

For the *Grants At-A-Glance* version, go to  
[http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/grants/AIS\\_glance.pdf](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/grants/AIS_glance.pdf)

## *Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grants*

*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.*

### **Background**

NR 198 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Control Grants were designed to implement WI state statutes Chapter 23.22 Invasive Species, sub (2)(c) which directs the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) 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. The budget for this grant program is about \$4 million per year. These funds are available to units of 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

AIS grants can assist local efforts in providing the following:

- Information and education on the types of existing and potential aquatic invasive species in Wisconsin
- Information on the threats they pose for the state's aquatic resources
- Information on the techniques available for their control
- Planning and conducting projects that will prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species into waters where they currently are not present
- Controlling and reducing the risk of spread from waters where they are present
- Restoring native aquatic communities

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 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.

## **Financial Administration**

Requirements regarding financial administration, such as eligible costs, reporting, and use of the State Lab of Hygiene are nearly the same as the requirements for Lake Planning and Protection Grants.

In summary: Grants operate on a reimbursement basis. Sponsors must incur costs and seek reimbursement from the state. Reasonable direct costs required to conduct a project are eligible for reimbursement including labor, contracts, laboratory analysis, printing etc. Volunteer labor (\$12/hour) and donated services, equipment and other “in-kind” items can be used to meet the sponsor’s required 25% match. All projects require a final report in an electronic format before final payment is approved. Sponsors may not make a final payment to consultants until the DNR has approved a final report.

Notable differences: NR 107 and 109 aquatic plant permit fees are considered eligible costs, as well as expenses required to obtain the permits (retroactive up to 12 months prior to application).

## **Funding Priorities**

Priority will be given to early detection and response activities and projects that seek to prevent the spread or control of existing populations or source waters. The DNR will use the following factors to competitively evaluate projects:

- The degree to which the project includes a comprehensive prevention and control strategy.
- How well the project prevents the spread of invasive species.
- The degree to which the project protects and improves the aquatic ecosystem’s diversity, function, ecological stability or recreational uses.
- The degree to which the project will likely result in successful, long-term control.
- The extent of the infestation in the waterbody.
- The availability of public access to and public use of the waterbody.
- The degree to which the proposed project complements other management efforts.
- The level of commitment and support from the community for the project.
- The extent and results of past efforts to control aquatic invasive species.
- Whether the sponsor has previously received a grant for a similar project for the same waterbody.

# Types of Projects Funded

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## **Education, Prevention and Planning**

Understanding AIS, developing a comprehensive plan with an eye toward prevention are vital keys in a total AIS program. The descriptions below will help you determine if your project is eligible and provide guidance in developing your grant application.

### **Eligible Projects may include**

- 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 waterbody or waterbodies.
- 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.

### **Detailed Project Description**

Applications need to include:

- Goals and objectives including a description of the waters on which the project will take place and how the results of the project will lead to the control of aquatic invasive species.
- A complete description of the project methods.
- An itemized budget for the full costs of the project, including a calculation of DNR's share and local share.
- A timeline for project completion.
- A signed and dated resolution from the sponsor authorizing the grant application and identifying a representative to act on its behalf.
- A description of the public access to, and public use of, the waterbody.
- A description of how the project is consistent with existing plans or management efforts for the waterbody.

**To reduce costs, conserve paper and facilitate review all application materials other than DNR forms that require a signature should be provided in digital format.**

### **Application Deadline**

February 1 or August 1 of each year

## **Funding Possibilities**

The state will pay for 75% of the grant project, up to a maximum of \$150,000. Half of funding available for Education, Planning and Prevention grants will be reserved for projects requesting \$50,000 or less in state share. For watercraft inspection projects the state share is limited to \$4,000 per public boat launch facility, but these can be components of larger projects.

## **Payment Options**

Sponsors may request an advance payment of 33%.

*Note: The DNR and University of Wisconsin Extension (UWEX) have developed educational materials and publications that are designed for aquatic invasive species education, planning and prevention projects. To assure consistent and accurate information and to avoid unnecessary costs or duplication of effort, sponsors should consider ordering copies of existing publications or adapting them before creating new publications. A listing of publications is available online: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexplakes/CBCW/>*

## **Early Detection and Response**

Vigorous monitoring for any sign of aquatic invasives can help with early detection and the removal of the invasive before it has a chance to become well established. Early detection can save money and time, and is easier on the aquatic environment. Early detection and response projects provide a means for sponsors to quickly control recently discovered aquatic invasive species populations and later receive reimbursement from the department for a portion of the cost of the project by following the procedure described in this section. In some instances the grants may be appropriate for surveying and assessing the extent and threat of a new population.

## **Eligible Projects may include:**

- 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.

## **Reporting procedures include:**

The sponsor needs to report a new infestation to the regional DNR staff before control can be implemented. Certain protocols must be followed, including:

- Collecting an entire intact adult specimen. (For plants include the roots, stems, flowers and fruits )
- Icing or refrigerating the specimen immediately.
- Making a label that includes the date collected, the person who collected the specimen, the township, range and section, county, and waterbody name of where

the specimen was collected. Include location on a topographic map or plat map if possible.

- Submitting the specimen to the department within 3 days.

The DNR will confirm the species and determine the appropriate method of control. The sponsor will receive written authorization (including a permit, if necessary) to remove the aquatic invasive species, and notification of eligibility for an AIS grant. The sponsor will then need to complete a grant application to receive 75% reimbursement. Pre and post treatment monitoring will be required and is an eligible cost.

### **Application Deadline**

Offered continuously on a first come first serve basis and funded in order of approval.

### **Funding Possibilities**

Maximum amount of a grant award is 75% of the project costs, up to \$20,000.

### **Payment Options**

Sponsors may request an advance payment of 25%.

## **Controlling Established Populations**

In some cases aquatic invasive species have become well established and their control or removal becomes more complex and costly. The intent of these projects is to provide for the eradication or substantial reduction and long term control of AIS with the goal of restoring native species communities. The descriptions below will help you determine if your project is eligible and provide guidance on how to develop an AIS management plan.

### **Eligible Project Activities Include:**

- 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.

### **Activities not eligible for funding include:**

- Dredging
- Chemical treatments or mechanical harvesting of aquatic plants to provide single season nuisance relief.
- Maintenance and operation of aeration systems and mechanical structures used to suppress aquatic plant growth.
- Structural facilities for providing boat washing stations. Note: equipment associated with boat washing facilities is eligible as provided for in s. NR 198.14 (1)(c)

*Note: For projects on lakes, adequate public boating access, as defined in s. NR 1.91(4) or (6), is required.*

## **Plan Approval**

A management plan must be developed and approved before applying for a control project. Plans should be submitted to the DNR Region 60 days prior to the application period along with an explanation of the specific recommendations to be funded with grant funds.

Plans shall include:

- A clear description of the project goals and objectives identifying the problems or threats to the aquatic ecosystem presented by the aquatic invasive species.
- An identification of recreational uses and other beneficial functions up to the time of application, and how these uses and functions may have changed because of the presence of aquatic invasive species.
- A description of historical control actions attempted and any control actions that are in progress.
- A thorough characterization of the waterbody's aquatic ecosystem's condition, past and present including an assessment of watershed pollution sources and a strategy for prevention.
- At least one year of current baseline data quantifying the extent of the infestation.
- An assessment of the fishery, wildlife and aquatic plant community.
- An identification of the need for the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, endangered resources, and other local natural resource concerns.
- Identification of the management objectives needed to maintain or restore the beneficial uses of the aquatic ecosystem.
- Identification of target levels of control needed to meet the objectives.
- Identification and discussion of the alternative management options considered for aquatic invasive species control, including their expected results.
- An analysis of the need for and a list of the proposed control actions that will be implemented to achieve the target level of control.
- A discussion of the potential adverse impacts the project may have on non targeted species, drinking water or other beneficial waterbody uses.
- A strategy for monitoring and preventing future introductions of aquatic invasive species.
- A contingency strategy for responding to the re-introduction of aquatic invasive species following initial control.
- Sufficient information for determining the feasibility of alternative control measures, including: costs; the relative permanence of the control; the potential for long-term control of the causes of infestation as well as the baseline data required to measure subsequent change.

## **Detailed Project Description**

Once the Department approves the plan, an application may be submitted. A completed application must contain:

- A clear description of the project's goals and objectives including the problems or threats the species pose to the waterbody and how the results of the project will lead to its control. If the targeted species is a plant or plants, a site map clearly depicting the locations of all existing vegetation types and the area proposed for control.
- Complete descriptions of the project methods including follow up activities necessary to maximize and extend the effectiveness of the project.
- Identification of the threat the infestation poses to adjacent waters.
- An itemized budget for the full costs of the project including a calculation of the DNR share and local share and a statement of the sponsor's capacity for financing its completion.
- A general timeline for project completion.
- A signed and dated resolution from the sponsor authorizing the application and identifying a representative to act on its behalf.
- Copies of all permits or pending permit applications needed for the project.
- A description of the public access to, and public use of, the waterbody.
- A description of how the project is consistent with existing plans or management efforts for the waterbody.

## **Application Deadline**

February 1 and August 1 of each year.

## **Funding Possibilities**

The state share of the cost of the project may not exceed 75% of the total project costs, up to a maximum state share of \$200,000.

## **Payment Options**

Reimbursement following completion of the project.

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## **Application forms and guidance can be found at this website:**

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/grants/Lakes/invasivespecies.html>

## **For more information**

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

### **Northern Region – West**

Spooner  
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.

For a list of consultants without endorsement go to <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/lakelist/>.