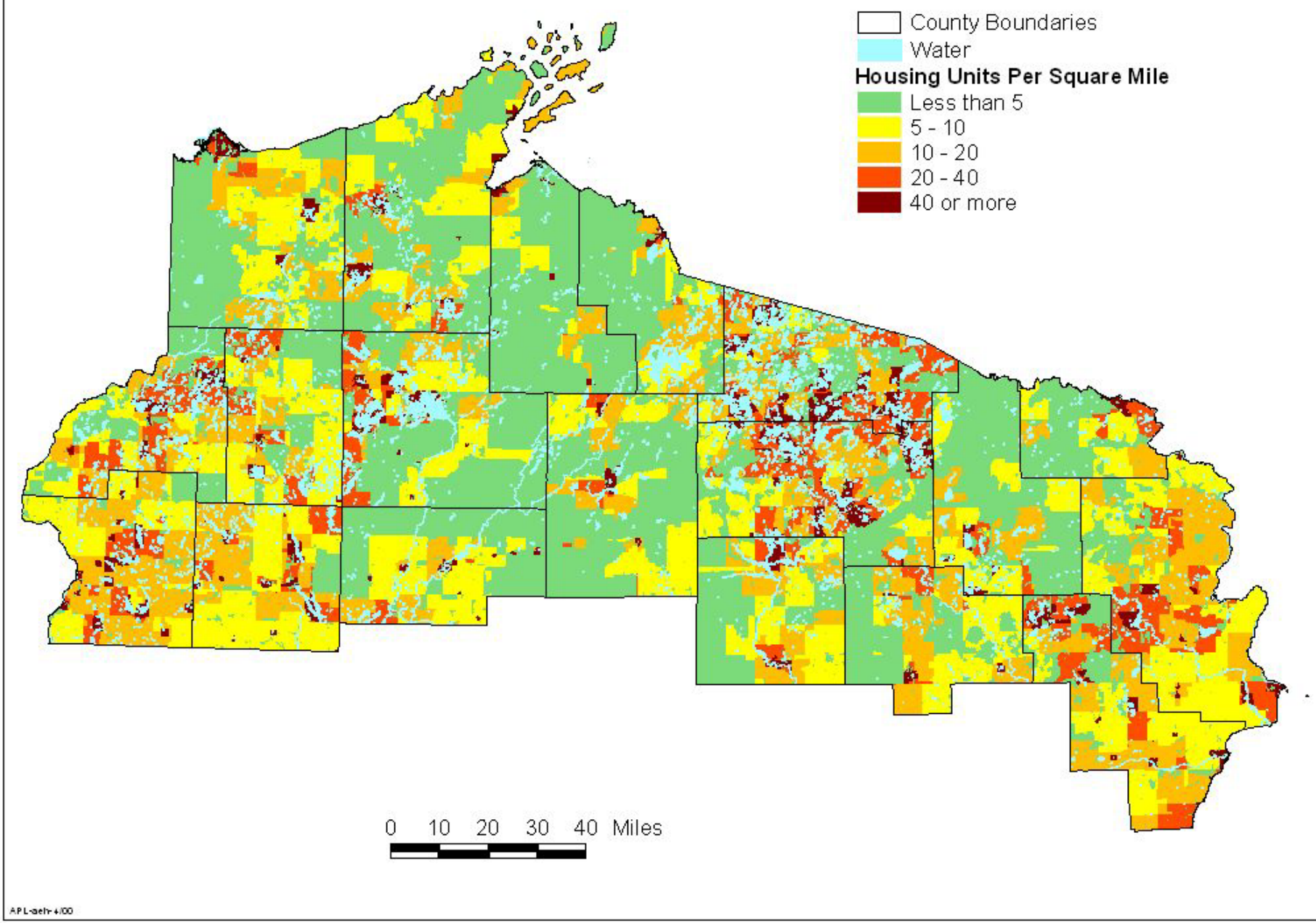
Recent History of Wisconsin's Lakes

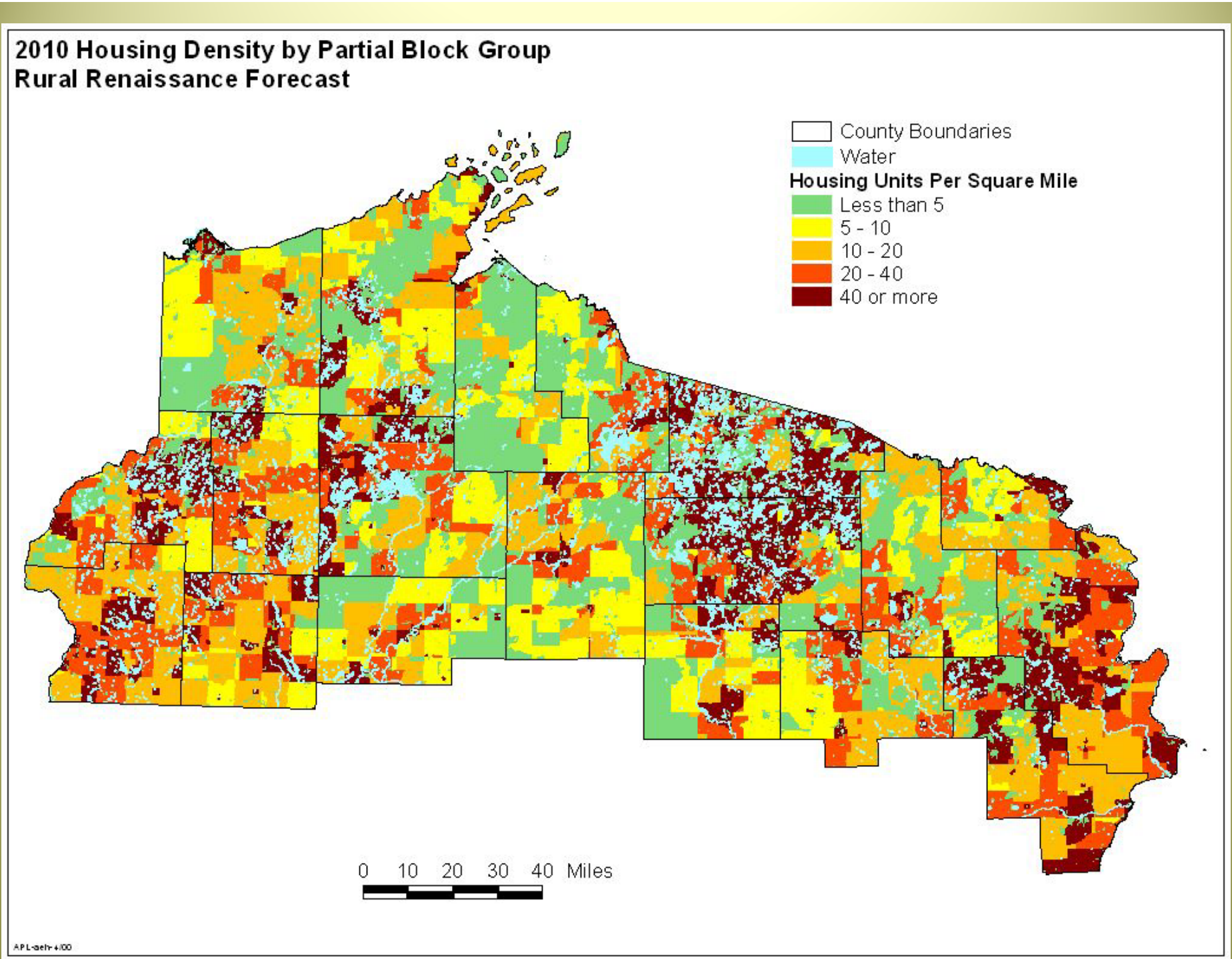


1940 Housing Density by Partial Block Group



1990 Housing Density by Partial Block Group



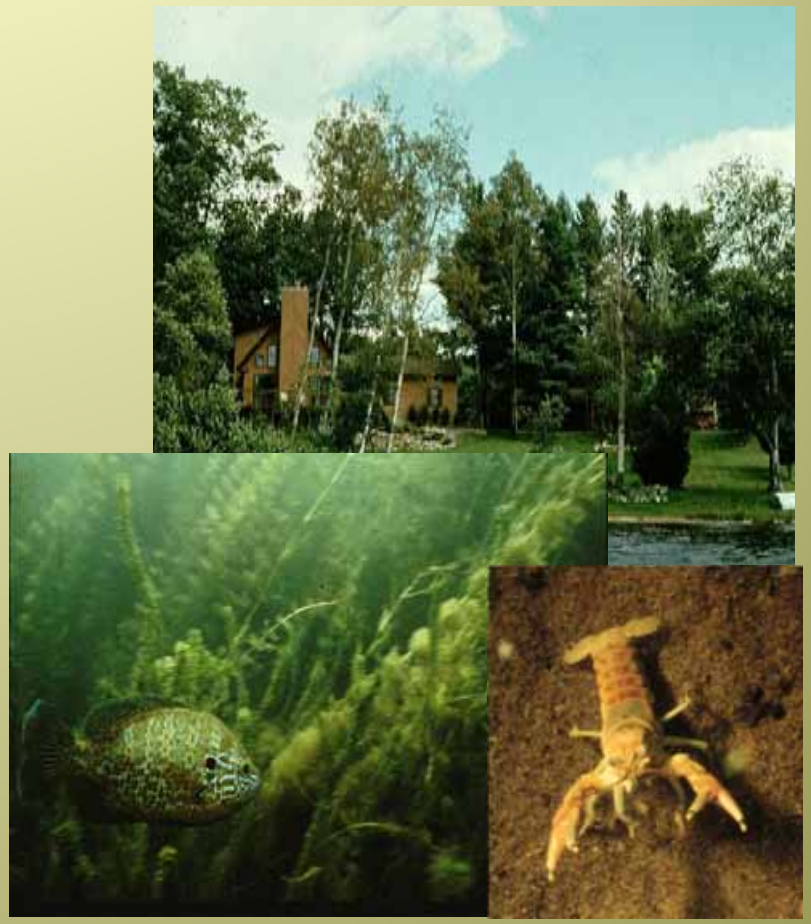

2010 Housing Density by Partial Block Group
Rural Renaissance Forecast
County Boundaries
Water
Housing Units Per Square Mile
Less than 5
5 - 10
10 - 20
20 - 40
40 or more
0 10 20 30 40 Miles

Wisconsin's Lakes are Changing Faster than Ever:

Algae blooms (phosphorus pollution)

Destruction of shoreline habitat

Invading plants and animals



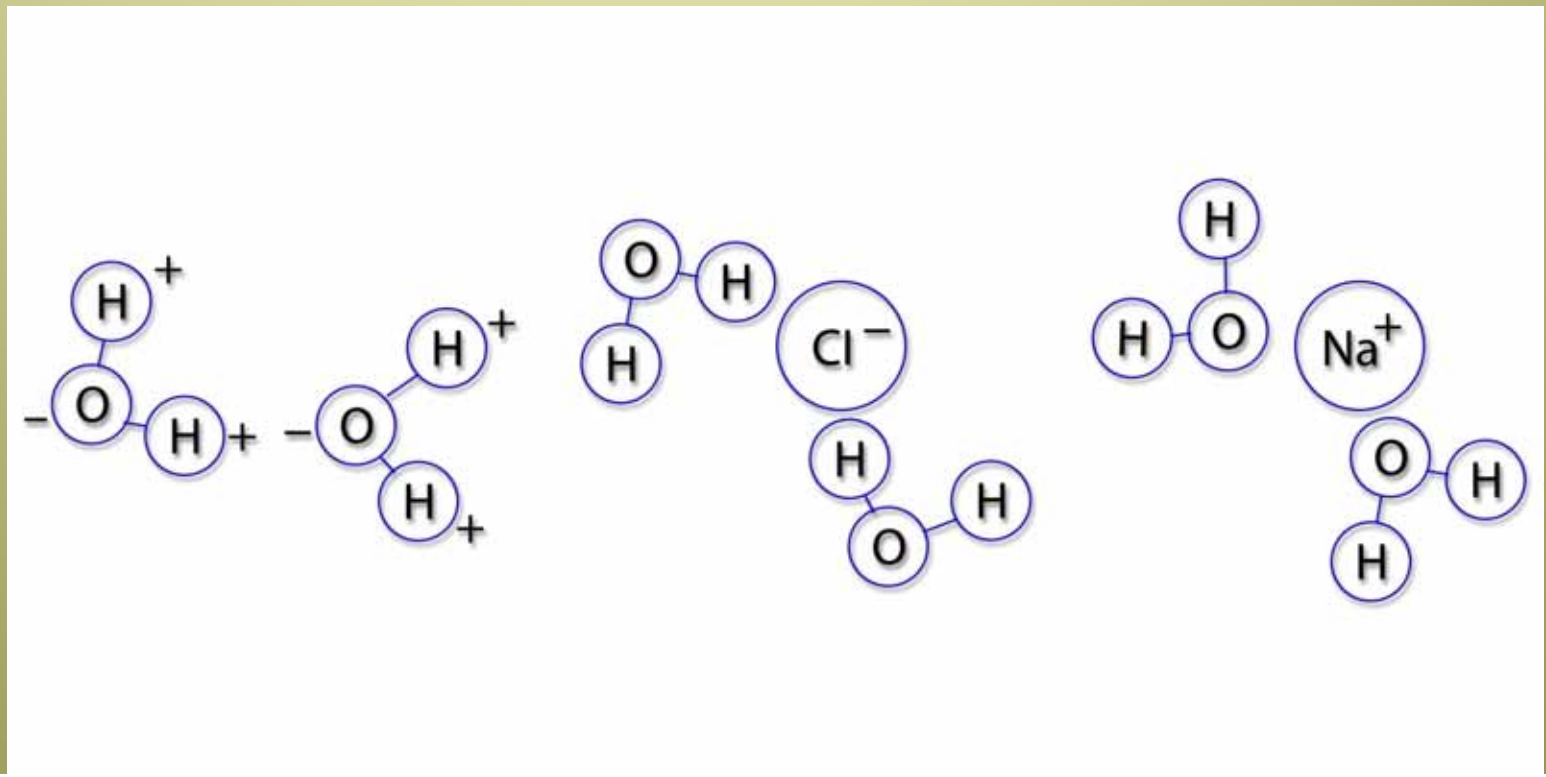
Steve Carpenter

OVERVIEW

- **Unique Properties of Water**
- Lake Types
- Physical, Chemical, Biological and Habitat Characteristics
- Technical Aspects

UNIQUE PROPERTIES OF WATER

- **Universal Solvent**
- **Chemical Molecular Structure H20**
- **Greatest Density at 4º C or 39º F**



Unique Properties of Water

- Living organisms (including us!) are ~70% water
- 71% Earth's surface covered by water
- <1% water on Earth is freshwater
- .009% water on Earth is freshwater lakes

From waterencyclopedia.com

UNIQUE PROPERTIES OF WATER

- Physical Properties
- 71% Earth's Surface Covered by Water
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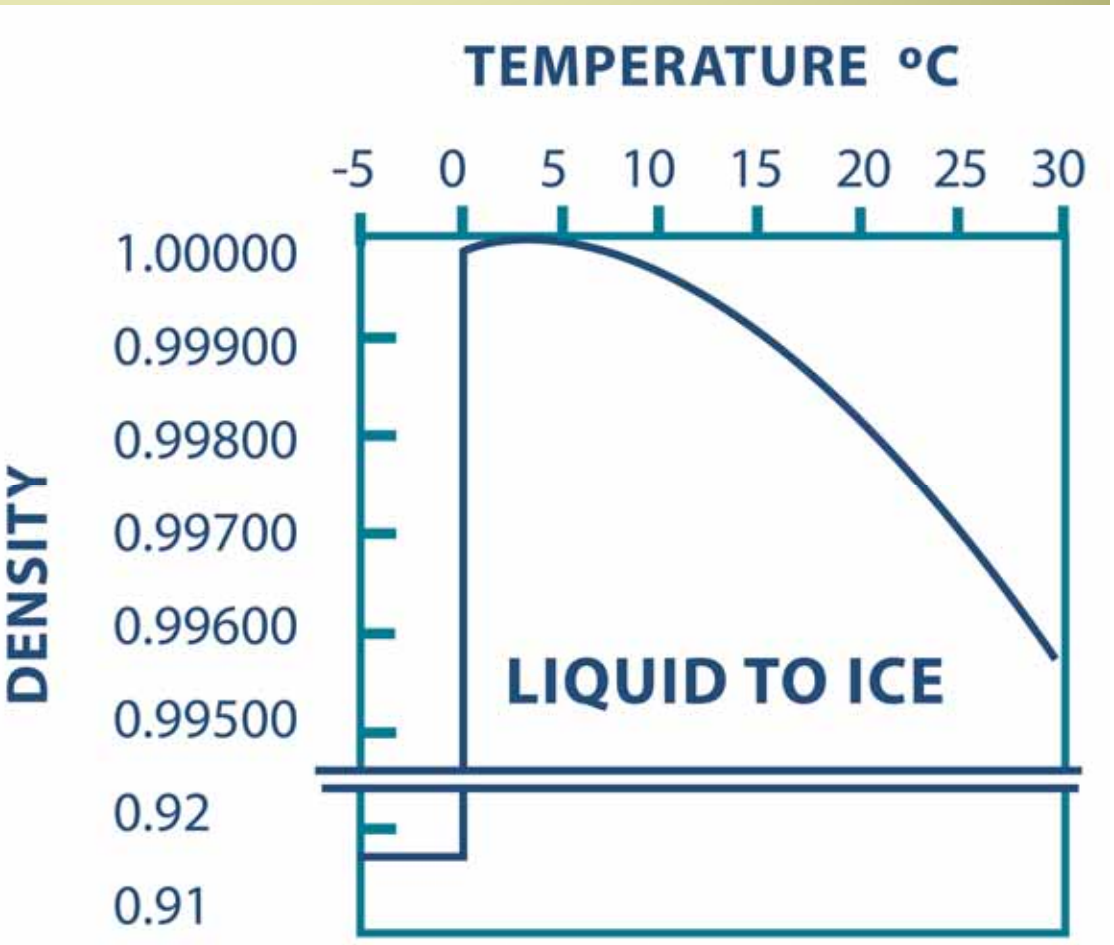
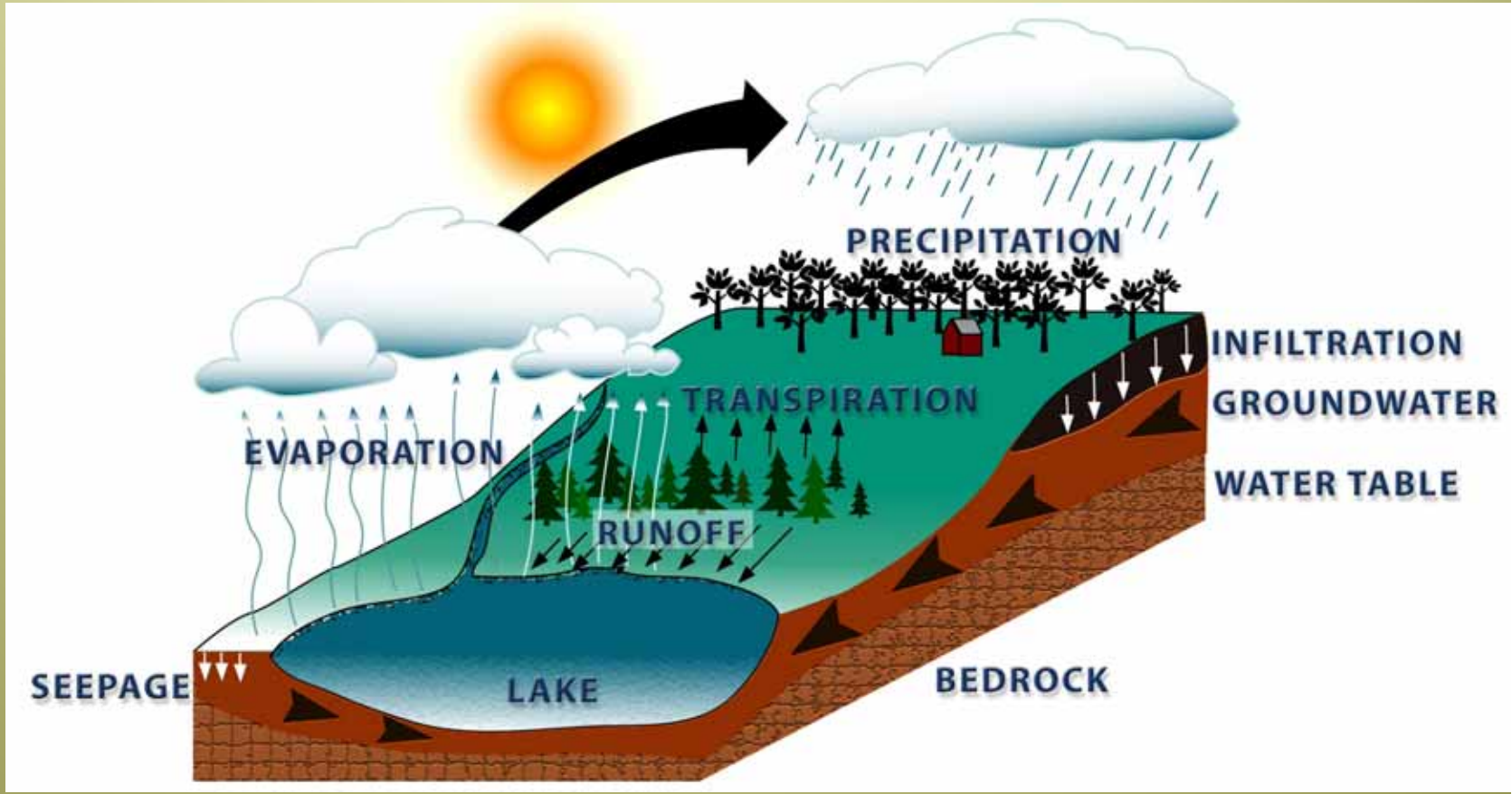


HYDROLOGIC CYCLE



OVERVIEW

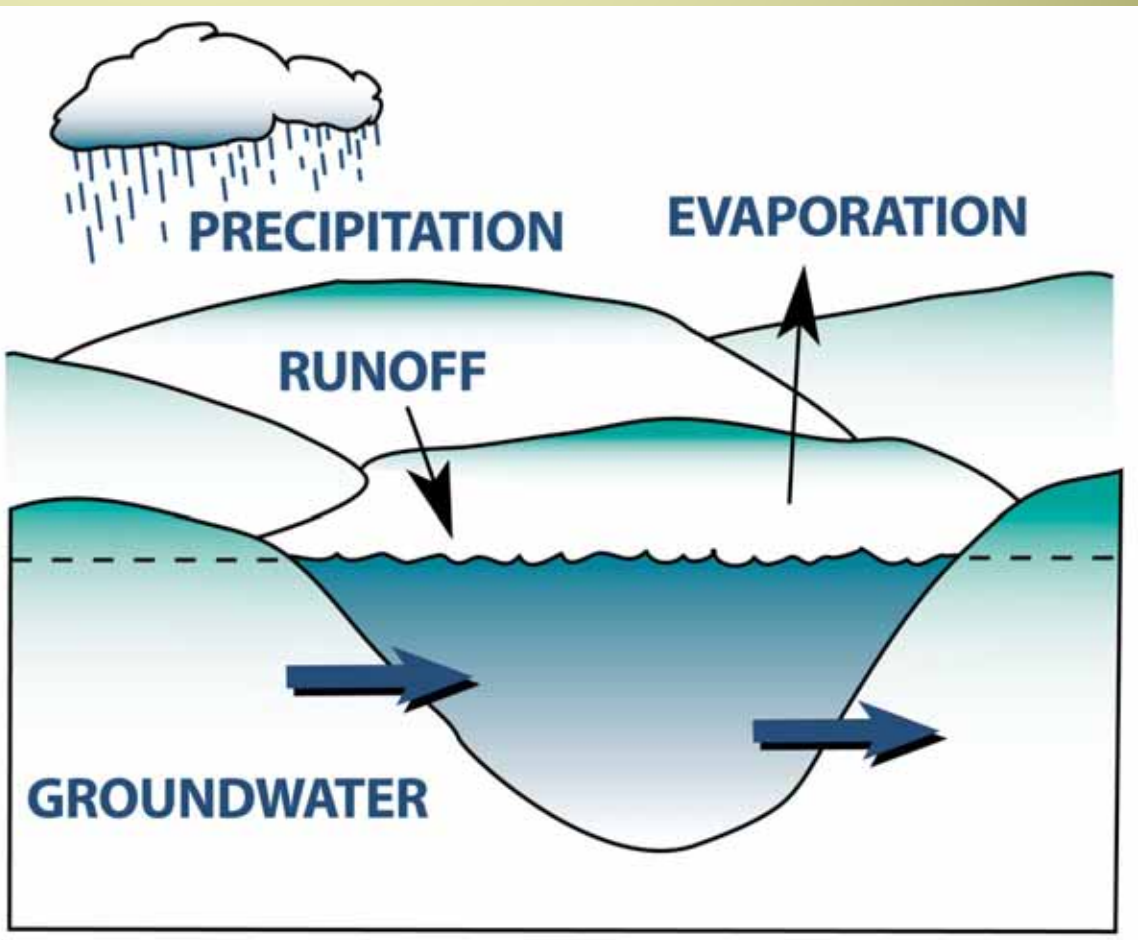
- Unique Properties of Water
- **Lake Types**
- Physical, Chemical, Biological and Habitat Characteristics
- Technical Aspects

LAKE TYPES

- Seepage
- Groundwater Drainage
- Drainage
- Impoundments
- Oxbow

SEEPAGE LAKE

- Natural Lake
- Water Source
  - Groundwater
  - Precipitation
- No Stream Outlet/ Inlet



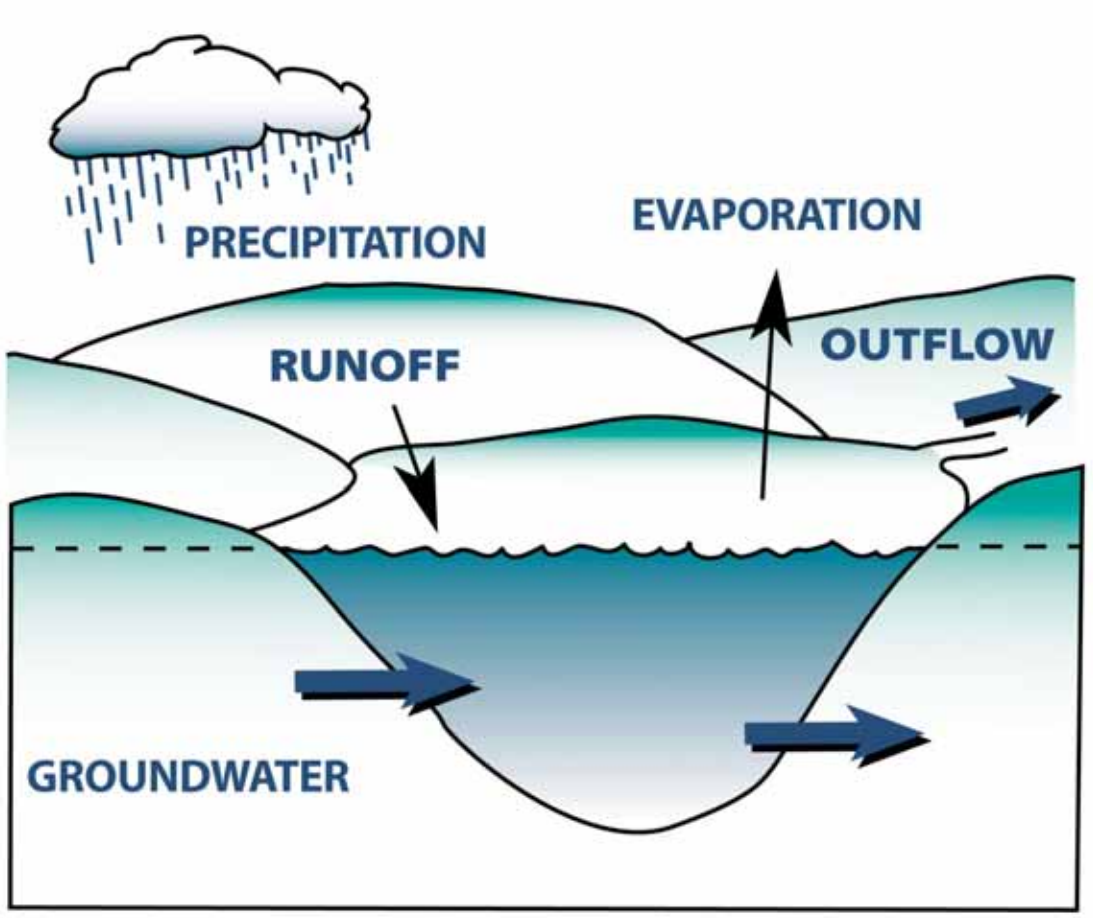
Lake Types

SEEPAGE LAKE

- ***Long & Des Moines Lakes, Burnett Co.***
- Shell Lake, Washburn Co.
- Whitefish Lake, Douglas Co.,
- Potowotomi Lakes, Bayfield Co.

GROUNDWATER DRAINAGE

- Natural Lake
- Water Source
  - Groundwater
  - Precipitation
  - Limited Runoff
- Has Stream Outlet

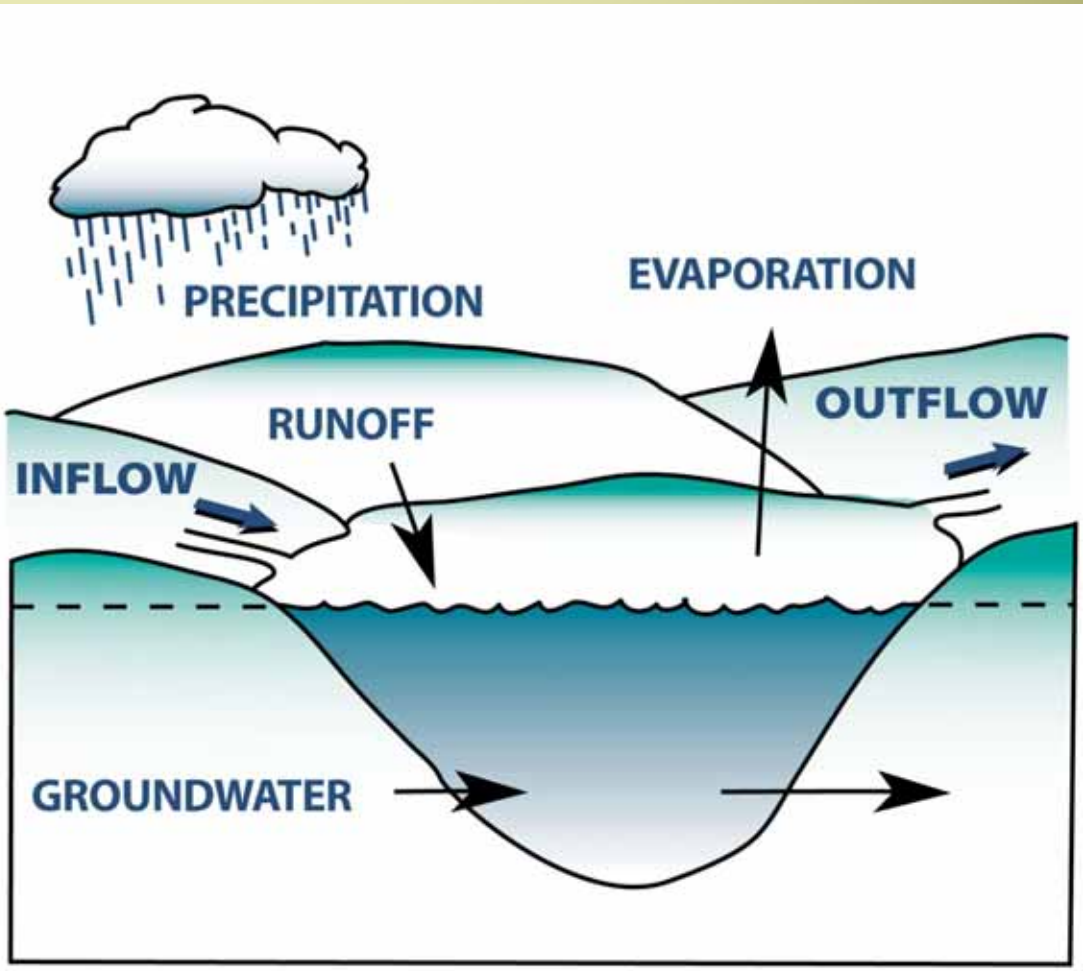


GROUNDWATER DRAINAGE LAKE

- Sand Lake, Chippewa County

DRAINAGE LAKE

- Water Source
  - Streams
  - Groundwater
  - Precipitation
  - Runoff
- Stream Drained

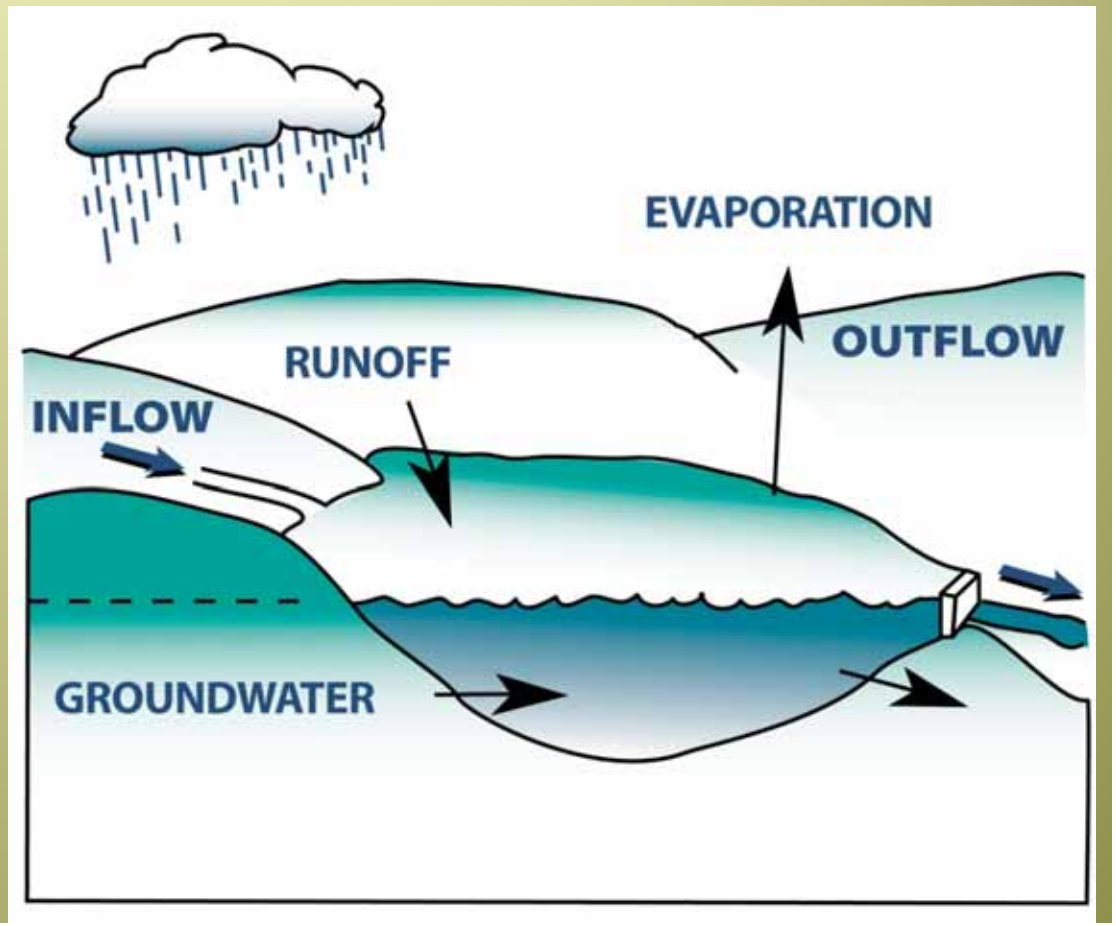


DRAINAGE LAKE

- Long Lake, Chippewa County

IMPOUNDMENT

- A manmade lake
- Dammed River or Stream



- Lake Hallie, Chippewa County

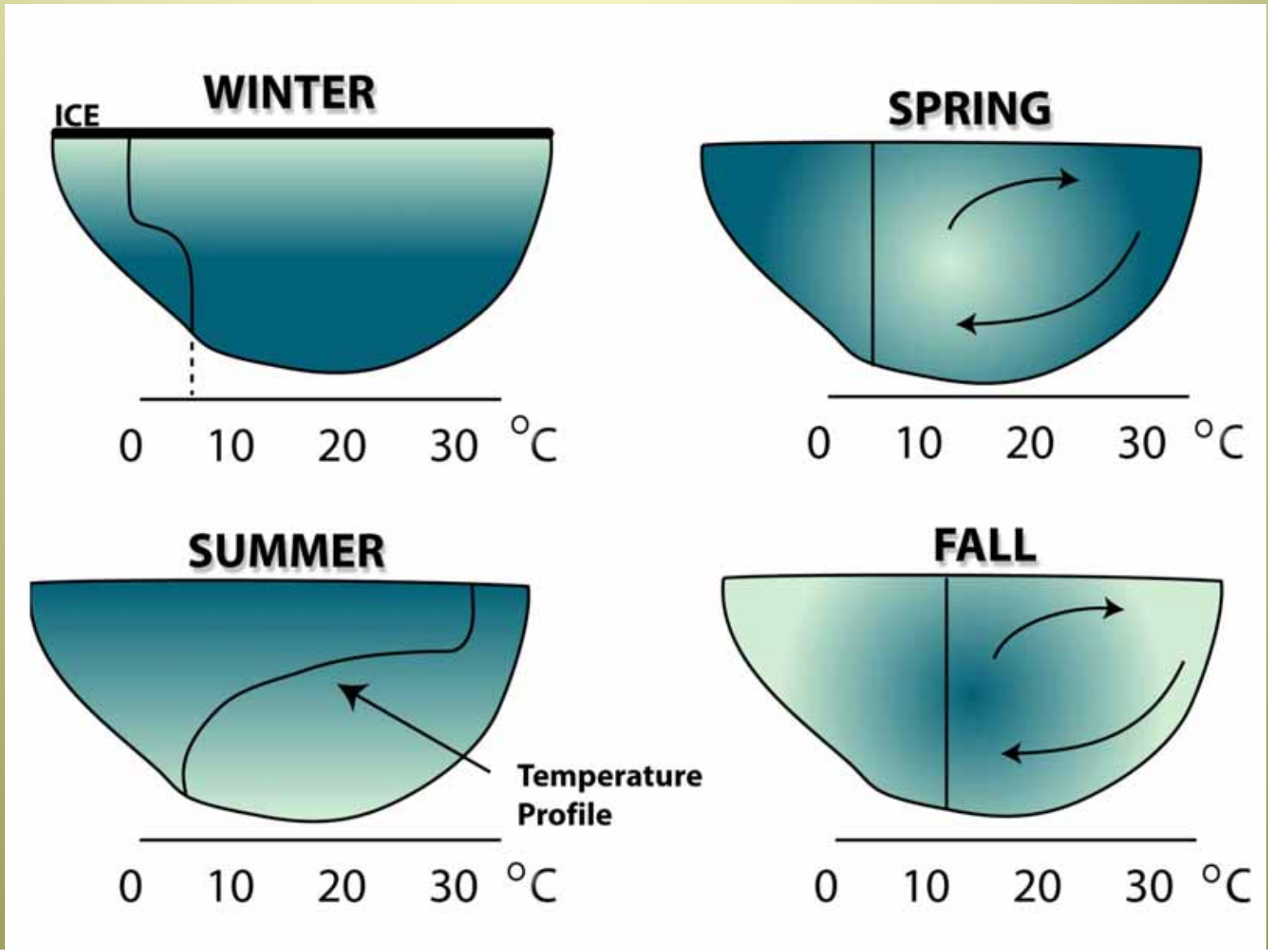
OVERVIEW

- Unique Properties of Water
- Lake Types
- Physical, Chemical, Biological and Habitat Characteristics
- Technical Aspects

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Mixing / Stratification
- Lake Depth
- Retention Time / Flushing Rate
- Drainage Basin/ Lake Area Ratio
- Landscape Position
- Influence of Watershed Runoff

MIXING/ STRATIFICATION



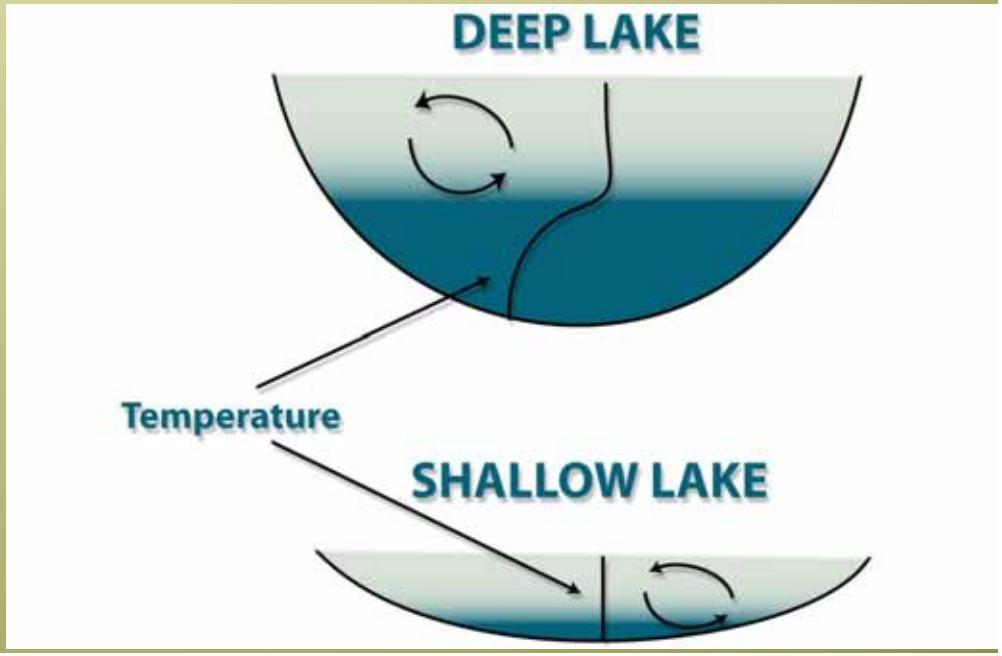
LAKE DEPTH MATTERS

- **Deep Lakes**

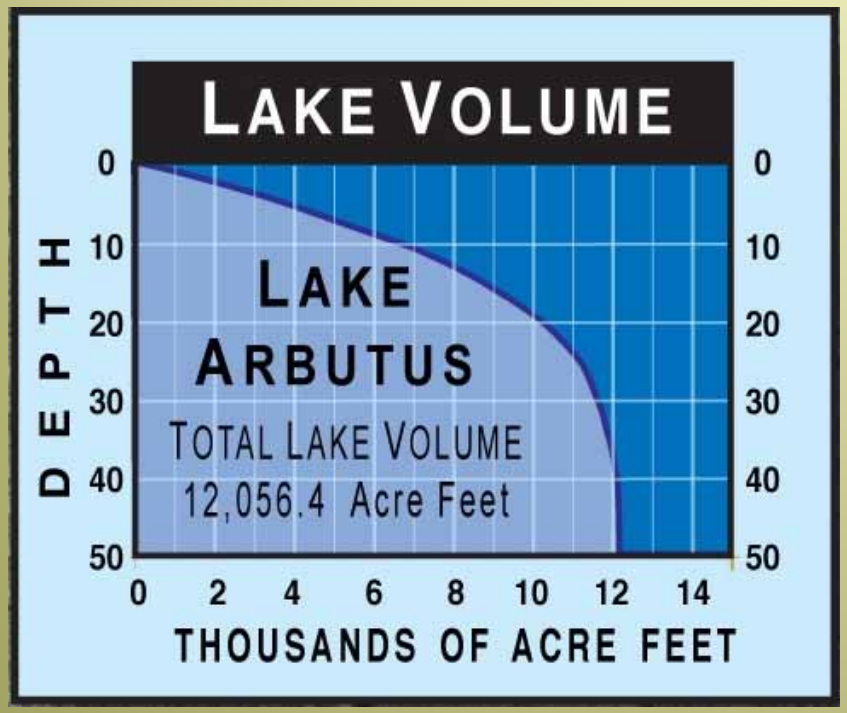
  Stratify

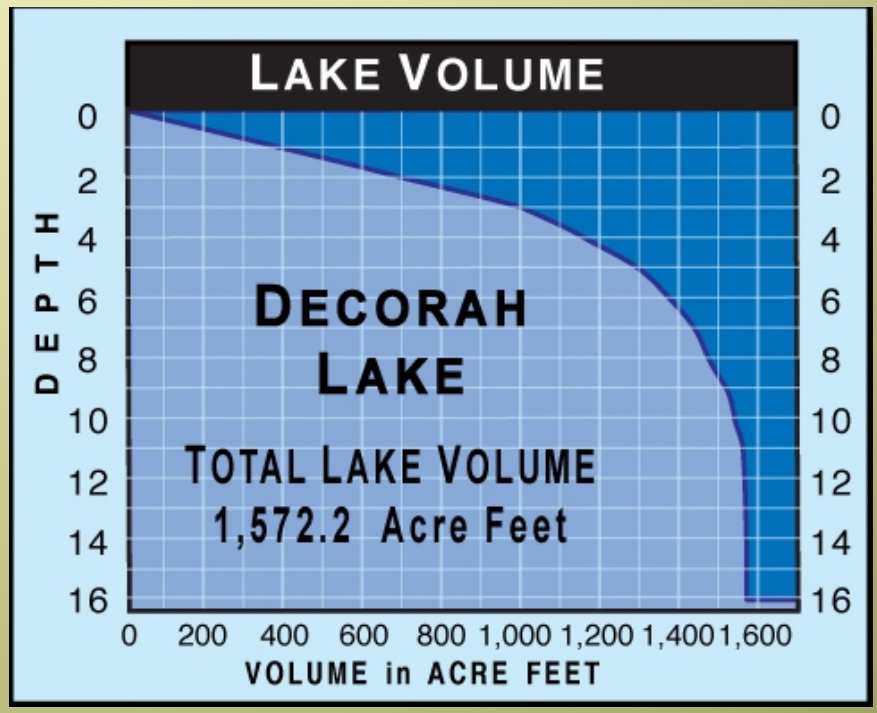
- **Shallow Lakes**

  Continuous Nutrient Recycling



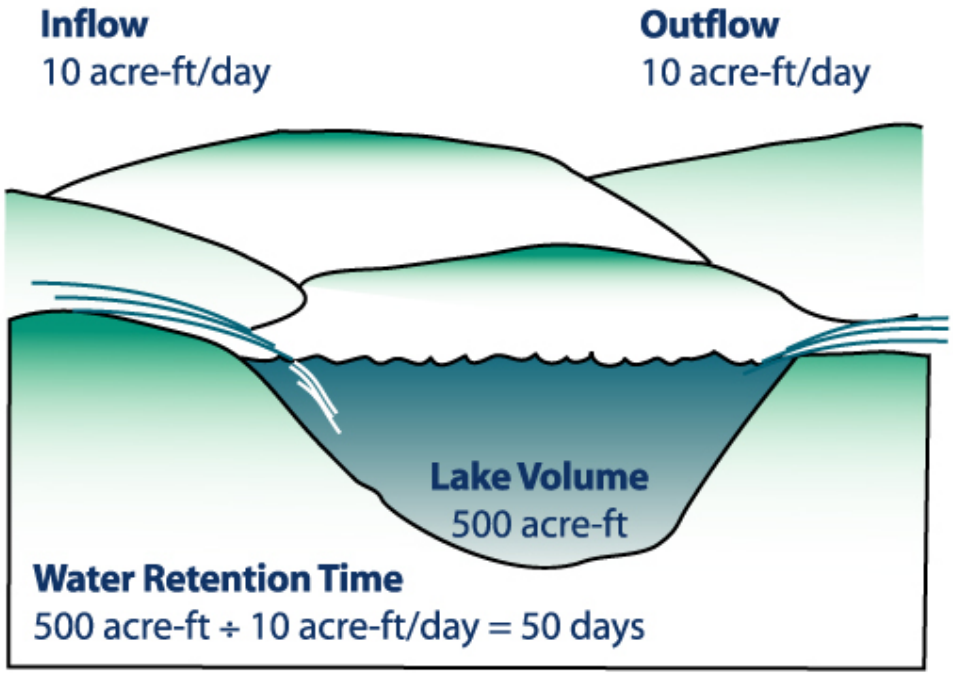
Lake Level vs Lake Volume





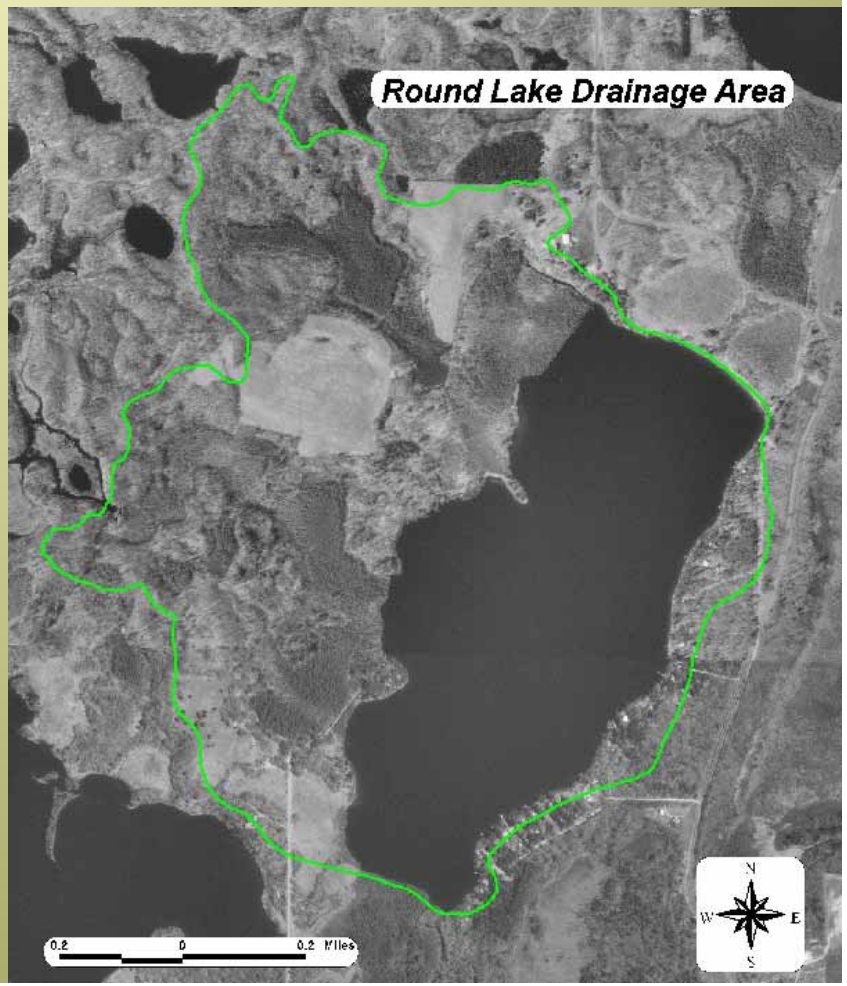
RETENTION TIME/ FLUSHING RATE

- How long would it take to fill a drained lake?
- Retention Time Matters
- Long Lake & Altoona
  - Long Lake, 7years
  - Lake Altoona, 22days

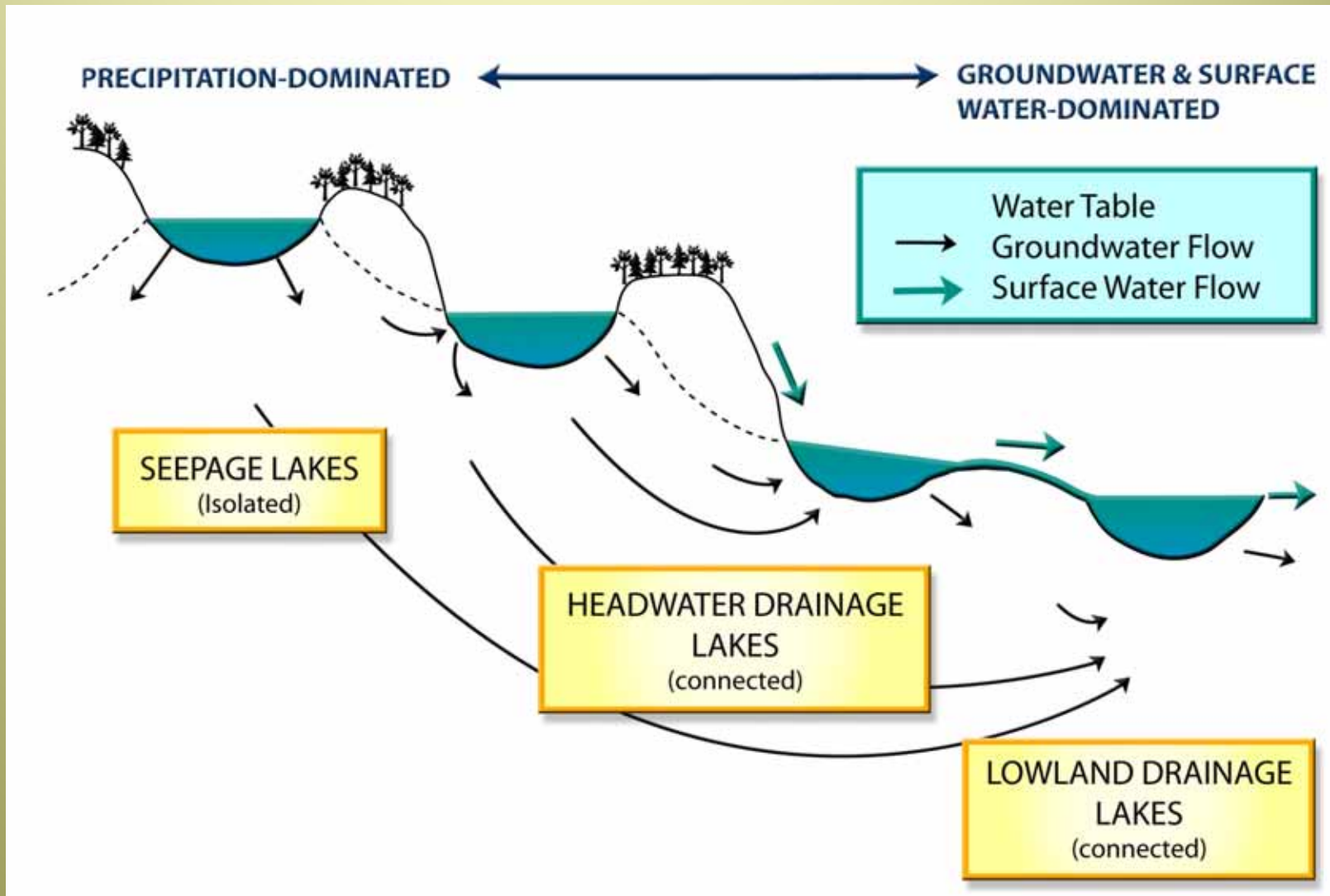


DRAINAGE BASIN/ LAKE AREA RATIO

- Seepage Lake- small
- Drainage Lake- large watershed
  - Seepage Lake w/ drainage area mapped Round Lake



LANDSCAPE POSITION



CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Chemical Characteristics
- Limiting Nutrient Concept P vs N
- Lake 227

CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Nutrients
  - P
  - N
- pH
- Hardness/ Alkalinity
- Dissolved Oxygen (optimum 5 ppm)

NUTRIENT FUNCTIONS

ELEMENT	AVAILABILITY	DEMAND	AVAILABILITY DEMAND	FUNCTION
Na	32	0.5	64	Cell membrane
Mg	22	1.4	16	Chlorophyll, energy transfer
Si	268	0.7	383	Cell wall (diatoms)
P	1	1	1	DNA, RNA, ATP, enzymes
K	20	6	3	Enzyme activator
Ca	40	8	5	Cell membrane
Mn	0.9	0.3	3	Photosynthesis, enzymes
Fe	54	0.06	900	Enzymes
Co	0.02	0.0002	100	Vitamin B12
Cu	0.05	0.006	8	Enzymes
Zn	0.07	0.04	2	Enzyme activator
Mo	0.001	0.0004	3	Enzymes

CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS

NUTRIENT FUNCTIONS

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Mo	0.001	0.0004	3	Enzymes

Source: The Biology of Lakes and Ponds, by Christer Bronmark and Lars-Anders Hansson

Phactoids: Importance of P to organisms

- **Phosphorus is a critical nutrient**
  - Genetic molecules: DNA, RNA
  - Structural molecules: phospholipids in cell walls
  - Energy metabolism: ATP
  - ***Every living organism needs phosphorus***
- **A little P goes a long way**
  - 1 lb of P can produce 500 lb of algae, and that P can be recycled many times
- **Phosphorus is less abundant than most other nutrients**
  - Both N and P tend to be high in demand by organisms, relative to their supply in the environment
  - N is often the limiting nutrient in terrestrial and marine ecosystems (with P close behind...)
  - ***But in lakes, P is nearly always the principal limiting nutrient***

LIMITING NUTRIENT PRINCIPLE

…That Nutrient in Least Supply
Relative to Plant Needs

N:P Ratio in plant Tissue 10:1

If the Ratio of N:P in Water is

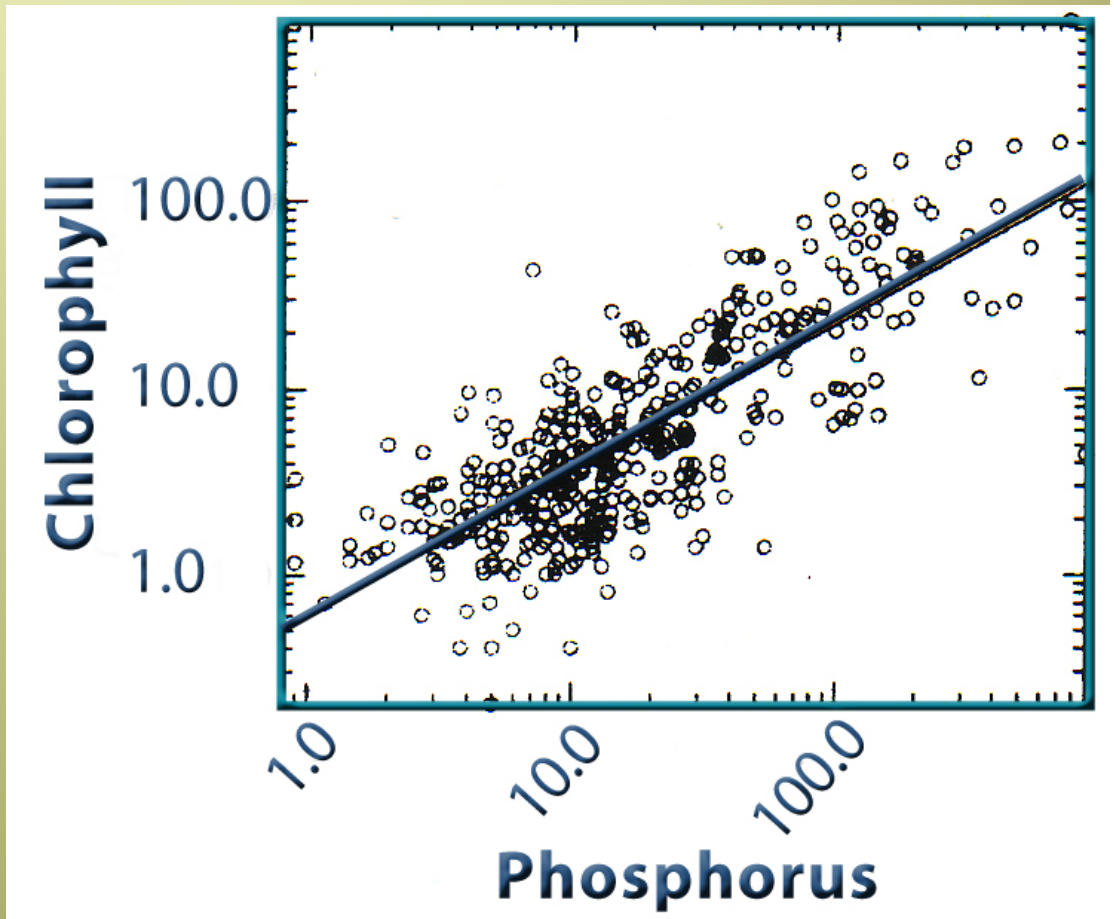
<10:1 Nitrogen Limited

>15:1 Phosphorus Limited

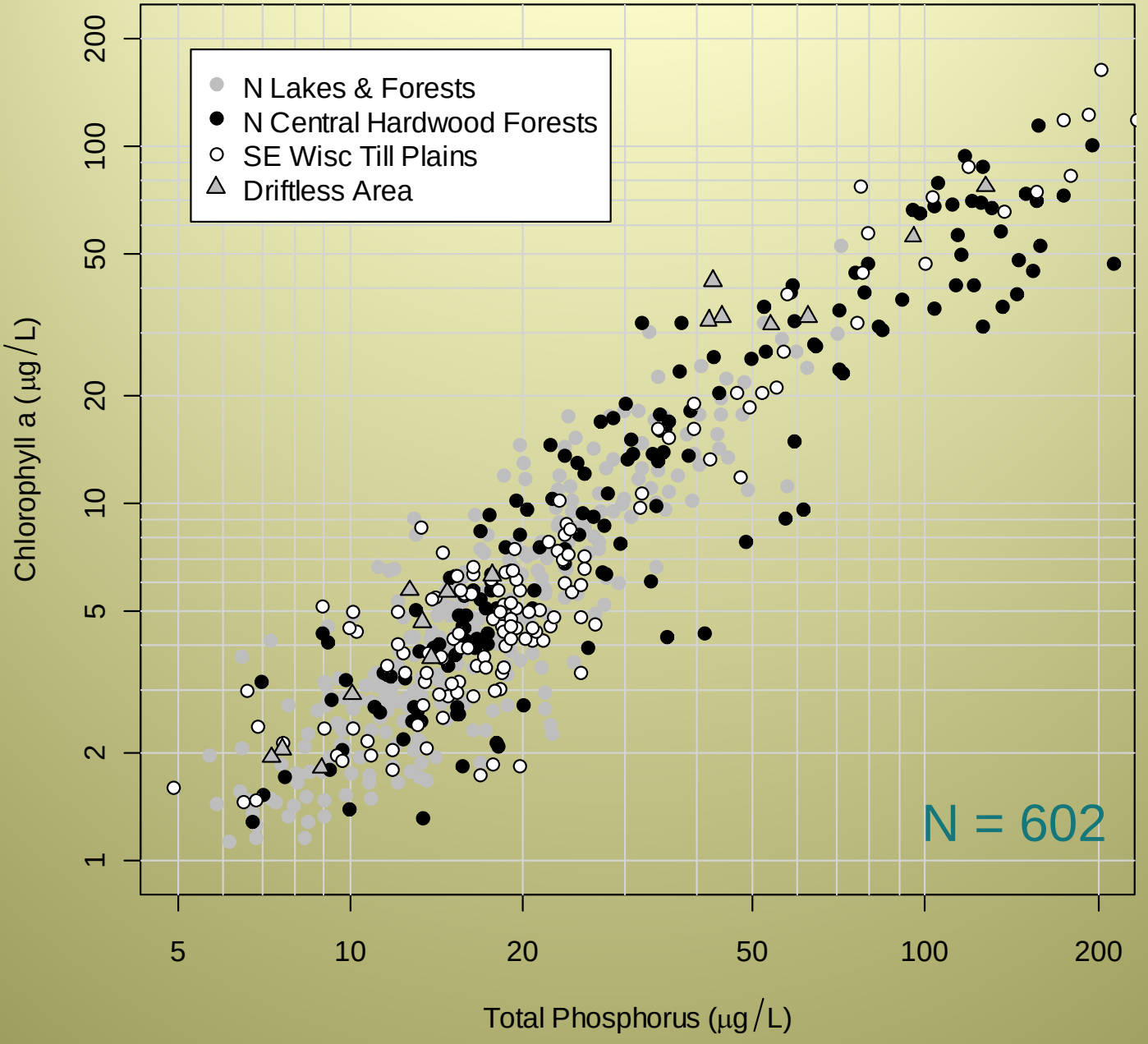
PHOSPHORUS LIMITATION LAKE 227

TOTAL PHOSPHORUS/ CHLOROPHYLL a RELATIONSHIP

- Phosphorus causes algae to grow



Ecoregions


N Lakes & Forests
N Central Hardwood Forests
SE Wisc Till Plains
Driftless Area
Chlorophyll a (µg/L)
1
2
5
10
20
50
100
200
5
10
20
50
100
200
Total Phosphorus (µg/L)
N = 602

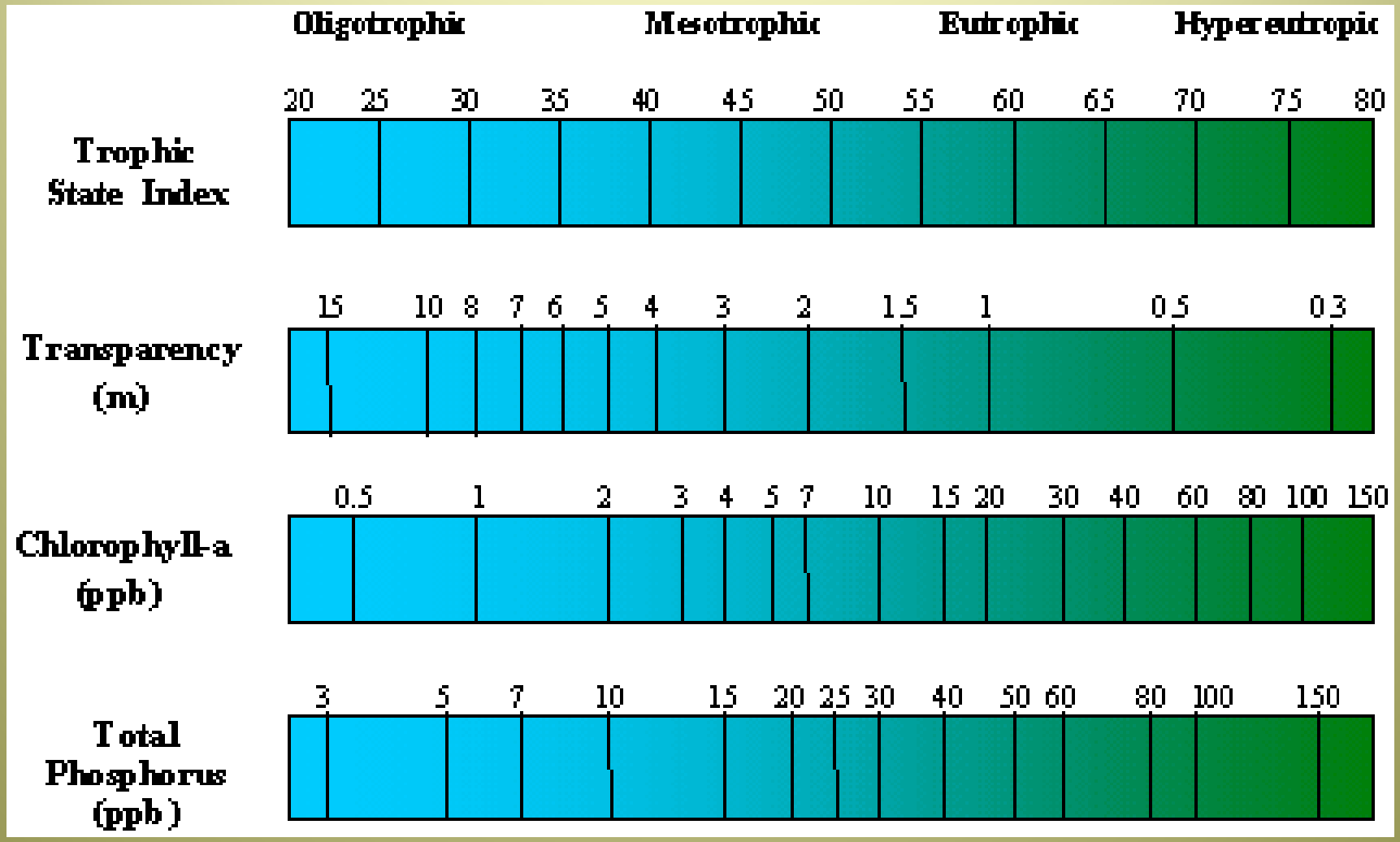
Why Develop the Criteria?

- Obvious water quality problems in state caused by excess nutrient loading
- Numeric goals for protecting or restoring Recreational and Fish and Aquatic Life Uses
- EPA requirement

Specific Lake Criteria

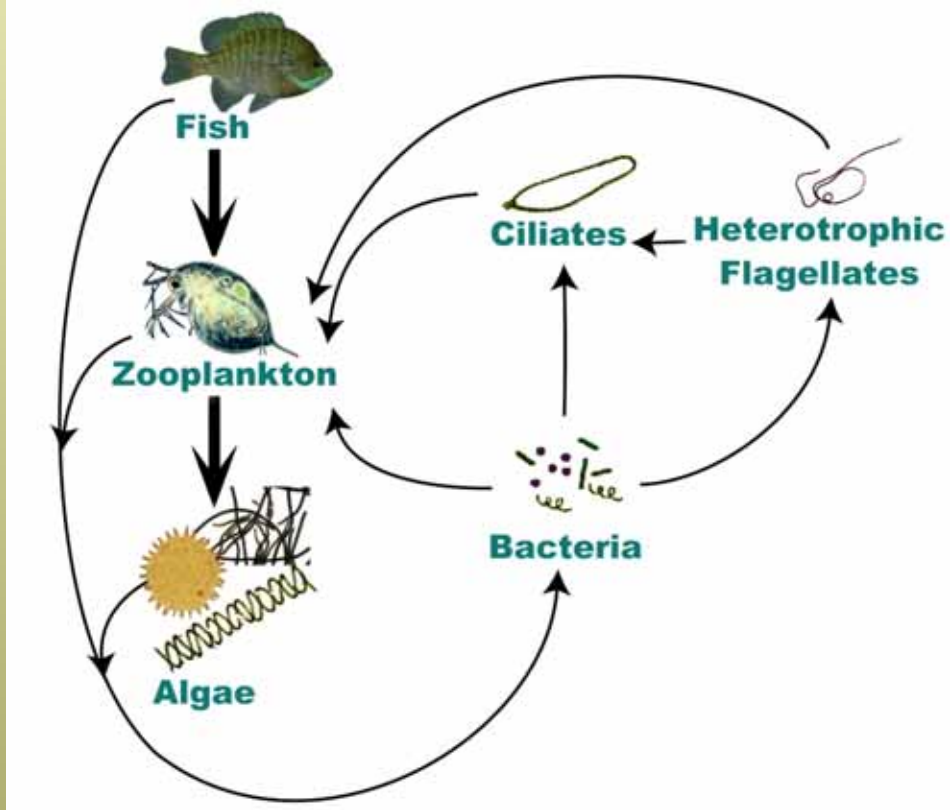
- 2-story fishery lakes – 15 ug/l
- Stratified seepage lakes – 20 ug/l
- Stratified drainage lakes – 30 ug/l
- Stratified reservoirs – 30 ug/l
- Non-stratified lakes – 40 ug/l
- Non-stratified reservoirs – 40 ug/l

TROPHIC STATE INDEX



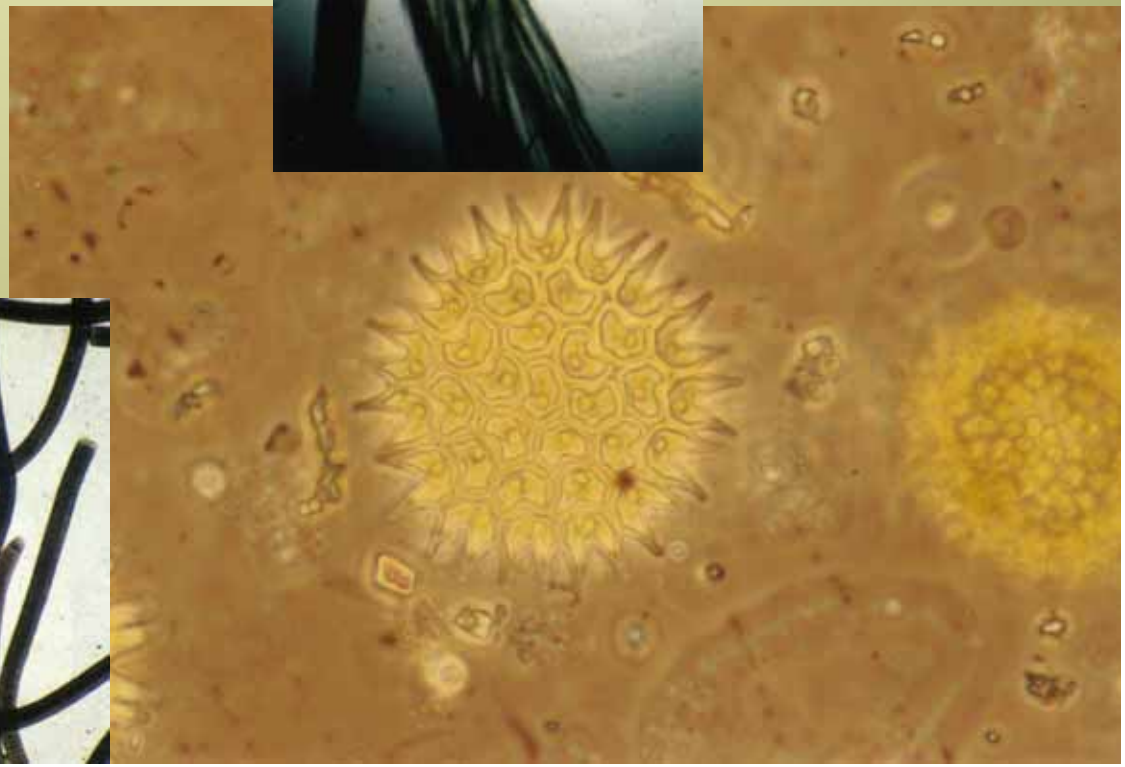
BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Viruses/ Bacteria/ Fungi
- Primary - Producers Algae/ Macrophyte
- Zooplankton/ Inverts
- Fish



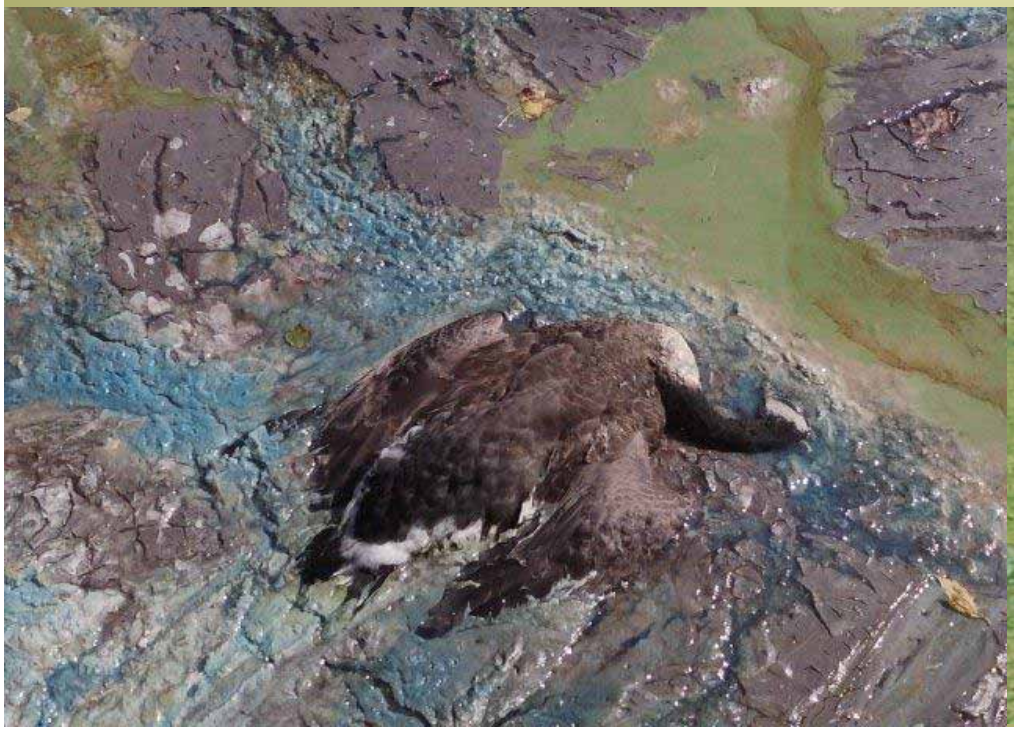
ALGAE

- Primary Energy Source for Invertebrates
- Can be Nuisance and Human Health Issue
- Produce O_2



Human Health Concerns

- **Toxic algae**



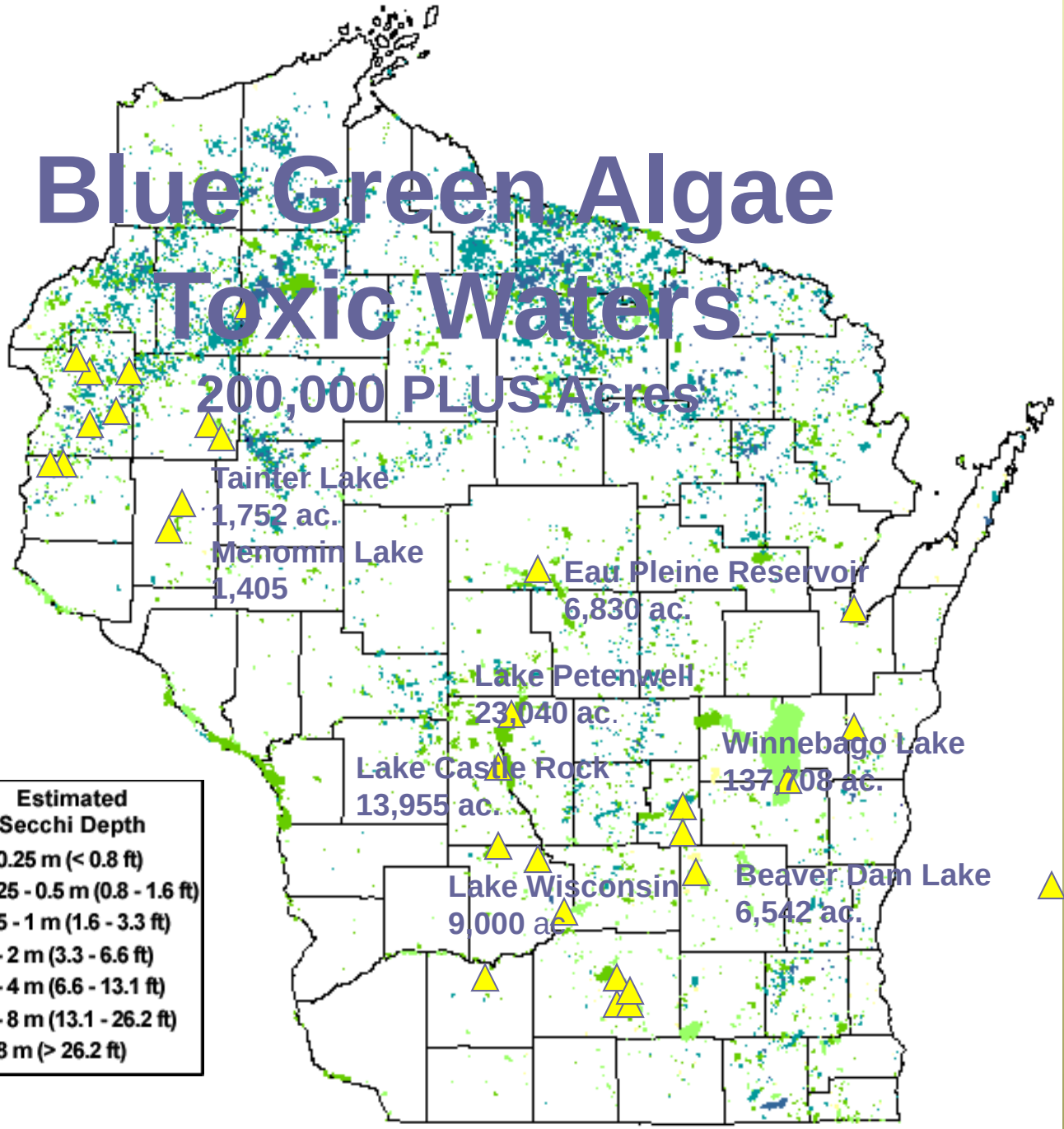
Common *human* symptoms associated with blue-green algae exposure include:		
Respiratory	**Dermatologic**	**Other**
Sore throat Congestion Cough Wheezing Difficulty breathing Eye irritation	Itchy skin Red skin Blistering Hives Other Rash	Earache Agitation Headache Abdominal pain Diarrhea Vomiting Vertigo

Common *animal* symptoms associated with blue-green algae exposure:
Lethargy Vomiting Diarrhea Convulsions Difficulty breathing General weakness

http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/eh/bluegreenalgae/#NewProg

Blue Green Algae Toxic Waters

200,000 PLUS Acres



Trophic State Index	Estimated Secchi Depth
> 80	< 0.25 m (< 0.8 ft)
70 to 80	0.25 - 0.5 m (0.8 - 1.6 ft)
60 to 70	0.5 - 1 m (1.6 - 3.3 ft)
50 to 60	1 - 2 m (3.3 - 6.6 ft)
40 to 50	2 - 4 m (6.6 - 13.1 ft)
30 to 40	4 - 8 m (13.1 - 26.2 ft)
< 30	> 8 m (> 26.2 ft)

AQUATIC PLANTS

- Habitat
- Energy Dissipation
- O_2 Producers

ZOOPLANKTON & AQUATIC INVERTEBRATES

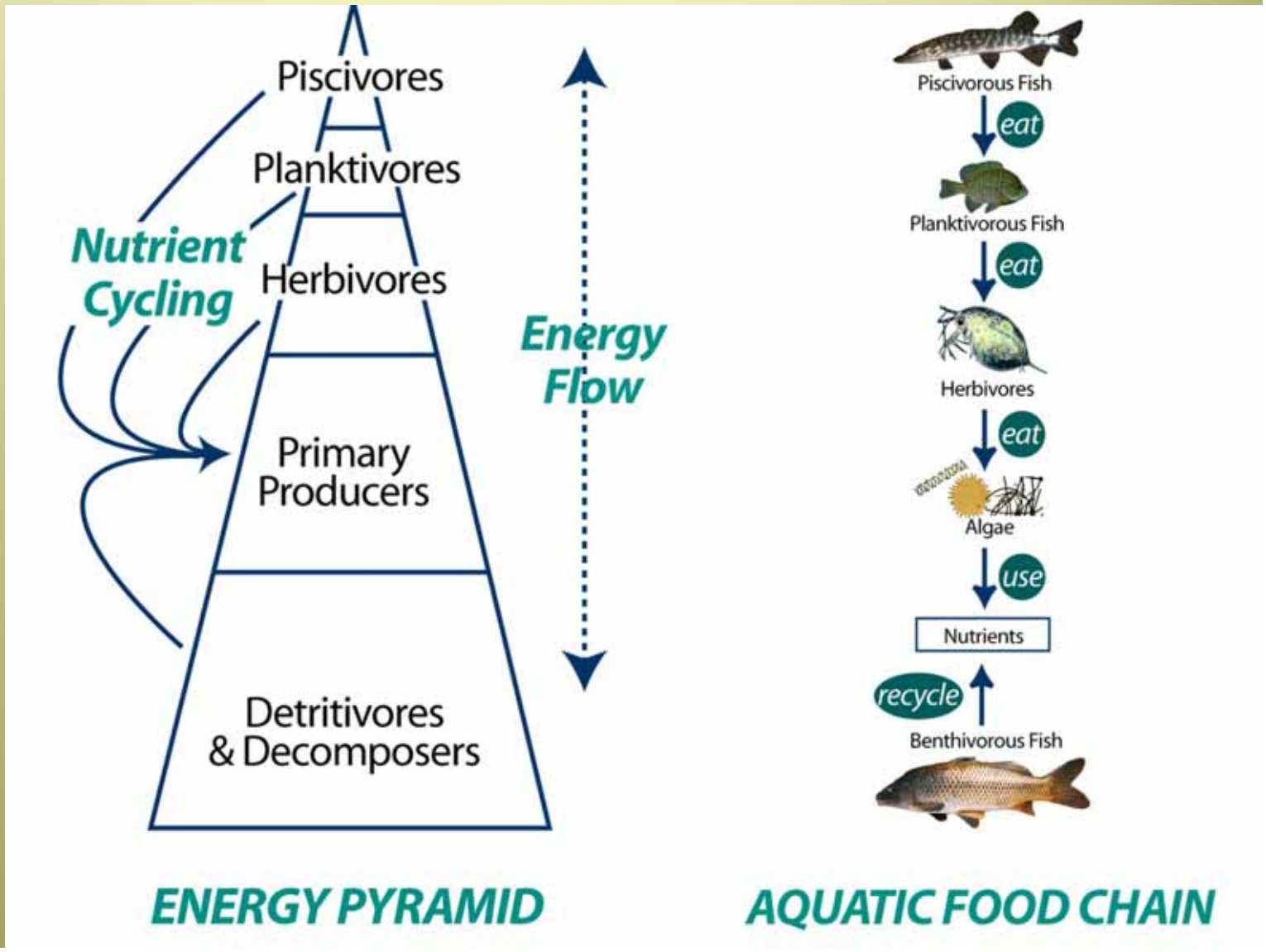
Zooplankton

Dragonfly

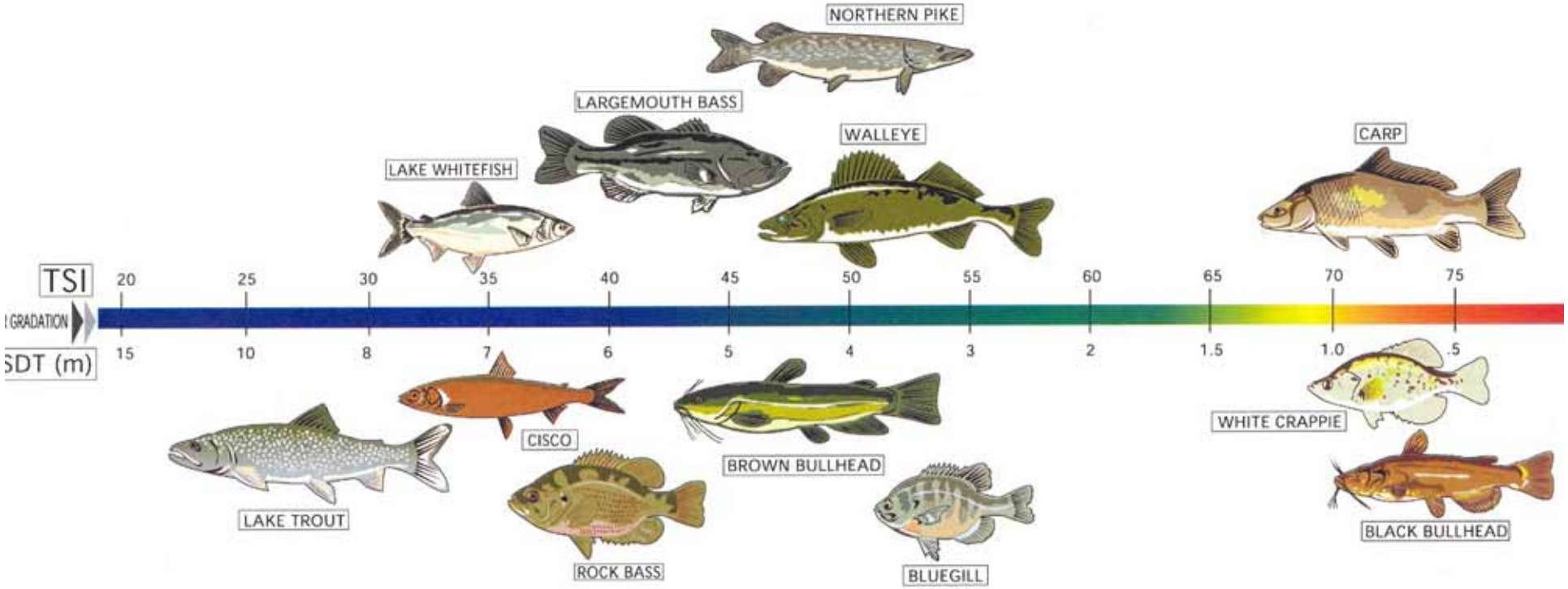
FISH

- Planktivore
- Piscivore
- Benthivore

TROPHIC PYRAMID

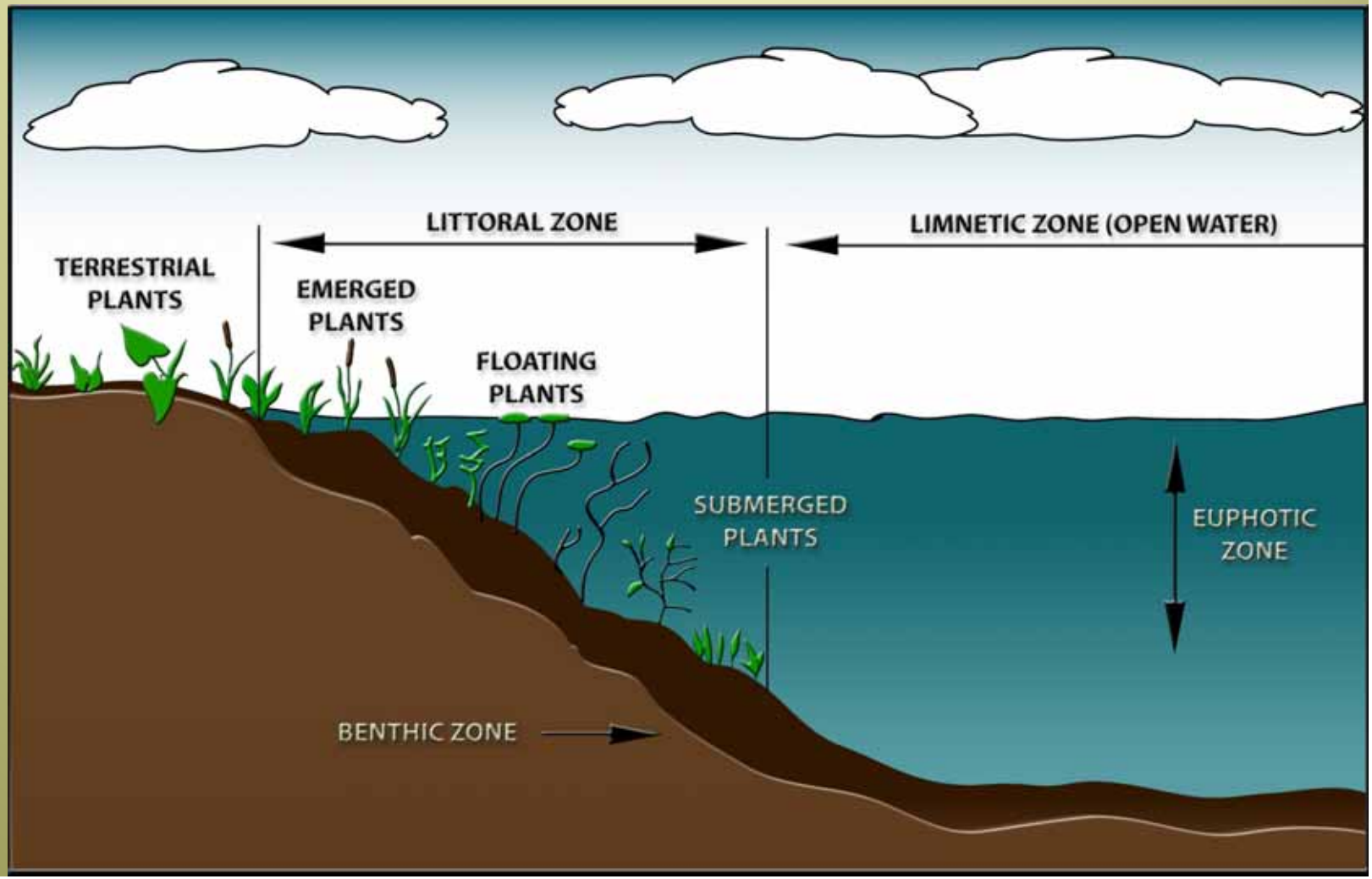


Fish species vary relative to lake trophic status



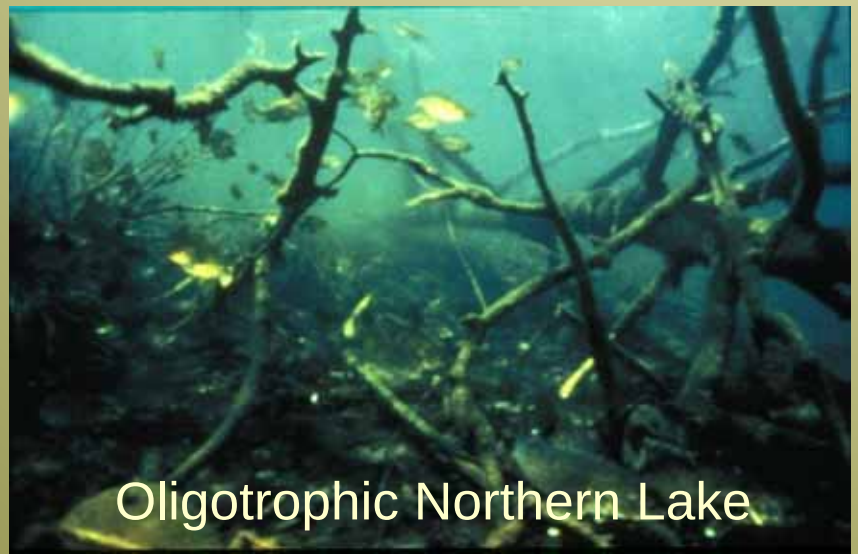
Every change of 10 in the TSI corresponds to a doubling of a lake's algae biomass and a halving of water clarity.

LAKE HABITAT ZONES



LAKE LITTORAL ZONE

- Functions
  - Intercepts Nutrients
  - Refuge from Predators
  - Nursery for Fish



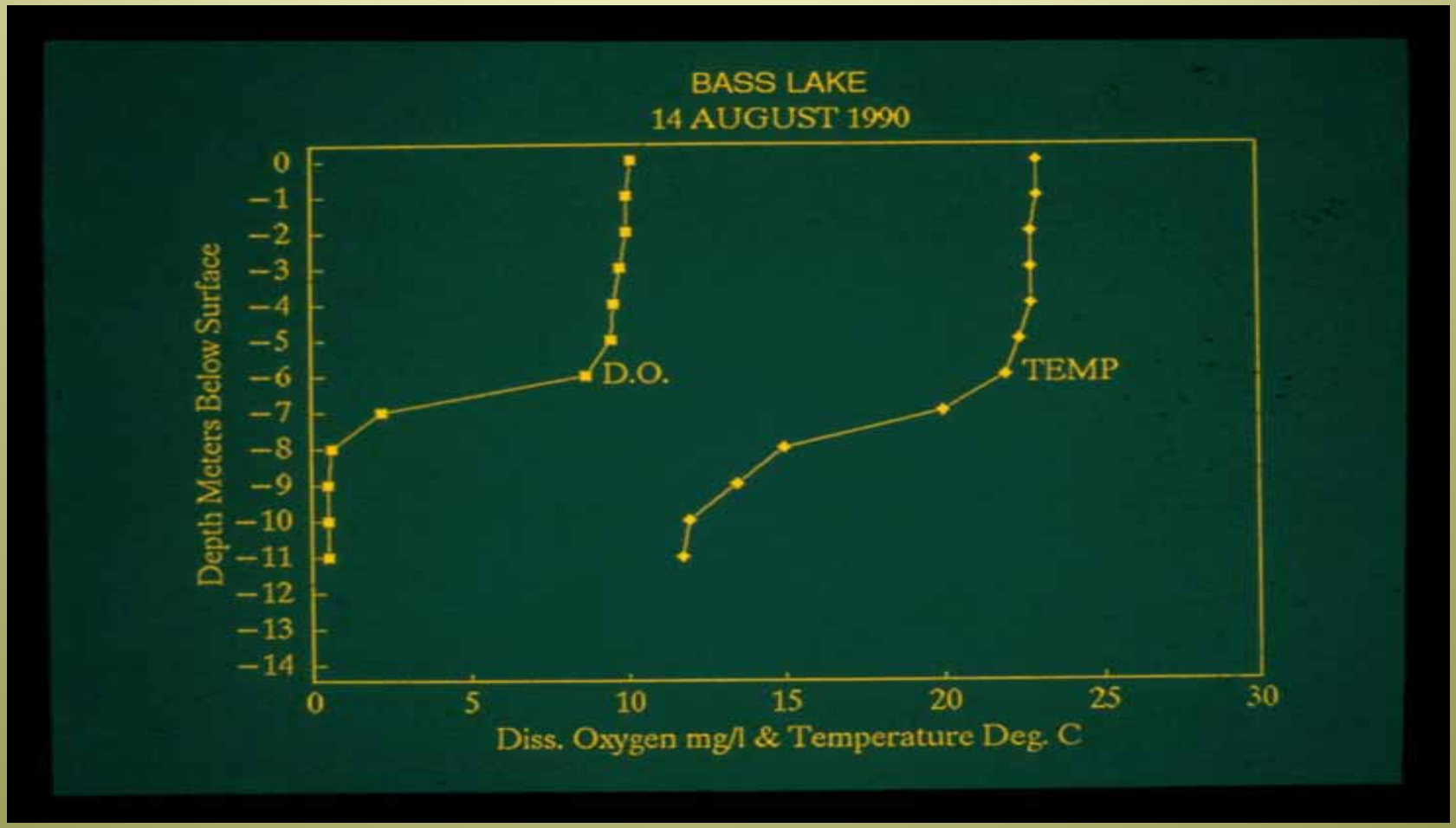
Oligotrophic Northern Lake

Eutrophic Southern Lake

ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNS OF DEGRADATION

LOSS OF WATER CLARITY

HYPOLIMNETIC DO DEPLETION



HARMFUL ALGAE BLOOMS

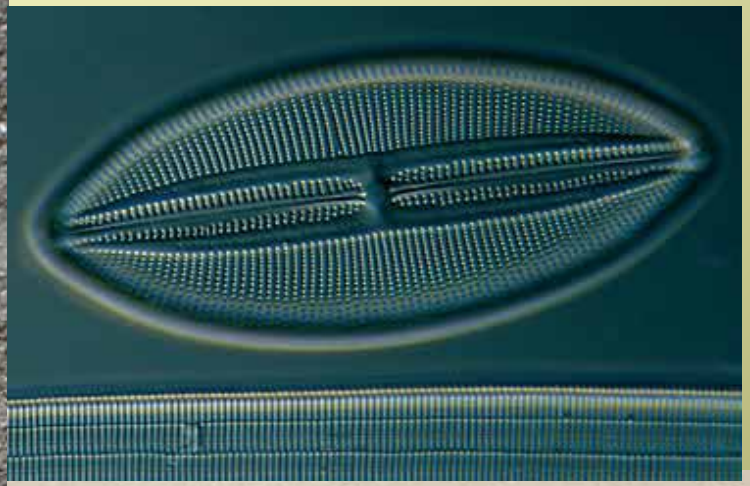
FISHERIES DEGRADATION

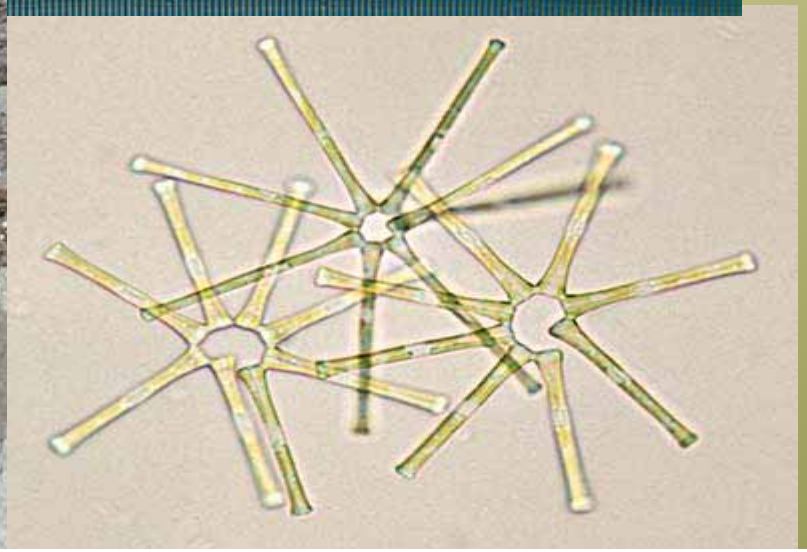
LEAVING A LEGACY

Help Protect Wisconsin's…

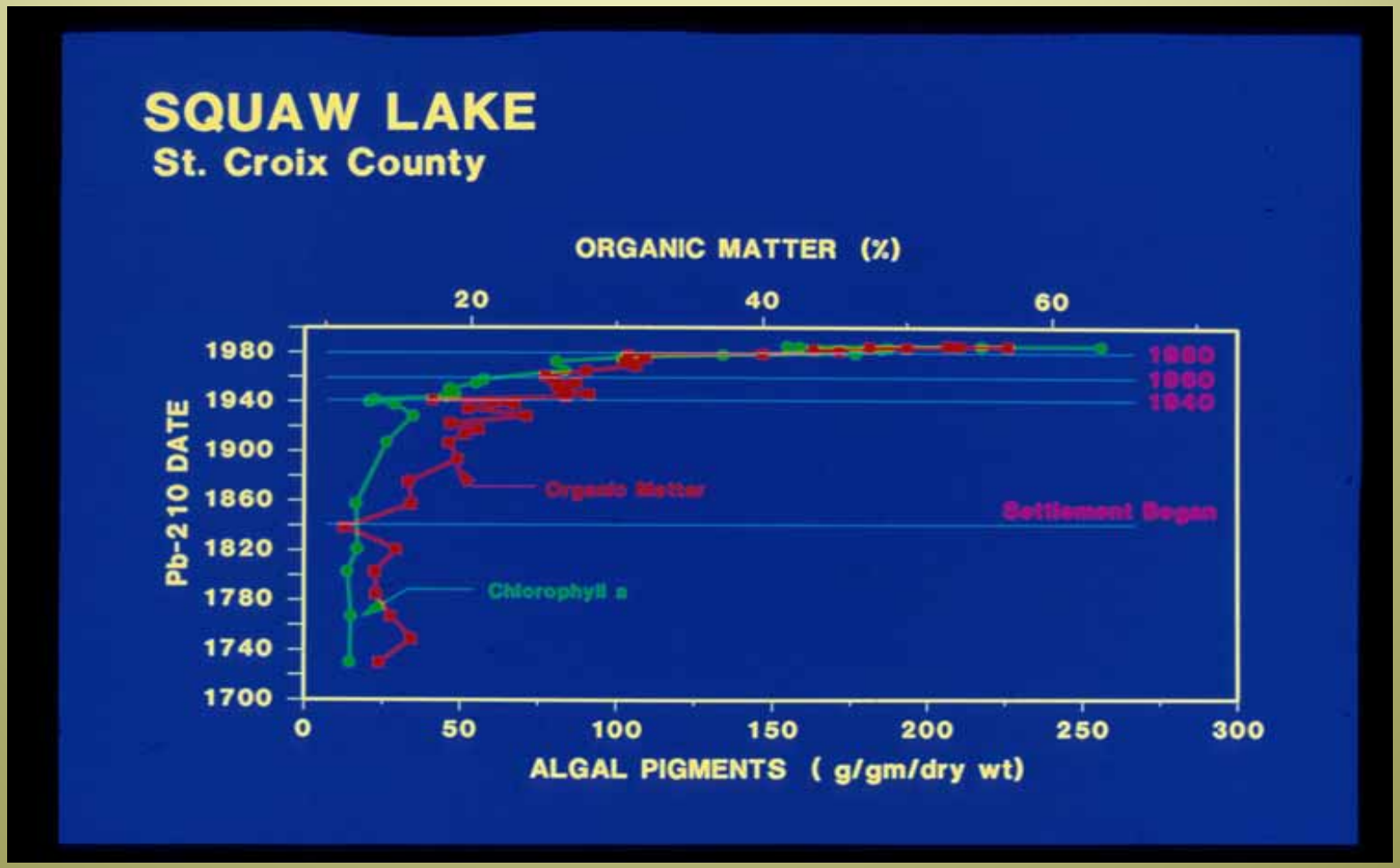
WATER RESOURCES.

PALEOLIMNOLGY





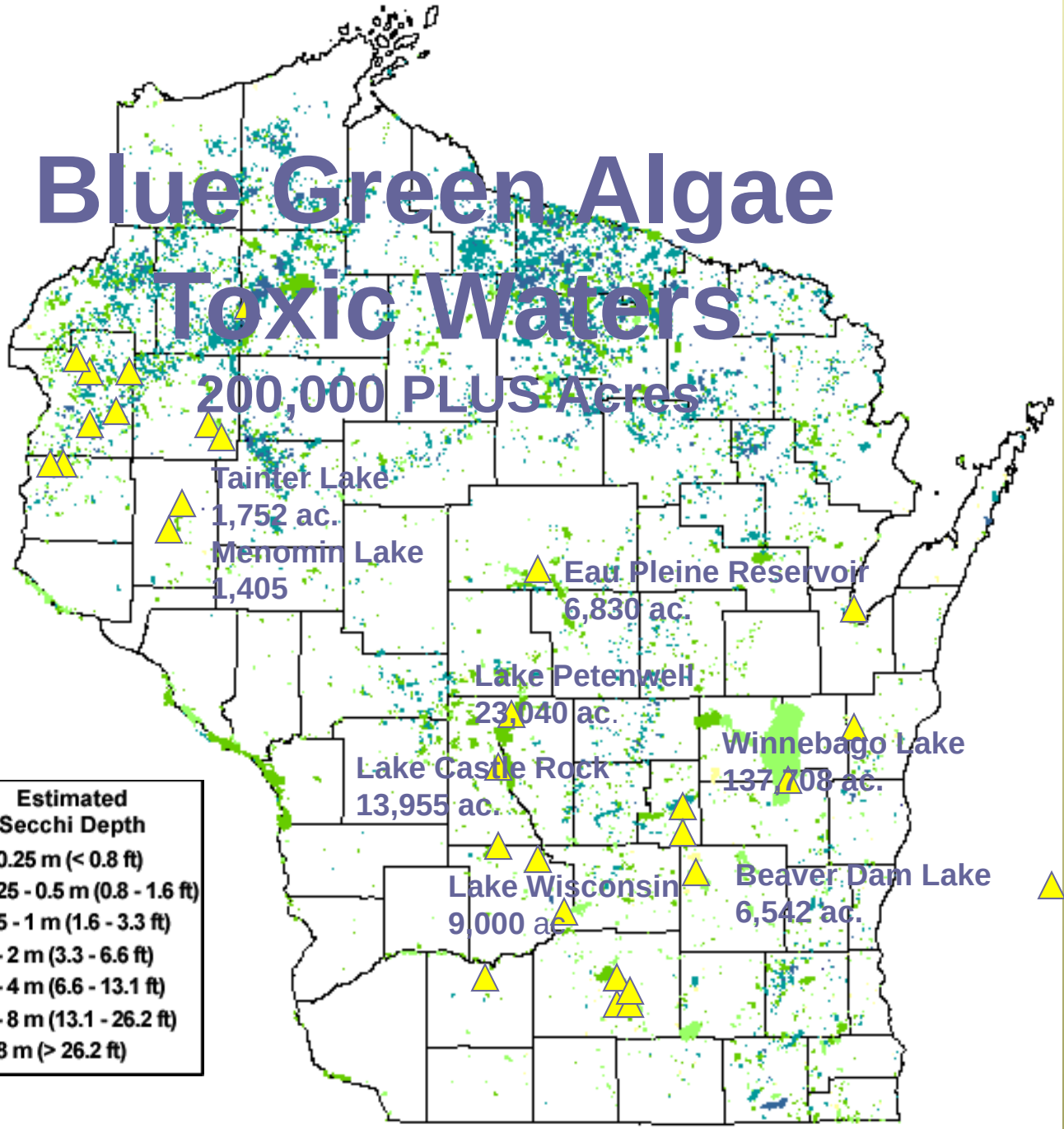
PALEOLIMNOLGY




Despite all this…..
HONDA

Blue Green Algae Toxic Waters

200,000 PLUS Acres



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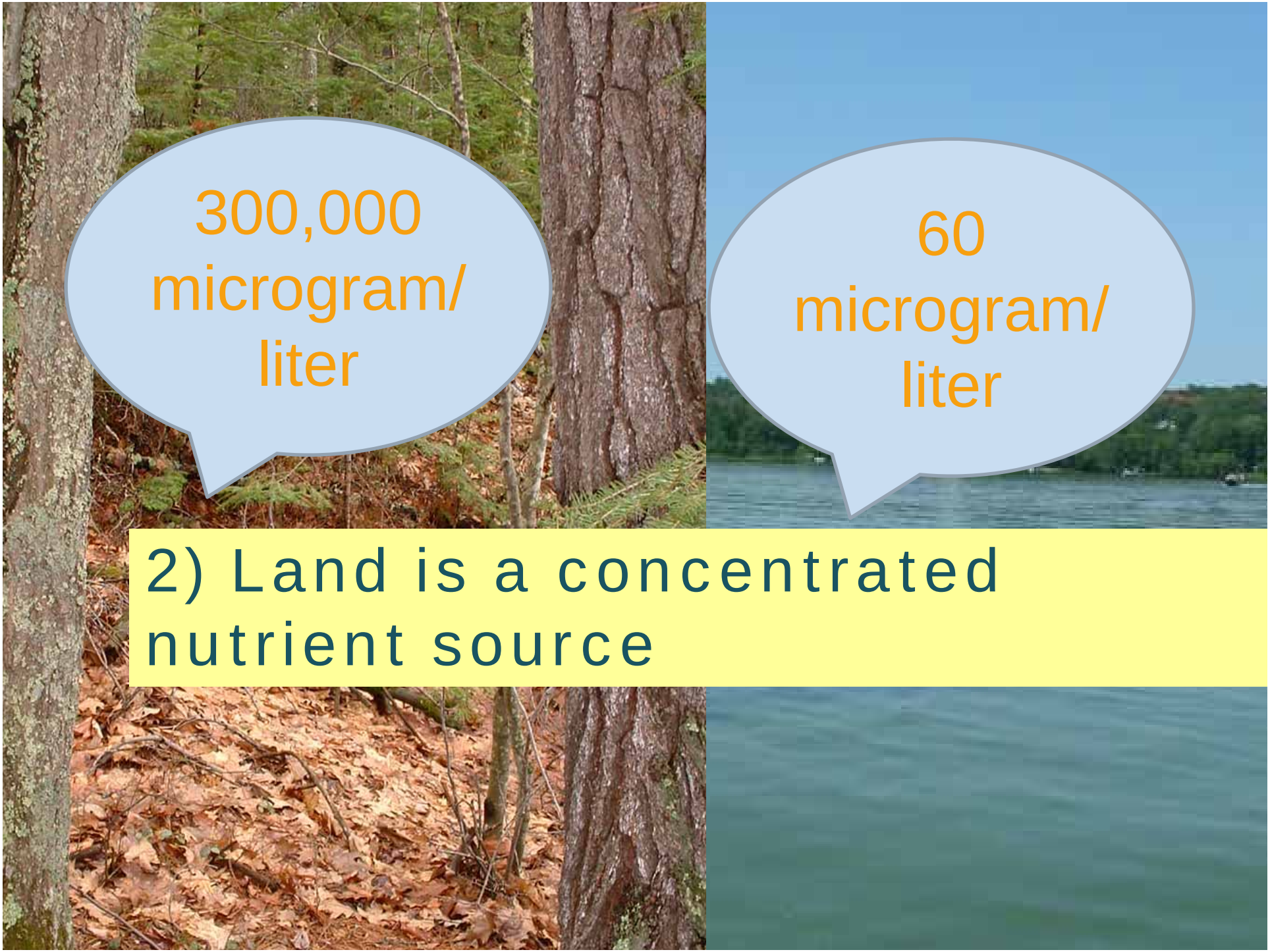
Algal toxins

A threat to both human and animal health

LAND USE AND WATERSHED IMPACTS



2) Land is a concentrated nutrient source

Empirical Watershed Models

Phosphorus export coefficients - developed based using monitoring data.

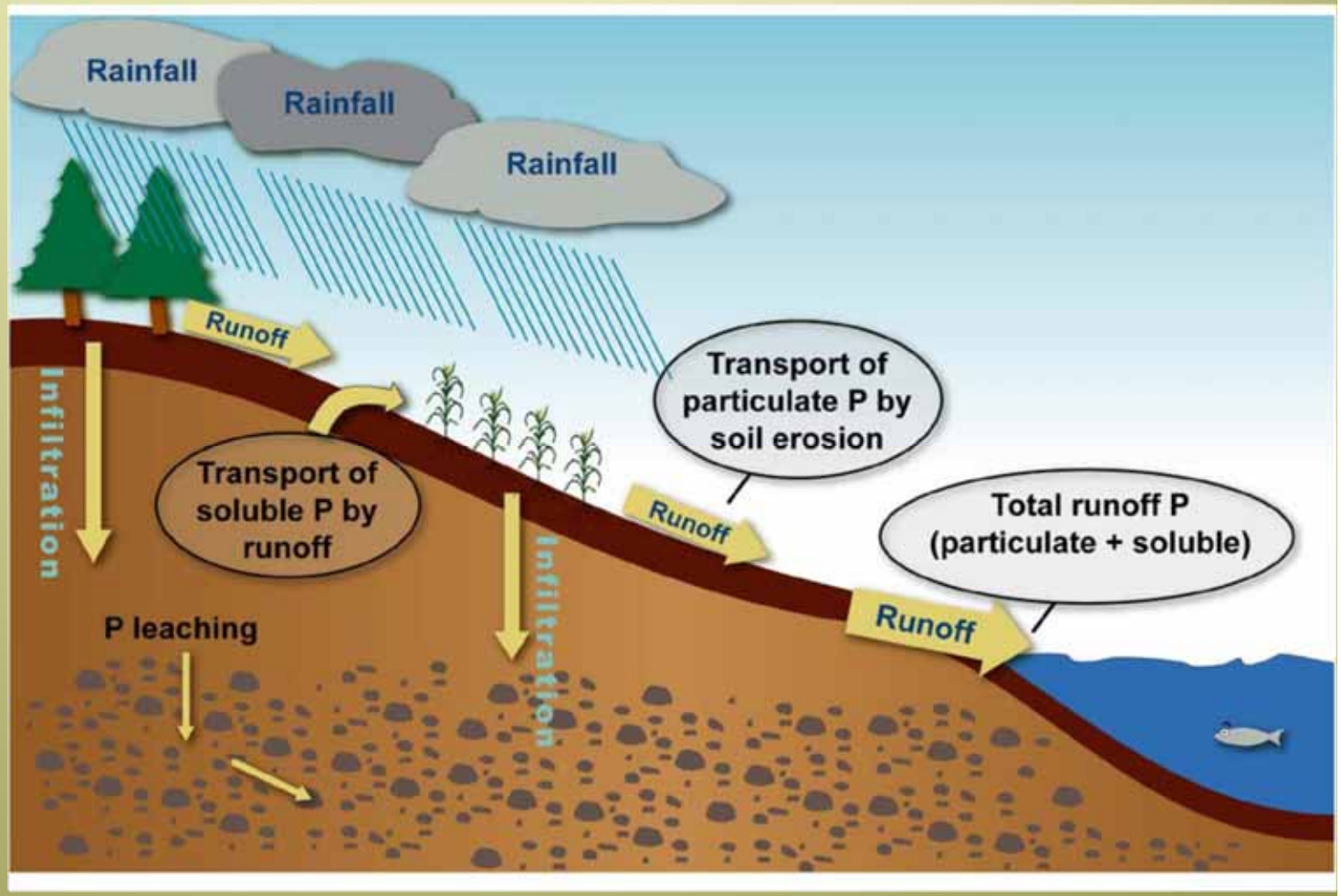
WISCONSIN VALUES

Land Cover	TP Export kg/ha/yr
High Density Urban	1.5
Row Crop Agriculture	1.0
Mixed Agriculture	0.8
Grass / Pasture	0.3
Medium Density Urban	0.5
Low Density Urban	0.1
Forested	0.09

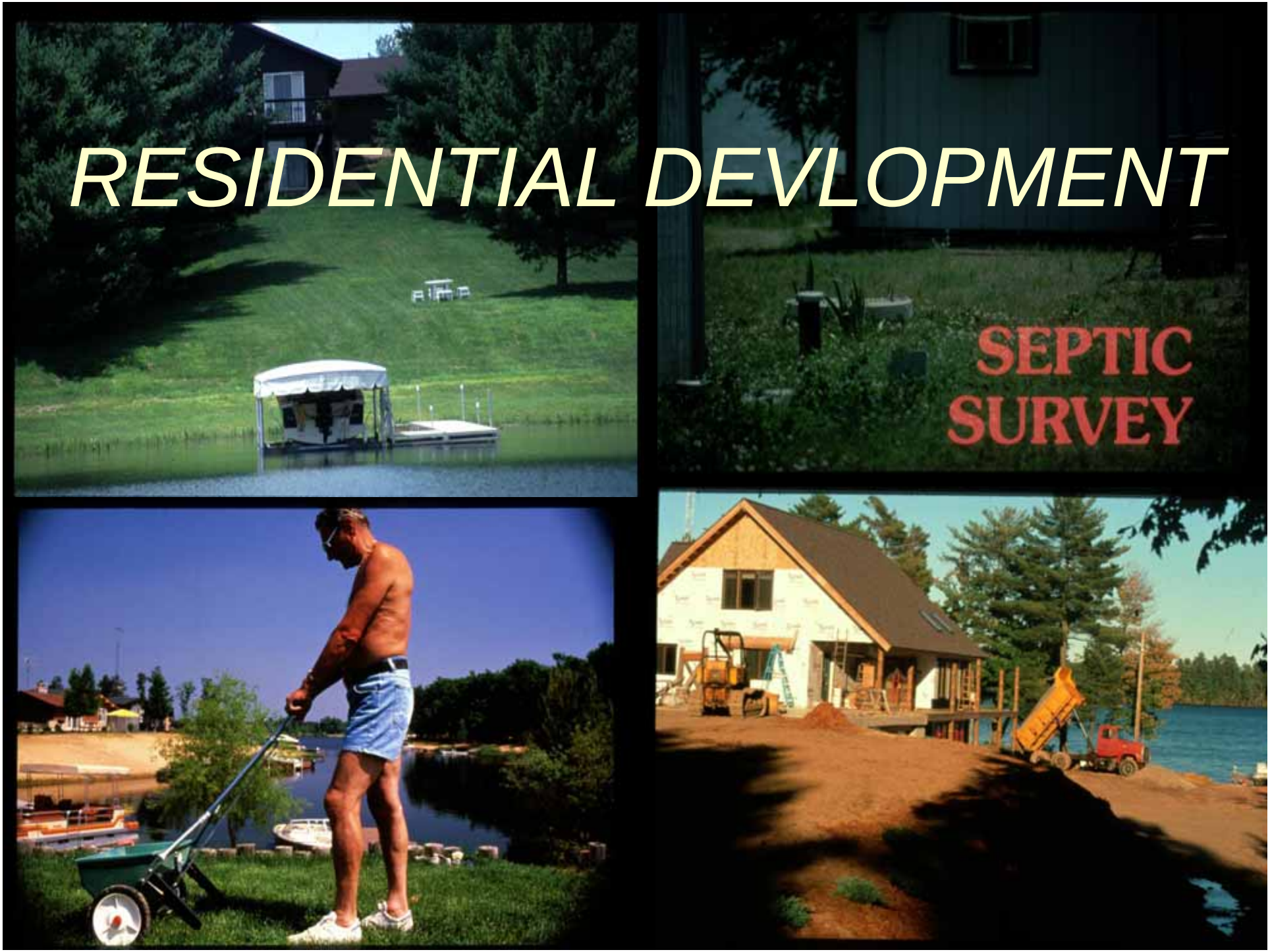
Phosphorus transport

-- P is transported by runoff in both (1) dissolved [DP] and (2) particulate forms [PP].

-- GW-P is usually low, ~10-15 ppb

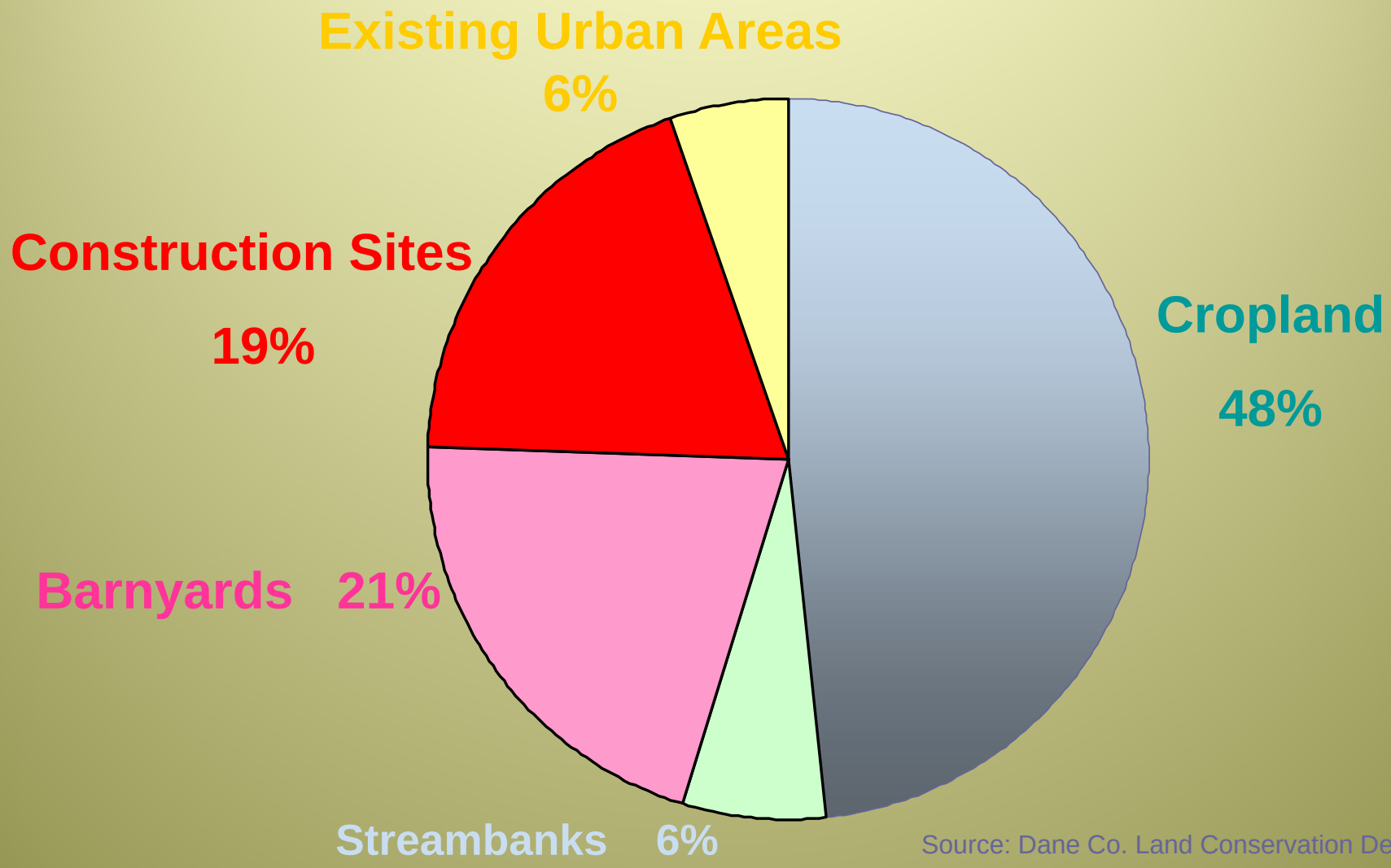


from Sturgul & Bundy 2004; UW-Madison & UW-Extension, Dept. of Nutrient & Pest Mgt.


RESIDENTIAL DEVLOPMENT
SEPTIC
SURVEY

AGRICULTURE IMPACTS

P Loading Sources to Lake Mendota



Source: Dane Co. Land Conservation Dept.

Lake Mendota Watershed P Budget

(from Bennett et al. 1999)

P Inputs

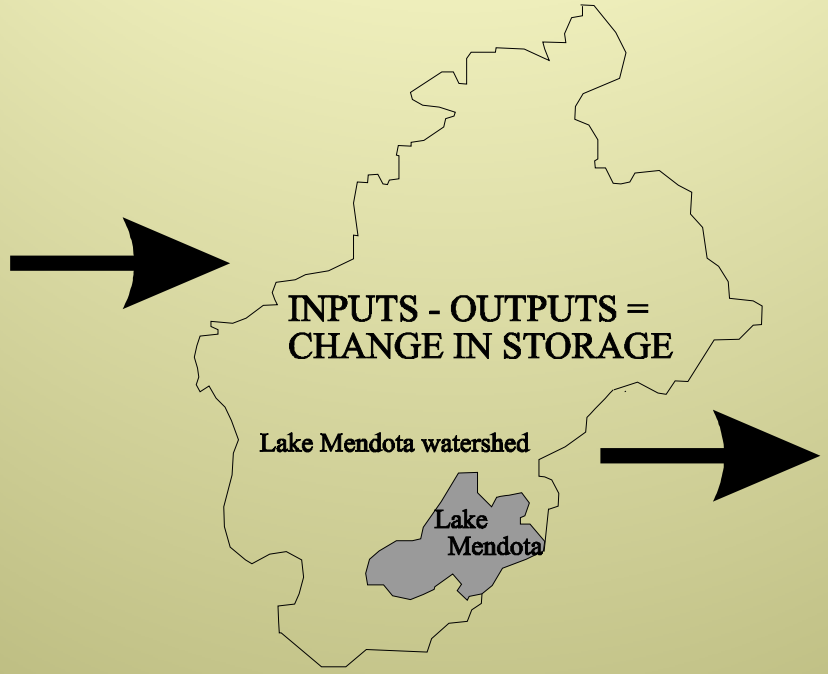
Fertilizer for agricultural crops, including:
- corn
- soybeans
- wheat
- oats
- peas and beans
- barley

Feed supplements for dairy cattle

Fertilizer for urban lawn

Dry and wet deposition

P in = 1,307 MT



P Outputs

Crops harvested, including:
- corn
- soybeans
- wheat
- oats
- peas and beans
- barley
- forage

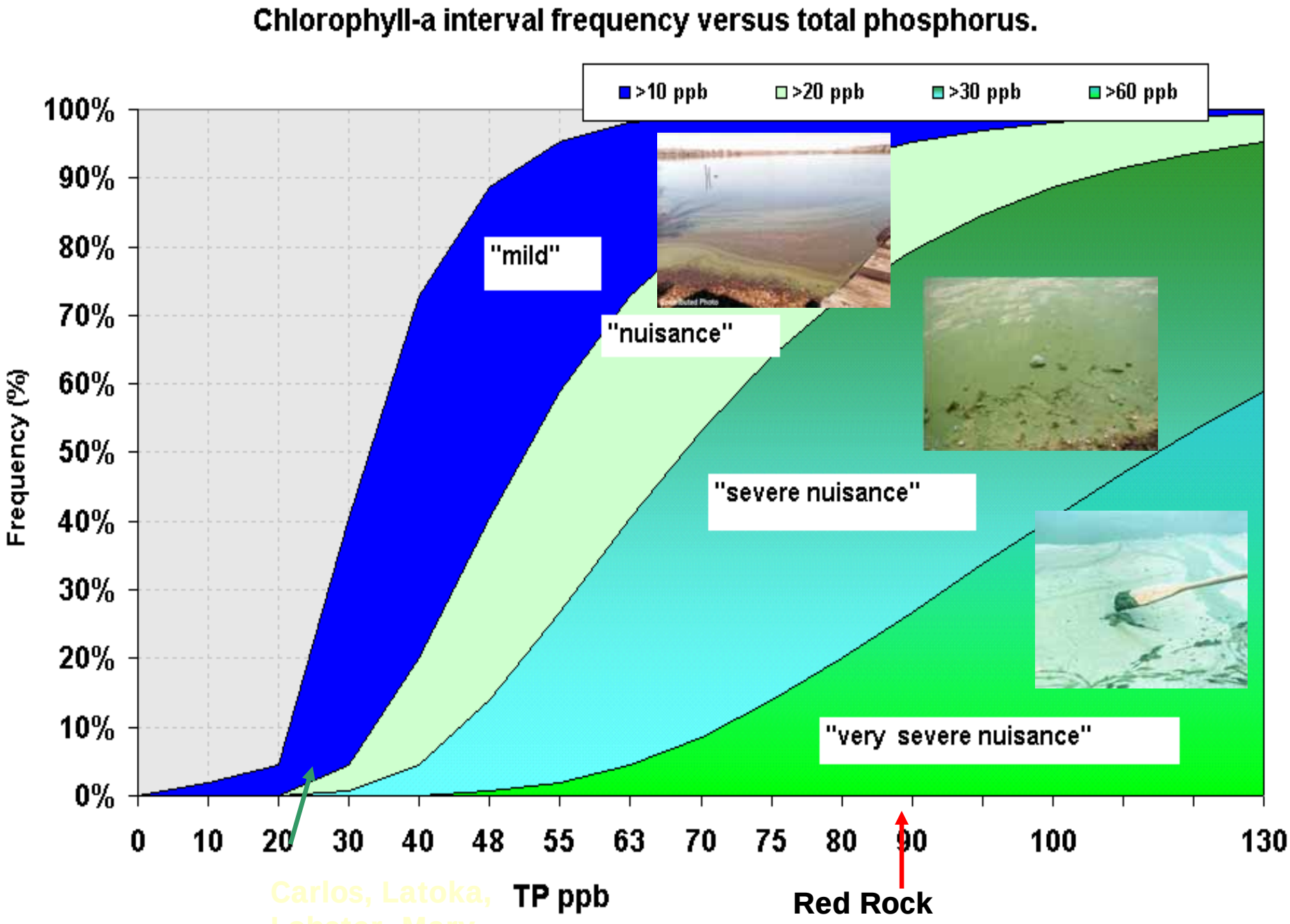
Animal products, including:
- cattle
- hogs/pigs
- milk and dairy
- eggs

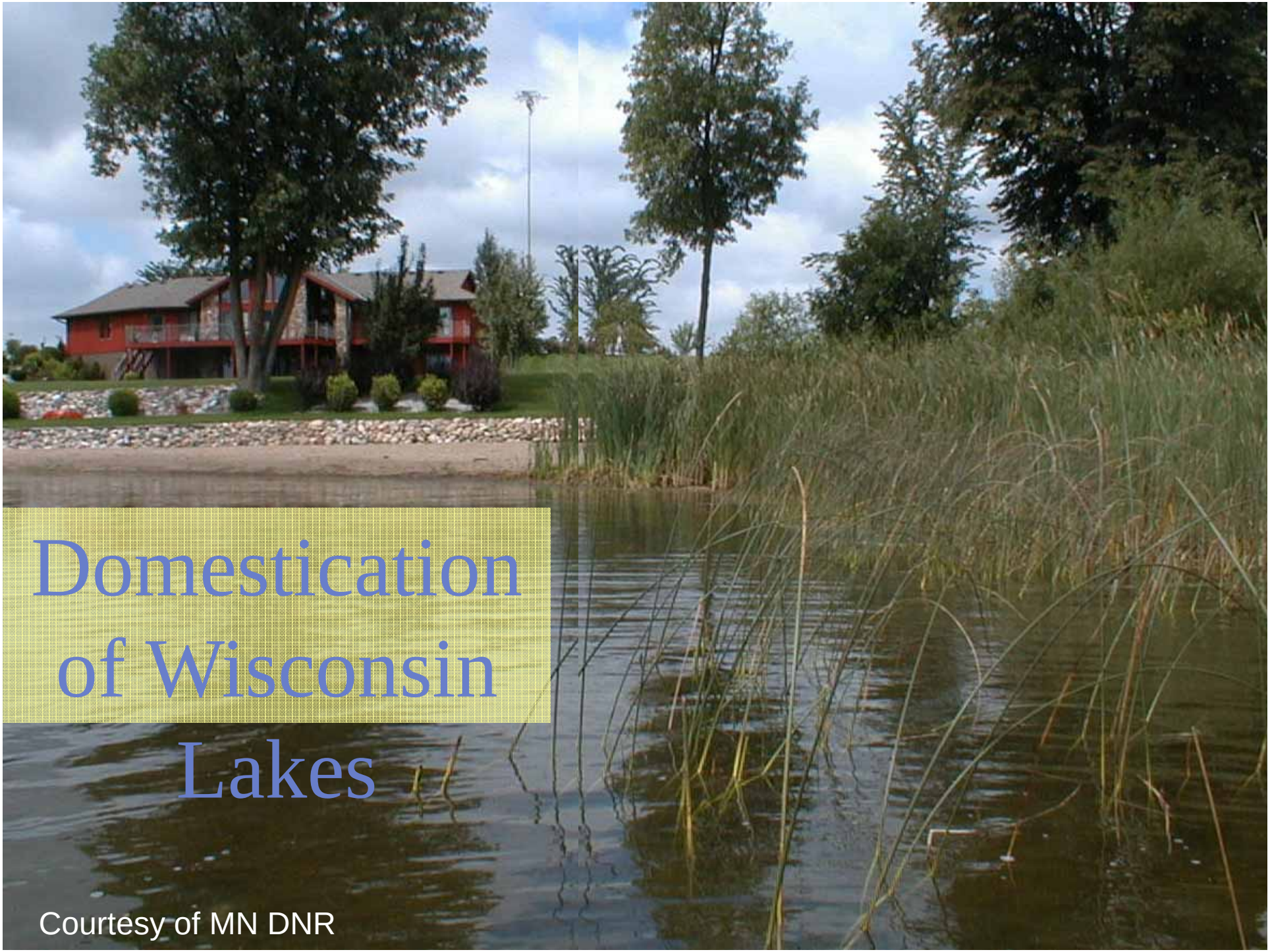
Hydrologic export to Lake Mendota **= 34 MT**

P out = 732 MT

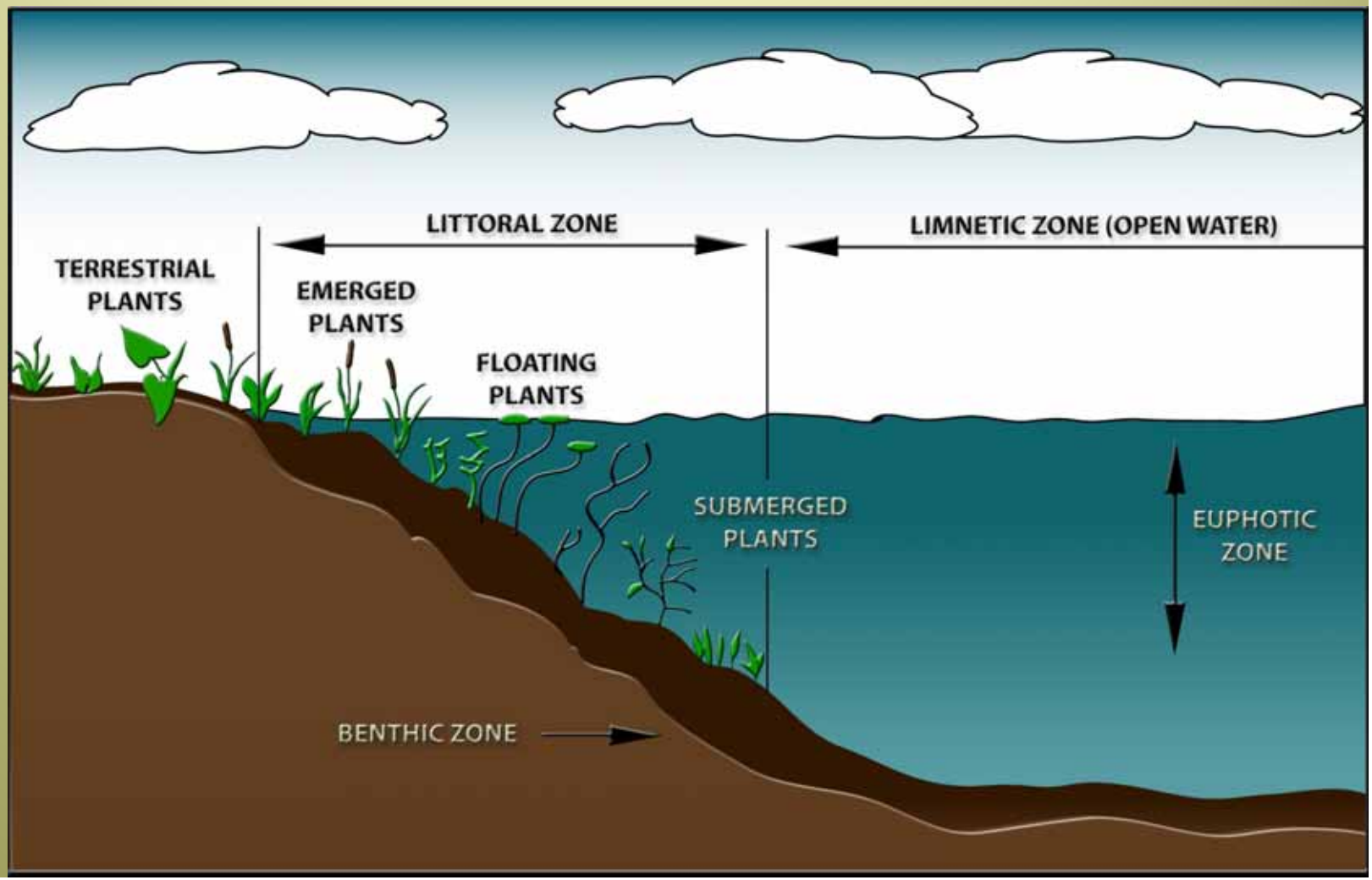
P Storage = + 575 MT !!

Figure 1. Schematic diagram of inputs and outputs used to calculate a P budget for the Lake Mendota watershed for 1995.


Chlorophyll-a interval frequency versus total phosphorus.
>10 ppb
>20 ppb
>30 ppb
>60 ppb
"mild"
"nuisance"
"severe nuisance"
"very severe nuisance"
Frequency (%)
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
0
10
20
30
40
48
55
63
70
75
80
90
100
130
TP ppb
Carlos, Latoka,
Lobster, Mary
Red Rock

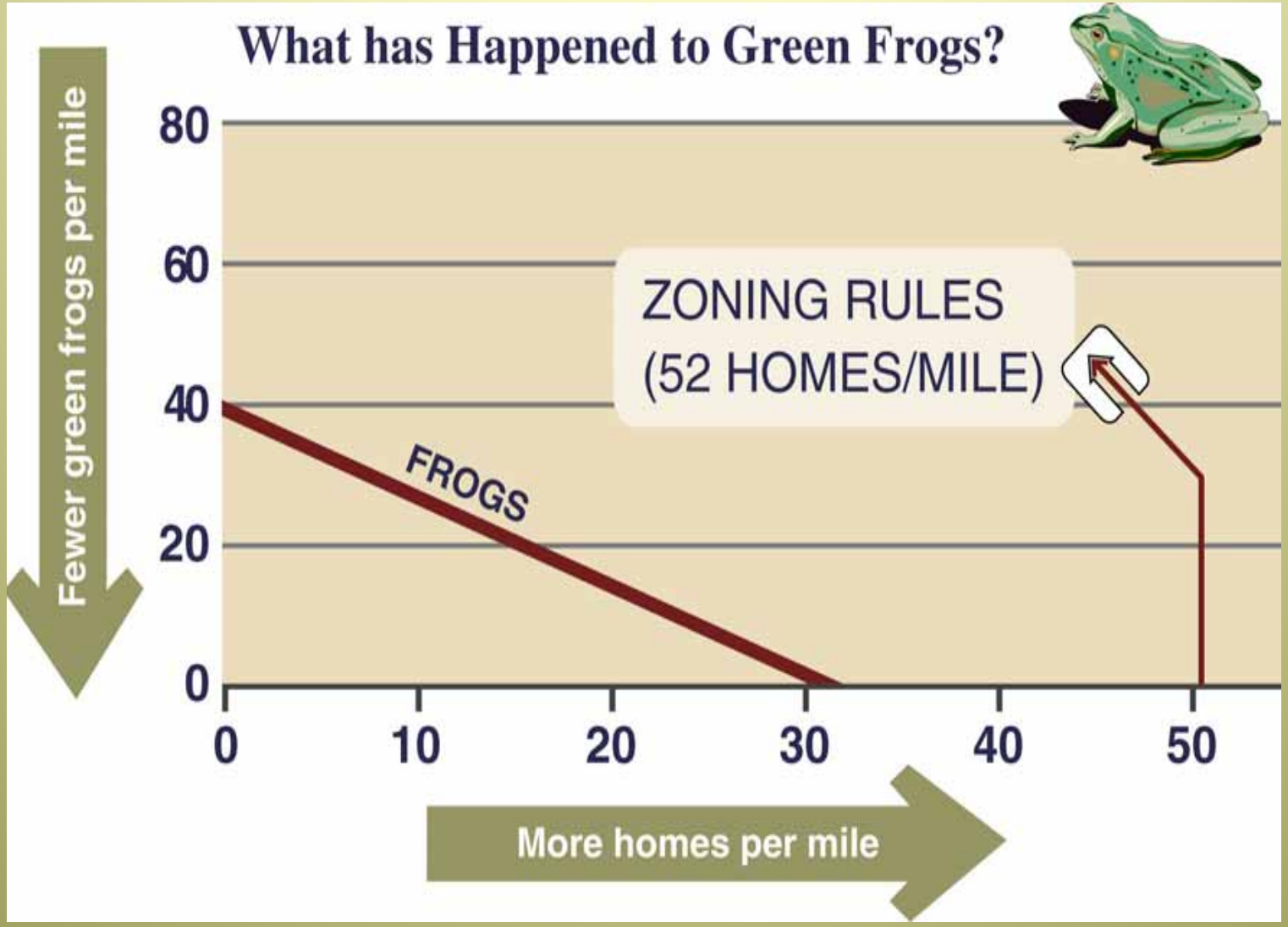

Domestication of Wisconsin Lakes
Courtesy of MN DNR

LAKE HABITAT ZONES



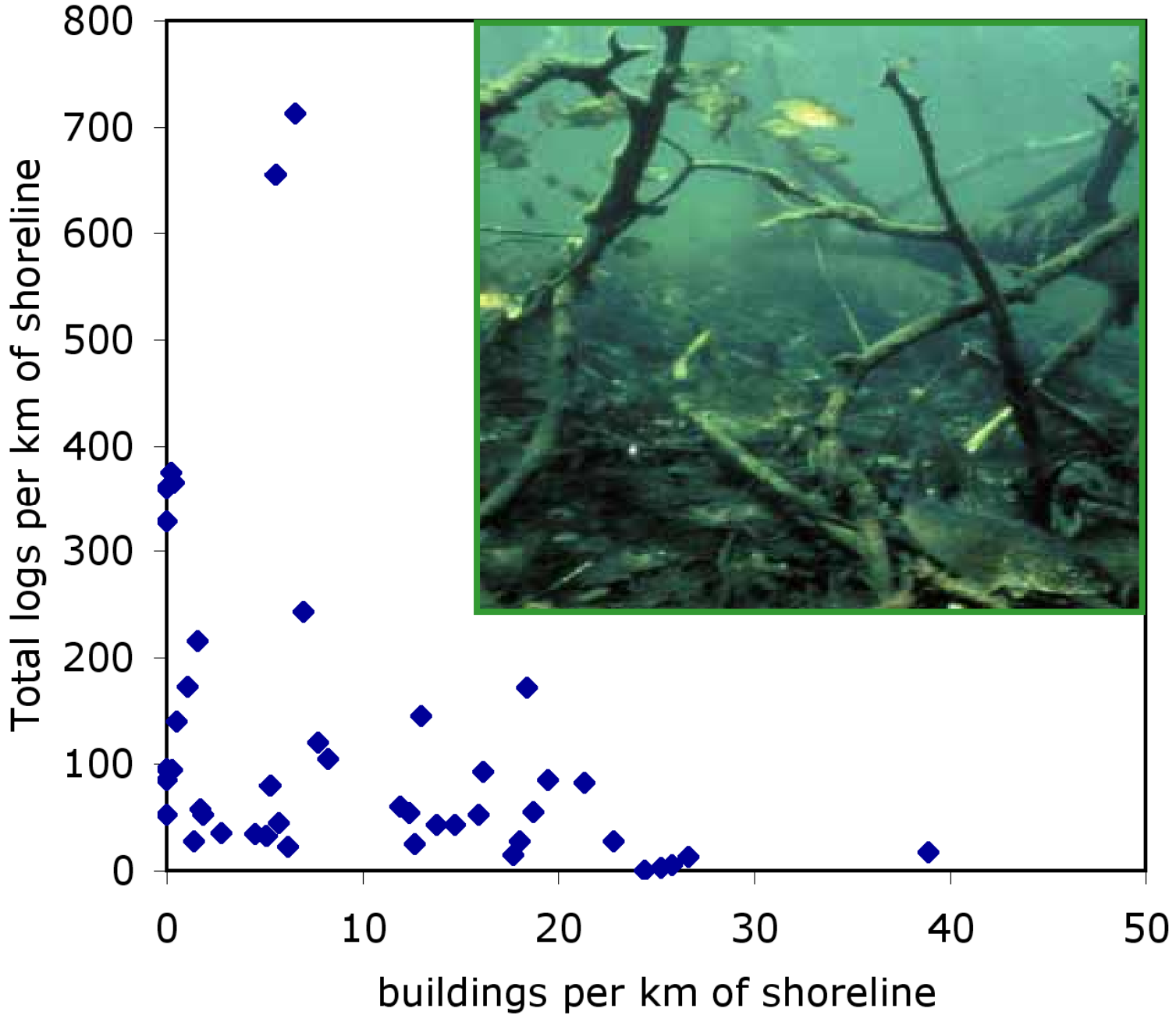
Without habitat, they are gone

Shoreland green frog trends



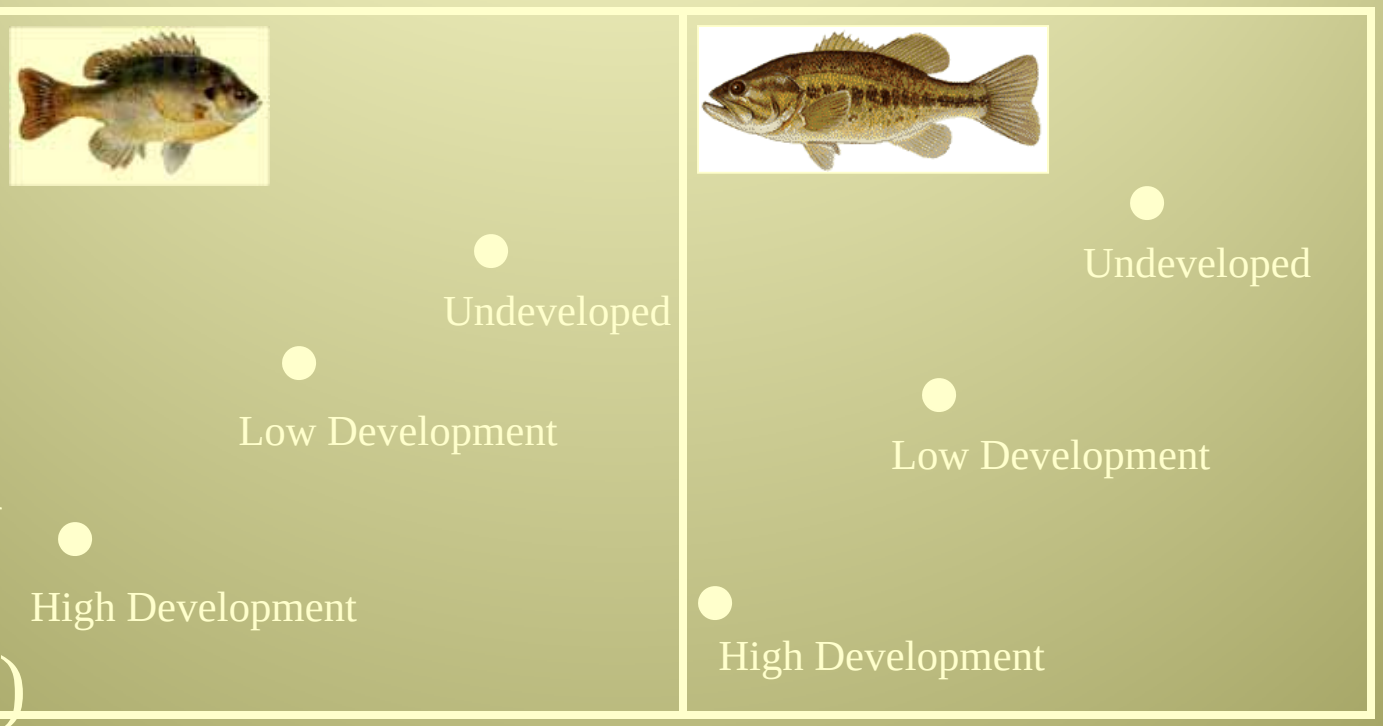
Source: Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

The Wisconsin Lakes Partnership



Data: U.W. BioComplexity project

Fish grow ~3X faster in lakes with lots of woody habitat



From Schindler et al. 2000

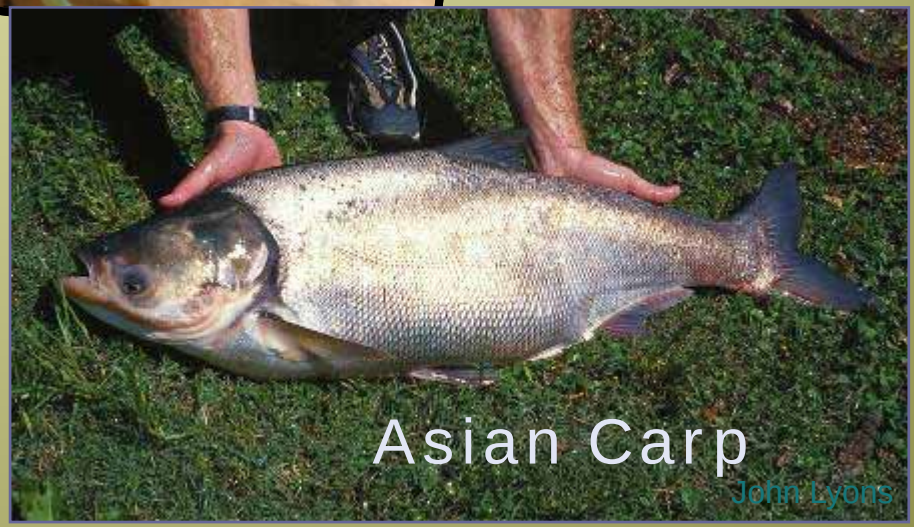
Aquatic Invasive Species in Wisconsin


zebra mussels


curly-leaf pondweed


rusty crayfish


Eurasian water-milfoil


Asian Carp

John Lyons

How do they get here?

- Ballast water
- Stocking
- Nursery industry
- Bait industry
- Aquarium trade
- Aquaculture

How do they spread?

- Boaters
- Anglers
- Other water users
- Natural dispersal

Why do we care?

- **Economic impacts**
  - Fishing industry, tourism, property values
- **Ecological impacts**
  - Native fish, invertebrates, plants
- **Recreational impacts**
  - Boating, angling, swimming

Wisconsin's AIS Program

Prevent introduction and limit the spread of aquatic invasive species

Program Goals

- **Focus on containment**
- **Increase AIS awareness & responsible behaviors**
- **Strengthen partnerships**

AIS Program Elements

- **Education & Outreach**
- **Watercraft Inspection**
- **Citizen Lake Monitoring**
- **Purple Loosestrife Biological Control**
- **Aquatic Invasive Species Grants**
- **Research**
- **Rules to Prevent Spread**