

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Control Grants

For the in-depth version, go to
http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/grants/AIS_long.pdf

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) or aquatic nuisance species (ANS) have been hitchhiking their way into Wisconsin for decades. By water, boat and by land - from around the planet - non-native organisms have been moving into inland waters. Aquatic invasive species can threaten the diversity and abundance of native species, alter ecosystems and affect our economy and recreational activities. In today's world, invasives can move at "the speed of flight." In response to the increasing threat to our priceless lakes and rivers, Wisconsin has increased its support of local efforts to prevent the spread of introduced aquatic invasives by creating the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Control Grants.

About the grants

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Control Grants are designed to assist in a state/local partnership to control aquatic invasive species. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was directed to establish procedures to award cost-sharing grants to public and private entities for up to 75% of the costs of projects to control invasive species. These funds are available to units of local government and others for grants to control aquatic invasive species. The grant projects are broken down into three major categories:

- 1) Education, Prevention and Planning
- 2) Early Detection and Response
- 3) Controlling Established Infestations

Grants are available to conduct projects on all waters of the state, including lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and the Great Lakes.

Eligible Sponsors

Any entity that is eligible for a Wisconsin Lake or River Planning or Protection grant is also eligible for an AIS control grant. This includes units of local government, tribes, lake protection and rehabilitation districts, qualified lake associations, qualified river management organizations, nonprofit conservation organizations, and qualified school districts. Others eligible for AIS only grants are private and public colleges, universities, technical schools, state and federal natural resource or land management agencies and FERC-licensed hydroelectric corporations.

About the money

The budget for this grant program is about \$4 million per year.

The state will pay up to 75% of the cost of a project, with caps of:

- \$50,000 and 150,000 (two categories) for Education, Prevention and Planning
- \$20,000 for Early Detection and Response
- \$200,000 for Controlling Established Infestations

The remaining 25% must be provided by the local organization in the form of cash, time, services, or “in-kind” items. Grants operate on a reimbursement basis. For Education, Prevention and Planning, and Early Detection and Response Projects, sponsors may request an advance payment of 25%.

Permit fees are considered an eligible cost, as well as the expenses required to obtain permits (retroactive up to 12 months prior to application). Watercraft inspection projects are limited to \$4,000 per public boat launch facility, but can be a component of a larger project.

Eligible Projects may include:

Education, Prevention and Planning

- Educational programs and distributing information about aquatic invasive species (*Note: Projects will be reviewed for consistency with the DNR statewide education strategy and the use of existing publications and outreach materials*).
- Monitoring, mapping and reporting of data about the presence or absence of AIS to provide baseline information and monitor trends in a water body or water bodies.
- Development of plans for the prevention and control of AIS.
- Studies or assessments that will aid in the prevention and control of AIS.
- Watercraft inspection and education projects following DNR guidelines of the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. Specifically, projects involving watercraft inspectors are required to attend a Clean Boats Clean Waters training workshop conduct inspections, collect and report data, and be present at boat launch facilities a minimum of 200 hours between May 1 and October 30).

Early Detection and Response

- Identification and removal, by approved methods, of small pioneer populations of aquatic invasive species in the early stages of colonization or re-colonization. (For rooted aquatic plants like Eurasian Watermilfoil, a pioneer infestation is defined as a localized bed that has been present less than 5 years, and is less than 5 acres in size or less than 5% of lake area, whichever is greater.)
- Control of a re-colonization following the completion of an established infestation control project.

Controlling Established Infestations

- Department approved control activities recommended in a management plan adopted by the sponsor for the control of aquatic invasive species.
- Purple Loosestrife bio-control projects (no plan approval required).

- Complimentary activities that help prevent or control AIS such as sediment control or native plant restoration.

Applications

Applications for Education, Prevention and Planning Projects and Established Infestation Control Projects are due by February 1 and August 1 of each year. Early Detection and Response grants are offered continuously on a first come, first serve basis and funded in order of approval.

Application forms and guidance on AIS Prevention and Control Grants can be found at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/grants/Lakes/invasivespecies.html>

The DNR can provide help with applications and technical guidance. Private consultants can also assist you. A list of consultants, without endorsements, can be obtained from the University of Wisconsin-Extension (UWEX) Lakes Program at <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/lakelist/>, or your DNR Region Lakes Coordinator.

For more information

Contact your regional DNR Lake Coordinator or Environmental Grant Specialist at:

Northern Region – West

Spoooner
715-635- 2101

Northern Region – East

Rhineland
715-365-8900

Northeastern Region

Green Bay
920-492-5800

West Central Region

Eau Claire
715-839-3700

South Central Region

Fitchburg
608-275-3366

Southeastern Region

Milwaukee
414-263-8500

Or contact any of the following: UWEX-Lakes Program at 715/346-2116 or uwexlakes@uwsp.edu; Wisconsin Association of Lakes at 608/662-0923 or wal@wisconsinlakes.org; DNR Central Office at 608/261-6423.