

DNR eDigest

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The Bureau of Education and Information's goal is to publish "The E-Digest" bi-weekly on paydays. The bureau will publish additional issues, as needed. Contact "E-Digest" editor Diane.Brinson@wisconsin.gov or at 608/266-5215 to submit stories, story ideas and photos that communicate internally the department's work, policies and issues that matter to DNR employees.

January 28, 2010

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Sandy Manthei wins 2009 Rebecca Wallace Award

Sandy Manthei, environmental grants specialist for the Southeast Region, received the annual Rebecca Wallace Memorial award at the Natural Resources Board meeting January 27, in Madison. Secretary **Matt Frank** and board chair Christine Thomas presented Manthei with a pen-and-ink watercolor by **James McEvoy**, a retired DNR artist from Brooklyn, WI.



Becky Wallace's son Mitch and Southeast Region director Gloria McCutcheon flanked Rebecca Wallace Award recipient Sandy Manthei at the January 27 board meeting.

WDNR Photo

Frank listed some of Manthei's many accomplishments mentoring colleagues and improving relationships with a wide array of local governments and organizations. He noted her compassion and dedication to her family and friends.

"Sandy's guiding hand to make everything go smoothly ...and her practical ability to pull together a team to get things done, make her very deserving of this award."

Manthei's organizational skills and boundless energy are legendary. Prior to her current position, she served the Southeast Region as customer service supervisor and as the administrative assistant to the regional water program. Comments from supervisors and colleagues included in her nomination reflect the admiration and respect Manthei has earned from her colleagues:

- Excellent at making sure the region stays on track, and that the department reacts appropriately to customers' concerns.
- The "nuts and bolts" person who makes all of our activities, programs and events successful.
- An exceptional role model and mentor in representing the department to the public and in assisting other employees in times of need.

"Sandy is DNR at its best," said Southeast Region Director **Gloria McCutcheon**.

Manthei thanked her co-workers for their support. "I am fortunate to work with people who give me the chance to work on different projects and ideas, and who support me whether the results are successful or not."

The Wallace award is presented each year to honor the memory of **Rebecca Wallace**, a former DNR employee who excelled at creating partnerships, as well as mentoring and serving as a role model for other department staff. Wallace also was widely admired for her ability to successfully balance her professional and personal lives. Recipients of the award embody these characteristics.

"I am honored to receive this prestigious award that honors Becky's legacy, and to be in the company of the dedicated and professional individuals who have been recognized in previous years," Manthei said.



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Secretary Frank testifies on Clean Energy Jobs Act

Secretary **Matt Frank** in testimony before the Senate Select Committee on Clean Energy on January 27 said that the proposed Clean Energy Jobs Act (SB 540) would make "Wisconsin a global leader."

Referring to climate change and dependence on fossil fuels as having serious impacts on Wisconsin's "health, economy, environment and ecosystems," Sec. Frank urged passage of SB 540, which he believes will take the state one step closer to independence from foreign fuels.

To read a summary of Sec. Frank's comments and the full transcript of his testimony, go to the ["Secretary's Corner"](#) on "MyDNR."



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Aerial deer count flown in CWD management zone

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

South Central Region wildlife staff recently finished an aerial deer count in parts of the chronic wasting disease management zone (CWD-MZ) of southwest Wisconsin.

Flying out of the Lone Rock airport, they used a helicopter to determine the number of deer in Deer Management Unit 70A, encompassing much of Iowa and western Dane County, near Devil's Lake State Park and Hollandale.



The deer counting crew prepared to take off from the Lone Rock airport. On board were wildlife technician Meg Ziegler, wildlife biologist Travis Anderson and pilot Don Vorland.

WDNR Photo

The crew on board the contracted blue and white colored Aero Optics, Inc. helicopter included the pilot and two observers, a primary observer in the right seat and a secondary observer in the middle, who tabulated deer observed by all three of them. The three were in contact via radio headsets.

Those taking part in the survey included from Dodgeville CWD operations chief **Don Bates**; wildlife biologists **Travis Anderson**, **Nancy Frost**, and wildlife technicians **Tim Marien** and **Chris Seuser**. Wildlife technician **Meg Ziegler**, Spring Green, also was on the crew.

"Deer are counted by sections with each section flown in back and forth sweeps until the entire section, 640 acres or one square mile, has been flown," said Bates.

The chopper survey flights are conducted about 100 to 150 feet above tree-top level at speeds of 35-40 miles per hour. If livestock are observed in the immediate area, the altitude is raised to avoid spooking the animals.

Research scientist and population ecologist **Robert Rolley**, Bureau of Science Services, "crunched" the numbers gathered during the flights to give biologists and researchers a better understanding of how CWD and its transmission are influenced by deer densities. The data also is used to measure the effectiveness of various hunting season structures in reducing deer populations.

Footnote: Greg Matthews is the public affairs manager for the South Central Region.



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Call goes out to help West Central's Kou Xiong with transplant

By: Ed Culhane, West Central Region

DNR Hmong liaison specialist **Kou Xiong** can't tell you exactly how old he is. A missile hit his family's unoccupied home during the Vietnam War, destroying all records. He left school in the sixth grade to become a soldier, just a couple years before the Americans evacuated.



DNR's Kou Xiong awaits the arrival of the woman who will donate a kidney to save his life.

WDNR Photo

When his company's American advisor disappeared, and they were told there were no planes left, they faced two choices – surrender to a brutal enemy or make their way out of the mountain jungles of Laos to cross the Mekong River and enter Thailand. Thirty started the journey. After repeated attacks, they ran out of ammunition. Just six of them, starving after 21 days on the run and a week without food, reached the border.

Now, 35 years later, Xiong is again fighting to survive.

Six years ago, Xiong had a kidney transplant at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. That kidney came from an organ donor who had died. One problem with kidneys harvested from someone who has died is that some contain viruses undetected until after the transplant. Such was the case with Xiong, and his new kidney failed. Kou was put back on the transplant list.

For the past two years, Xiong has been undergoing dialyses three times a week. Each session leaves him weak, and each session is followed by an extended headache.

In the meantime, the waiting list for kidneys expanded exponentially. According to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) there are currently more than 83,000 people in the U.S. waiting for a kidney.

Xiong's best chance for life is a living donor. A kidney from a living donor can be fully tested. Survival rates are excellent, and the medical risk to the donor is considered low.

Viable donor found half-a-world away

Xiong's family has located a potential donor in Thailand, a close family friend and the daughter of a soldier who fought for Americans in Laos. She is motivated by the opportunity to save a life that is important to her family.

"She'd like to donate it, but she still needs many tests to be done," Xiong said.

Xiong's medical insurance will cover any operation, but he and his family will have to pay for all the donor's medical tests, her round-trip air fare, various fees and a variety of expenses she will incur during a three-month stay in this country.

These expenses are expected to exceed \$6,000 and could be as high as \$10,000.

To raise funds, Xiong's family and friends are having a benefit Saturday, February 6, at the Moose Lodge, 3606 Curvue Road/County C in Eau Claire. Tickets are \$10 per person.

Xiong's co-workers at DNR's Eau Claire service center are joining the effort and on Wednesday afternoon, within three hours of being notified of the situation, they had already raised hundreds of dollars. More is coming in.

Xiong's supervisor, [Jackie Frase](#), volunteered to coordinate donations. She can be reached at (715)839-3714. She receives mail at the DNR, P.O. Box 4001, Eau Claire WI 54702.

"People here are so generous," she said. "Whatever they can afford will make this work for Kou."

Footnote: *Ed Culhane is the public affairs manager for the West Central Region.*



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DNR colleagues express loss at death of Tom Janisch

Former Bureau of Watershed Management employee **Tom Janisch**, 64, died on January 23. He started with the DNR in 1960, retiring in 2002. Janisch was instrumental in developing guidance for Wisconsin's Contaminated Sediment Program. Most recently, he contracted with the Bureau of Remediation and Redevelopment to complete work on environmental cleanup projects.

Born and raised in Beaver Dam, Janisch graduated with honors from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1968.



Tom Janisch conducted water and sediment sampling on the impaired Slaughterhouse Creek, just outside Rhinelander. WDNR Photo

According to **Bob Masnado**, chief of the Water Evaluation Section in Watershed Management, Janisch "was heavily involved in evaluating the impacts of contaminated sediments on aquatic life throughout the state and an advocate for comprehensive clean-up of those sites. Tom's work was often the key to many, many negotiations with parties responsible for paying for those remediation activities."

"I knew him as a champion of the mission of DNR," added Masnado. He cared about the outcome of every contaminated sediment site he ever worked on, as if it were directly in his backyard. We will be hard pressed to find others like him."

Will Wawrzyn, fisheries biologist in Milwaukee, worked with Janisch for many years and described the professional and personal loss at his death. "An incredible mind and person. An environmental ethic second to none. The energy and accomplishments of a brigade. I've lost a hero."

Believing that anyone who has worked for DNR over the past ten years knows or knows of Janisch, water resources management specialist **Jim Killian** spent much of Wednesday morning taking phone calls. "I'm fielding calls from private environmental consultants, many of whom I've never met, who either worked with Tom or worked as his adversary on contaminated sediment cleanups. He was an incredibly well-respected person and employee."

Jim Amrhein, also in Watershed Management, credited Janisch for almost single handedly researching and authoring Wisconsin's "Consensus Based Sediment Quality Guidelines." The guidelines are still used today when guidance levels of sediment contamination are required.

"In addition to being a quiet person, he was very understated, but also would leave us floored with his dry sense of humor. I've never met anyone who worked harder than he did," said Amrhein, adding "There will never be another one like him."

"Tom's heartfelt devotion to natural resource protection was expressed in his analytical mastery of applied science, tireless monitoring, and compassionate yet humorous office demeanor," remembered **Lisa Helmuth**, a co-worker and

friend also from Watershed Management. "Tom was genuine in every aspect. His infectious laugh or smile brightened many days here at DNR, and his brilliant legacy is reflected in the countless resources that he helped restore." Janisch is survived by his mother Mercedes Janisch, three brothers and other family members. The family has planned a private service for this week. A public memorial mass will be held in the near future. You can read a complete obituary and write condolences for the Janisch family at the [Murray Funeral Home, Beaver Dam](#) website. Directions to the funeral home also can be found at this website. The family suggested that memorials be made in Thomas Janisch's name to the St. Katharine Drexel School Endowment Fund, 117 W. Maple Ave., Beaver Dam, WI 53916.



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Information sessions scheduled for new storm water law

By: Kathleen Kiefaber, Bureau of Waste and Materials Management

Chapter NR 528 Management of Accumulated Sediment from Storm Water Management Structures became effective on December 1, 2009. The rule uses an innovative self-implementing system to help those who own storm water ponds to manage the removal and use of sediment from those ponds. Information sessions on NR 528 are scheduled for February and April of this year.

The rule requires no fee and relies on the completion of a self-certification form. This approach will help avoid the delays that can result from a typical review process, while also protecting human and environmental health.



The vegetation in and around this pond indicates that there is sediment in the water that needs to be cleaned out periodically.

WDNR Photo

Those interested in learning more can read an overview of the [NR 528 rule](#) or attend one of several information sessions planned for this spring.

The DNR outreach session planned for February 16 is the only session dedicated solely to discussing NR 528, the certification form and technical support. Other sessions will be shorter and less comprehensive. Sessions will be held at the following locations:

- **February 4:** The afternoon of the North American Stormwater Erosion Control Association Annual Conference to be held at the Lussier Family Heritage Center, 3101 Lake Farm Rd., Madison, 53711.
- **February 16:** DNR's NR 528 Outreach Session will begin at 9:30 a.m. in room G09 of the Natural Resources Building (GEF 2), 101 S. Webster St., Madison, 53702.
- **April 28-29:** At the [Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance](#) meeting in Kimberly; exact time and location to be determined.

For more information on the implementation of this new rule, or questions on scheduled sessions, email [Jack Connelly](#) or call him (608)267-7574; or email [Tom Portle](#) or call him at (608)267-0877.

Footnote: *Kathleen Kiefaber is a recycling communications specialist.*



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Fish & Wildlife Service recognizes wardens Buss and Nice

By: Greg Matthews, South Central Region

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recently recognized conservation wardens **John Buss**, Prairie du Sac, and **Mike Nice**, Richland Center, for their “pivotal roles” in investigating illegal deer, bear and turkey hunting.



Conservation warden John Buss received recognition from USFWS's Ed Spoon for investigation of illegal hunting activity.
WDNR Photo

The investigation, called "Project Brother" and conducted jointly by Wisconsin DNR wardens and USFWS agents, focused on Blue River Outfitters, in Blue River.

In total, 48 people were convicted by state circuit courts in Iowa and Richland counties, and six were convicted of black bear related offenses in Ontario, Canada. Eleven defendants were found guilty in U.S. District Court of Lacey Act offenses for illegal transportation of wildlife across state lines, convictions that involved 12 felony and four misdemeanor counts.

In awarding warden Buss with a plaque, USFWS special agent Ed Spoon, Madison, noted that “through your diligent work with members of the hunting public, you uncovered evidence of an extensive guiding operation offering illegal whitetail and wild turkey hunts to out-of-state clients.”

“You recognized the need for a cooperative state-federal investigation to address the size and geographic scope of this illegal business,” Spoon added.



USFWS Ed Spoon recognized warden Mike Nice for his part in “Project Brother.”

WDNR Photo

Defendants resided in Alabama, California, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin.

“These impressive results testify to your skills as an investigator, your dedication to the job, and your commitment to wildlife conservation. The Wisconsin DNR and the State of Wisconsin should be proud to be represented by officers like you,” said Gregory Jackson, special agent in charge of the USFWS Midwest Region.

Footnote: *Greg Matthews is South Central Region's public affairs manager.*

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DNR and Transportation sign agreement on aeronautic projects

On January 19, Secretary **Matt Frank** met with Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Frank Busalacchi to sign an attachment to the interagency Cooperative Agreement addressing procedures for cooperative review of airport projects.

This is the first time that procedures specific to airport projects have been outlined in detail. The two agencies have had formal procedures in place since 1976 to assure that both agencies' missions are met in the planning, design and construction of transportation projects.

"This amendment recognizes the unique nature of aeronautics projects, and guides DNR and DOT staff on how we work through the review process and address any conflicts early," said **Dave Siebert**, acting administrator for the Division of Enforcement and Science.

"DOT and DNR cooperation is key to assuring that critical infrastructure projects are moving forward and that the full range of environmental protections are considered and implemented," said Secretary Frank. "This is especially true in a time when federal stimulus dollars are coming into the state assuring completion of needed infrastructure improvements and providing good construction jobs in the transportation sector."

The newly-signed amendment outlines "liaison procedures" for airport projects, identifying agency points of contact and critical timelines for important review steps. Emphasis is placed on early and frequent communications between agency staff and airport project sponsors, usually counties and municipalities.

"These procedures are also important to our partners in county and municipal government who are involved in airport projects," said **John Gozdziwski**, Northern Region director, who has been involved in several important airport expansions in the north over the last few years. "This agreement will continue to improve the performance of state agency responsibilities to provide quality service to local government."

The basis for the interagency Cooperative Agreement is found in a Wisconsin statute that exempts DOT projects from DNR permit procedures, but not from the fundamental environmental protections required by the permits. The mid-1970s statute called for a liaison process between DNR and DOT to assure that both departments' missions were fully considered in every step of the process for transportation projects. The DNR Office of Energy and Environmental Analysis [Office of Energy and Environmental Analysis](#) is responsible for the day-to-day liaison function with DOT.

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School conservation club aids food pantry and DNR fisheries

By: Jim Bishop, Northern Region

A DNR-managed trout pond provided fresh fish to a food pantry in the Village of Birchwood in Washburn County when high school students from local conservation clubs caught the trout, just before Christmas. Fisheries manager **Larry Damman**, Spooner, was glad to direct the students to a pond where he expected to have a winterkill.



Two high school conservation club members proudly displayed their catch for the local food pantry.

WDNR Photo

Club advisor Bill Cutsforth said the students from Birchwood and Rice Lake came up with the community service idea of fishing for the food pantry.

Nearly 30 club members hiked more than a mile into Little Telstar pond on December 19 and pulled 87 brook trout through the ice. The students cleaned and packaged the 10-inch fish before delivering them to the food pantry.

Little Telstar is one of 17 small lakes in the Washburn County forest stocked with minnow-size trout each spring, Damman said. Students from the conservation clubs had even helped Damman stock some of the ponds, last April. "The small, fishless freeze-out lakes are stocked with 2-inch long brook trout right after ice out," said Damman. "By fall, trout reach a legal size of seven to nine inches and can be 10 to 14 inches after two summers. These lakes winterkill every few years, so re-stocked panfish or bass don't reach a harvestable size before the next freeze-out. The ponds are open for fishing during the fall and winter and are becoming popular with folks who don't mind hiking in."

Fisheries manager and students partner to manage trout fishery

Damman got involved with the two clubs a year ago, when Cutsforth contacted him for help and ideas in managing a six-acre pond on commercial forest cropland. The Birchwood school has been involved with wild land management projects for years.

The lake was a good candidate for trout management because it was believed to have frozen out and no longer had any fish. Damman talked to the club about the biological and limnological reasons why stocked trout could do so well in warm water habitats.



Conservation club members, teachers and an advisor from Rice Lake and Birchwood assisted fish manager Larry Damman (kneeling at far right of front row) with trout rehabilitation projects on Washburn County lakes.

WDNR Photo

Last winter, Damman and the club took dissolved oxygen or DO measurements and used electronic fish finders and underwater TV cameras to try to locate fish. None were found.

Damman got a quota of trout fingerlings and club members ferried them into the lake last spring. Unfortunately, the plan to manage for trout failed because green sunfish were present. The club and Damman are working on new ideas to manage that pond.

Club members also relayed trout fingerlings into Pine Point Lake on the Loyhead Chain. Damman has wanted to stock this fishless winterkill lake for years, but it required transporting the trout across two lakes and two canoe portages.

"I just didn't have the time or staff to do it," said Damman. "The students positioned themselves and their canoes along the canoe route. Damman handed off coolers of tiny trout fingerlings, and in relay race fashion, Pine Point received its fish while the DNR crew stocked other ponds.

Pine Point trout survived the year even though the 15-acre pond almost dried up. Damman said this should be one of the best new fishing ponds, once the drought ends and water levels start to rise back to normal.

In the meantime, the conservation students from Rice Lake and Birchwood are receiving an education in the problems of fish management. During the process they're also having fun and giving some of the resource back to the community.

Footnote: *Jim Bishop is the Northern Region's public affairs manager.*



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Ela elected chair and president of Natural Resources Board



Jonathan Ela accepted the NRB meeting gavel from outgoing president Christine Thomas. WDNR Photo

At its meeting on Wednesday, January 27, the Natural Resources Board (NRB) elected Jonathan Ela, Madison, to be its next chair and president. Ela takes over from Christine Thomas.

Ela, a conservationist, retired from the Sierra Club. The governor appointed him to the board in 2003. He was reappointed in 2007. Ela's term on the NRB expires May 2011.

John "Duke" Welter, Eau Claire, replaces Ela as the new vice chair/vice president of the NRB. Member Dave Clausen, Amery, moves up to the secretary position vacated by Welter.



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DNR-related bills see action first week of 2010 session

By: Paul Heinen, Office of the Secretary

Upon their return to the floor of the Senate and the Assembly, Wisconsin legislators addressed a number of DNR-related bills. For a complete summary of the status of proposed legislation, go to the ["2010 Bill Tracker."](#)

Here are the highlights:

- Hearings have begun on **SB 540** (Mark Miller) and **AB 649** (Spencer Black), the Clean Energy Jobs Bills. There will be four more hearings between now and February 15.
- The Senate Environment Committee passed out of committee by a 4-1 vote **SB 119** (Julie Lassa) on Safe Burning. The next step will be a full Senate vote.
- The Assembly Fish and Wildlife Committee passed **AB 548** (Ann Hraychuck), the "Road Kill Equity Act" on a 10-0 vote. The full Assembly will vote on the bill.
- The Senate Natural Resources Committee passed **AB 355** (Ann Hraychuck), eliminating the 3-day waiting period for archers. This bill already has passed the Assembly and awaits final action by the Senate.

Footnote: *Paul Heinen is a policy initiative advisor for the Secretary's Office.*



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Workforce Development holding H1N1 clinic in Madison

If you missed the H1N1 flu vaccination clinic held at the Natural Resources Building (GEF 2) on January 25, Home Health United is offering another clinic at the Department of Workforce Development from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on February 3. The clinic will be in room D203 of GEF 1, 201 E. Washington Avenue, Madison WI 53703, just north of GEF 2.

State employees with health insurance coverage from DeanCare, GHC, Physicians Plus and Unity HMOs can receive the

vaccine at no charge by presenting their member numbers at the clinic. Home Health also will give seasonal flu shots to those who would like one. Because the seasonal flu vaccine is in limited supply, however, you must pre-register. Contractors, LTEs and those not covered by the four HMOs may pay \$14.50 to receive the H1N1 Vaccine and/or \$30 for the seasonal vaccine. Check with your health insurance provider to find out if they'll reimburse you for these charges. If you're interested in receiving a flu shot, email [Lorri Simmons](#). This clinic won't be open to family members and, to reduce wait time for those who have pre-registered, walk-ins are discouraged.



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Water projects biggest recipients of Recovery Act Funds

By: Paul Neumann, Bureau of Management & Budget

As of January 1, DNR has received, or been told it will receive, more than \$150 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to distribute and administer. These funds will help stimulate local economies and create jobs, while protecting human health and the environment. Clean water and drinking water projects have received the most ARRA assistance.

Updates on specific grants

- **Clean Water State Revolving Fund:** Wisconsin has been allocated \$105.9 million in recovery funds to use as grants for financing the construction of wastewater treatment facilities and associated infrastructure, green infrastructure, and nonpoint source projects. As of December 31, 2009, \$35.7 million of these funds have been spent.
- **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund:** Wisconsin has been allocated \$37.8 million in recovery funds to use as grants for public water systems to build, upgrade or replace water supply infrastructure to protect public health and address federal and state safe drinking water requirements. As of December 31, 2009, \$6.1 million of these funds have been spent.
- **Remediation and Redevelopment/LUST cleanup:** Wisconsin will distribute \$6.381 million towards the cleanup of sites contaminated by leaking underground storage tanks (LUST). Grant recipients include Beaver Dam, Marinette, Mauston, Milwaukee and Stetsonville. On January 14, the Legislative Joint Committee on Finance approved spending of up to \$1 million of ARRA LUST funding for the city of Kenosha.
- **Remediation and Redevelopment/Brownfields:** In May 2008, Wisconsin received a \$2 million Revolving Loan Fund grant, to add to DNR's existing Ready for Reuse Loan and Grant Program. The total allotment for brownfields programs funded nationwide in the recovery act was \$4 million, of which Wisconsin received half. The grant applications have been scored and eight sites in La Crosse, Milwaukee, Neenah, Oshkosh and Prairie Du Chien are slated to receive funding.
- **Water Quality Planning:** Wisconsin has been allocated \$1.07 million to be committed to a broad range of water quality planning activities, including both nonpoint and point sources.
- **Large Woody Habitat Rehabilitation Project:** Wisconsin has been allocated \$16,800 in recovery funds to replenish large woody fish habitat in shoreline areas of the Eau Claire Chain of Lakes located in Bayfield and Douglas Counties in northwest Wisconsin.

Two new clean diesel programs receive funding

EPA has awarded the DNR Air Management Program \$1.73 million for sub-grants to owners of diesel-powered commercial trucks; transit and school buses; construction, railroad, marine and airport equipment; stationary engines; etc., to put in place emission control measures within their fleets. DNR Air Management staff has scored the grant applications, and 38 grantees are slated to receive this round of Clean Diesel funding.

On July 9, EPA announced another award to the program in the amount of \$571,107 to install idle-reduction technology on diesel locomotives. Idle reduction devices also will reduce fuel consumption and emissions by 50-70%. Participating fleets include Wisconsin & Southern Railroad Co. and Canadian Pacific Railroad for 34 and 6 switch locomotives, respectively.

Sauer new contact for ARRA information

Julie Sauer has replaced Barb Zellmer in Management and Budget as the primary contact for information on the department's ARRA activities. Paul Neumann is the main contact for grant specific questions.



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