

Groundwater and Drinking Water Education Program

Lake Superior Watershed

Kevin Masarik
Center for Watershed Science and Education



University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
College of Natural Resources



Through the University of Wisconsin-Extension, all Wisconsin people can access University resources and engage in lifelong learning, wherever they live and work.

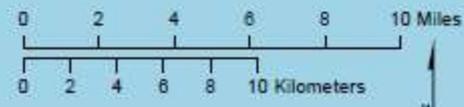
Today's presentation

- Groundwater Basics: Where does my water come from
- Well Construction
- What do my individual test results mean?
- General groundwater quality in Iron and Ashland Counties and the Bad River Indian Reservation
- Improving your water quality



Ashland - Iron Counties

February 2014



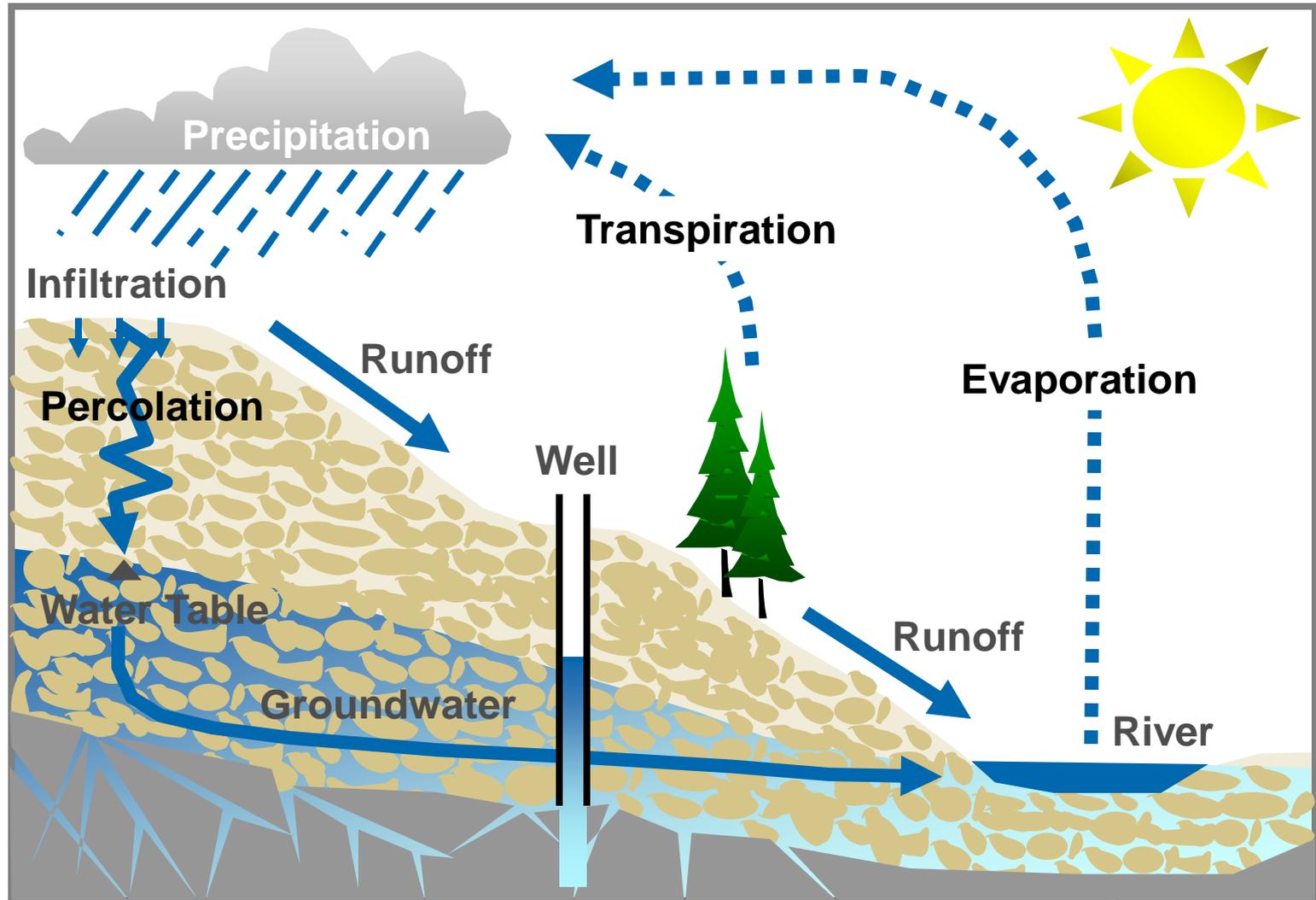
- Watershed Boundary
- L Superior-Miss Divide
- Streams
- Lakes/Reservoirs
- Wetlands
- State/US Highways
- Town Boundaries
- Municipalities



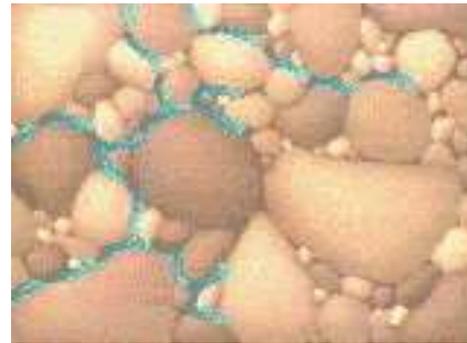
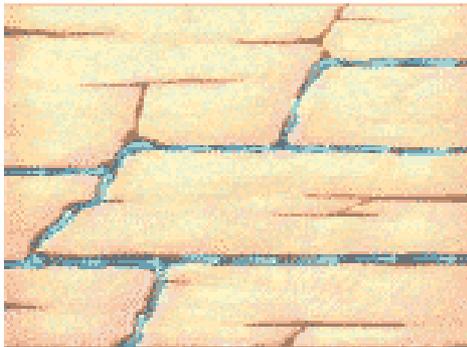
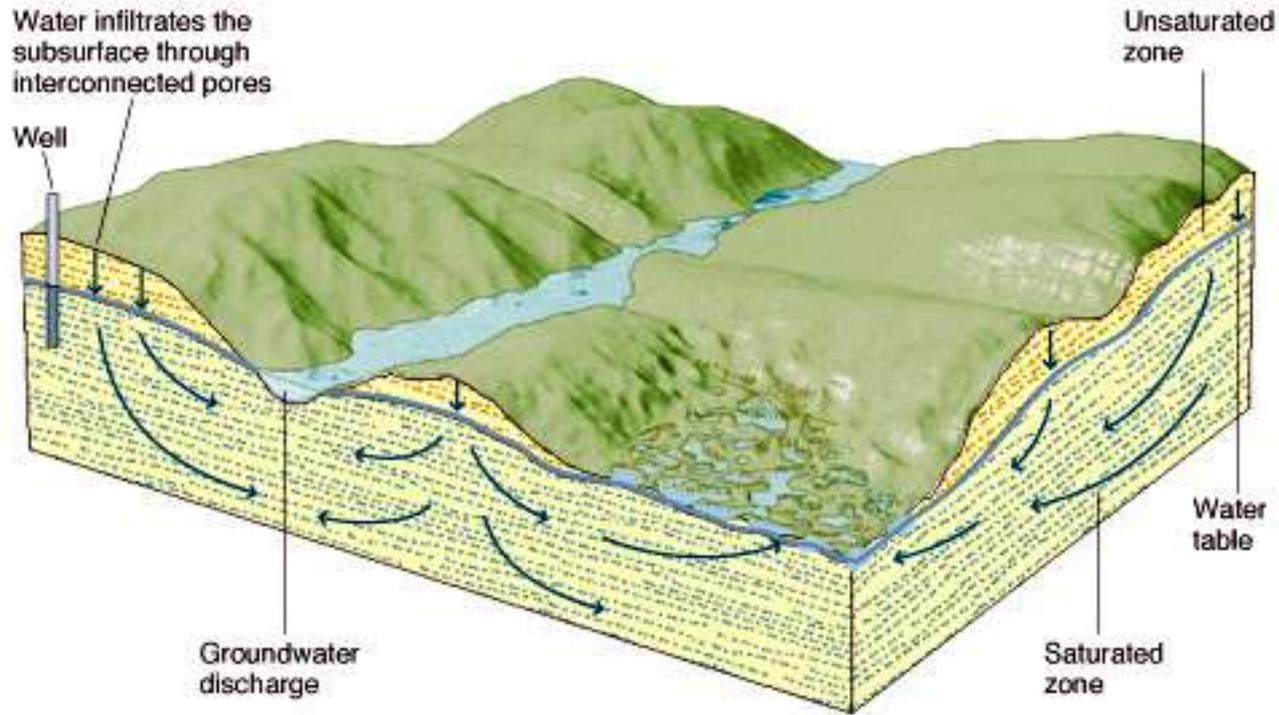
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The Water Cycle



Groundwater Movement

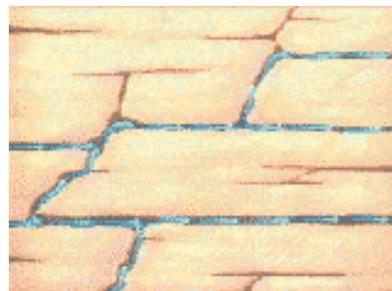


Aquifers: Our groundwater storage units

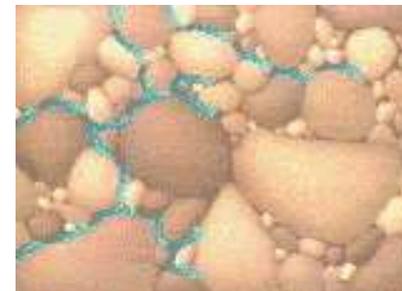
Aquifers are geologic formations that store and transmit groundwater.

The aquifer properties determine how quickly groundwater flows, how much water an aquifer can hold and how easily groundwater can become contaminated. Some aquifers may also contain naturally occurring elements that make water unsafe.

Wisconsin's geology is like a layered cake. Underneath all of Wisconsin lies the Crystalline bedrock which does not hold much water. Think of this layer like the foundation of your house. All groundwater sits on top of this foundation. Groundwater is stored in the various **sandstone, dolomite and sand/gravel** aquifers above the **crystalline bedrock** layer. The layers are arranged in the order which they formed, oldest on the bottom and youngest on top.

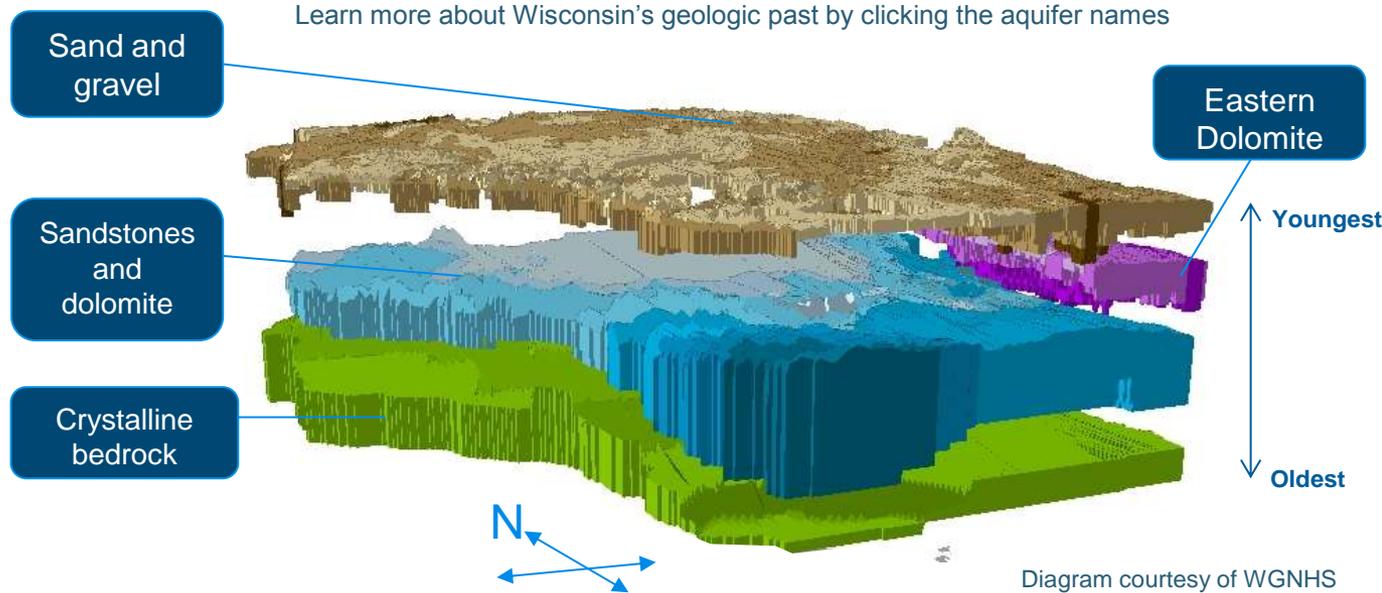


Water and contaminants can move quickly through cracks and fractures.



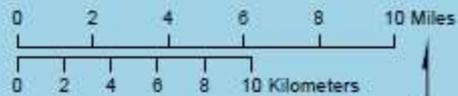
Water moving through tiny spaces in between sand particles or sandstone moves slower and allows for filtration of some contaminants.

Learn more about Wisconsin's geologic past by clicking the aquifer names



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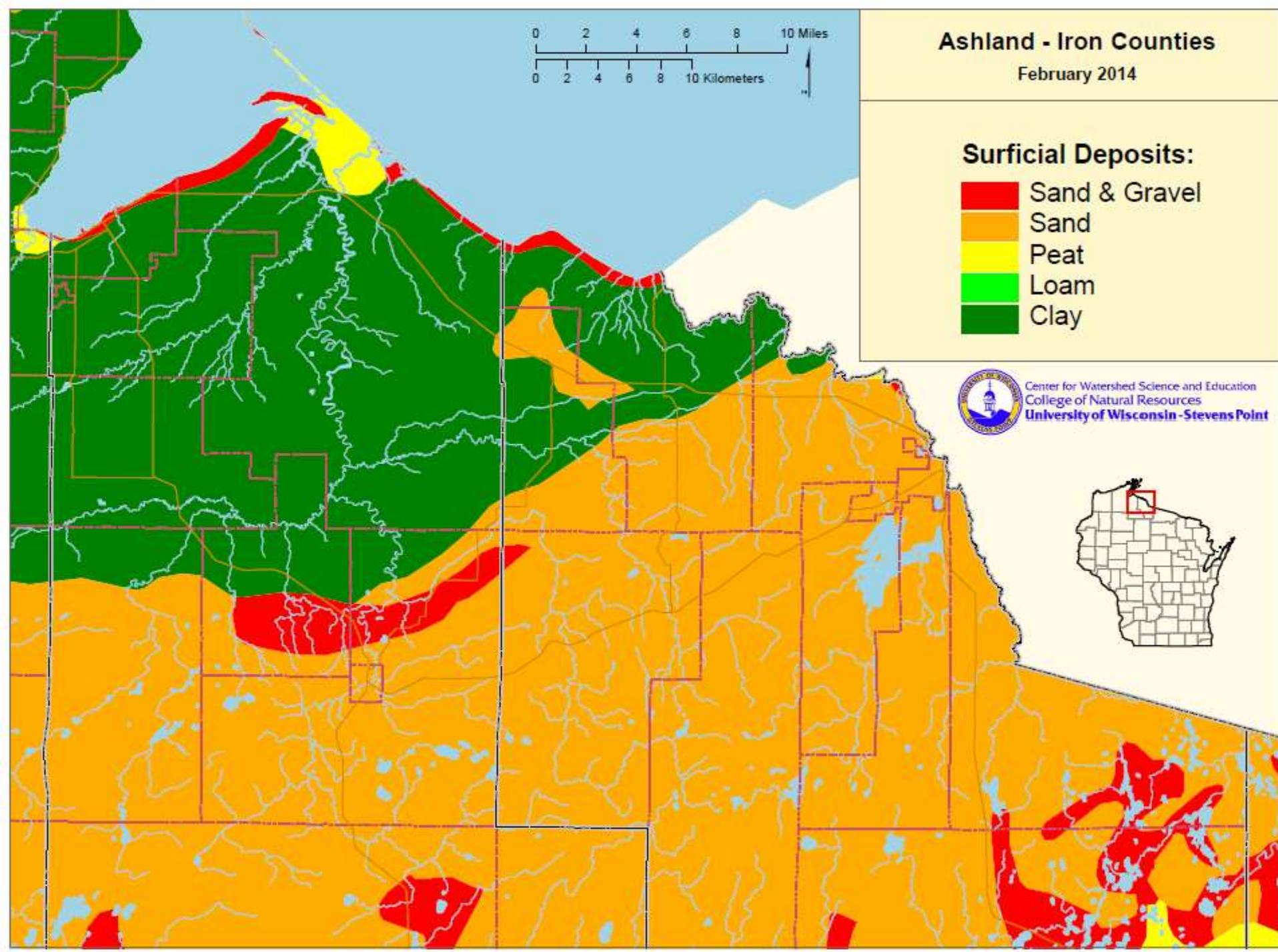
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Surficial Deposits:

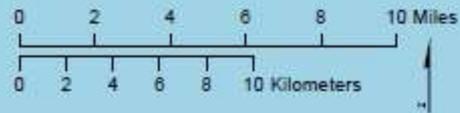


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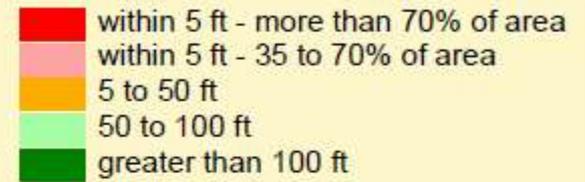


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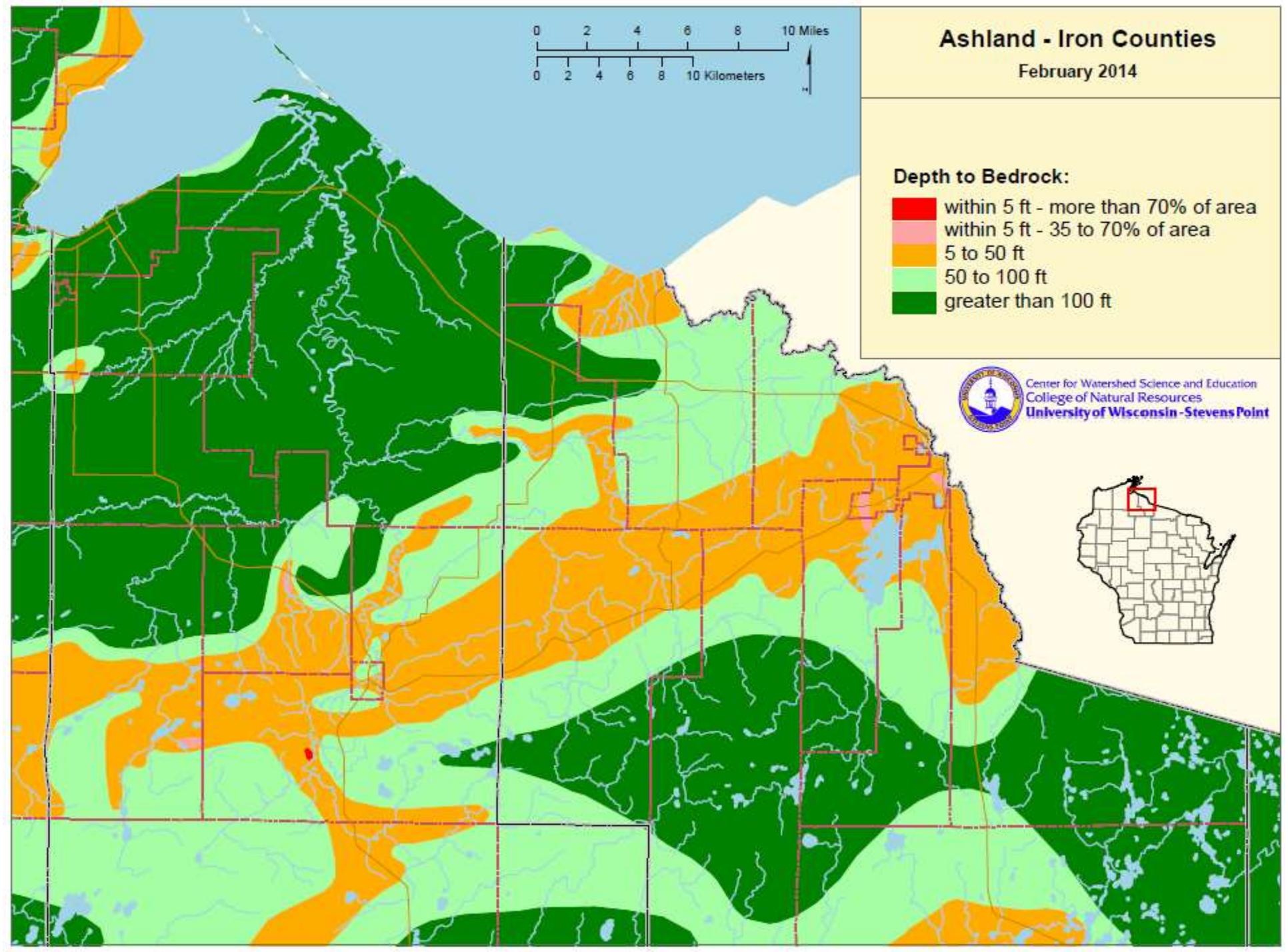
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Depth to Bedrock:

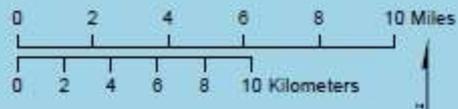


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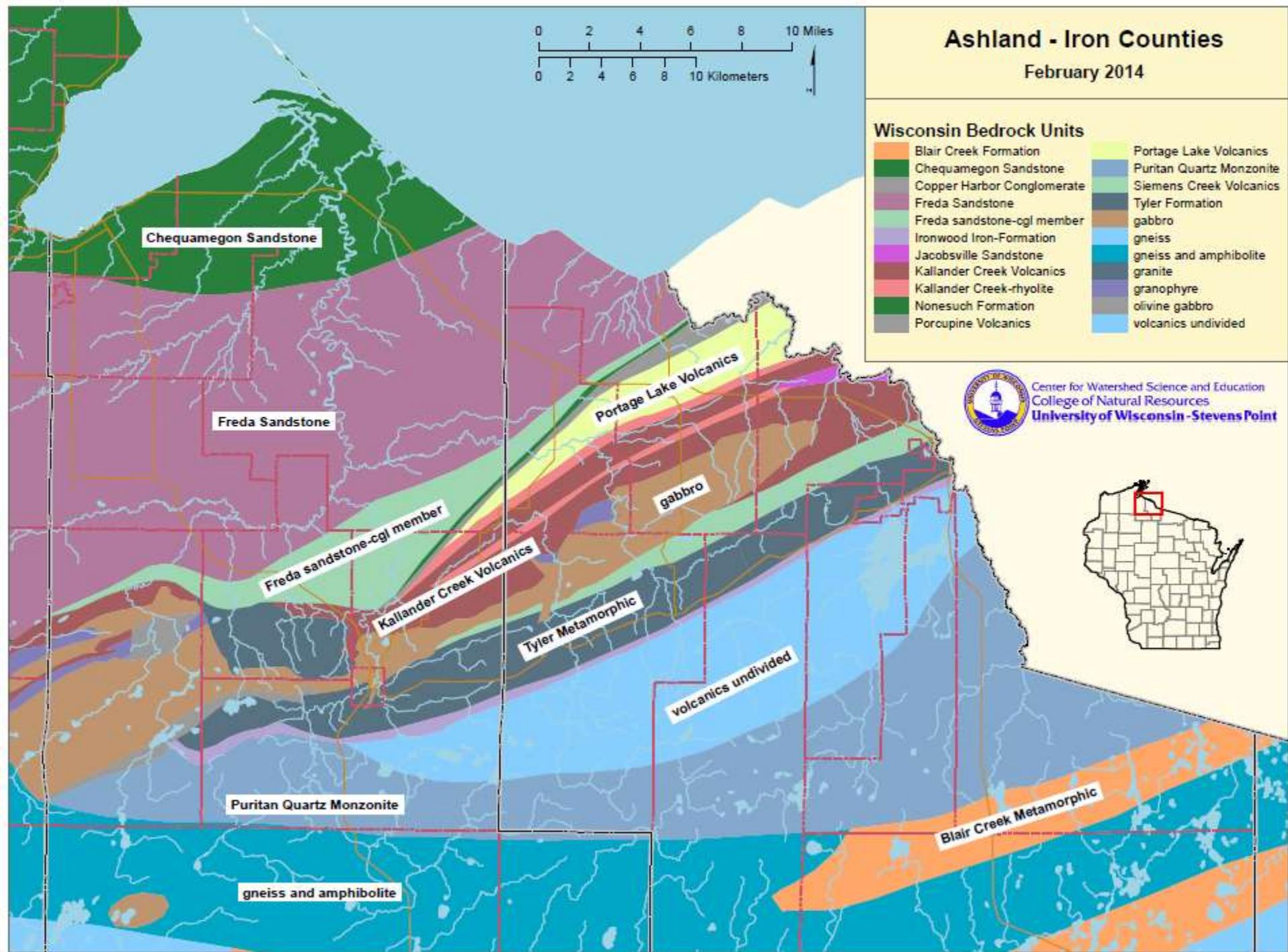
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Wisconsin Bedrock Units

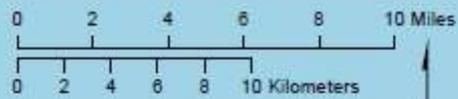
Blair Creek Formation	Portage Lake Volcanics
Chequamegon Sandstone	Puritan Quartz Monzonite
Copper Harbor Conglomerate	Siemens Creek Volcanics
Freda Sandstone	Tyler Formation
Freda sandstone-cgl member	gabbro
Ironwood Iron-Formation	gneiss
Jacobsville Sandstone	gneiss and amphibolite
Kallander Creek Volcanics	granite
Kallander Creek-rhyolite	granophyre
Nonesuch Formation	olivine gabbro
Porcupine Volcanics	volcanics undivided



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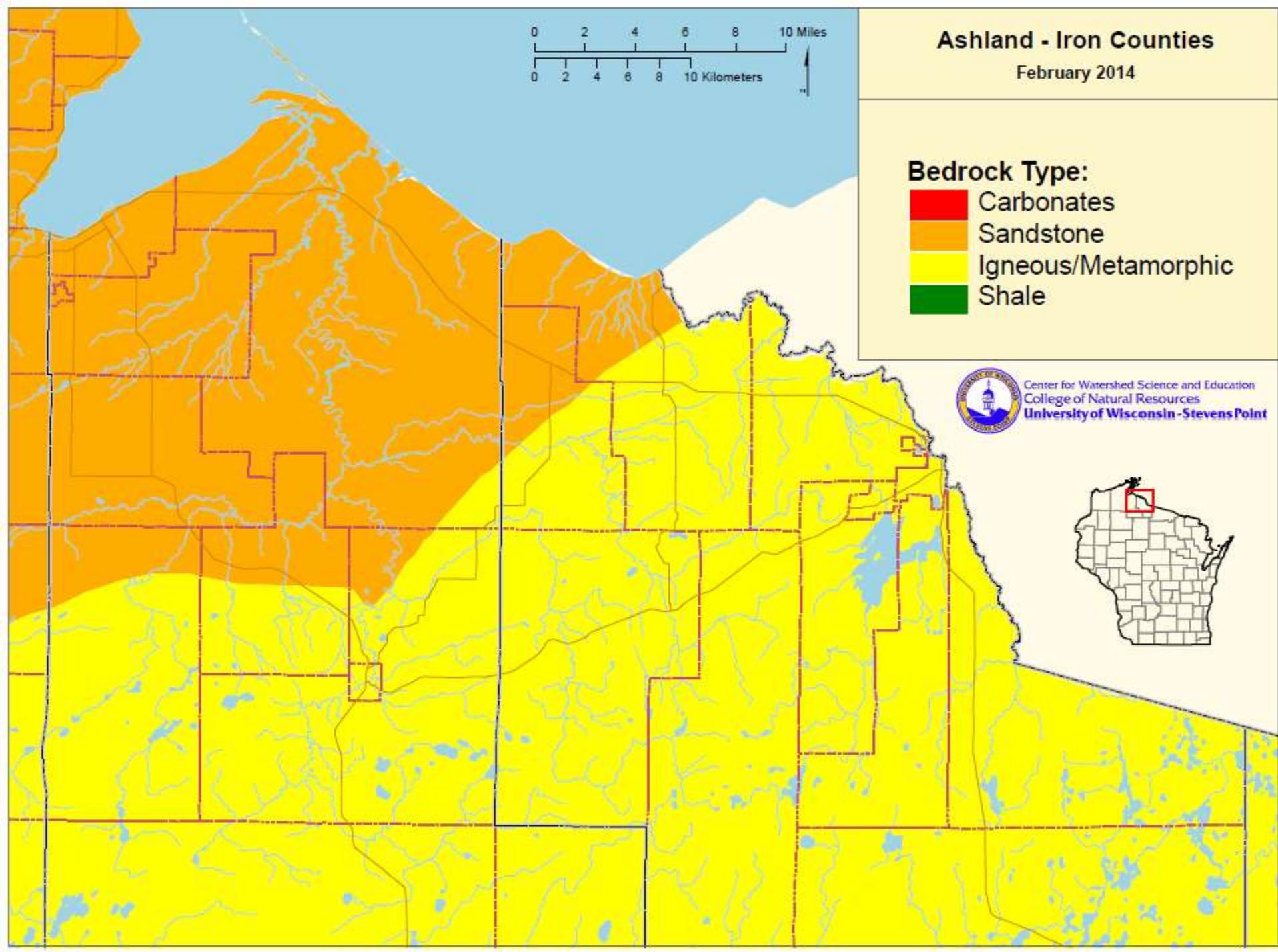


Bedrock Type:

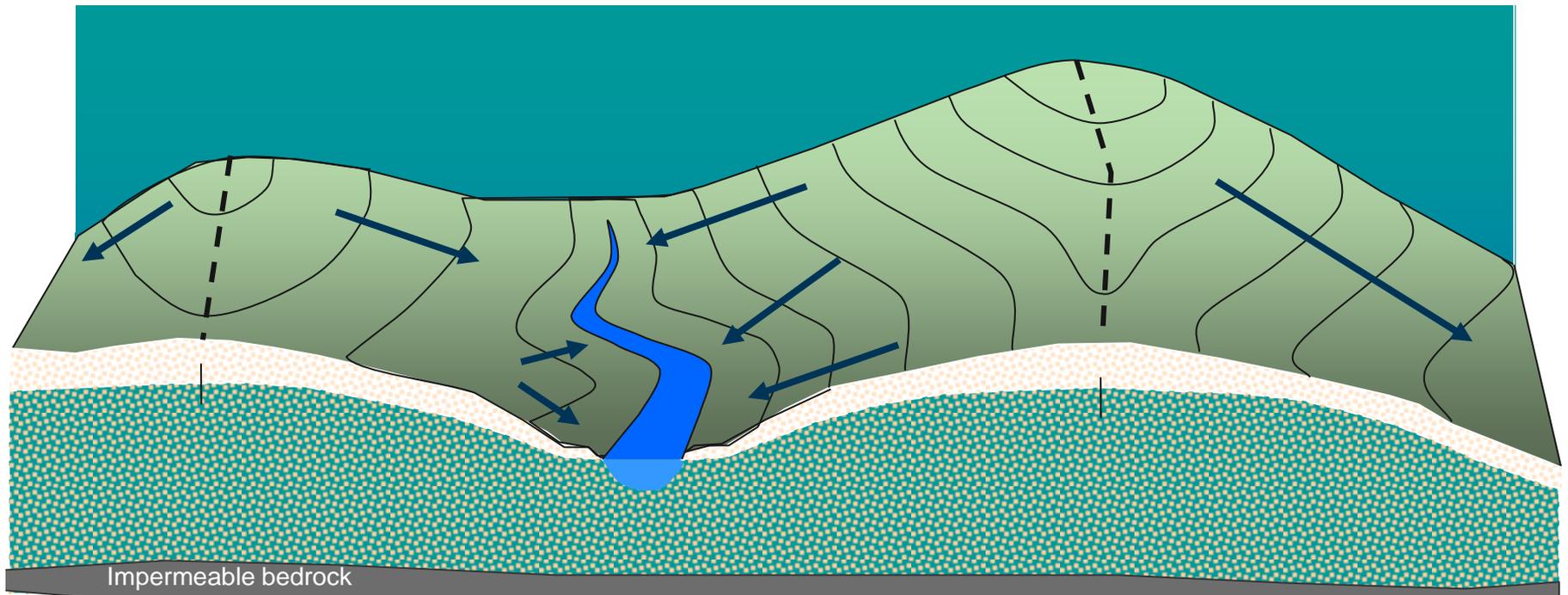
- Carbonates
- Sandstone
- Igneous/Metamorphic
- Shale

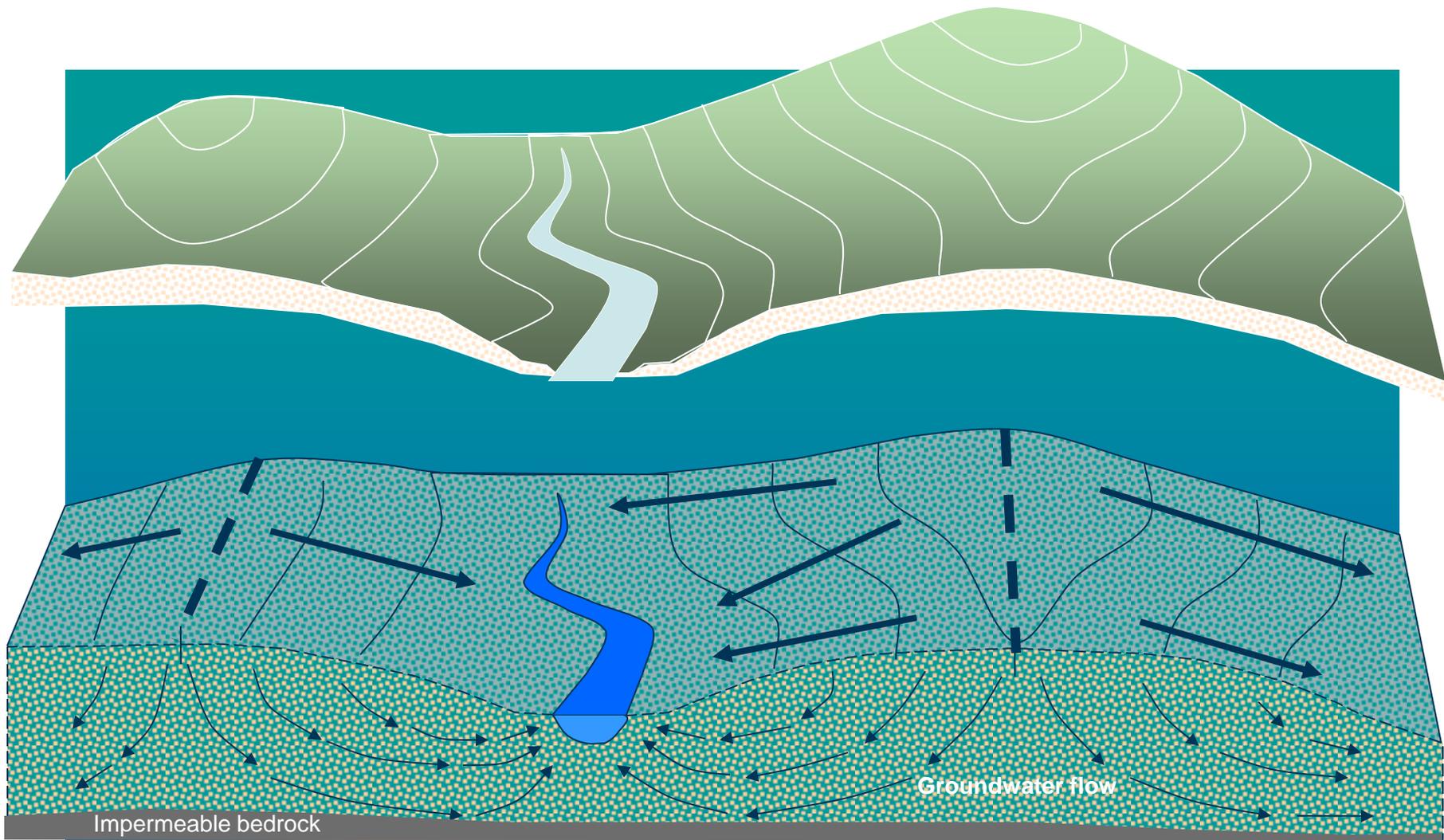


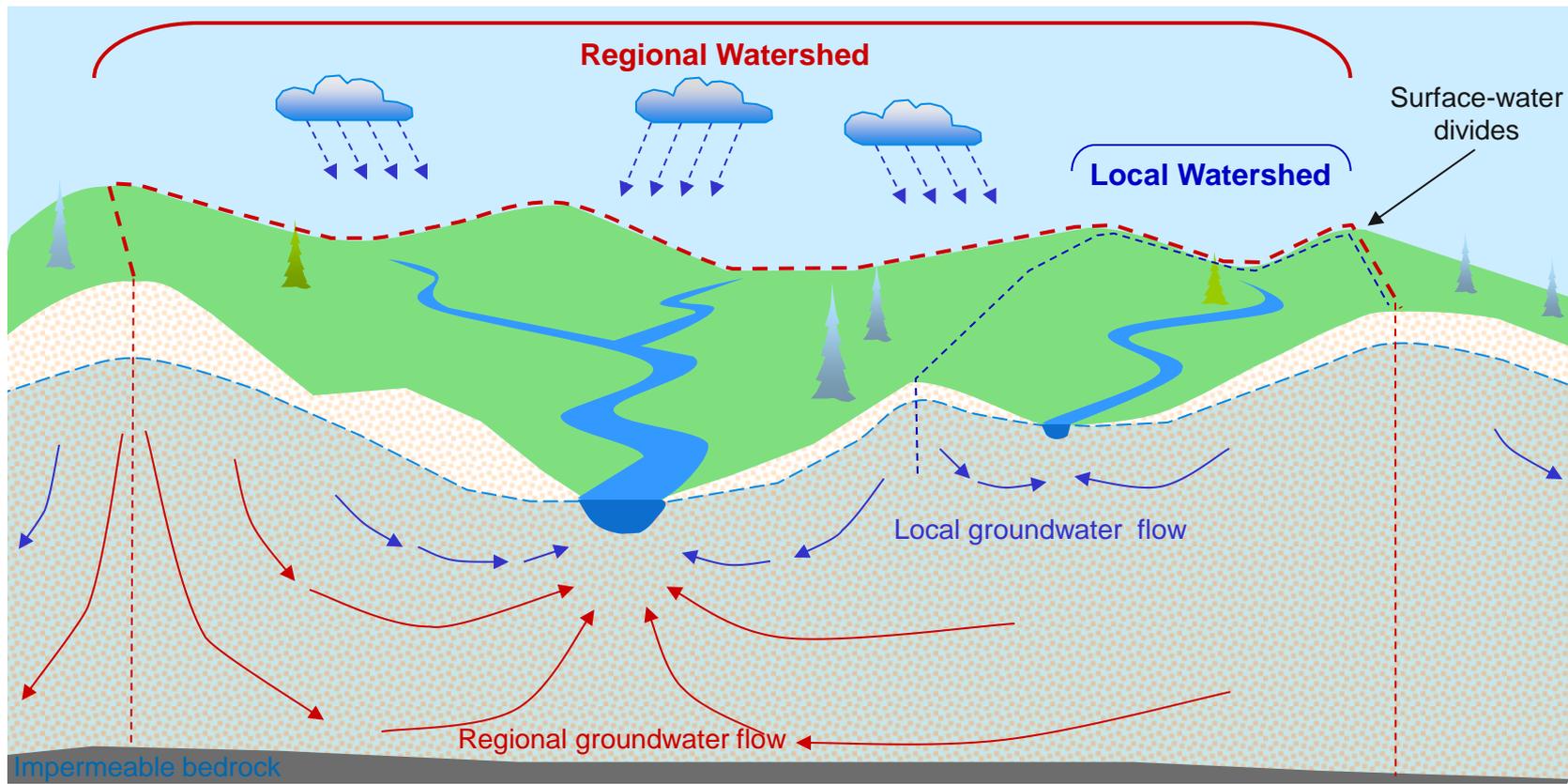
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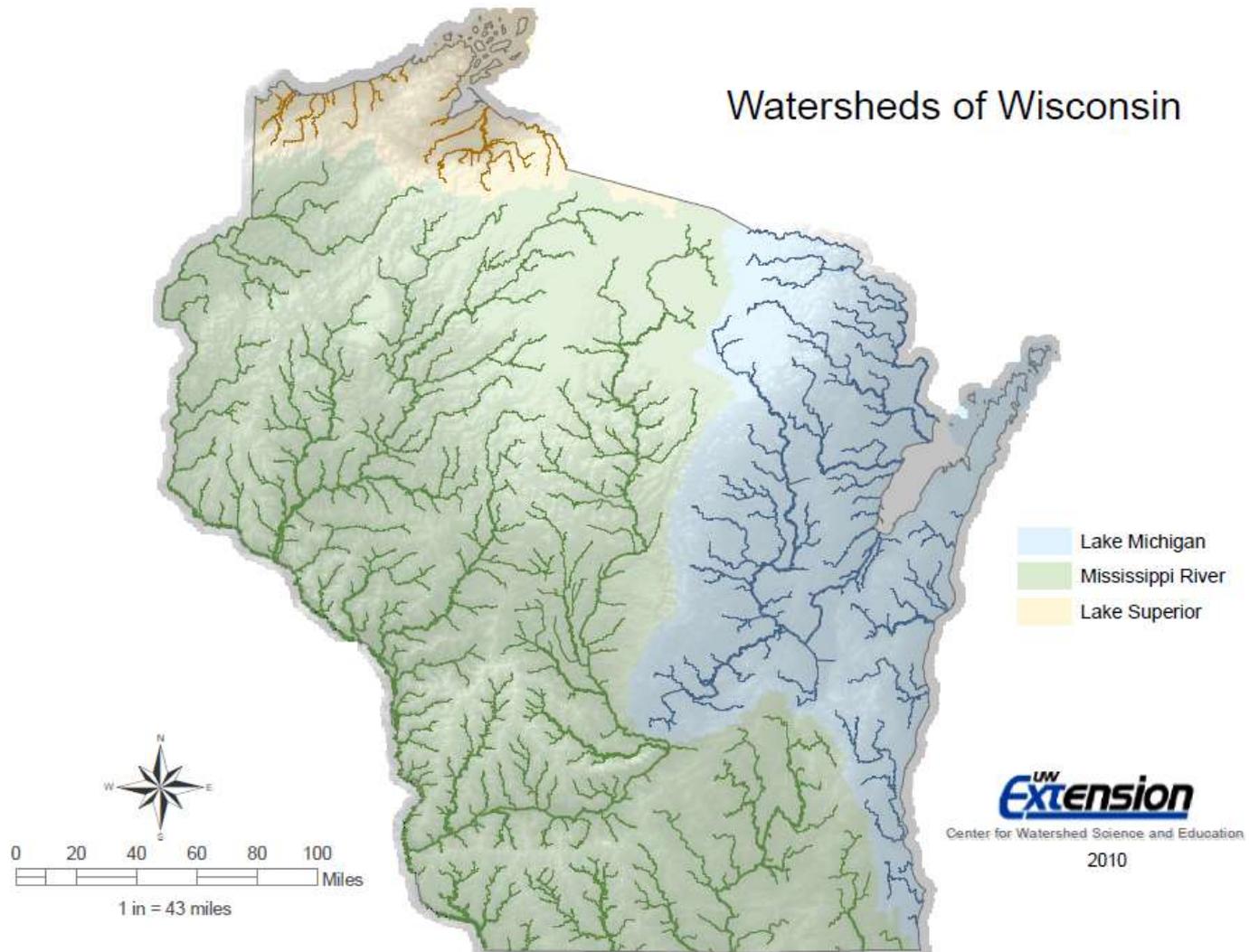
Watershed – the land area where water originates for lakes, rivers or streams. Water flows from high elevation to low elevation.



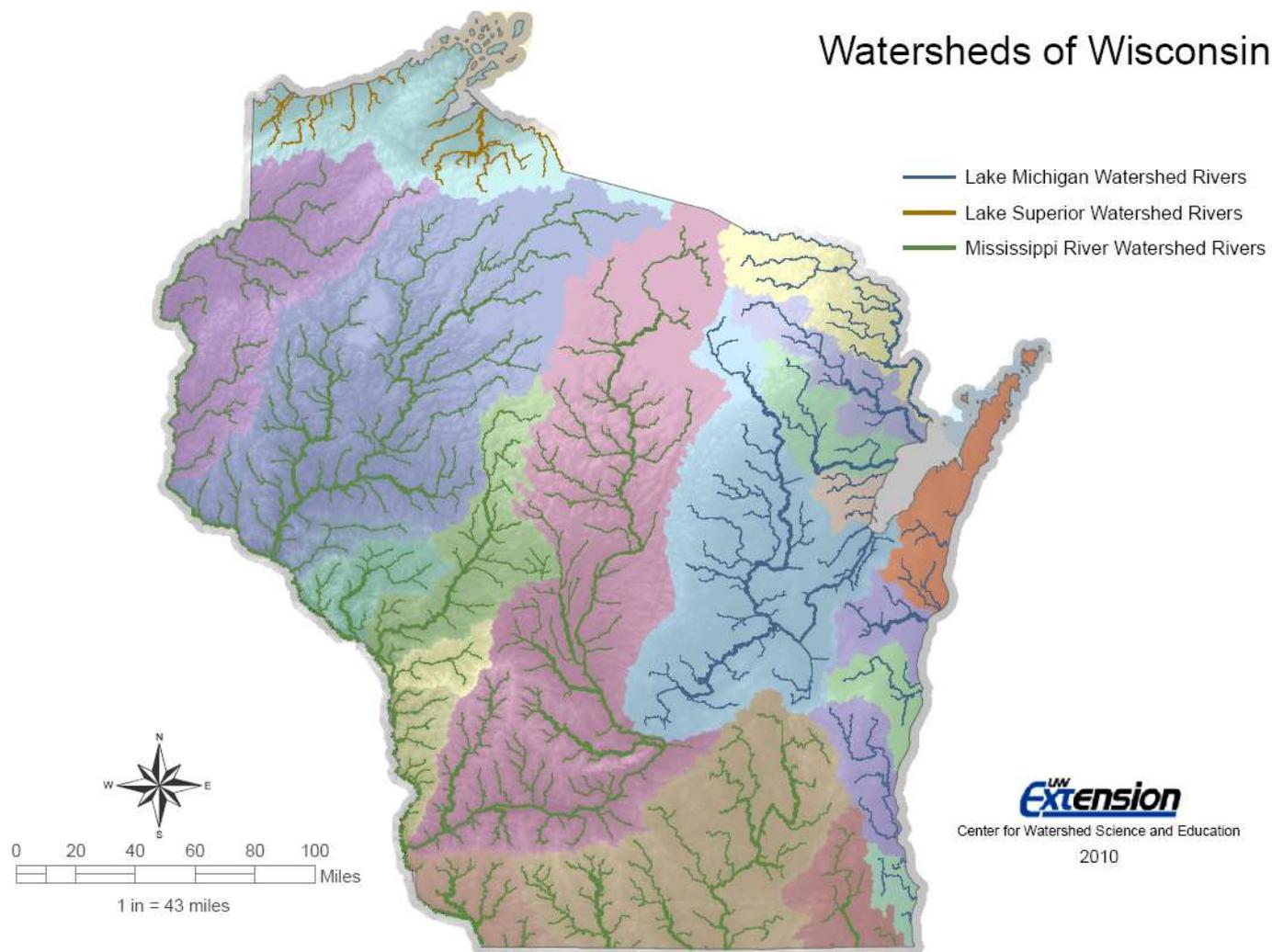




Wisconsin has 3 main watersheds

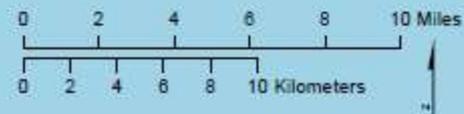


Major watersheds can be divided into regional watersheds that helps us to understand how groundwater and runoff moves through Wisconsin's landscape....



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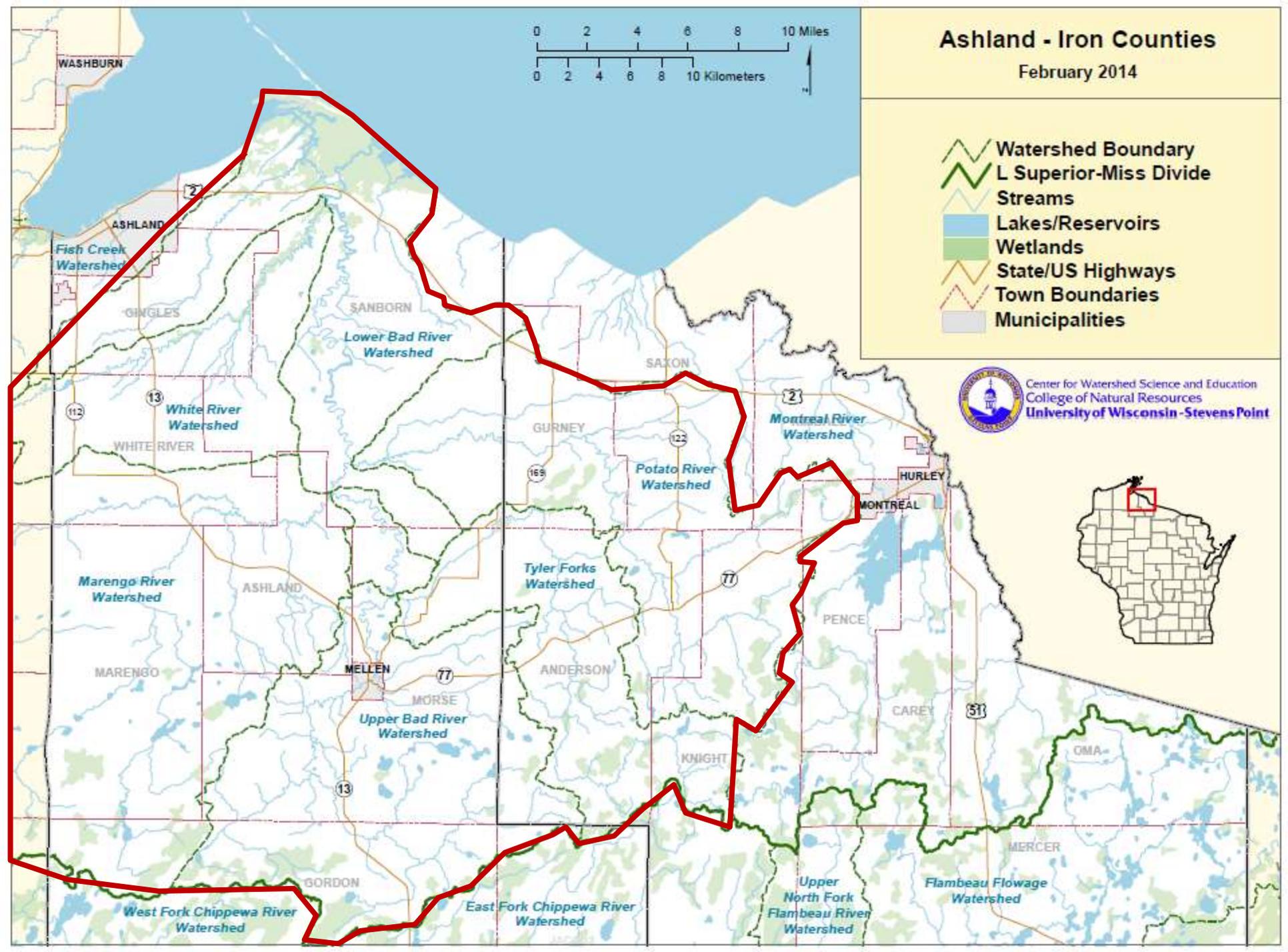
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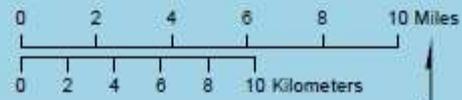


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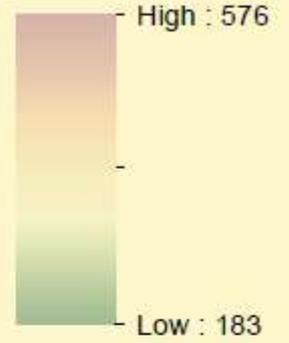


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Elevation:
(meters)



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Types of Wells

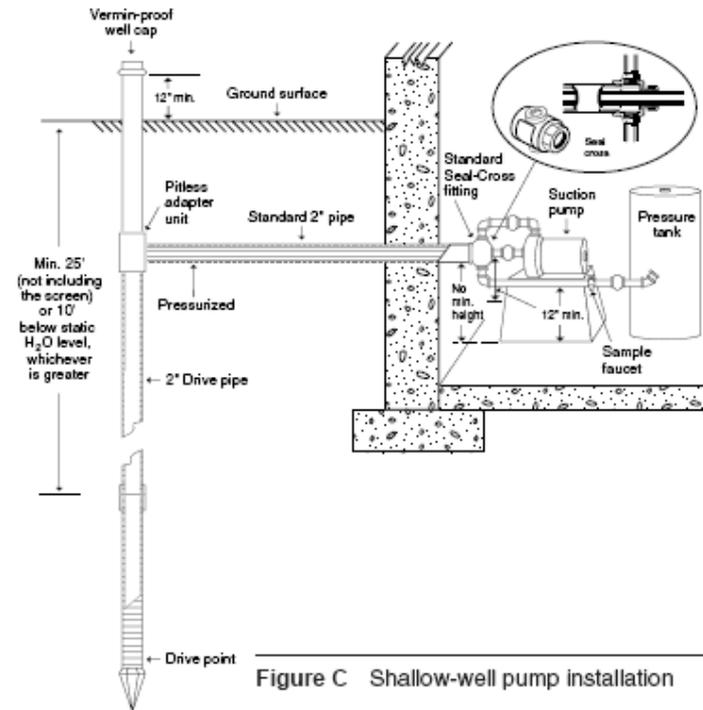
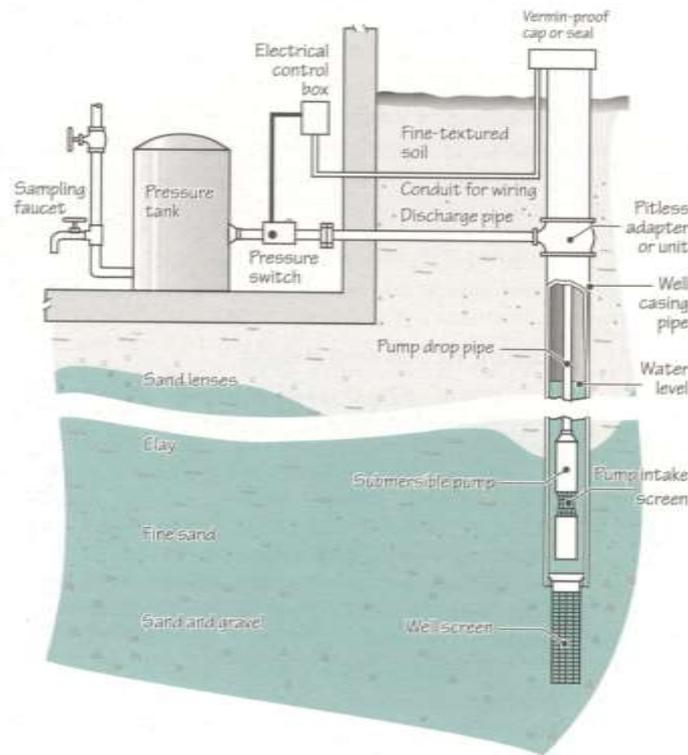
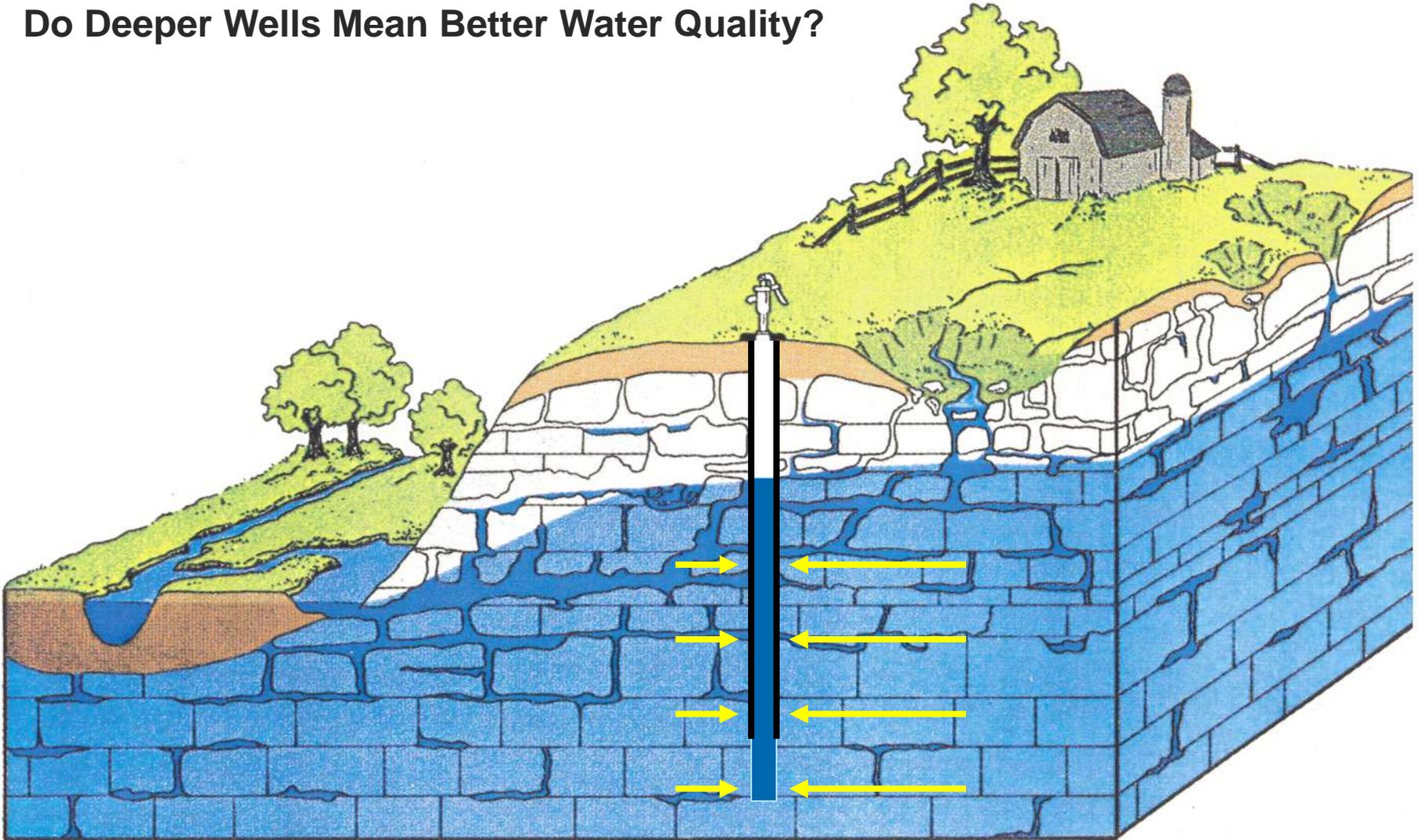


Figure C Shallow-well pump installation

Do Deeper Wells Mean Better Water Quality?



Wells in Crystalline Rock

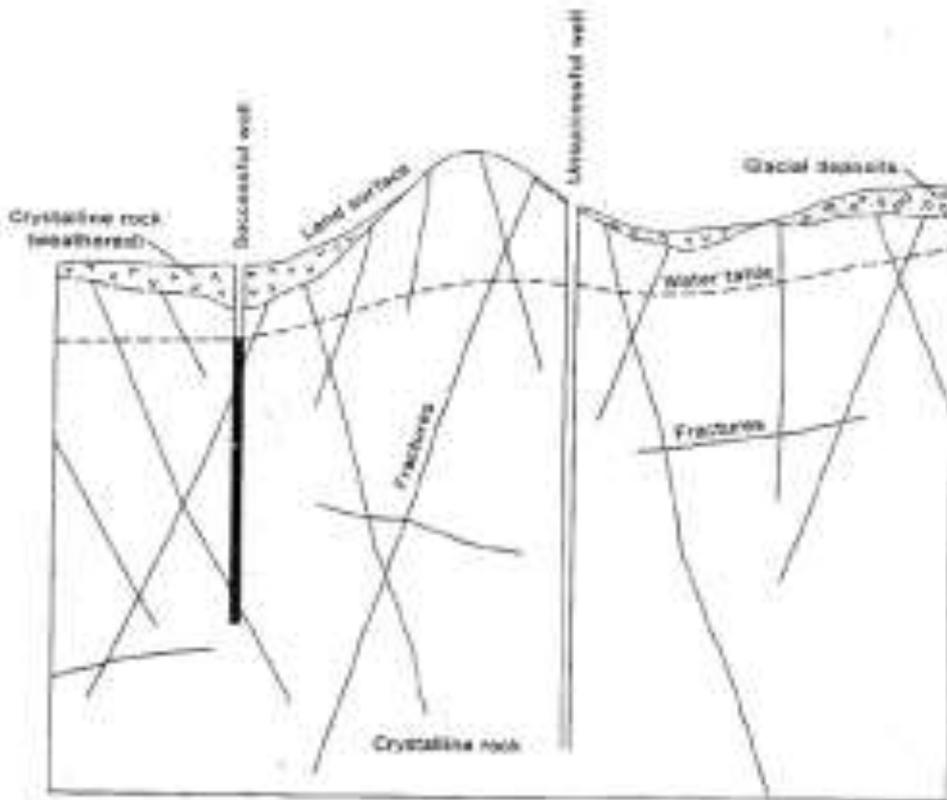
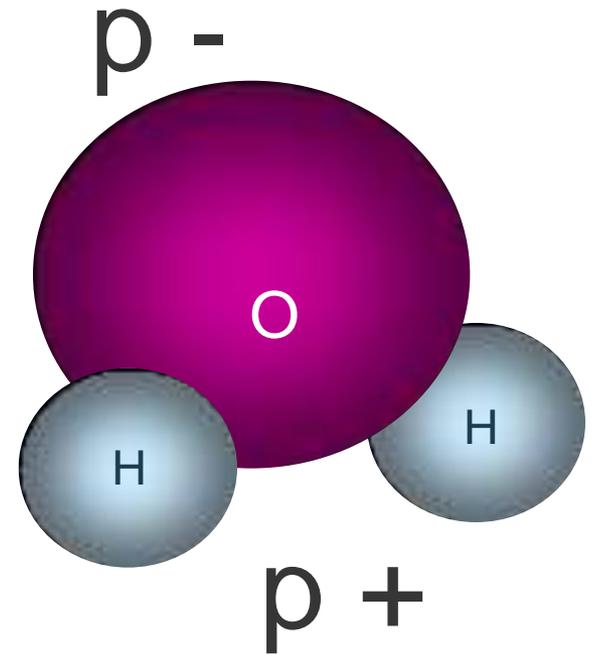


FIGURE 2.—Occurrence of ground water in crystalline rock.

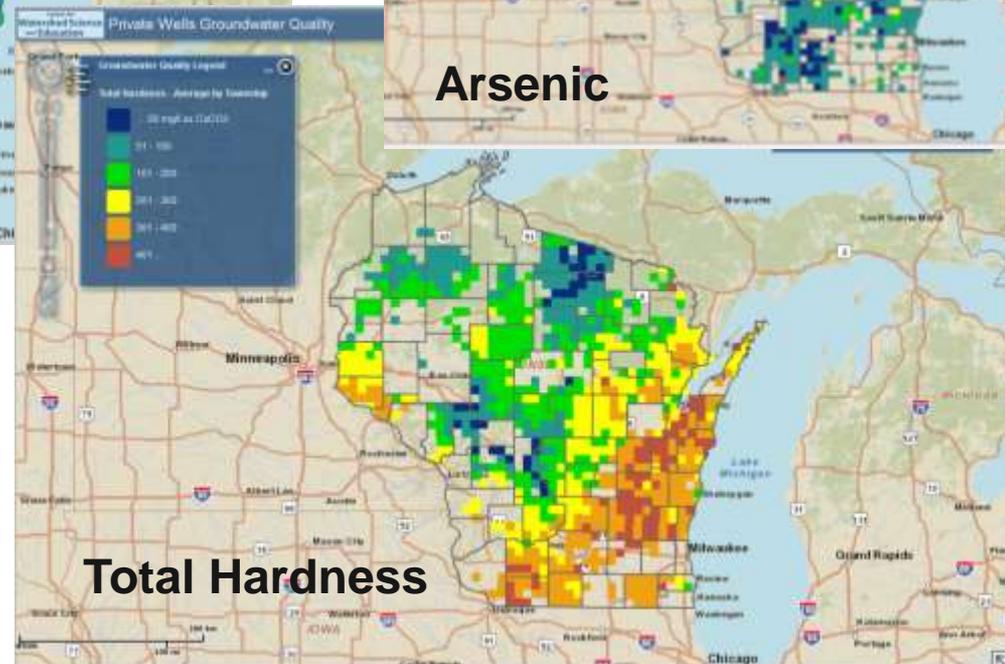
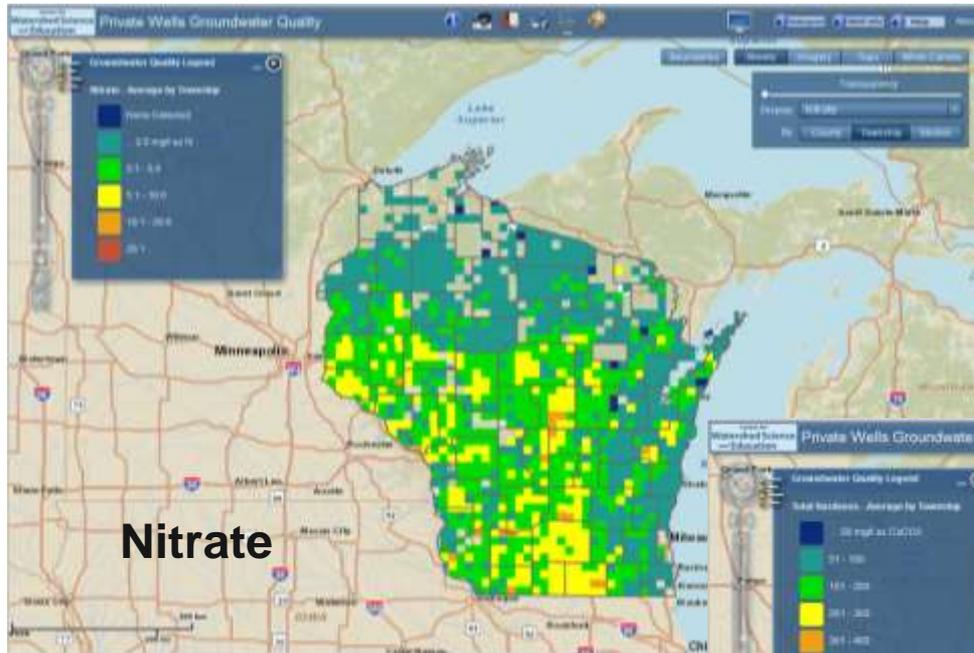
Well Constructor STEVE BINZ		License # 3570	Facility ID (Public)	Gov't Lot	
Address BINZ BROTHERS WELL		Public Well Plan Approval#		Section 1	
City HURLEY	State WI	Zip Code 54534	Date Of Approval	2. Well Type 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 1=New <input type="checkbox"/> 2=Replacement (See item 12 below) 3=Reconstruction of previous unique well# _____ constructed in _____ Reason for replaced or reconstructed Well? NEW CONSTRUCTION	
Hicap Well # _____		Common Well # _____	gpm/ft	GRN Status 1	
3. Well Serves # of homes and or (eg. barn, restaurant, church, school, industry, etc.)			High Capacity: Well? <input type="checkbox"/> N		
P <input type="checkbox"/> M=Main G=OTH N=NonCom P=Farm Z=Other X=NonPet A=Aseds L=Leag H=Drillhole			Property? <input type="checkbox"/> N		
4. Is the well located upslope or sideslope and not downslope from any contamination sources, including those on neighboring properties? <input type="checkbox"/> Y					
Well located in floodplain? <input type="checkbox"/> N					
Distance in feet from well to nearest: (including proposed)					
1. Landfill 60 2. Building Overhang 140 3. 1=Septic 2=Holding Tank 200 4. Sewage Absorption Unit 200 5. Nonconforming Pit 200 6. Buried Home Heating Oil Tank 200 7. Buried Petroleum Tank 200 8. 1=Shoreline 2=Swimming Pool					
9. Downspout/ Yard Hydrant 200 10. Privy 200 11. Foundation Drain to Clearwater 200 12. Foundation Drain to Sewer 200 13. Building Drain 200 14. Building Sewer 200 15. Collector Sewer 200 16. Clearwater Sump 200					
17. Waterwater Sump 200 18. Paved Animal Barn Pen 200 19. Animal Yard or Shelter 200 20. Silo 200 21. Barn Gutter 200 22. Manure Pipe 200 1=Gravity 2=Pressure 200 23. Other manure Storage 200 24. Ditch 200 25. Other NR S12 Waste Source 200					
5. Drillhole Dimensions and Construction Method			Geology §	Geology	
From To Upper Enlarged Drillhole Lower Open Bedrock			Code, Type, Caving/Noncaving, Color, Hardness, etc.	From To	
Di. (in.)	(ft)	(ft)		(ft)	(ft)
9.9	surface	40	X -- 1. Rotary - Mud Circulation -- 2. Rotary - Air -- 3. Rotary - Air and Foam -- 4. Drill-Through Casing Hammer -- 5. Reverse Rotary -- 6. Cable-tool Bit in. dia. -- 7. Temp. Outer Casing Removed? Other:	G_Q_ STONY CLAY	0 15
6.0	40	240		G_Q_ GRAY GRANITE	15 240
6. Casing Liner Screen Material, Weight, Specification From To			9. Static Water Level		
Di. (in.)	Manufacturer & Method of Assembly	(ft)	(ft)	22.0 feet B ground surface ...Above B=Below	11. Well In: A Grade 15 in. A=Above B=Below
6.0	STEEL 18.97 LBS/FT EW ASTM A-53 SAWHILL WELDED	surface	40		Developed? <input type="checkbox"/> Y Disinfected? <input type="checkbox"/> Y Capped? <input type="checkbox"/> Y
7. Grout or Other Sealing Material Method BRAJDEN HEAD Kind of Sealing Material			From To # Sacks Cement	12. Did you notify the owner of the need to permanently abandon and fill all unused wells on this property? If no, explain NONE EXISTING	
NEAT CEMENT			surface 40.0 12 S	13. Initials of Well Constructor or Supervisory Driller SB Date Signed 8/30/05 Initials of Drill Rig Operator (Mandatory unless same as above) SBJ Date Signed 8/30/05	
Additional Comments? Owner Sent Label? <input type="checkbox"/> Y			Variance Issued? <input type="checkbox"/> More Geology? <input type="checkbox"/>	20814909 Batch 988	

water basics

- “Universal Solvent”
- Naturally has “stuff” dissolved in it.
 - Impurities depend on rocks, minerals, land-use, plumbing, packaging, and other materials that water comes in contact with.
- Can also treat water to take “stuff” out



What we know about groundwater quality in Northwestern Wisconsin



Interpreting Drinking Water Test Results

Tests important to health:

- Bacteria
- Sodium
- Nitrate
- Copper
- Lead
- Triazine
- Zinc
- Sulfate
- Arsenic

Tests for aesthetic (taste,color,odor) problems:

- Hardness
- Iron
- Manganese
- Chloride

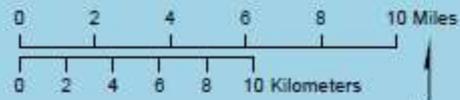
Other important indicator tests:

- Saturation Index
- Alkalinity
- Conductivity
- Potassium

Red = human-influenced **Blue** = naturally found

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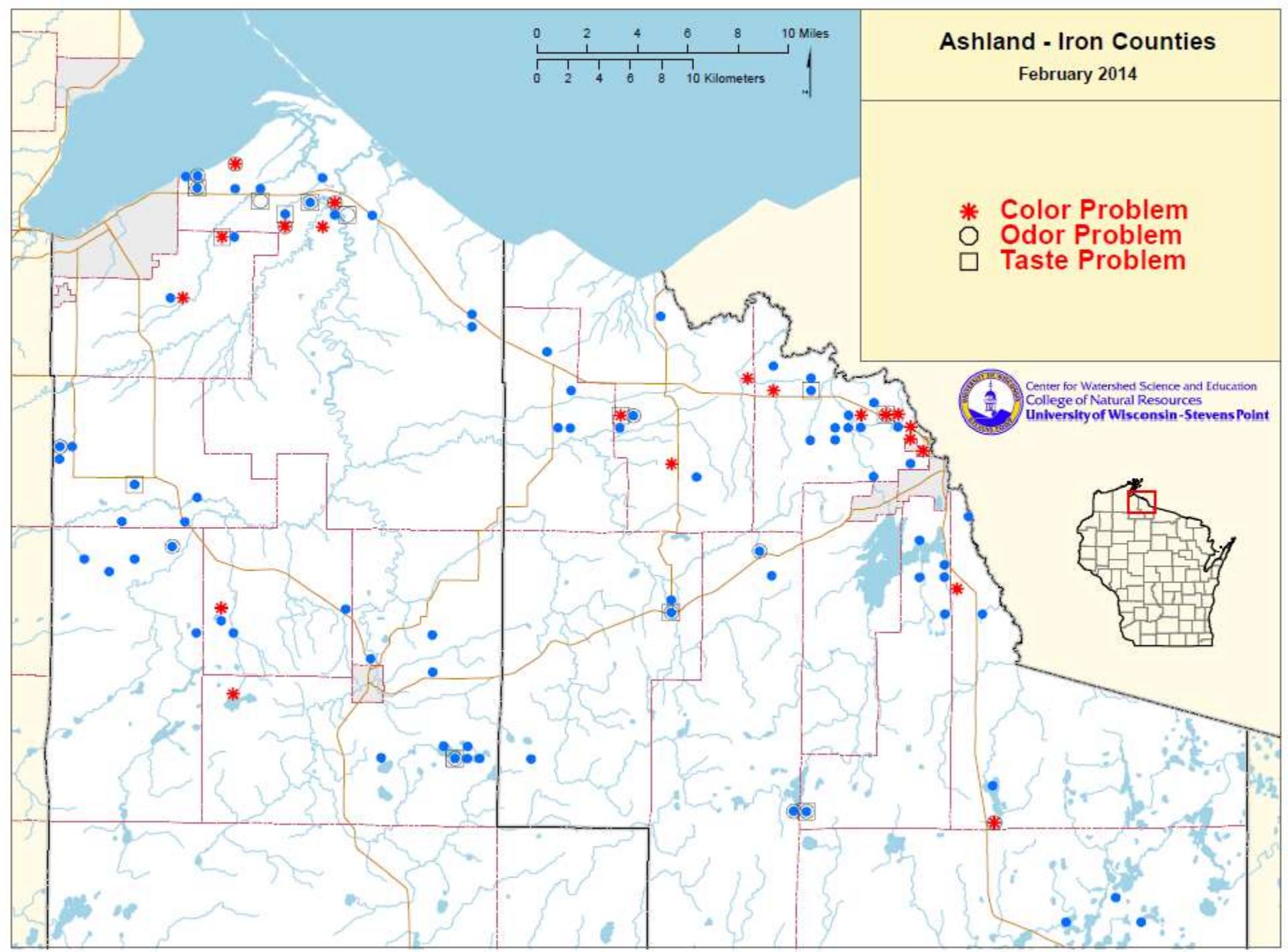
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- * Color Problem
- Odor Problem
- Taste Problem



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Health Concern Categories

Acute Effects

- Usually seen within a short time after exposure to a particular contaminant or substance.

(ex. Bacteria or viral contamination which may cause intestinal disease)

Chronic Effects

- Result from exposure to a substance over a long period of time.
- Increase risk of developing health complications later in life.

(ex. Arsenic or pesticides can increase the risk of developing certain cancers)



Chronic related health concerns are generally about risk management

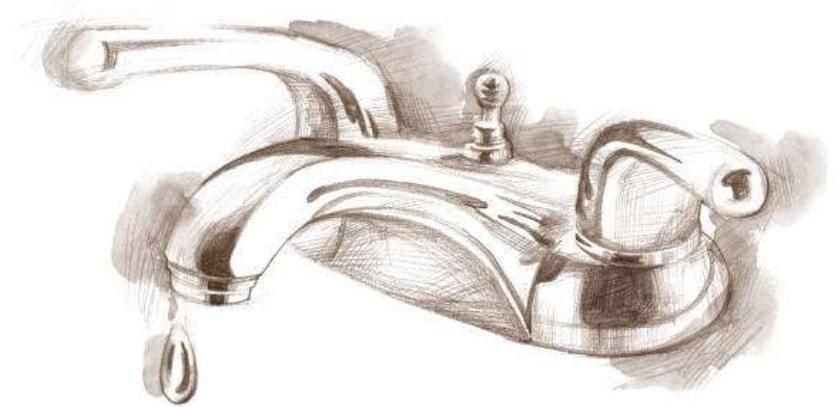
Being struck by lightning	0.16 in 1,000 chance.
0.010 mg/L of arsenic in drinking water.	3 out of 1,000 people likely to develop cancer.
2 pCi of indoor radon level.	4 out of 1,000 people likely to develop lung cancer.¹
2 pCi of indoor radon combined with smoking.	32 out of 1,000 people could develop lung cancer.¹

Drinking water quality is only one part of an individual's total risk.

¹<http://www.epa.gov/radon/healthrisks.html>

Why do people test their water?

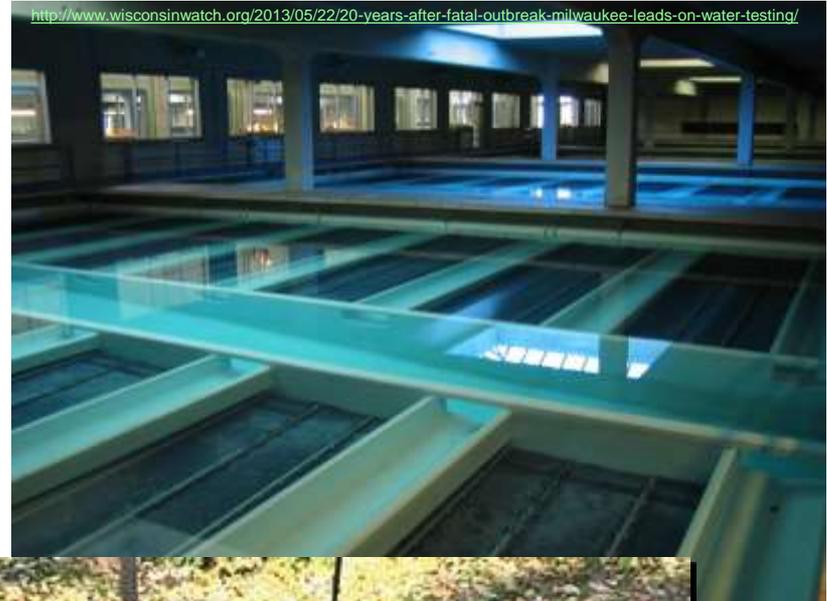
- Installed a new well
- Change in taste or odor
- Buying or selling their home
- Plumbing issues
- Want to know if it's safe to drink.



Private vs. Public Water Supplies

Public Water Supplies

- Regularly tested and regulated by drinking water standards.



Private Wells

- Not required to be regularly tested.
- Not required to take corrective action
- Owners must take special precautions to ensure safe drinking water.



No one test tells us everything we need to know about the safety and condition of a water supply

Tests for Drinking Water from Private Wells

Why should I test my well?

As one of Wisconsin's 700,000 private well owners or private well water consumers, you probably use groundwater for doing your family's laundry, drinking, cooking, bathing and watering your garden. Municipalities are required to test their water supplies regularly to ensure the water is safe to drink. Since there is no requirement to test a private well except for bacteria when it is first drilled or the pump is changed, you are responsible for making sure your water is safe.

Most private wells provide a clean, safe supply of water; however, contaminants can pollute private wells, and unfortunately you cannot see, smell or taste most of them. Consequently, you should test your water on a regular basis. The decision on what to test your water for should be based on the types of land uses near your well.

This brochure gives information about several common contaminants found in private wells. It should help you decide when to sample your well and how often, how to find a certified laboratory and who to call for help.

What tests should be done on my water?

Total Coliform Bacteria and E.coli

Coliform bacteria live in soil, on vegetation and in surface water. Coliform bacteria found in the intestines of warm-blooded animals and their feces are called E.coli. Some strains of coliform bacteria can survive for long periods in soil and water and can be carried into well casings by insects. Bacteria washed into the ground by rainwater or snowmelt are usually filtered out as the water seeps through the soil, but they sometimes enter water supplies through cracks in well casings, poorly sealed caps, fractures in the underlying bedrock, and runoff into sinkholes. Coliform bacteria are the most common contaminants found in private water systems. A 1994 Wisconsin survey found them in 23% of the wells tested and E.coli in 2.4% of the wells.

Most coliform bacteria do not cause illness, but indicate a breach in the water system. However, since E.coli bacteria are found in fecal material, they are often present with bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause flu-like symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, fever and diarrhea. Private wells should be tested at least once a year for





Water and Environmental Analysis Lab

UW-Stevens Point, College of Natural Resources
Phone (715)346-3209 or Toll Free (877)383-8378
www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weal



Monday, August 15, 2011

WELL INFORMATION:

WI Unique Well Number

Add

City

State

County SAINT CROIX

Town Pleasant Valley

Legal Description

SW SW Sec 5 T 28 R 17 W

1/4 1/4 (section) (town) (range)

Map : Gov't Lot#

Year well installed 1950

Casing Diameter:

3" - less 4-9" 10-18" 18+"

Total well depth 160

Depth of casing

Depth to water

SOURCE:

Municipal Spring

Other

TREATMENT SYSTEM(S) OWNED:

Water softener Rev Osmosis
 Carbon filter Neutralizer
 Particle filter Iron Filter
 Other

PROBLEMS OBSERVED:

Color Taste Odor
 Corrosion Health None
 Other

LAST DATE TESTED:

Never Unknown
 Less than 1 year 1-2 years
 2-5 years 5-10 years
 Greater than 10 years

REASON FOR TESTING:

Curious about water quality
 Suspect water quality problems
 Regularly test my well
 Required by lending institution
 Retest of positive bacteria test
 Retest following well disinfection
 Infant/pregnant woman/daycare
 Other

MAIL RESULTS TO:

last

First

Add

City

State

phon

SAMPLE(S) COLLECTED

Date 4/25/2011

Time 13:30

SAMPLE(S) TAKEN FROM:

Pressure Tank
 Kitchen faucet
 Bathroom faucet
 Outside faucet
 Barn
 Other

SAMPLE_ID 78543

Labno 86-11-6

Group ST. CROIX CO 11APR#2

LABORATORY RESULTS

Parameter	Qualifier	Results	Units	
Bacteria-Coliform		Absent		(see note 1 below)
Hardness-Total		392	mg/l CaCO3	
Alkalinity		232	mg/l CaCO3	
Conductivity		842	umhos/cm	
pH		7.90	std units	
Saturation Index (Ca)		0.5		Corrosivity Balanced
Nitrogen-Nitrate/Nitrite		27.6	mg/l N	(see note 2 below)
Chloride		51.8	mg/l	
Arsenic	Less Than	0.005	mg/l	
Calcium		93.7	mg/l	
Copper		0.329	mg/l	
Iron		0.002	mg/l	
Lead		0.007	mg/l	
Magnesium		39.0	mg/l	
Manganese	Less Than	0.001	mg/l	
Potassium		16.6	mg/l	
Sodium		15.5	mg/l	
Sulfate		31.5	mg/l	
Zinc		0.697	mg/l	
DACT Screen		0.2	ug/l	

Page 1

(Report continued for Heinbuch, Sample ID 78543)

1. BACTERIA ABSENT – means that no bacteria were found and your water supply is considered bacteriologically safe for uses such as drinking and cooking. You can be reasonably sure that your water supply is free of fecal coliform and other pathogenic bacteria.

To ensure your well remains in good sanitary condition; consider testing your well again for coliform bacteria annually or sooner if you notice a sudden change in taste, color or odor to the water.

2. NITRATE – Water greater than 10 mg/L of nitrate-nitrogen should not be consumed by infants less than 6 months of age or pregnant women. The WI Department of Health Services recommends that all persons should avoid long-term consumption of water with nitrate-nitrogen concentrations greater than 10 mg/L. You may choose to reduce your exposure to nitrate by installing an approved water treatment device (reverse osmosis, distillation or anion exchange), purchasing bottled water or investigate the possibility that a new well would result in lower nitrate levels.

Disclaimer - The analyses run on your samples only cover some of the more common water quality characteristics. Safe levels of these chemicals or bacteria do not guarantee that your water is free of all toxic chemicals. Bacteria die-off in samples over 30 hours old may render results inaccurate and are therefore deemed inconclusive. If you suspect gasoline residues, pesticides, or other trace chemicals, you would need additional analyses. Contact the lab or your Extension office for more information.

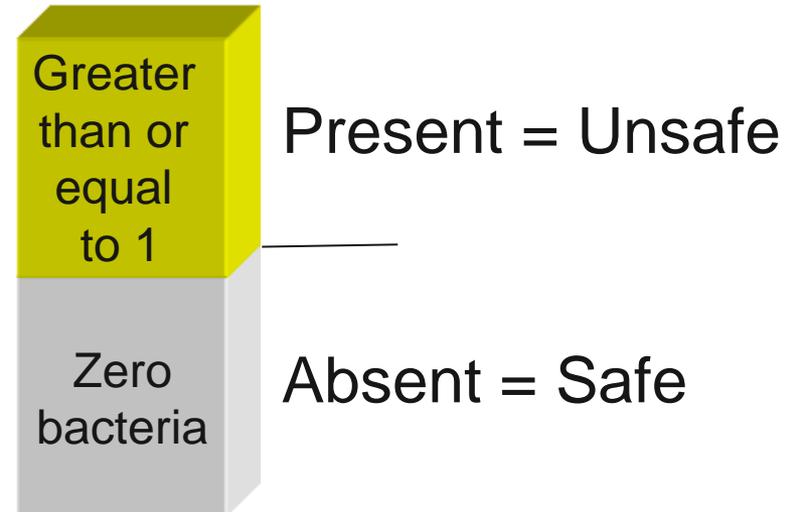
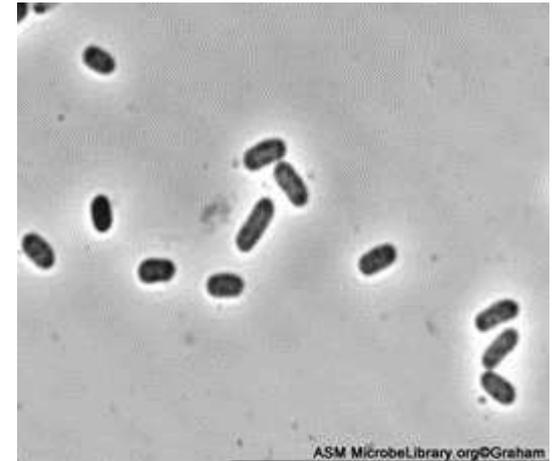
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milligrams per liter (mg/l) = parts per million (ppm)

1 mg/l = 1000 parts per billion (ppb)

Coliform bacteria

- Generally do not cause illness, but indicate a pathway for potentially harmful microorganisms to enter your water supply.
 - Harmful bacteria and viruses can cause gastrointestinal disease, cholera, hepatitis
- Well Code: “Properly constructed well should be able to provide bacteria free water continuously without the need for treatment”
- Recommend using an alternative source of water until a test indicates your well is absent of coliform bacteria
- Sources:
 - Live in soils and on vegetation
 - Human and animal waste
 - Sampling error



If coliform bacteria was detected, we also checked for e.coli bacteria test

- Confirmation that bacteria originated from a human or animal fecal source.
- E. coli are often present with harmful bacteria, viruses and parasites that can cause serious gastrointestinal illnesses.
- Any detectable level of E.coli means your water is unsafe to drink.

Information Sources: United States Department of Health and Human Services – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov)

Contaminants	Sources	Symptoms
BACTERIA		
<p><i>Escherichia coliform (E. coli)</i> <i>Salmonella</i> <i>Campylobacter</i> <i>E. coli O157</i> (Requires a special water test for detection. Causes similar, but more serious illness than other E.coli strains. Requires medical treatment.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infected human and animal feces • Manure • Septic systems • Sewage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gastrointestinal illness • Low-grade fever • Begins 12 hrs - 7 days after exposure
<p><i>Leptosporidia</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urine of livestock, dogs and wildlife • Manure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High fever, severe headache and red eyes • Gastrointestinal illness • Begins 2-28 days after exposure
MICROSCOPIC PARASITES		
<p><i>Cryptosporidia</i> <i>Giardia</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infected human and animal feces • Manure • Septic systems • Sewage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gastrointestinal illness • Begins 2-14 days after exposure
VIRUSES		
<p>Norovirus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infected human feces and vomit • Septic systems • Sewage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gastrointestinal illness • Low-grade fever & headache • Begins 12-48 hrs after exposure
CHEMICALS		
<p>Nitrate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertilizers • Manure • Bio-solids • Septic systems 	<p>Methemoglobinemia or "Blue Baby Syndrome" – No documented cases in Door County, but elevated nitrate levels in well water may indicate risk of contamination by additional pathogens.</p>
<p>Atrazine (trade-name herbicide for control of broadleaf and grassy weeds)</p>	<p>Estimated to be most heavily used herbicide in the U.S. in 1987/89, with its most extensive use for corn and soybeans in the Midwest, including WI. In 1993, it became a restricted-use herbicide nationally. U.S. EPA set a max. contaminant level (MCL) at 3 parts per billion for safe drinking water.</p>	<p>Short-term exposure above the MCL may cause: congestion of heart, lungs and kidneys; low blood pressure; muscle spasms; weight loss; damage to adrenal glands.</p> <p>Long-term exposure above MCL may cause: weight loss, cardiovascular damage, retinal and some muscle degeneration; cancer.</p>

Some Common Pathways for Bacteria to Enter Your Water System



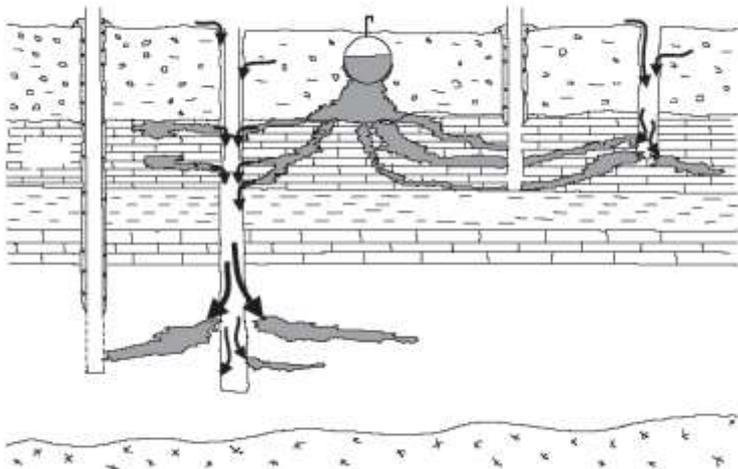
Photo: Sandy Heimke, WI DNR



Photo: Sandy Heimke, WI DNR



AQUIFER CONTAMINATION THROUGH IMPROPERLY ABANDONED WELLS



Source: Adapted from DiNovo and Jaffe, 1984.

Codes R2.401 through R2.404, Wisconsin Administrative Code prohibit the installation of a yard hydrant with a below ground discharge. The code reads:

"Stop and waste-type control valves may not be installed underground."

This type of hydrant, with a below ground discharge is popular because of the ease of operation and the relative low cost.



The plunger (control valve) is located below the frost line. When the handle is lifted water enters the riser and flows through the head. A drain at the same level as the plunger allows water to the rear and the head to drain each time the handle is lowered. This draining action prevents freezing temperatures from causing the water in the hydrant riser or head to expand and burst the device. If a hose connected to the hydrant without a hose connection vacuum breaker were submerged in a liquid, the water contents of the head could be siphoned through the drain port and could contaminate the groundwater or even your drinking water supply.

If you have further questions, please check the Department website at: <http://openwaters.wisconsin.gov/509-58-PlumbingProgram.html>

or, contact your local plumbing inspector or, contact one of the consultants listed:



District #	Name	Phone/Fax
1	Tim Jovin	480-235-0377 / 480-263-7474
2	Tom Brown	715-545-3367 / 480-263-7473
3	Don Overton	715-546-2007 / 480-263-7472
4	Don Hough	715-546-4004 / 480-263-7471
5	Ryan Buckel	480-412-1999 / 480-383-7449

509-586-7690

What does an approved yard hydrant look like?



There's no "one" answer for a code-compliant yard hydrant. Many manufacturers produce models that are code compliant. When you buy a hydrant, make sure that it has an approved hose connection vacuum breaker and does not include an underground drain.

And if you install a hose connection vacuum breaker on a yard hydrant make sure you break it during the winter to prevent freezing conditions from bursting the hydrant.

If you find a model that you have questions about, contact the department or your local plumbing inspector.

What should I do if coliform bacteria was present?

1. Use alternative source of water for drinking
 2. Retest
 3. Try to identify any sanitary defects
 - Loose or non-existent well cap
 - Well construction faults
 - A nearby unused well or pit
 - Inadequate filtration by soil
 4. Disinfect the well
 5. Retest to ensure well is bacteria free.
- *For reoccurring bacteria problems the best solution may be a new well.*

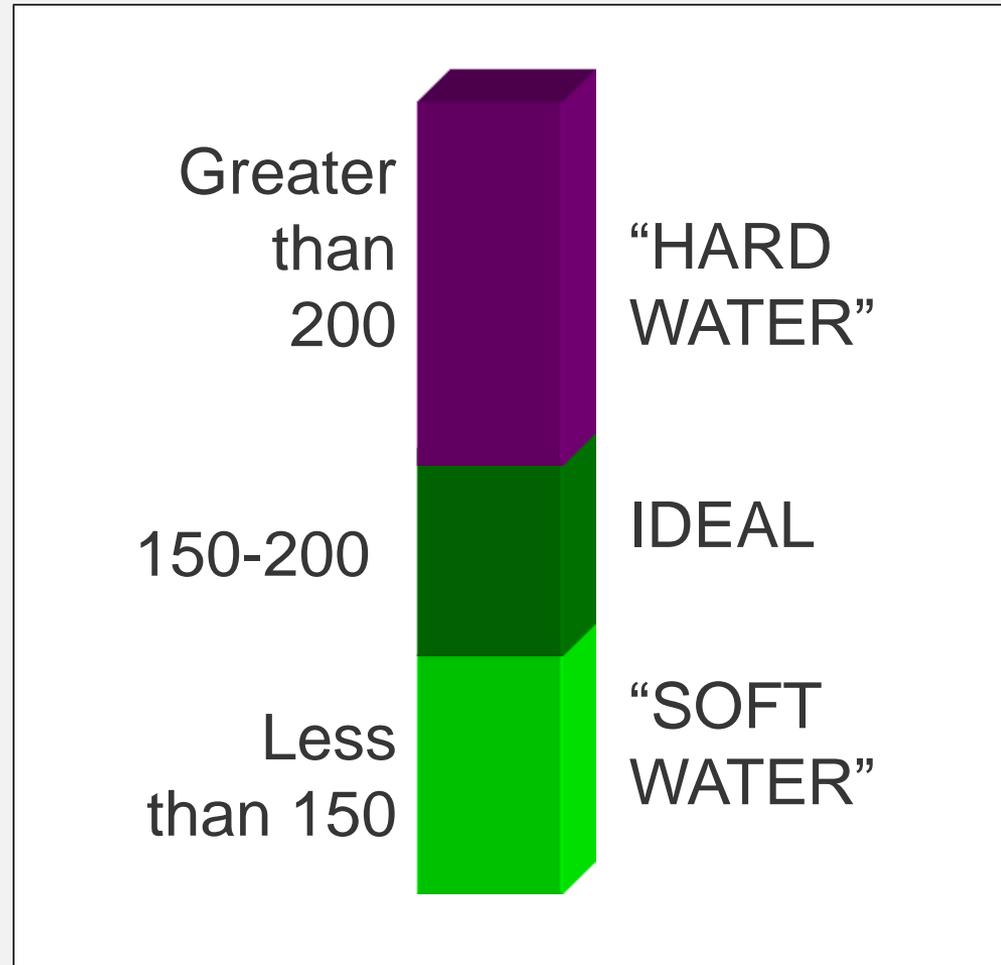


Rock and Soil Impacts on Water Quality

Tests for Aesthetic Problems

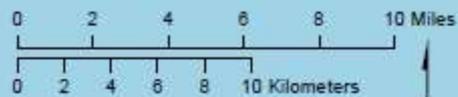
Hardness

- Natural (rocks and soils)
- Primarily calcium and magnesium
- Problems: scaling, scum, use more detergent, decrease water heater efficiency



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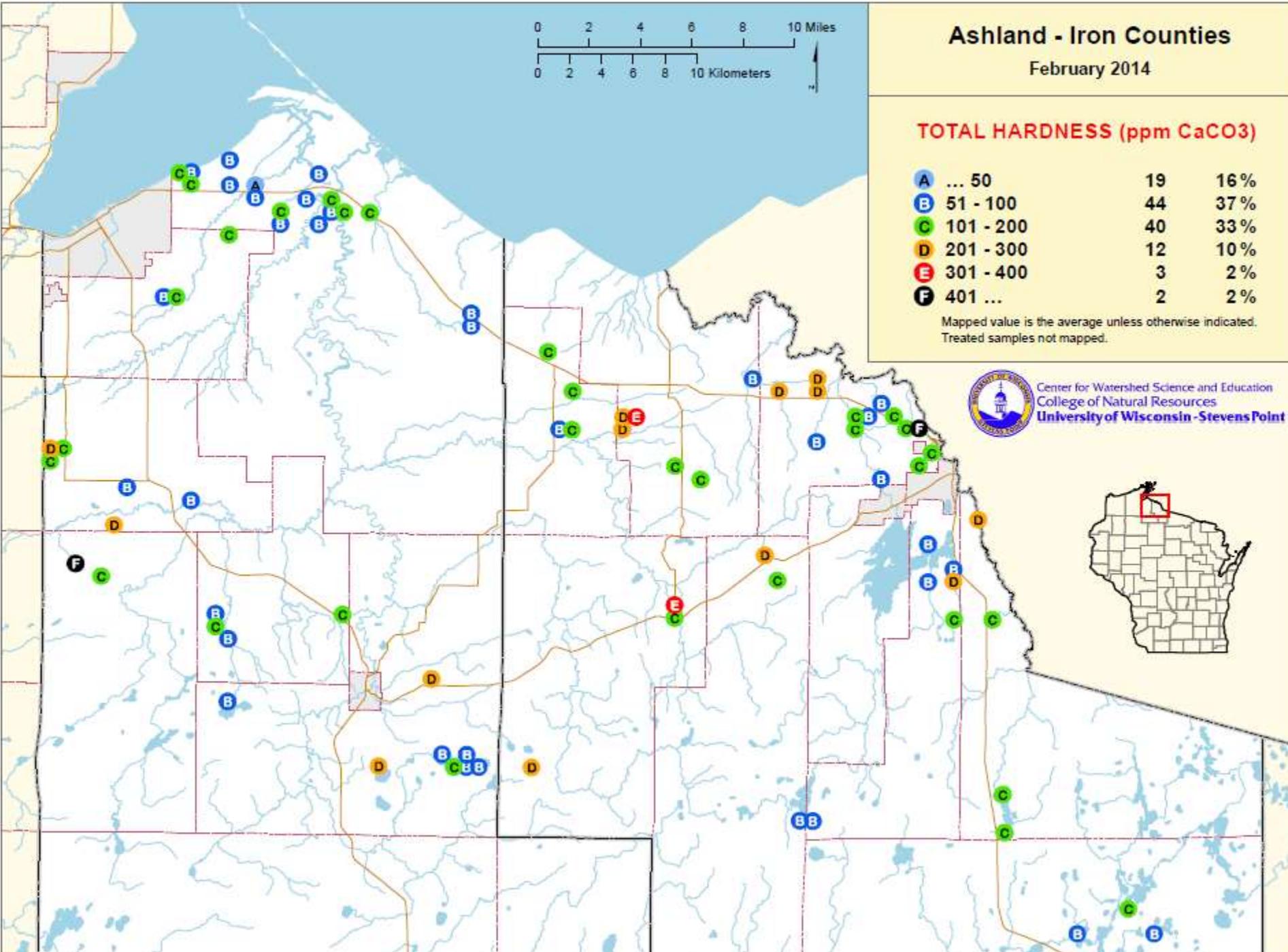
TOTAL HARDNESS (ppm CaCO₃)

A ... 50	19	16 %
B 51 - 100	44	37 %
C 101 - 200	40	33 %
D 201 - 300	12	10 %
E 301 - 400	3	2 %
F 401 ...	2	2 %

Mapped value is the average unless otherwise indicated.
Treated samples not mapped.



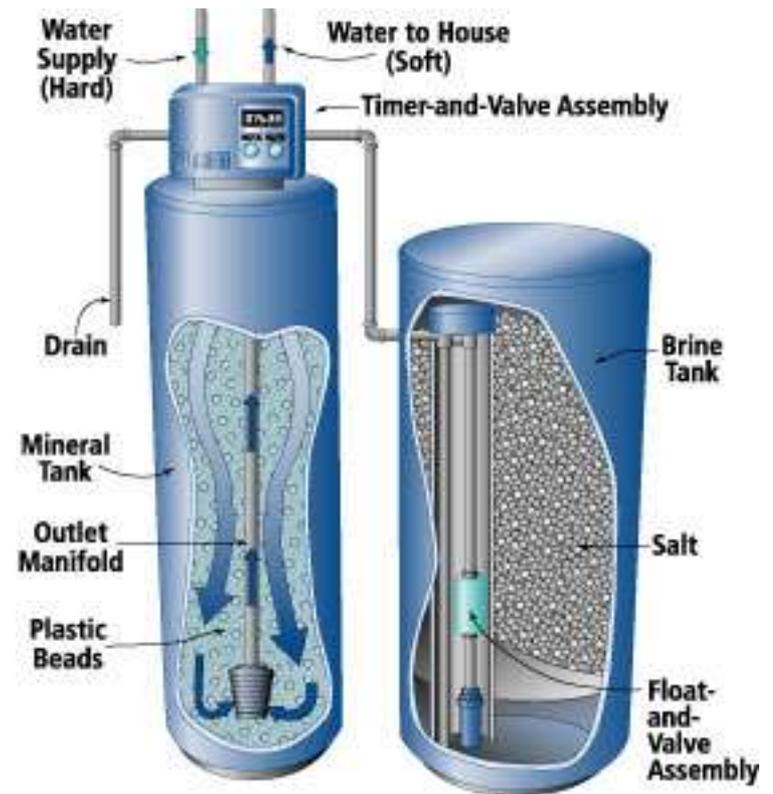
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Water Softening

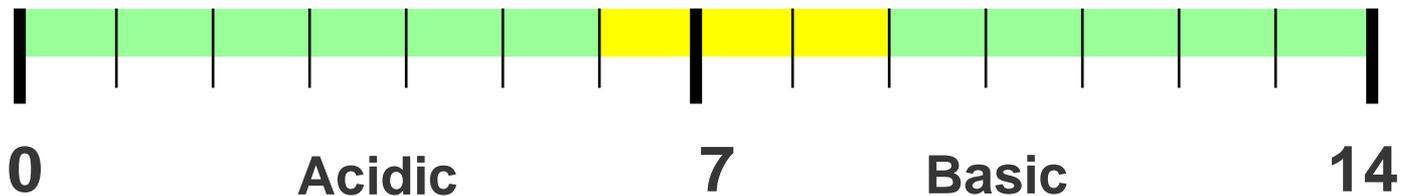
Water softeners remove calcium and magnesium which cause scaling and exchange it for sodium (or potassium).

- Negative: Increases sodium content of water.
- Suggestions:
 - Bypass your drinking water faucet.
 - Do not soften water for outdoor faucets.
 - If you are concerned about sodium levels – use potassium chloride softener salt.



Tests for Overall Water Quality

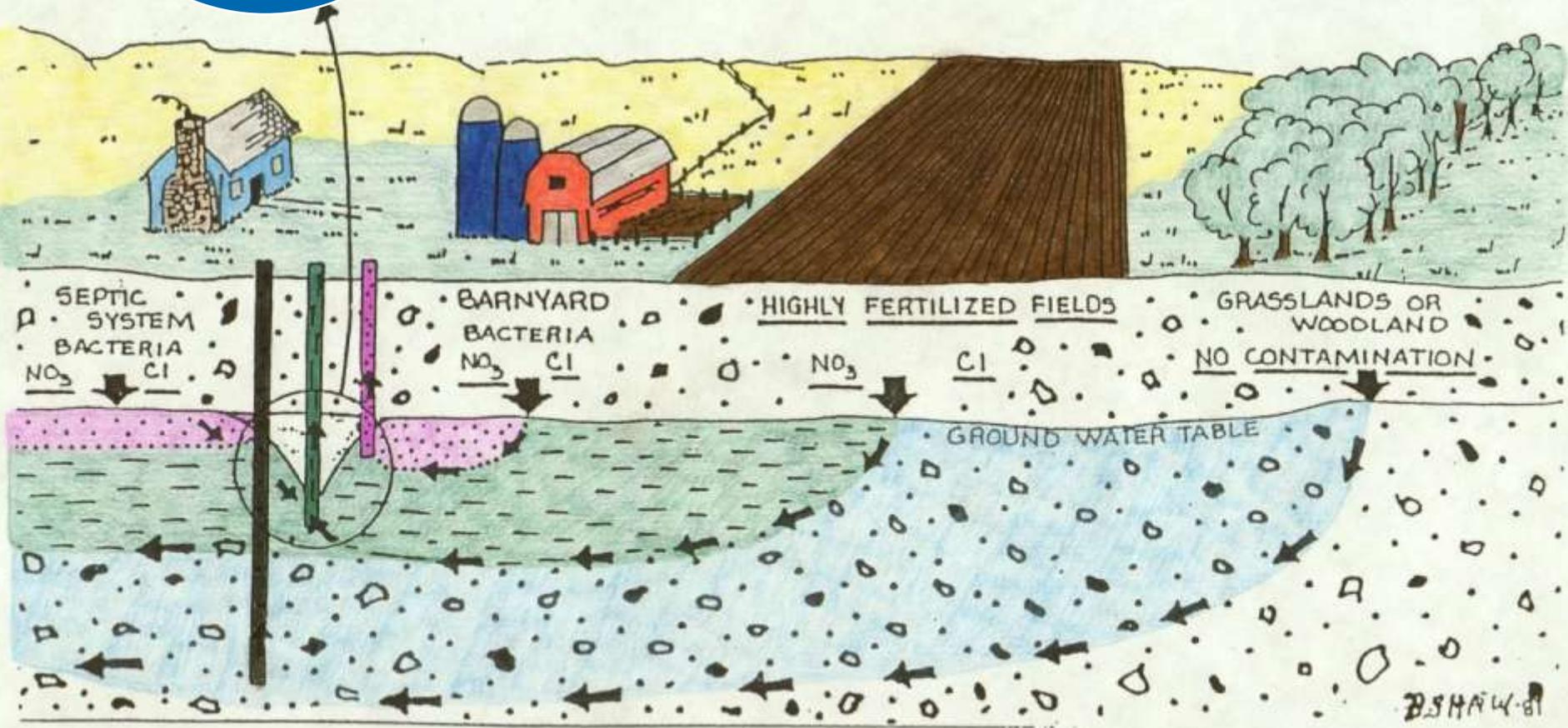
- **Alkalinity** – ability to neutralize acid
- **Conductivity** –
 - Measure of total ions
 - can be used to indicate presence of contaminants (~ twice the hardness)
- **pH** – Indicates water's acidity and helps determine if water will corrode plumbing



- **Saturation Index** – A calculated corrosivity index.
If water was softened, then corrosivity index is likely not accurate.

Well
pumping
water

Land Use and Water Quality

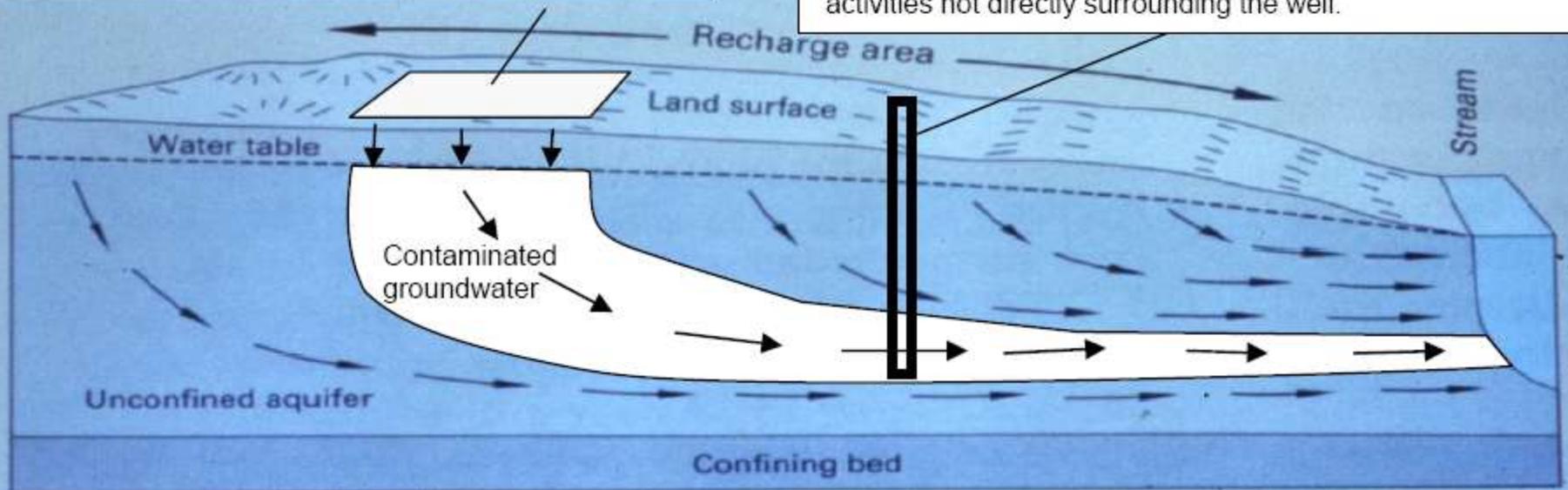




Soil

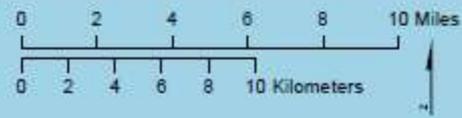
Land-use activity that pollutes groundwater.

Because groundwater moves, wells located far from the contamination source can sometimes be polluted from activities not directly surrounding the well.

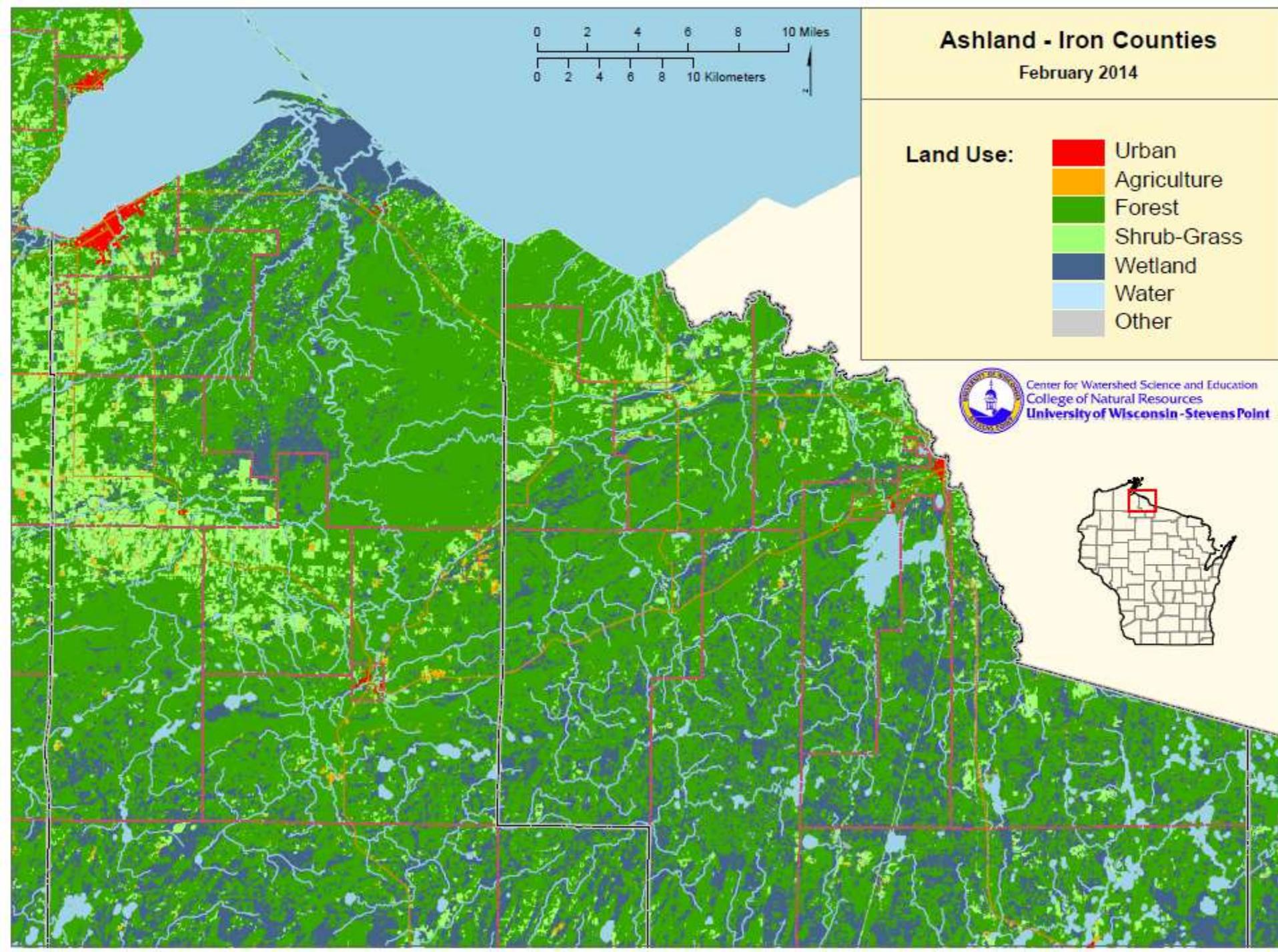


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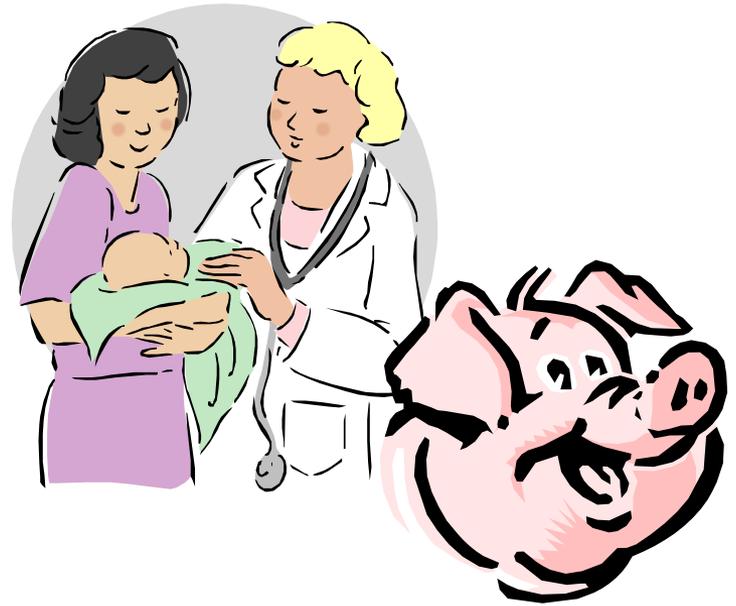
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Nitrate-Nitrogen

Health Effects:

- Methemoglobinemia (blue baby disease)
- Possible links to birth defects and miscarriages (humans and livestock)
- Indicator of other contaminants



Sources:

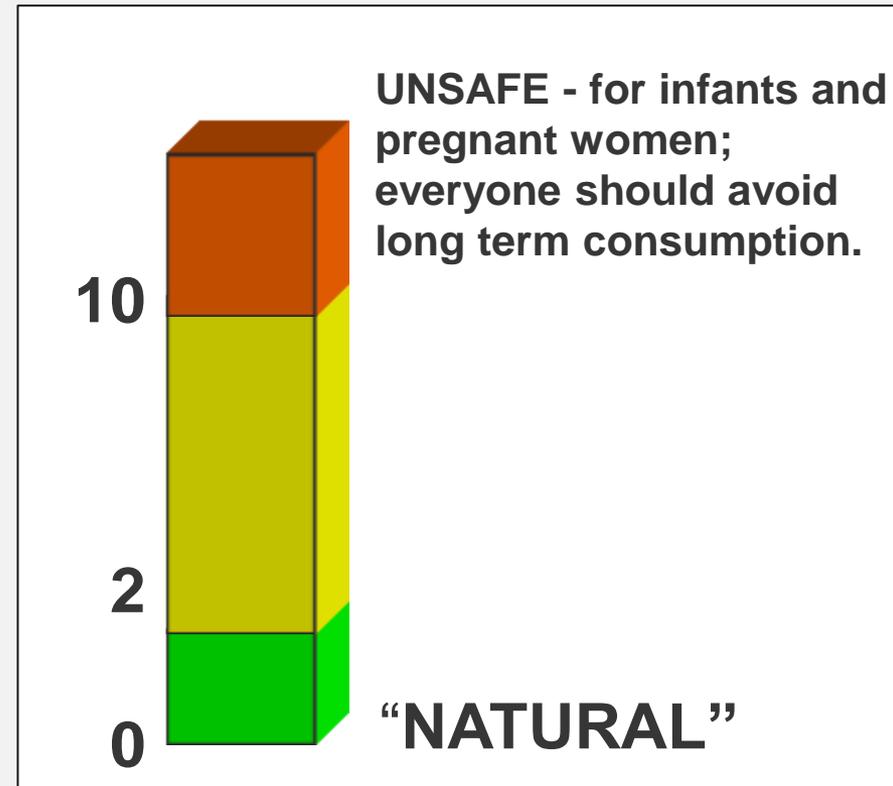
- Agricultural fertilizer
- Lawn fertilizer
- Septic systems
- Animal wastes



Test Important to Health

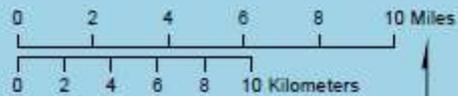
Nitrate Nitrogen

- **Greater than 10 mg/L**
Exceeds State and Federal Limits for Drinking Water
- **Between 2 and 10 mg/L**
Some Human Impact
- **Less than 2.0 mg/L**
“Transitional”
- **Less than 0.2 mg/L**
“Natural”



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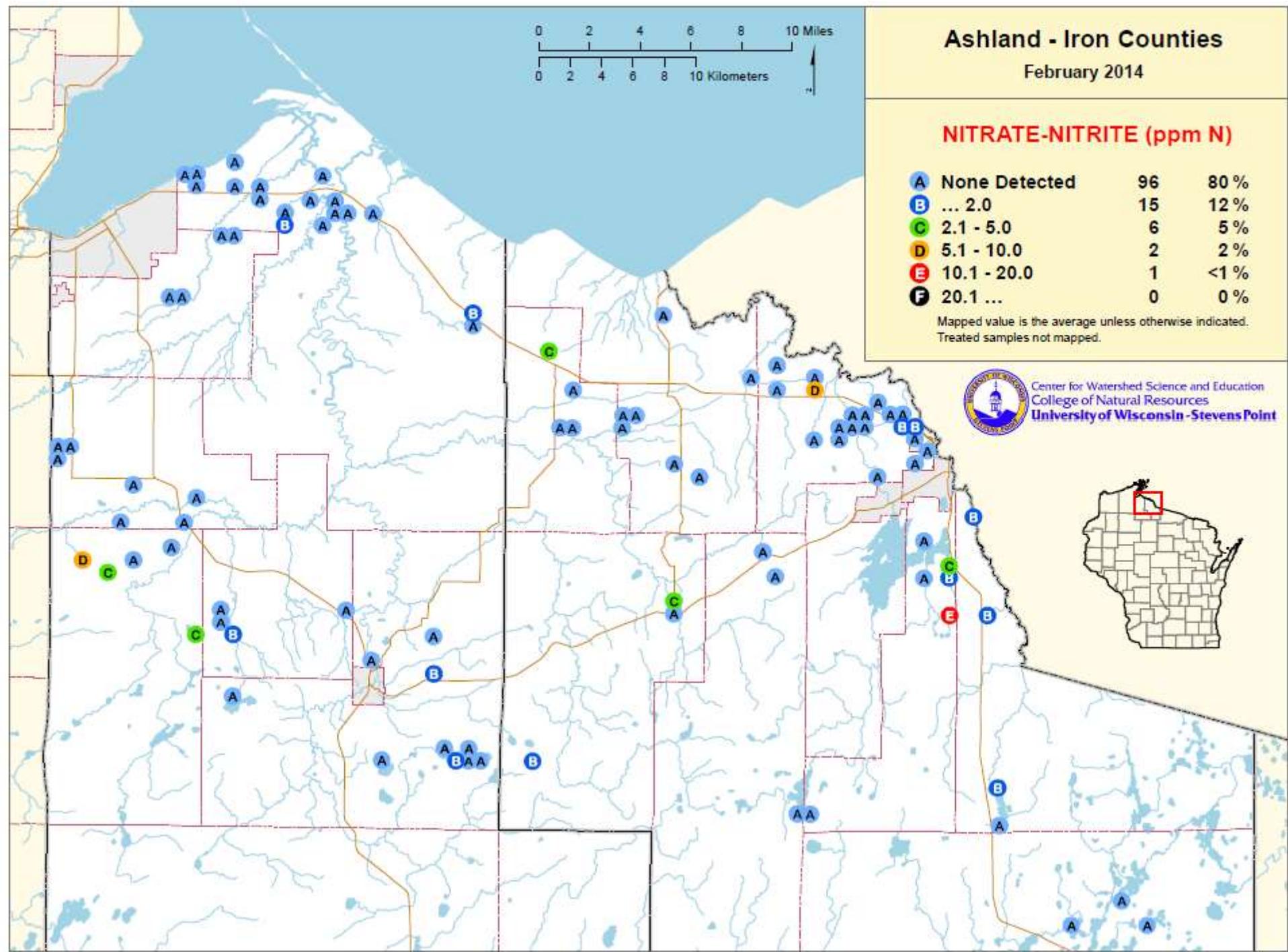
NITRATE-NITRITE (ppm N)

A	None Detected	96	80 %
B	... 2.0	15	12 %
C	2.1 - 5.0	6	5 %
D	5.1 - 10.0	2	2 %
E	10.1 - 20.0	1	<1 %
F	20.1 ...	0	0 %

Mapped value is the average unless otherwise indicated.
Treated samples not mapped.



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What can I do to reduce my nitrate levels?

Solution:

- **Eliminate contamination source or reduce nitrogen inputs**

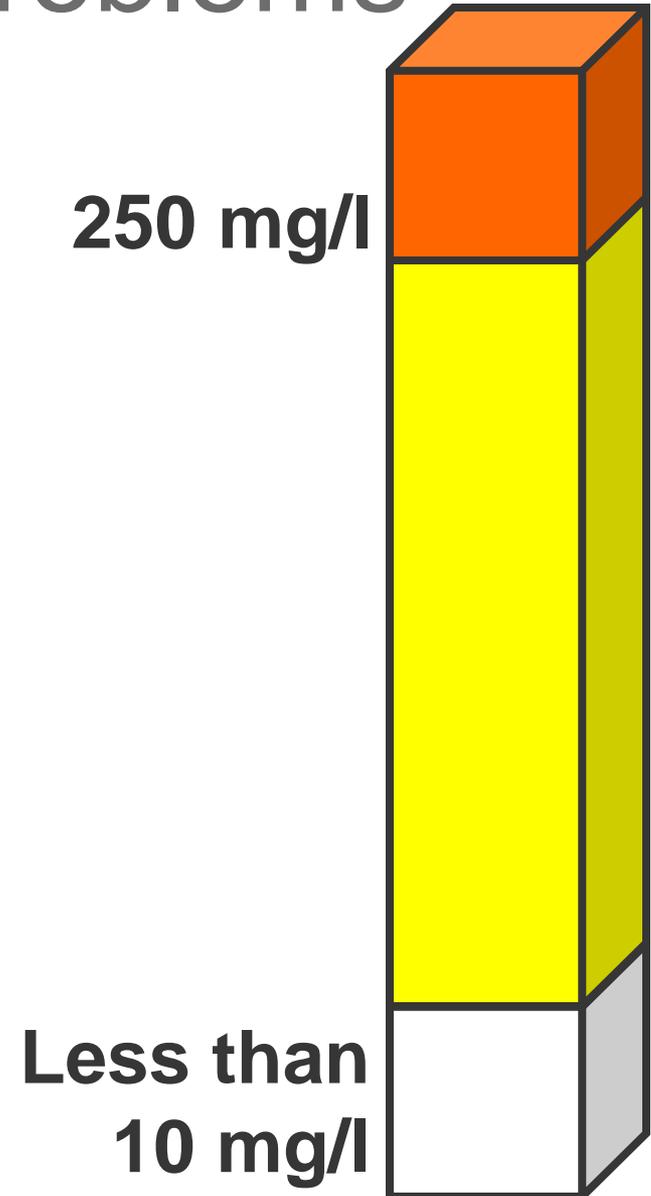
Short term:

- **Change well depth or relocate well**
- **Carry or buy water**
- **Water treatment devices**
 - **Reverse osmosis**
 - **Distillation**
 - **Anion exchange**

Tests for Aesthetic Problems

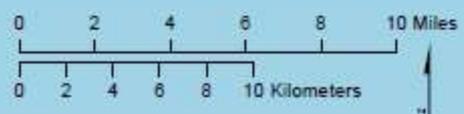
Chloride

- Greater than 250 mg/l
 - No direct effects on health
 - Salty taste
 - Exceeds recommended level
- Greater than 10 mg/l may indicate human impact
- Less than 10 mg/l considered “natural” in much of WI
- **Sources:** Fertilizers, Septic Systems and Road Salt



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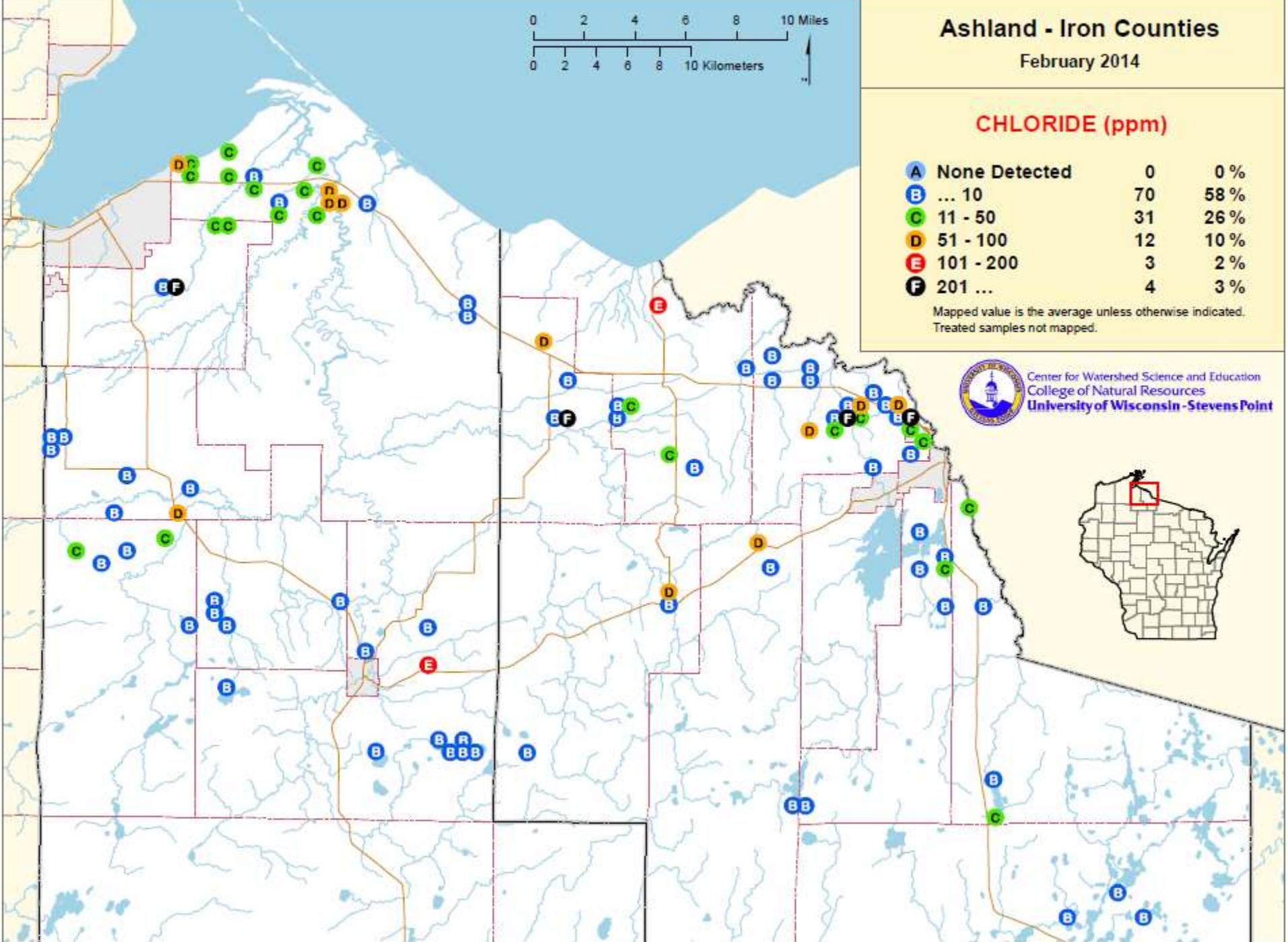


CHLORIDE (ppm)

Category	Count	Percentage
A None Detected	0	0%
B ... 10	70	58%
C 11 - 50	31	26%
D 51 - 100	12	10%
E 101 - 200	3	2%
F 201 ...	4	3%

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Treated samples not mapped.

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Tests for Aesthetic Problems

Iron

- Natural (rocks and soils)
- May benefit health
- Red and yellow stains on clothing, fixtures
- If iron present, increases potential for iron bacteria
 - Slime, odor, oily film



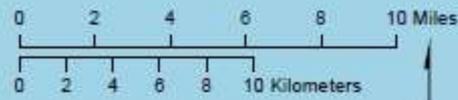
**Greater
than 0.3
mg/L**

**Aesthetic
problems
likely**

**Less
than 0.3 mg/L**

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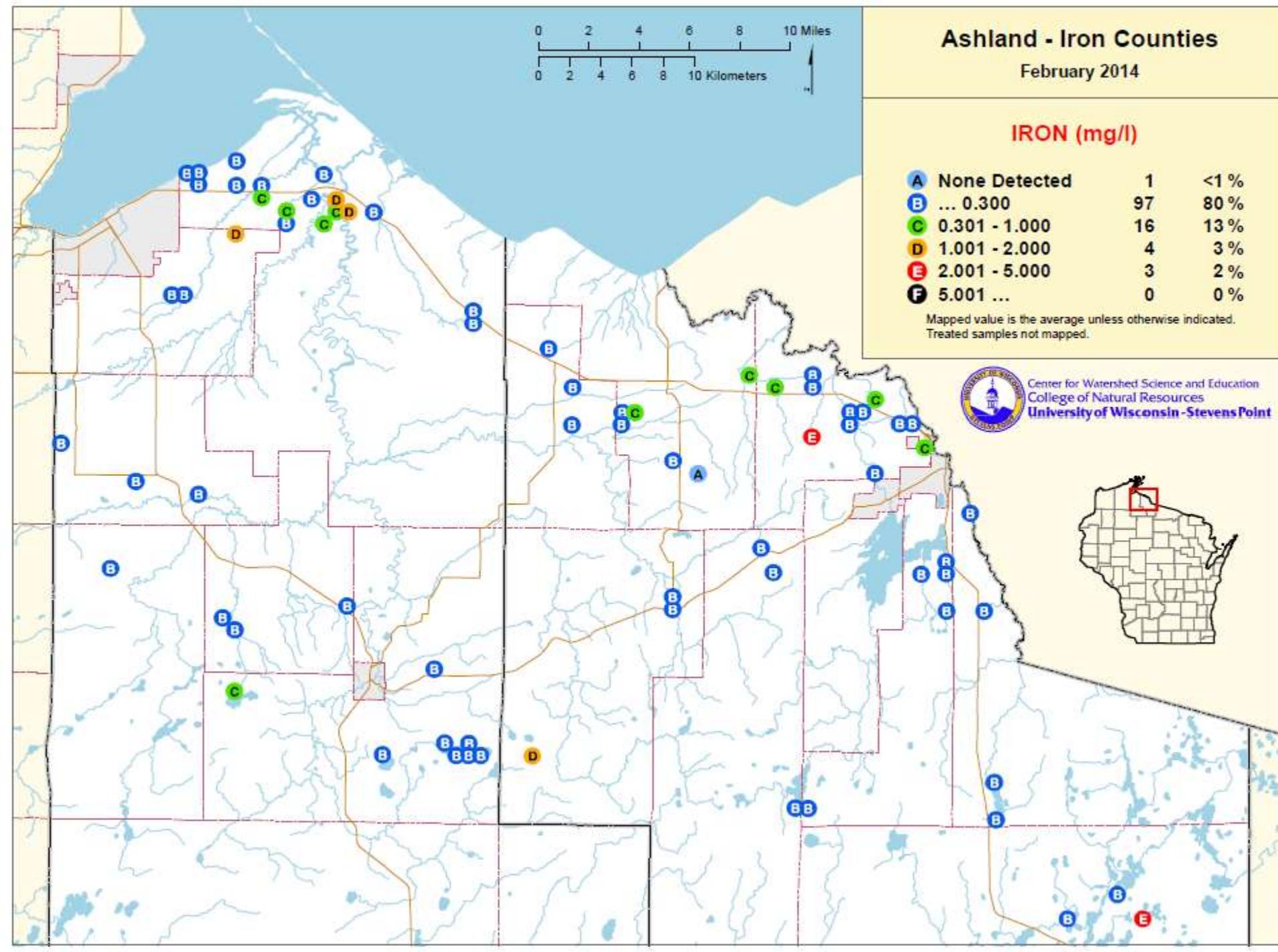
IRON (mg/l)

A None Detected	1	<1 %
B ... 0.300	97	80 %
C 0.301 - 1.000	16	13 %
D 1.001 - 2.000	4	3 %
E 2.001 - 5.000	3	2 %
F 5.001 ...	0	0 %

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Treated samples not mapped.



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Tests for Aesthetic Problems

Manganese

- Natural (rocks and soils)
- Aesthetic issues: taste, odor, color (black staining or precipitates)
- Health Advisory Level: 0.300 mg/L
 - Many years of exposure to high levels of manganese can cause harm to the nervous system. A disorder similar to Parkinson's disease can result. This type of effect is most likely to occur in the elderly. The federal health advisory for manganese is intended to protect against this effect.

Greater than 0.300 mg/L

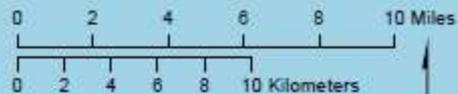
Greater than 0.050

Less than 0.050



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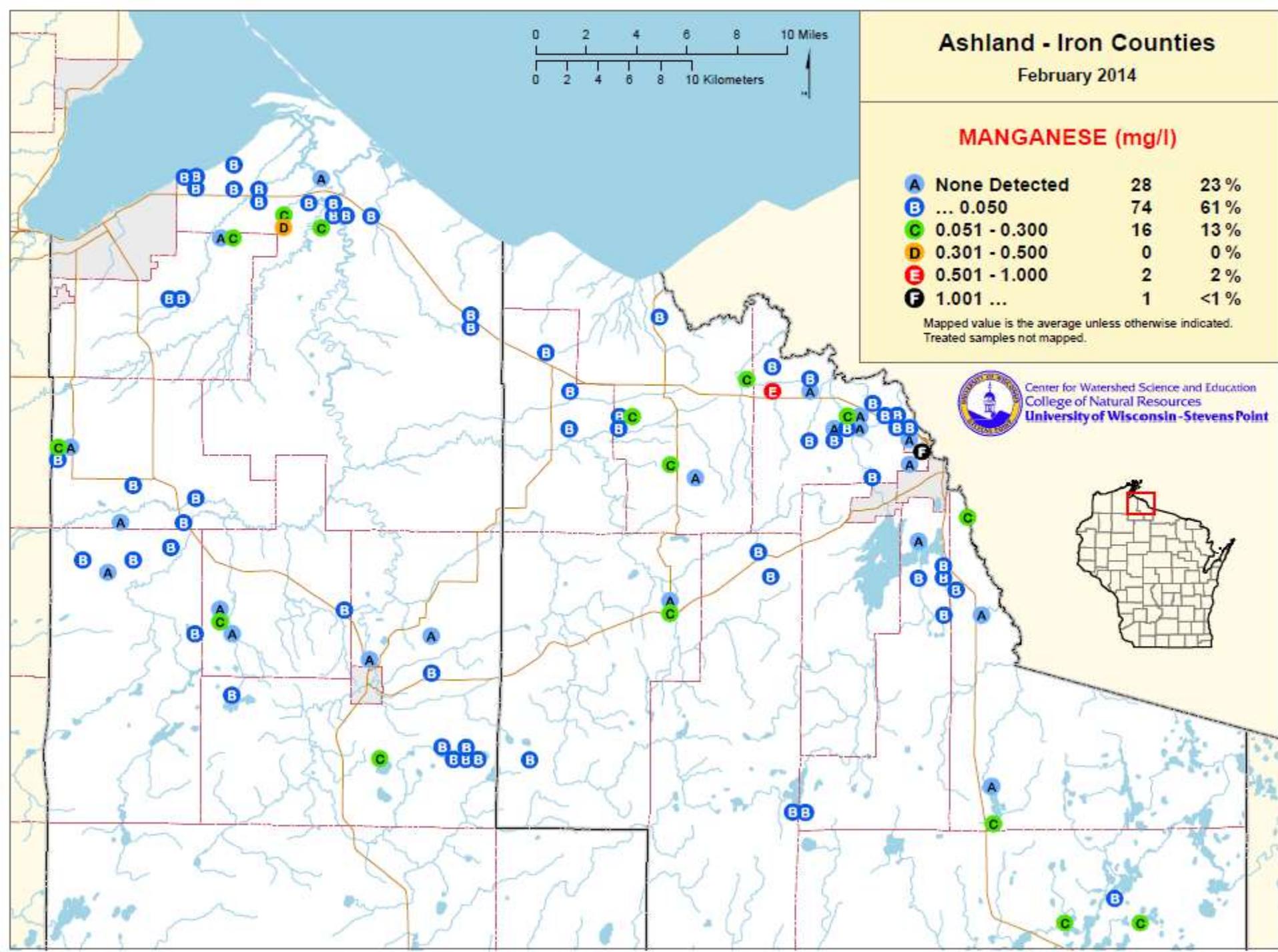
MANGANESE (mg/l)

A None Detected	28	23 %
B ... 0.050	74	61 %
C 0.051 - 0.300	16	13 %
D 0.301 - 0.500	0	0 %
E 0.501 - 1.000	2	2 %
F 1.001 ...	1	<1 %

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Test Important to Health

Copper

- **Sources:** Copper water pipes
- **Standard:** Less than 1.3 mg/L is suitable for drinking

Health Effects:

- Some copper is needed for good health
- Too much may cause problems:
 - Stomach cramps, diarrhea,
 - vomiting, nausea
 - Formula intolerance in infants



Test Important to Health

Lead

Sources: Lead solder joining copper pipes (pre-1985) or brass fixtures

Standard: 0.015 mg/L (15 ppb)

Health Effects:

- Young children, infants and unborn children are particularly vulnerable.
- Lead may damage the brain, kidneys, nervous system, red blood cells, reproductive system.



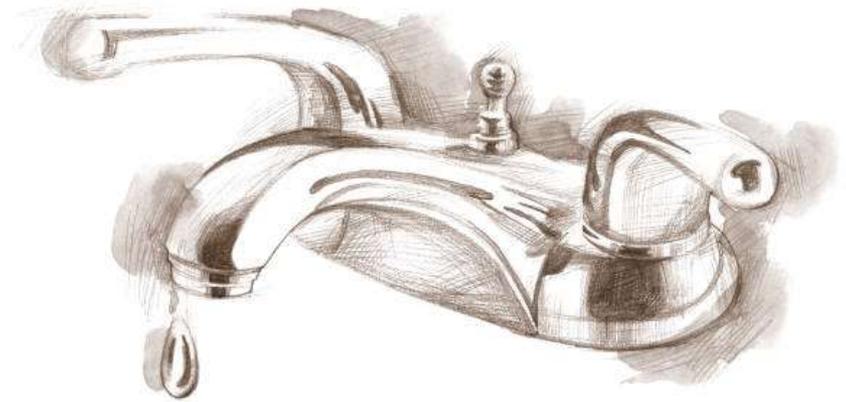
Lead and Copper

Solutions:

- Allow water to run for a minute or two before using for drinking or cooking

or

- Use a treatment device, but generally not necessary



understanding water treatment

- **Advantages:**

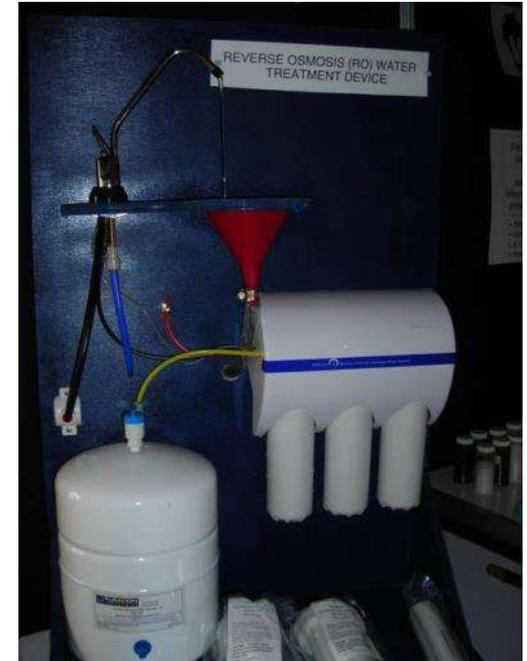
- + Reduce level of contaminants and other impurities
- + Improve taste, color and odor

- **Disadvantages:**

- Require routine maintenance.
- Can require large amounts of energy.
- Testing is often the only way to know it is functioning properly for most health related contaminants.

- **Cautions:**

- Treatment methods often selective for certain contaminants
- Multiple treatment units may be necessary
- Treatment may also remove beneficial elements from water in the process.



Before investing in treatment....

- Always have water tested at a certified lab before investing in water treatment.
 - Know the types and amounts of chemicals you would like removed.
- Choose a device that has been approved by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce.
 - Ask for a copy of the approval letter.
or
 - Check the agency's Drinking Water Treatment Product Approval website:
http://dsps.wi.gov/sb_ppalopp/disclaimer1.phtml/c/270

Where do you go from here: Recommended next steps

- Test well annually for bacteria, or if water changes color or clarity.
- If levels are elevated, test again in 15 months for nitrate.



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- Water & Environmental Analysis Lab
- Groundwater Center
- Activities
- Reports
- WI Well Water Quality Viewer
- Student Involvement
- Staff/Contact Us



About our Center

The Center for Watershed Science and Education is a partnership between the UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources and UW – Extension. In the spirit of the Wisconsin Idea, the Center works across the state helping to:

- Support watershed stewardship
- Assist citizens with lake, river and drinking water quality problems
- Promote management strategies for water resource protection
- Provide water quality assessment and support
- Prepare students for careers as water resource professionals.

Wisconsin Well Water 101:
Helping you make decisions about your private water system

Wisconsin Well Water 101: Helping you make decisions about your private water system. Includes sections on: 1. Understanding Your Well, 2. Testing Your Water, 3. Protecting Your Well, 4. Finding a Professional, 5. Taking Action.



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[Postcards from the Central Sands: Kraft interviewed for article on groundwater](#)

[USGS report on groundwater pumping impacts on streams](#)

[Use our Well Water Quality Viewer to access groundwater information for your community](#)

[Central Sands study on pumping effects on lakes and streams published in international scientific journal](#)

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www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/watershed



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Thanks to the following for helping sponsor this program:

- **Iron County Land & Water Conservation Dept.**
- **Ashland County Land & Water Conservation Dept.**
- **Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribe**
- **Wisconsin Coastal Management Program Grant**

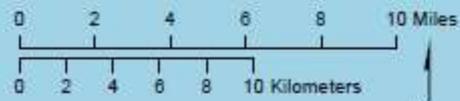
Kevin Masarik
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Stevens Point, WI 54481
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www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/watershed

Through the University of Wisconsin-Extension, all Wisconsin people can access University resources and engage in lifelong learning, wherever they live and work.

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Phosphorus (mg/l)

- None Detected
- ... 0.025
- 0.026 - 0.050
- 0.051 - 0.075
- 0.076 - 0.100

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