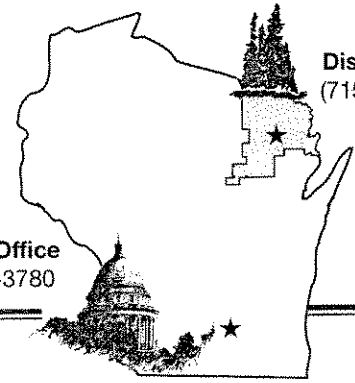


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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources On Assembly Bill 9

Andrew R. Potts

Office of State Representative Lorraine M. Seratti

July 9, 2003

Thank you Chairman Kedzie and members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee. I am here today in support of Assembly Bill 9. This bill was introduced by the Joint Committee for the Review of Administrative Rules (JCRAR) at Representative Seratti's request, on behalf of Marinette County and the Town of Stephenson.

Gypsy moths are a threat to the Northwoods of Wisconsin. The gypsy moth caterpillars destroy massive amounts of leaf materials and can cause wide spread defoliation. Defoliation hurts both the forestry and tourism industries, as well as individual private landowners. The caterpillars can be killed with an insecticide known as *Btk*, which is applied through aerial spraying.

On November 7, 2002, the JCRAR held a hearing on NR 47.913. The rule specified that a minimum of 40 contiguous acres had to be assembled in order to qualify for the aerial application of *btk*. In the northeastern part of the state, a great deal of the land is divided up into 2-3 acre parcels and many parcels are occupied by seasonal dwellers. This makes it very difficult to organize a 40-acre spray block. The JCRAR suspended a portion of the rules, thus reducing the size of the spray blocks from 40 acres to 20 acres.

The 20-acre spray blocks will allow more landowners to participate in the spray program, thereby diminishing the gypsy moth population. Many landowners would like to have their land sprayed with *btk*, but cannot do so because they are unable to form a 40-acre block. It is Representative Seratti's hope that smaller spray blocks will give more landowners the ability to protect their property.

The DNR previously testified in opposition to this bill because it inadvertently created non-contiguous spray blocks. Due to the nature of the JCRAR process, the words "contiguous and compact" were excluded from the legislation. Assembly Amendment 1, which was adopted by unanimous votes in the Assembly Forestry Committee and on the

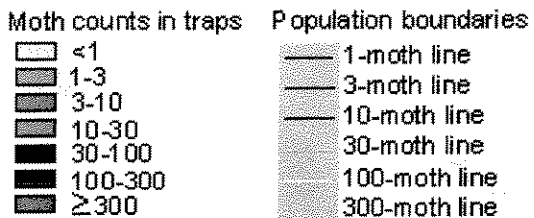
Floor of the Assembly, rectifies this problem by inserting the words "contiguous and compact" into the bill.

The need for this legislation is critical, as the infestation is spreading into Brown, Florence, Forest, Menominee and Oconto Counties. The moths are also moving into the newly created Tommy G. Thompson Centennial Park and the Peshtigo River State Forest. The state spent millions of dollars to purchase these scenic tracts of land and it is fiscally unwise to have the state purchase land and then allow it to be defoliated within two years time.

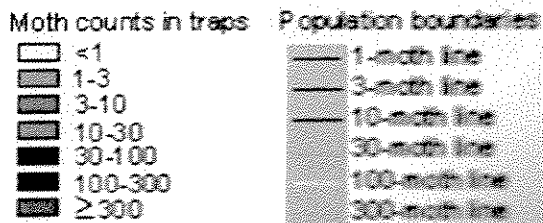
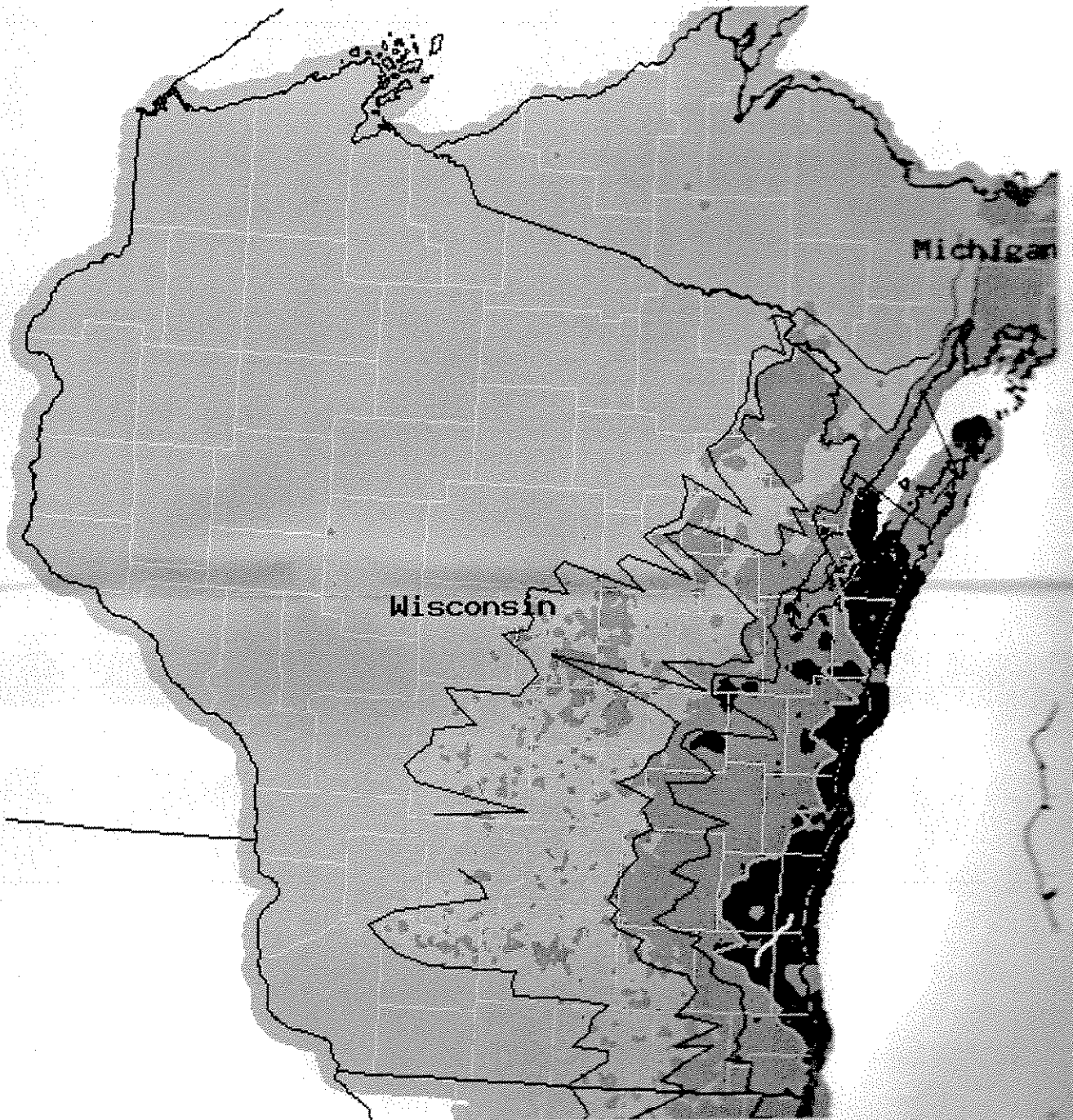
People in northern Wisconsin are dependant on both tourism and the forest products industry for their livelihoods. Gypsy moths cause massive damage to our economy and hurt real people. Also, with our current fiscal crisis we cannot allow these infestations to be a deterrent to garnering any potential tourism and forest products revenues to the state's treasury.

Both the Assembly Forestry Committee and the full Assembly passed this bill on unanimous votes and I respectfully ask for swift passage of Assembly Bill 9 in the Senate as well. Thank you.

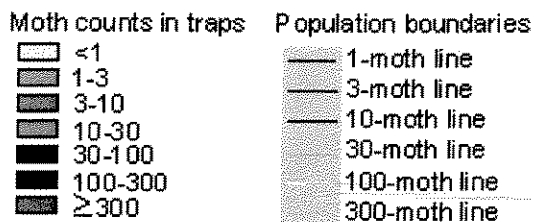
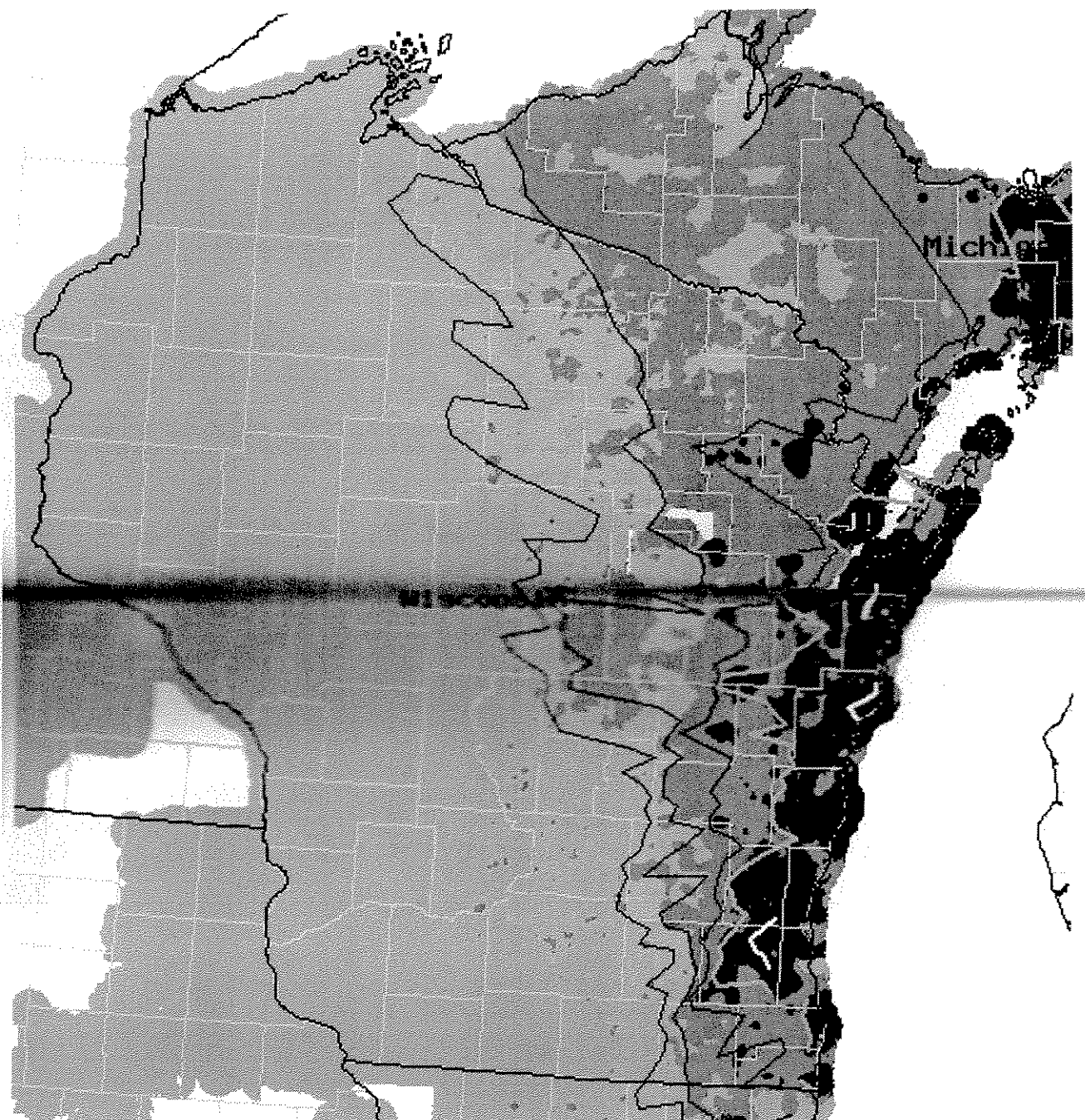
SMOOTHED MOTH COUNTS 1997



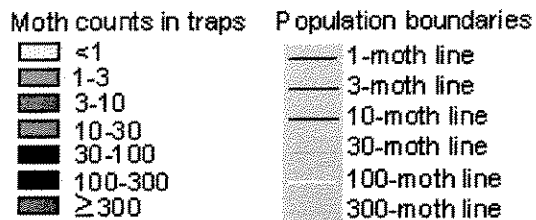
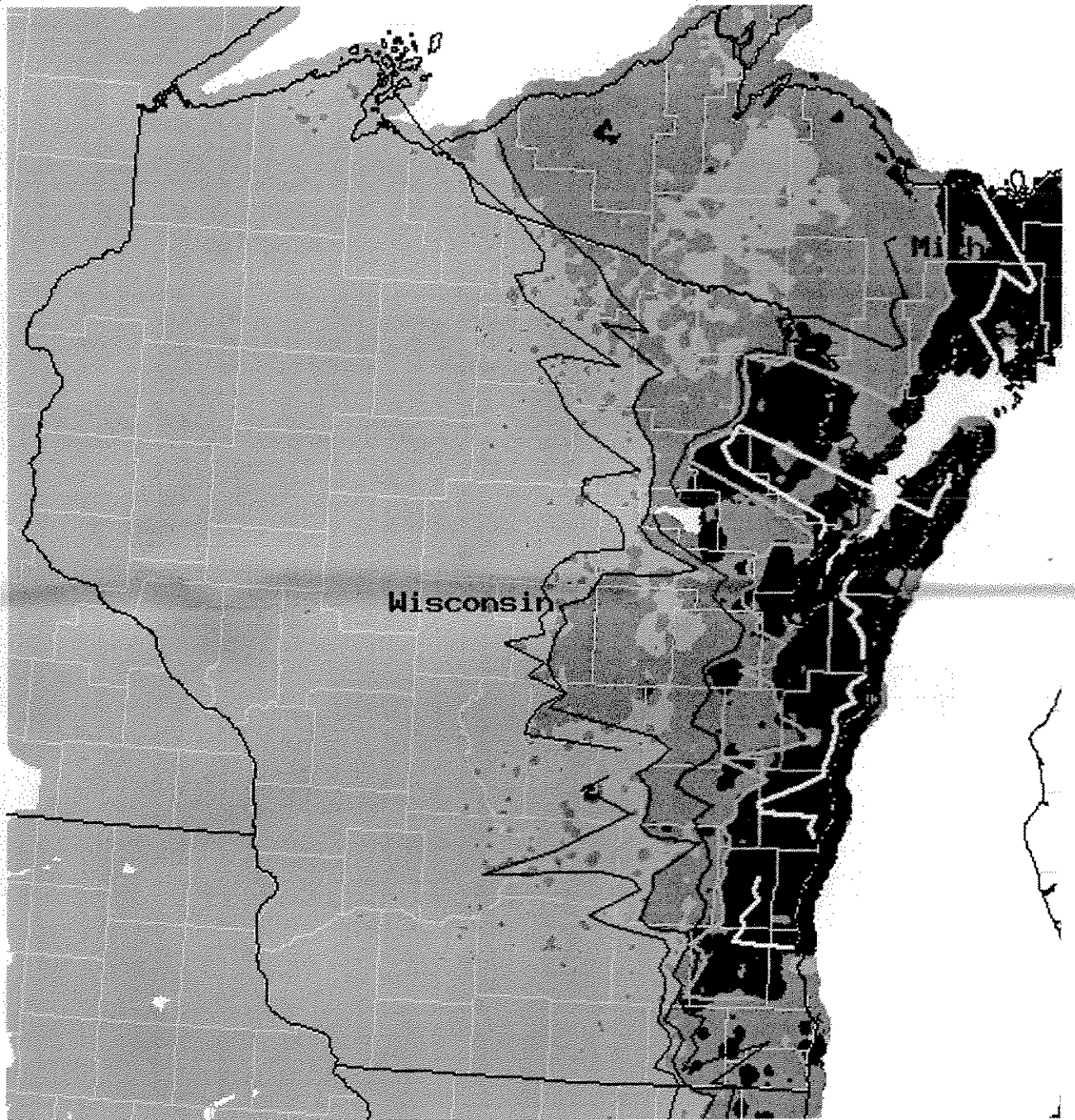
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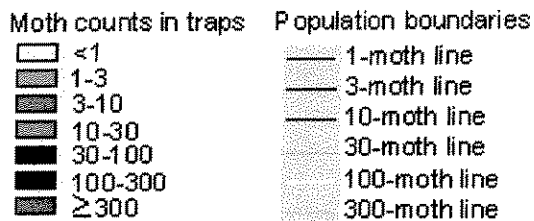
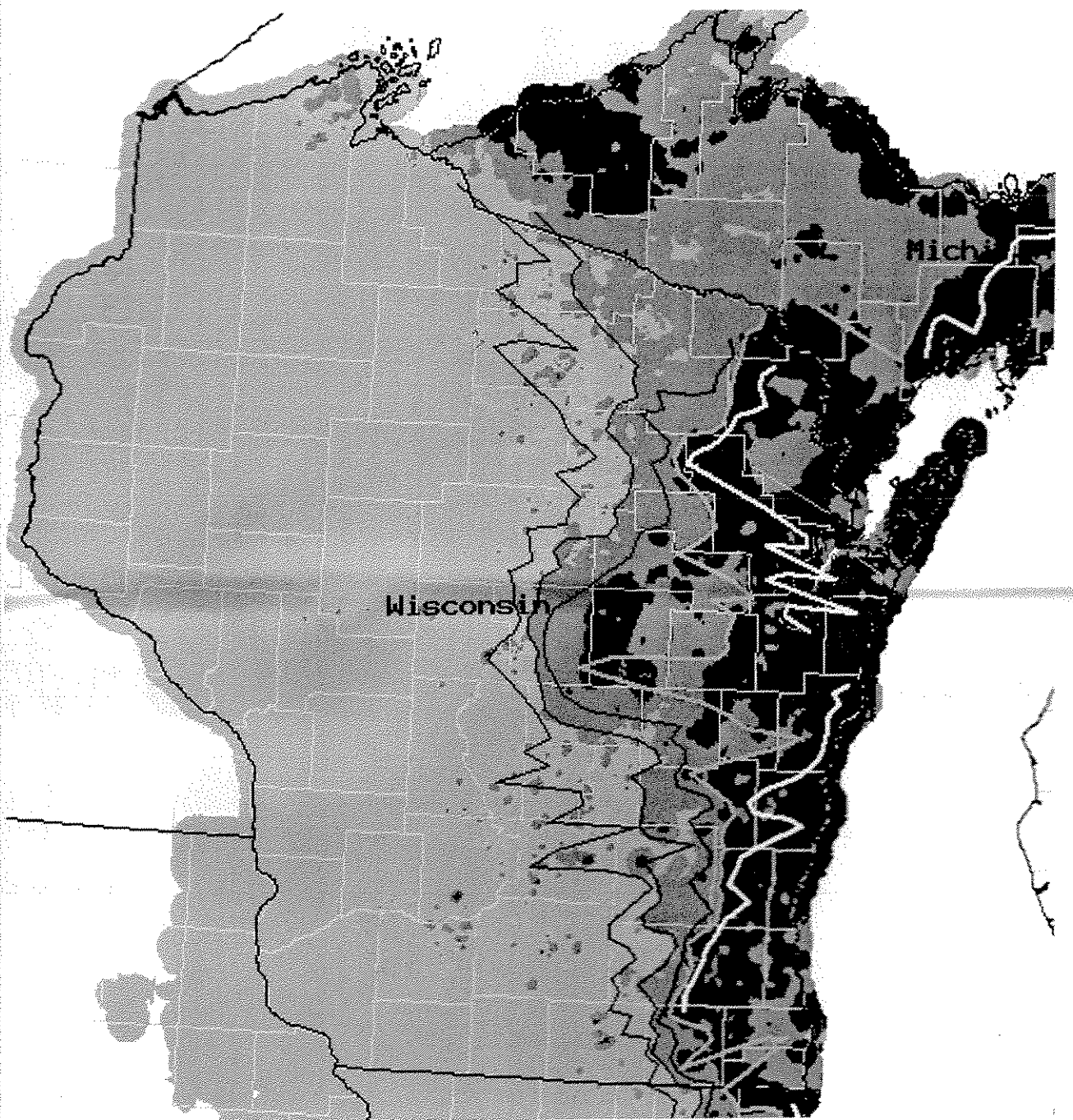
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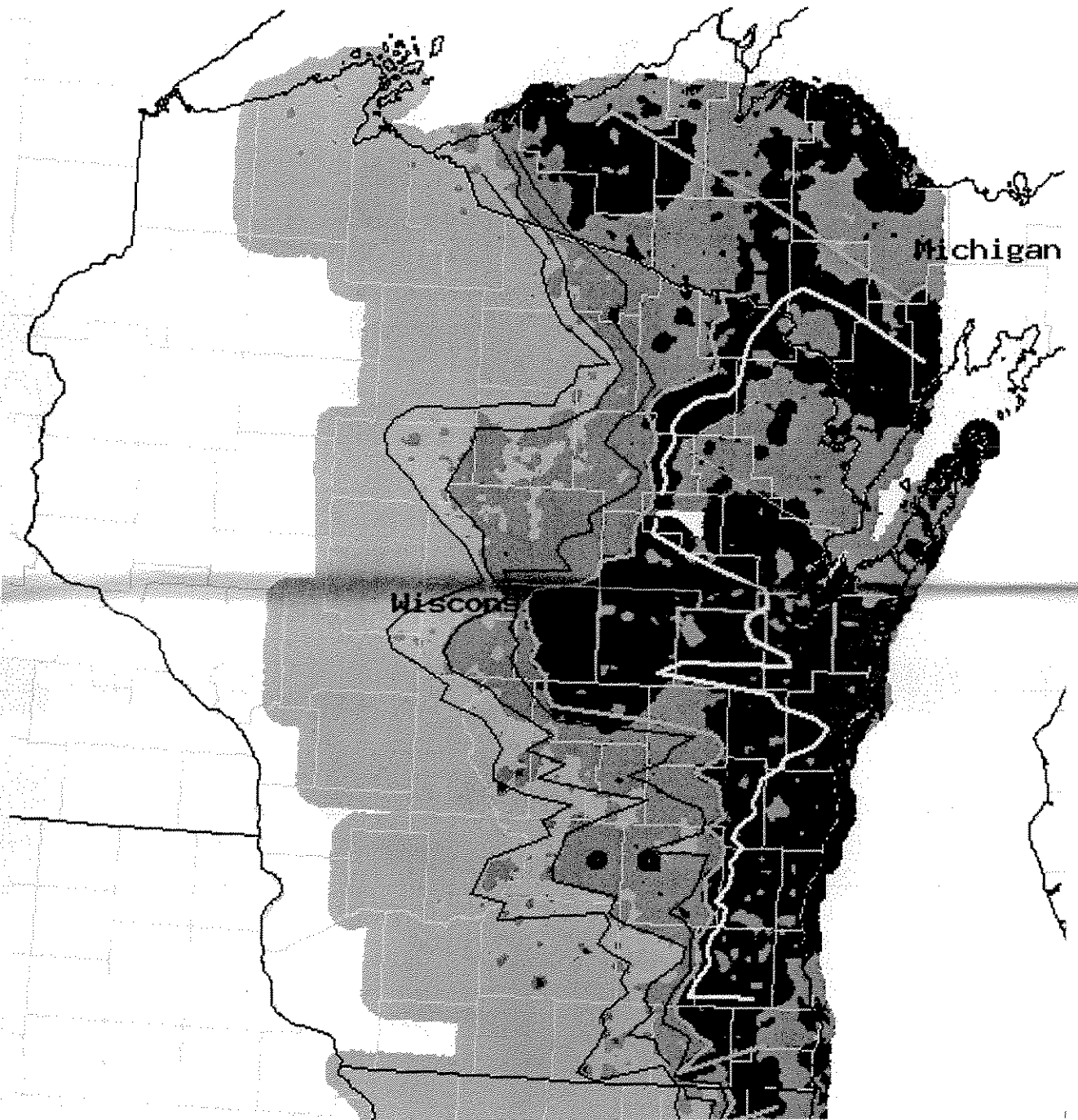
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






SMOOTHED MOTH COUNTS 2001









SMOOTHED MOTH COUNTS 2002



Moth counts in traps

-  <1
-  1-3
-  3-10
-  10-30
-  30-100
-  100-300
-  ≥300

Population boundaries

-  1-moth line
-  3-moth line
-  10-moth line
-  30-moth line
-  100-moth line
-  300-moth line