

Wild Rivers Realty & Assoc.: Sixteen years of excellence

Chase Erickson assumed ownership in 1995 and has developed the business from a one-person, sole-proprietor operation settled in Florence to a four-owner, four-location corporate entity with offices in Crystal Falls, Iron River, Iron Mountain, and Florence. All offices are conveniently located along Highway US2.

"We are a focused on our local communities and we support local businesses," said Erickson.

The firm's continued success is attributed to its 'team approach' attitude. When selecting Wild Rivers Realty & Assoc., Inc., buyers and sellers aren't just getting an agent representing them, but an entire team working for them.

Two decades later we've exploded to become the largest independent real estate company in our region, with four offices and over 16

hometown REALTORS. We're top producers year after year for a reason, our dedication to sticking with our founding principles.

Service: Superior service—by following "The Golden Rule."

Focus: Education—which allows us to stay a step ahead.

Teamwork: Talent wins games—teamwork wins championships.

Commitment: Commitment to understanding our customers and community's most fundamental needs and then exceeding them!

To learn more, contact our Florence office at 715-528-3280, or visit our website at wildriversrealty.com. Our mission from the beginning has been to create a real estate company that provides superior customer service, stays a step ahead, refuses to accept the status quo, and treats clients like family.



The Wild Rivers Realty & Associates Florence office is located on Central Avenue. To view some of their current listings, see page 10 and go to wildriversrealty.com to search all current listings.

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Participate in ruffed grouse West Nile Virus sampling this fall

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is once again asking ruffed grouse hunters and outdoor enthusiasts who come across

a sick or dead grouse to submit a sample for a multi-state ruffed grouse West Nile virus study.

For the fourth and final year, the DNR and conservation partners will distribute testing kits to hunters, increasing the

overall sample size and strengthening project results with the final year of data. Hunters who have a kit from a previous year are encouraged to collect a sample, fill the kit, and send it in to be processed; nothing in the kit expires.

Hunters who hunt the central and northern forests and would like to participate in the West Nile virus monitoring effort can request kits here. Kits will be available in early September. The DNR may limit the number of kits per individual to ensure samples

come from a large geographic area.

The DNR will provide test results via email. Be aware that sample testing will not begin until after the



Photo credit: Wisconsin DNR
Hunters and outdoor enthusiasts are encouraged to participate in the final year of a study on West Nile virus in ruffed grouse.

grouse season has closed and final results will not be available for several months after that.

Mosquitoes spread the West Nile virus, and its effects on birds can vary. Signs range from no clinical disease or illness to heart lesions and inflammation

of the brain's lining and spinal cord. Many factors can influence how severely the virus affects an individual bird. There is no evidence that West Nile can be spread by handling dead birds or consuming properly cooked game.

Ruffed grouse are native to the northern United States and southern Canada. The Great Lakes region contains some of the most extensive forest habitats for grouse and the healthiest ruffed grouse populations in the nation. The Wis-

consin DNR continues to work with partners to develop long-term management strategies for ruffed grouse in Wisconsin.

Sick And Dead Birds

In addition to collecting samples from harvested ruffed grouse, the DNR asks the public to report any sick or dead grouse observed while out in the field.

Those who find a ruffed grouse that appears sick or emaciated, or a freshly dead grouse,

should take note of the location and promptly call the DNR county wildlife biologist for possible submission of the dead grouse for further investigation and to help the department track reports statewide.

Those who collect the carcass for testing should keep the entire bird intact. Place it into a plastic bag and keep the bird cool but not frozen. Bring the whole ruffed grouse carcass to your county wild-

life biologist the same day or the next day. Prompt collection of ruffed grouse is necessary to prevent decomposition or scavenging. The DNR recommends that gloves are worn whenever handling dead animals, even those that appear healthy.

If refrigeration and prompt delivery are not possible, carcasses should be frozen and submitted to county wildlife biologists as soon as possible.

Carcasses in poor condition (scavenged with openings into the body cavity, odor, more advanced decomposition) will not be usable for testing. Still, observers should note the location and report the sightings to their county wildlife biologist.

For more information on ruffed grouse disease sampling in Wisconsin, visit the DNR's ruffed grouse hunting webpage.

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