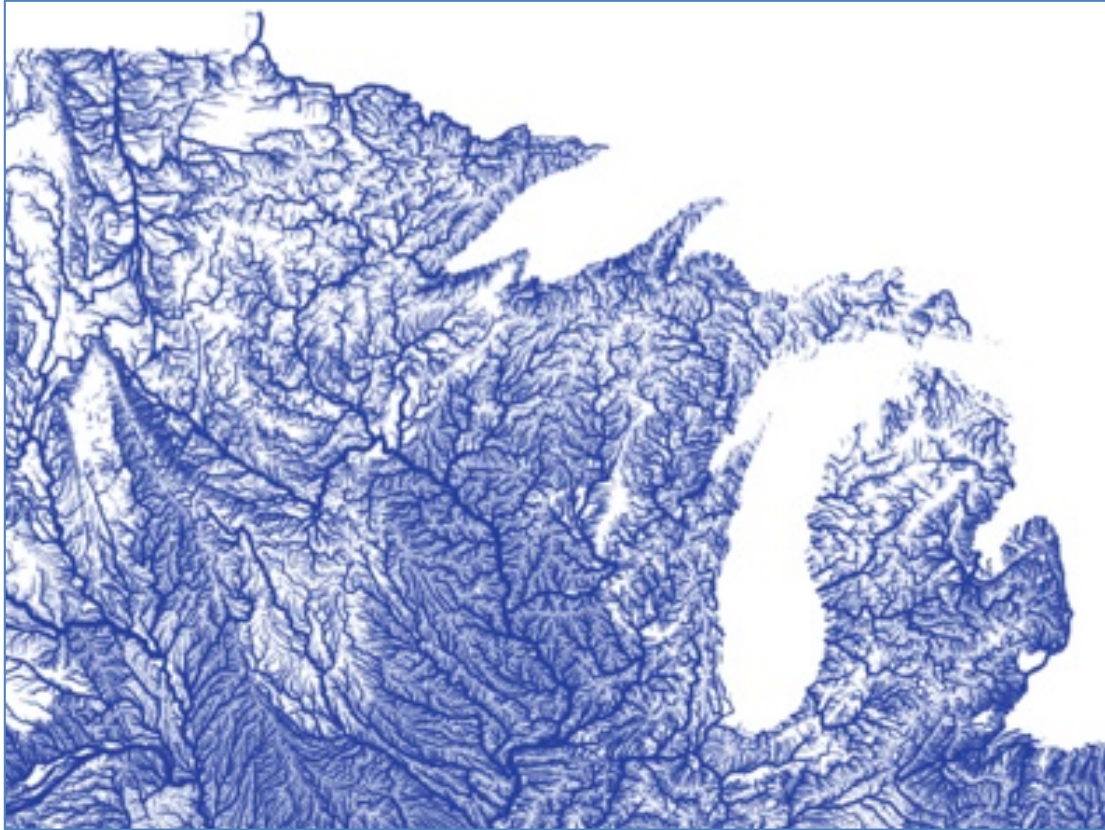


Water@Wisc: Origins, Status and Next Steps

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Wisconsin is a Wet State



More than 15,000 lakes
21,700 km of navigable streams and rivers
2 Great Lakes coastlines

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is A Watershed of Freshwater Science

Edward A. Birge arrived in 1875

**Interdisciplinary (within natural sciences)
limnology at UW-Madison by 1910:**

**Bacteriology, Botany,
Chemistry, Physics,
Zoology**



**Ground-breaking early
programs in Water Chemistry
and Groundwater Hydrology**

**National & international
leadership in many areas**

UW-Madison Faculty Created Many Successful Institutions for Freshwater Studies:

Examples:

Aquatic Sciences Center

Center for Limnology

North Temperate Lakes LTER

Sea Grant

Trout Lake Station

Water Resources Institute

Water Resources Management Program

Water Sciences and Engineering Laboratory

and others . . .



Characteristics of Freshwater Scholarship at U.W.-Madison:

UW-Madison is a premier global university for freshwater research:

**At least 115 faculty/permanent PhD staff;
ca. 60 listed on <http://water.wisc.edu>**

Many Departments, Almost every College

Multiple graduate programs focused on water

Visible leadership of international, national, state activities



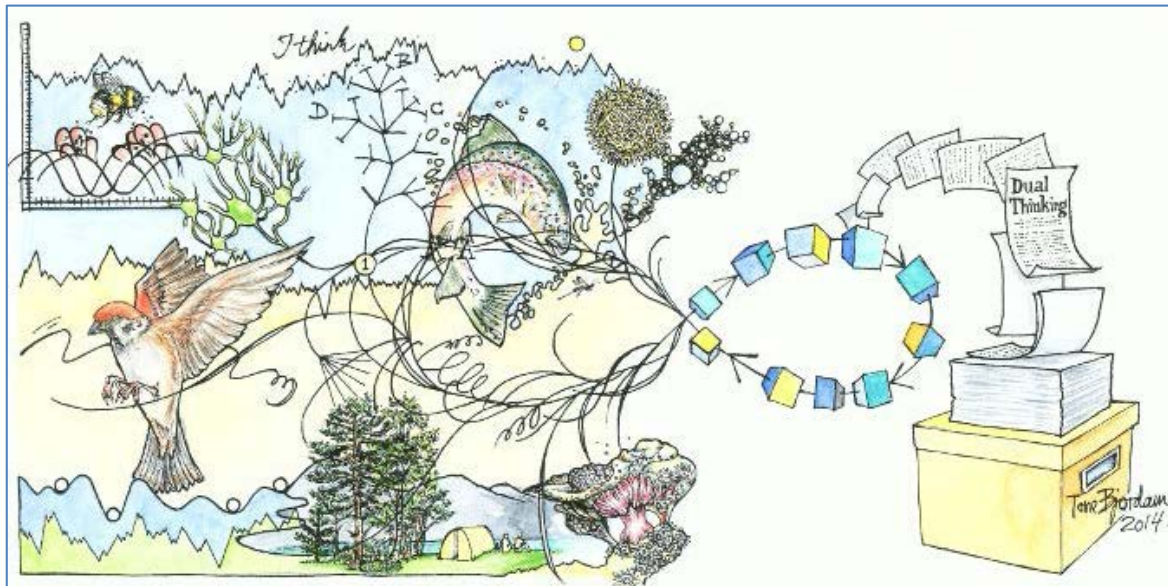
Current challenges are broader than in the past:

Analytical tools are more sophisticated. Individuals are more specialized.

Interactive teams of specialists are essential for problem-solving.
Students must be trained in collaboration.

Interdisciplinary projects embrace natural science, social science, arts, humanities.

Transdisciplinary projects engage the public and academics.
Outreach and general communication are essential.



Today's Challenges

Does our large group of individual scholars need new organization?

Are we missing opportunities because we are scattered across campus?

If we become more of a “we”, how do we maintain strong foci while self-organizing more effectively?

