

WISCONSIN'S WATER WATCH: EYES ON INVASIVE SPECIES

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The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring program is a collaboration of citizens, partners and the DNR to find and report, aquatic invasive species (AIS) regulated by Chapter NR 40 Invasive Species Identification, Classification, and Control Rule.

Wisconsin Chapter NR 40

Identifies species that are invasive, categorizes them as restricted (widespread) or prohibited (rare) and defines control. This list of species identifies our monitoring targets.

Citizen Lake Monitoring Network

Approximately 1,000 volunteers monitor lakes for water clarity, chemistry, aquatic invasive species, and more.

This collaboration is between the UW-Stevens Point Extension Lakes and Wisconsin DNR.

Water Action Volunteers

Nearly 50 local partner groups, more than 500 volunteers and an estimated 2,000 supervised students monitor 600+ stream locations to aid in decision-making.

Coordinated by the University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension, in partnership with DNR.

Project Riverine Early Detectors

Project RED trains volunteers to monitor invasive species along streams.

Coordinated by the University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension, in partnership with DNR.

Aquatic Invasive Species Snapshot Day

This one-day event trains volunteers to search for aquatic invasive species on rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands.

Coordinated by the University of Wisconsin Madison Division of Extension's WAV program, in partnership with CLMN and DNR.

Aquatic Invasive Species Incident Report

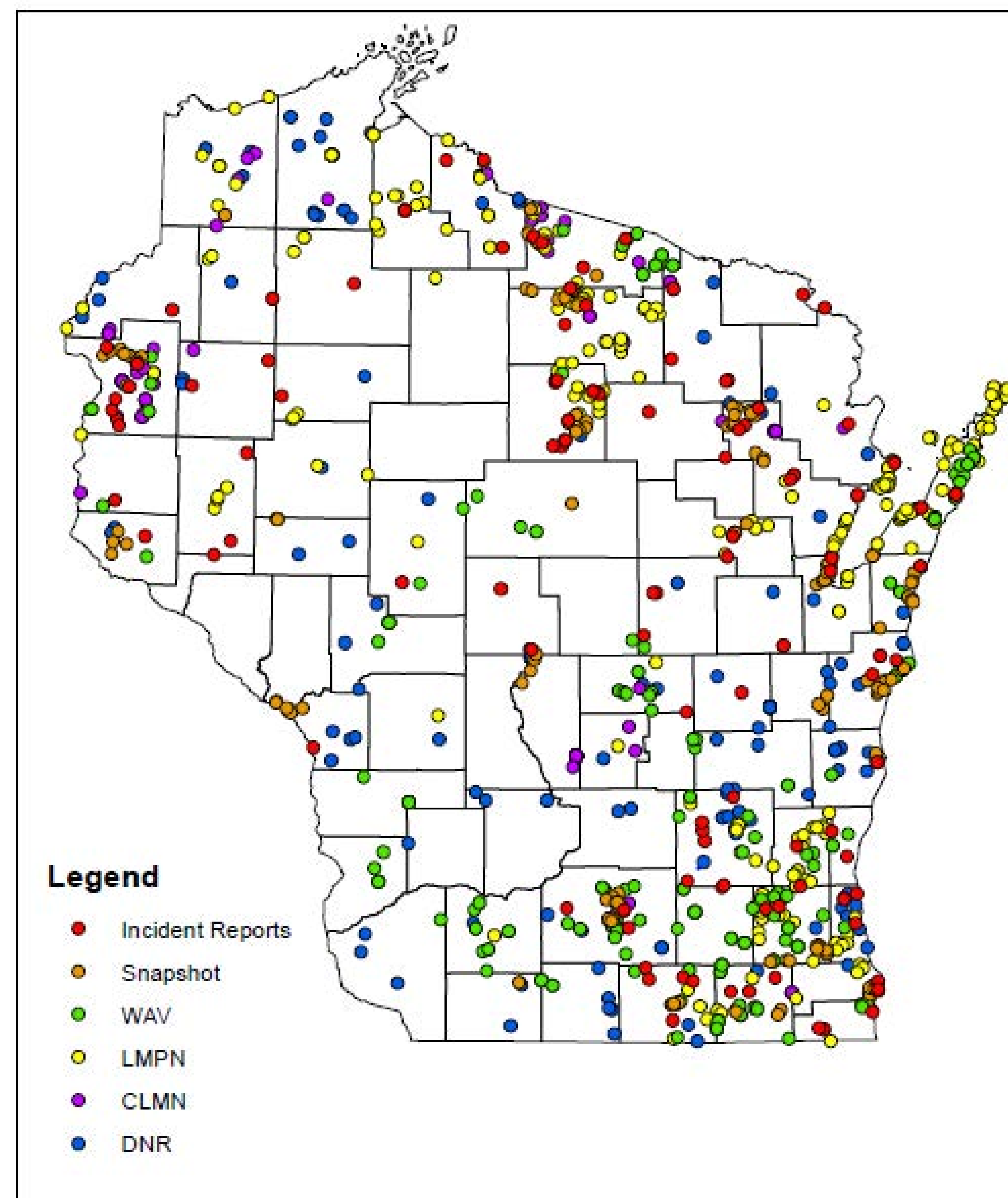
Incident reports inform DNR of new AIS outside of planned monitoring.

Early Detection & Response Monitoring

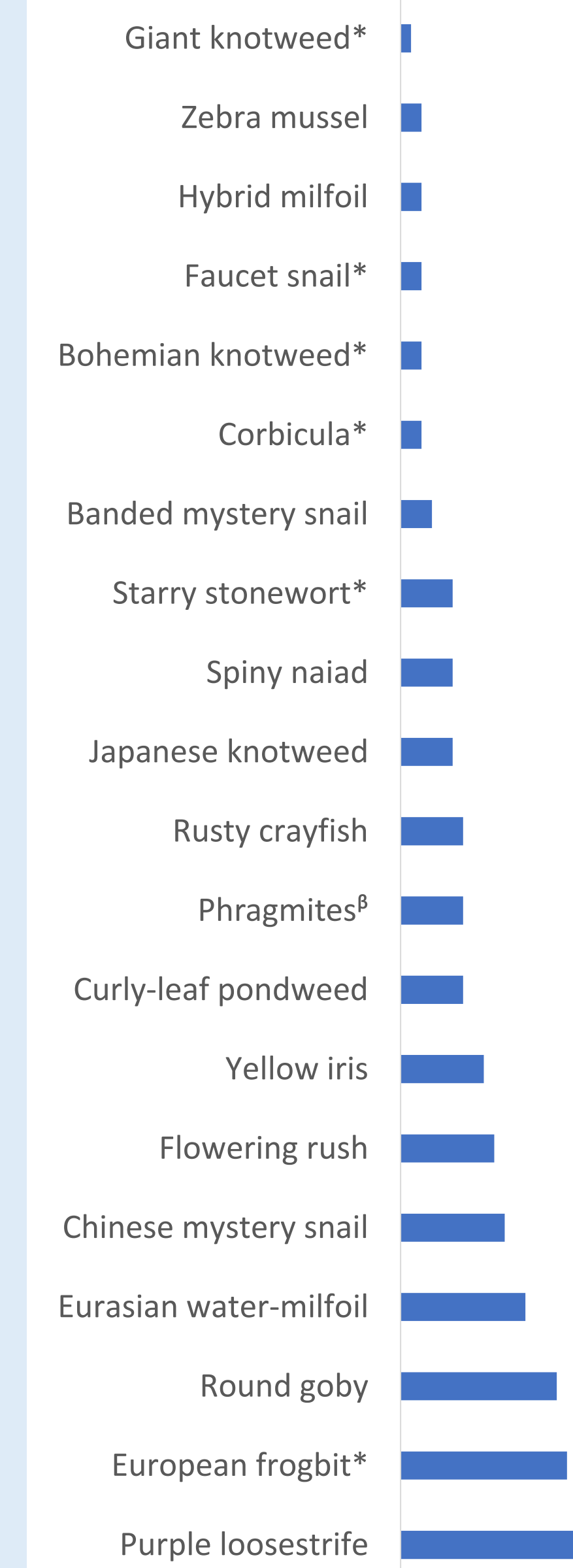
DNR and partners monitor AIS at access sites, target sites, and meander surveys on lakes, streams, wetlands and roadsides.

Number of AIS Monitoring Events in 2023

Category	Event Type	Count	Total
Volunteer	Citizen Lake Monitoring Network	122	541
	Water Action Volunteers	255	
	Project Riverine Early Detectors	9	
	AIS Snapshot Day	139	
	Incident Report	16	
Partner	Early Detection/Response Monitoring	344	417
	AIS Snapshot Day	1	
	Project Riverine Early Detectors	7	
	Incident Report	65	
DNR	Early Detection/Response Monitoring	193	229
	Incident Report	36	
Grand Total		1,187	



2023 Verified AIS



2023 Unverified AIS



Verified AIS identification have been confirmed by a taxonomic expert. Unverified AIS do not have specimens or photos to confirm identification. Collectors are encouraged to attach photos to SWIMS fieldwork events to streamline verification.

*NR 40 prohibited [§]NR 40 Split-listed Prohibited/Restricted

- Citizens and partners have a very important role in AIS monitoring and new detections.
- Most AIS are common NR 40 Restricted species.
- NR 40 Prohibited species detections remain rare.
- Unverified records need photos or specimens.
- Research shows that while AIS are widespread, they rarely become more abundant than natives.

