

# Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey

The Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (WGNHS), created by state statute in 1897, is an interdisciplinary organization that conducts natural resources inventory and research to produce information used for decision making, problem solving, planning, management, development, and education. Since 1964, the WGNHS has been a special missions unit in the UW–Extension Division of Cooperative Extension. Staff members include 24 faculty members, academic staff, and university staff.

## The WGNHS provides science for service by:

### Studying natural resources

- Surveying Wisconsin's geological, mineral, and water resources
- Conducting research designed to inform the decision making of Wisconsin's citizens, public interest groups, and government officials
- Archiving representative geologic samples and related datasets in a library for future use

### Creating partnerships

- Working closely with county resource agents and, through them, with county and local governments on specific local problems
- Coordinating research activities with individual counties, regional planning commissions, and state and federal agencies
- Collaborating with faculty members of Wisconsin, national, and international colleges and universities

### Reaching out with information

- Annually responding to more than 15,000 requests for information and assistance in the areas of geology, hydrogeology, minerals and mining, natural hazards, topographic mapping, and other environmental and natural resource topics
- Giving testimony, acting as consultants to legislative and state agency committees, and serving on local, state, and national committees considering resources, environment, and education
- Disseminating research findings through publications, such as maps, technical reports, journal articles, book chapters, and educational materials in print and on the web

- Leading workshops and offering presentations to members of the public as well as the scientific community

### Funding

- General purpose revenue and program revenue dollars (approximately \$1.5 million) regularly supplemented with approximately \$700,000 of grants and contracts from municipalities, counties, regional planning commissions, and state and federal agencies

### Facilities

- Main office: Off-campus, on Madison's west side—houses all staff and a map and publications sales office
- Satellite building: Research Collections and Educational Center, in Mount Horeb—a 22,000-square-foot core and sample repository and home to outreach programs

### For more information, contact:

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