

Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center, La Crosse, Wisconsin

Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center

Who We Are

The Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center (Center) is 1 of 18 U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) biological research and technology centers throughout the United States. These centers are the research arm of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and provide science information for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and other DOI agencies.



The Facility

The Center is situated on 65 acres of Federal land that houses a 70,000 square-foot USGS-owned research facility with state-of-the-art laboratories and almost 50 experimental ponds and raceways. The Center also includes sophisticated water-handling and treatment facilities, which allows us to work on a wide variety of fish and wildlife species, as well as contaminants affecting the environment.



destroy undesirable fish (carp, sheepshead, sea lamprey) in fresh waters. A new facility was built in 1978 on French Island, and research activities expanded to include ecology of large rivers and fish and wildlife studies. River research continued to expand in the mid-1980s with the creation of the LTRMP. The present Center program is diverse, with research conducted in over 20 states and Canada.

monitoring, and science program. Nearly 200 people work at the Center and field stations.

Our History

The Center began in 1959 as the Fish Control Laboratory in a remodeled fish hatchery in Riverside Park, La Crosse, Wisconsin. The laboratory was nationally responsible for developing chemical agents to



Our Studies

Our studies are in five important areas:

- ▲ Studying the population and ecosystem effects of invasive, non-native species in the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Basins;
- ▲ Examining and monitoring the status of the Upper Mississippi River System;
- ▲ Investigating declining species in the Midwest: amphibians, mussels, large river fishes, and migratory birds;
- ▲ Developing computer-generated habitat needs and decision support systems to assist managers in making decisions; and
- ▲ Documenting the effects of chemicals and drugs used in public fish hatcheries.



Our Work in the Community

The Center works to be a true community partner with such activities as open houses, school partnerships, and educational activities. We host numerous tours through the facility for student and civic groups. Our scientists make many classroom and educational presentations. Our science communication philosophy is to better inform the local and regional public of USGS science programs, to provide hands-on science opportunities for a diversity of youth, and to engage the Center as a strong partner in the community.

Our Partners

We have many partners who use our research in their efforts. In addition to other DOI agencies, we provide information to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Canadian resource agencies, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and numerous states and universities.

For more information, contact—

Randy Hines
USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center
2630 Fanta Reed Road
La Crosse, WI 54603
Phone: 608.781.6398
Email: rkhines@usgs.gov

<http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/>

