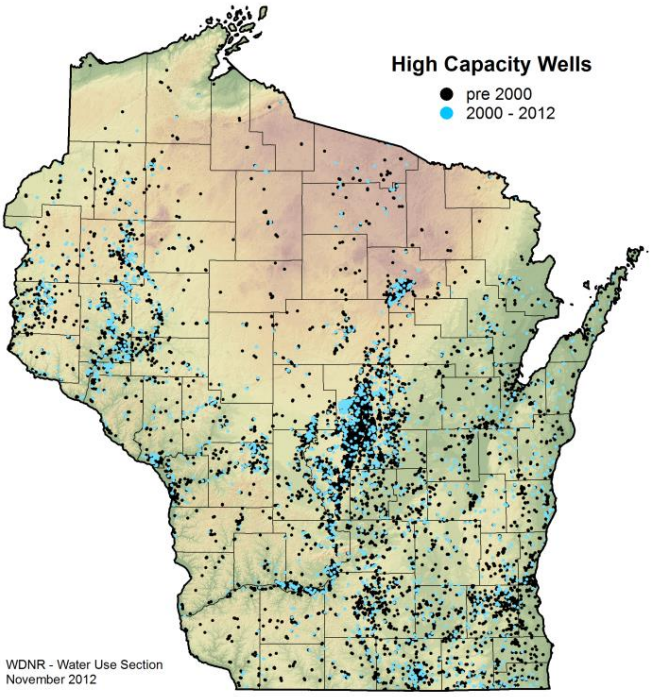
High capacity well pumping in Wisconsin

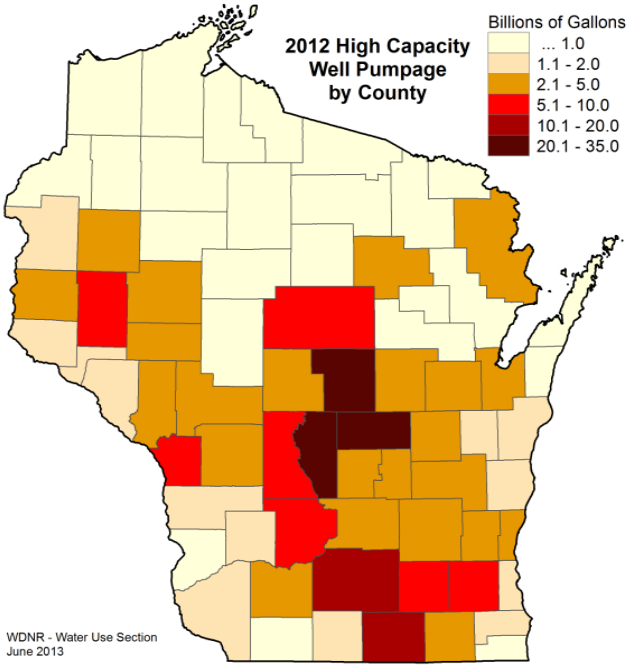
2012

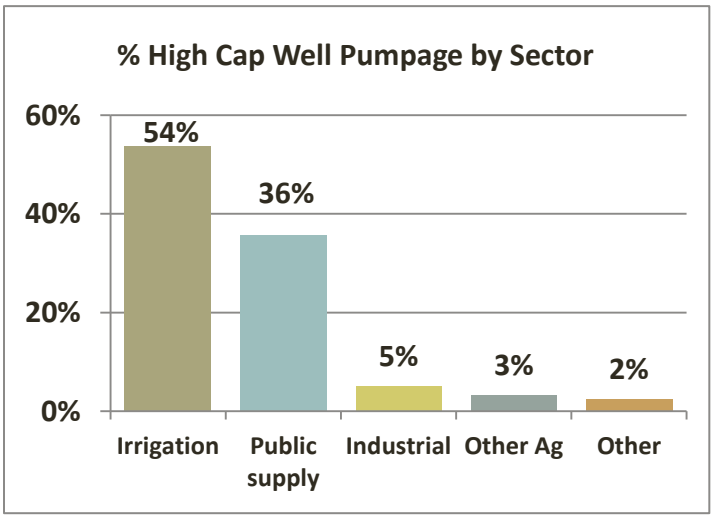
Some 278 billion gallons of water were reportedly pumped from Wisconsin's 7500 high capacity wells in 2012.[1] Pumpage from other wells (mainly residential) was an added 32 billion gallons.[2] Irrigation was the dominant high capacity well use (54% of total, including 2.4% from golf courses), followed by public supplies, mainly municipal.

About one-third of the high cap well pumpage occurred in (by order of amount) Portage, Adams, and Waushara Counties. The remaining top ten counties were Dane, Rock, Dunn, Marathon, Waukesha, LaCrosse, and Sauk.

Groundwater pumping has become a concern in places due to the drying of lakes, wetlands, and streams; and in the southeast and northeast where water levels in the deep aquifer have been dramatically lowered.







[1] Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
[2] USGS 2009 http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1344/pdf/c1344.pdf

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