

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Request adoption of board order FR-15-08, revisions to NR 47 related to the gypsy moth suppression grant program

FOR: DEC 10, 2008 **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Andrea Diss-Torrance

SUMMARY:

Revisions to administrative rule are being proposed to reflect changes in eligibility requirements for public participation in the department's cost shared gypsy moth suppression program. Cost sharing for this program, which is passed through to participating counties, is from a USDA grant available to state gypsy moth suppression programs. In order to maintain access to the federal grant we must revise our programs eligibility requirements to comply with those of the federal program. In addition, the federal cost share grant maximum has recently been increased for publically owned land from 25 to 50% of costs and for private lands over 500 acres from 33 to 50% of costs. Making this change to the grant calculation section of our rule will allow the program to obtain the maximum cost share available for landowners and communities. Other housekeeping revisions will improve the programs efficiency and accommodate the needs of the participating counties. The most important of these changes is to allow department properties to apply to the suppression program directly instead of requiring them to go through a county. On several occasions, damaging outbreaks of gypsy moth have arisen in state campgrounds or recreational areas before they were a general problem for the county as a whole. There are understandable biological reasons for this behavior and we can expect that it will occur again in the future. It is a burden for a county to take on the workload of offering the program when only department lands are participating. This workload would be removed if department lands can apply directly to the suppression program. We don't anticipate a significant workload increase for department staff if this change in application procedure is made and there may be some cost savings for the state as well as for counties.

The board last approved a revision of this rule in 2005.

RECOMMENDATION: We request adoption of FR-15-08, revisions to NR 47, rules governing the gypsy moth suppression grant program.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|-----|-------------------------------------|----------|
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Background Memo | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

APPROVED:

/s/
Bureau Director,

/s/
Administrator,

/s/
Secretary, Matt Frank

10/31/08
Date

11/05/08
Date

11/07/08
Date

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/8

DATE: November 7, 2008

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Matthew J. Frank

SUBJECT: FR-15-08, Revision of FR 47, subchapter IX, the federally cost shared gypsy moth suppression program

To maintain Wisconsin's eligibility for federal cost sharing funds for its gypsy moth suppression program, changes need to be made to the rule governing the program. The federal cost sharing program provides a significant amount of funding for counties, communities and individuals. While the amount granted this year was less than the 50% of costs of previous year's treatment and administration, it did provide \$111,300 to offset these costs to counties, communities and individuals who participated in the program.

Changes to eligibility criteria to maintain access to federal cost sharing are:

- 1) increase in the canopy cover for residential areas from 25 to 50%;
- 2) liberalization of the canopy composition criterion from "50% or more of the canopy must be preferred hosts" to "50% or more of the canopy must be hosts that are moderately or highly susceptible to defoliation by gypsy moth".

The 50% canopy cover minimum for residential areas would have excluded a few blocks as originally drawn, but the majority would have continued to be eligible based on our review of records for spray blocks in the program for the last 2 years.

In addition, the federal cost share grant maximum has recently been increased for publically owned land from 25 to 50% of costs and for private lands over 500 acres from 33 to 50% of costs. Making this change to the grant calculation section of our rule will allow the program to obtain the maximum cost share available for landowners and communities.

We are also taking this opportunity to make additional housekeeping changes to improve program efficiency and accommodate the needs of the participating counties. The change which will have the greatest impact for counties and the department is to allow department properties to apply to the suppression program directly instead of requiring them to go through a county. On several occasions, damaging outbreaks of gypsy moth have arisen in state campgrounds or recreational areas before they are a general problem for the county as a whole and we can expect this behavior to occur again in the future. Campgrounds on state lands are more favorable for gypsy moth survival and increase than many other areas. State campgrounds often have a high proportion of the favored hosts of gypsy moth, especially oak, and the constant activity of campers discourages natural enemies of gypsy moth, such as white-footed mice, from preying on them during the critical summer months. It is a burden to the county to have to take on the workload of offering the program when only department lands are participating. This workload and expense for the county would be removed if department lands can apply directly to the suppression program. We don't anticipate a significant workload increase for department staff if this change in application procedure is made. In addition, there may be cost savings for the state as counties would not charge state lands for the administrative cost of processing the state application which they may do under the current process. Other changes are minor, such as allowing greater flexibility of certain deadlines.

In August 2008, the Natural Resources Board approved taking the revision of this rule to public hearing. Public hearings were held in Green Bay, Eau Claire and Madison on Oct 14. In addition to the normal public notification for hearings, emails or mailings inviting attendance at the hearings or comment through other means were sent to all current county coordinators and local contacts of the suppression program, the Wisconsin Counties Association, the Wisconsin Towns Association, Tribal Chairs and their DNR liaisons, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, Wisconsin Family Forests and the Great Lakes Timber Producers Association. No one attended the public hearings. We did receive one comment from the Brown County Suppression Coordinator who was concerned that the increase in the minimum canopy coverage for residential areas would exclude some blocks from treatment. We shared our analysis of previous years spray blocks and pointed out that nearly all that would have been excluded under the new requirement could have been made eligible again with small changes in boundaries. We also received two requests from department staff to 1) clarify that counties must distribute reimbursement proportionally and 2) to allow bureaus to reimburse donations last among sources of funding. These requests were incorporated in the rule revision.

The Natural Resources Board adopted the original version of the permanent rule in 2001 and a revision of this rule in 2005.

As this program is voluntary and has no regulatory impact on business, we expect no impact on small businesses.

Public Comment – Written Responses

FR-15-08: revisions to cost-shared gypsy moth suppression program

10/17/08

1. Barbara Piechoki Brown County Coordinator for the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program

Comment(s):

- a) Was concerned that increasing the minimum canopy coverage to 50% would exclude farming communities from being treated by the program.
- b) Questioned whether areas that weren't eligible for cost sharing would still be treated.

Result:

- a) Bill McNee, DNR Regional Gypsy Moth Suppression Coordinator for NER, reviewed blocks treated by the program in the last few years and concluded that while some blocks would not have qualified as originally laid out, they would have with small changes to the boundaries. We concluded that this issue could be avoided with thoughtful spray block design.
- b) Having separate eligibility requirements for cost sharing and treatment would add a layer of complexity for counties administering the program affecting reimbursement. One goal of this rule revision is to reduce the workload of the county administrators and the issue of possible exclusion some proposed spray blocks can be addressed another way.

2. DNR Bureau of Parks

Comment(s):

- a) Requested that DNR bureaus may first reimburse other sources of funding to the 50% maximum before reimbursing the source of donations due to the difficulty of returning donations. This change would allow parks or other bureaus to do this but does not require it to be done.

Result:

- a) This change was added to revisions to the rule.

3. Quinn Williams DNR Attorney for the Division of Forestry

Comment(s):

- a) After a county tried to withhold all federal reimbursement sent to it for distribution to program participants, Mr. Williams suggested the following change to ensure that counties would pass on reimbursement after their costs had been reimbursed to the maximum of 50%. Change indicated in **bold**.

47.915(2) If full funding from the forest service to cover the maximum share of treatment and administrative expenditures of the applicants is not available, the federal funds shall be applied to treatment and administrative costs on a pro-rata basis based on acreage per applicant. Reimbursement for both treatment and administrative work shall be returned to the counties. Applicants are responsible for all treatment and administration costs that exceed the amount reimbursed. The county may collect adequate funds to cover administrative expenses or treatment expenses and determine how reimbursement of federal cost share is distributed once it is received by the county. Any funds recovered in excess of total program expenses shall be **proportionally** returned to the source of local cost share.

Result:

a) This suggestion was added to revisions to the rule.

Fiscal Estimate — 2007 Session

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Updated <input type="checkbox"/> Corrected <input type="checkbox"/> Supplemental	LRB Number Bill Number	Amendment Number if Applicable Administrative Rule Number FR-15-08
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Subject

Revision of Chapter NR47 subchapter IX regarding the gypsy moth suppression program

Fiscal Effect

State: No State Fiscal Effect
 Indeterminate

Check columns below only if bill makes a direct appropriation or affects a sum sufficient appropriation.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriation | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriation | <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriation | |

Increase Costs — May be possible to absorb within agency's budget.

Yes No

Decrease Costs

Local: No Local Government Costs

Indeterminate

1. Increase Costs
 Permissive Mandatory
2. Decrease Costs
 Permissive Mandatory

3. Increase Revenues
 Permissive Mandatory
4. Decrease Revenues
 Permissive Mandatory

5. Types of Local Governmental Units Affected:

- Towns Villages Cities
 Counties Others
 School Districts WTCS Districts

Fund Sources Affected

GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEG-S

Affected Chapter 20 Appropriations

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The proposed rule package allows Department-owned properties to apply directly to the gypsy moth suppression program instead of requiring them to apply through a county.

State Fiscal Effect

Counties that administer the application for the Department-owned properties have the option of charging the Department for this service. Therefore, allowing for direct application to the suppression program will enable the Department to avoid charges that it would ordinarily have to pay to a county for administering the application, resulting in an indeterminate reduction in Department costs.

Local Fiscal Effect

To the extent that a county has no other applicants to the suppression program other than Department-owned properties, this rule change will save some counties the expense of providing the administrative services, resulting in an indeterminate reduction in county costs.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Prepared By:	Telephone No.	Agency
Joe Polasek	266-2794	Department of Natural Resources
Authorized Signature	Telephone No.	Date (mm/dd/ccyy)
	266-2794	

Fiscal Estimate — 2007 Session

Page 2 Assumptions Narrative Continued

LRB Number	Amendment Number if Applicable
Bill Number	Administrative Rule Number FR-15-08

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate – Continued

Fiscal Estimate Worksheet — 2007 Session
 Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

Original Updated
 Corrected Supplemental

LRB Number	Amendment Number if Applicable
Bill Number	Administrative Rule Number FR-15-08

Subject
 Revision of Chapter NR47 subchapter IX regarding the gypsy moth suppression program

One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):

Annualized Costs:		Annualized Fiscal Impact on State Funds from:	
		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
A. State Costs by Category			
State Operations — Salaries and Fringes		\$	\$ -
(FTE Position Changes)		(FTE)	(- FTE)
State Operations — Other Costs			-
Local Assistance			-
Aids to Individuals or Organizations			-
Total State Costs by Category		\$	\$ -
B. State Costs by Source of Funds			
GPR		\$	\$ -
FED			-
PRO/PRS			-
SEG/SEG-S			-
State Revenues	Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, etc.)	Increased Revenue	Decreased Revenue
GPR Taxes		\$	\$ -
GPR Earned			-
FED			-
PRO/PRS			-
SEG/SEG-S			-
Total State Revenues		\$	\$ -

Net Annualized Fiscal Impact

	<u>State</u>	<u>Local</u>
Net Change in Costs	\$ _____	\$ _____
Net Change in Revenues	\$ _____	\$ _____

Prepared By: Joe Polasek	Telephone No. 266-2794	Agency Department of Natural Resources
Authorized Signature	Telephone No. 266-2794	Date (mm/dd/ccyy)

ORDER OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD
RENUMBERING, RENUMBERING AND AMENDING, AMENDING AND CREATING RULES

The State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board proposes an order to renumber NR 47.913(1)(b)1. to 12.; to renumber and amend NR 47.912(10); to amend NR 47.912(2), (3m) and (7), 47.913(1)(a) and (b)(intro.), (2)(b) and (c), 47.914(2), (3), (7), (8)(intro.), (10), (11)(a) and (12), 47.915 and 47.917(1)(intro.) and (2)(e); and create NR 47.912(2m), and 47.913(1)(b)2. relating to the gypsy moth suppression program

FR-15-08

Analysis Prepared by Department of Natural Resources

Statutory authority: ss. 26.30(6m) and 227.11(2), Stats.

Statutes interpreted: ss. 26.30, 28.01 and 28.07, Stats.

Authority to promulgate rule: Section 26.30(6m), Stats., states that if the department establishes a cost-shared suppression program for gypsy moth, and that program includes the awarding of federal cost sharing funds to counties, the department shall promulgate rules to implement the program. This statute contemplates that the cost-share suppression program include, but not be limited to, the awarding of federal cost sharing funds to counties. While there is no express language specifying that the Department may apply for these funds, the Department, under s. 26.30(2), Stats., is “vested with authority and jurisdiction in all matters relating to the prevention, detection and control of forest pests on the forest lands of the state, and to do all things necessary in the exercise of such authority and jurisdiction” Further s. 26.30(6), Stats., requires, in part, that “[e]very landowner of forest lands or timber shall exercise every reasonable effort to control and destroy forest pests on forest lands or timber owned by or under the control of the owner.” Since s. 26.30(6m), Stats., does not prohibit the Department from applying for these funds, the broad authority under s. 26.30(2), Stats., coupled with the responsibility of landowners under s. 26.30(6m), Stats., to control forest pests, allows the Department to apply for gypsy moth suppression funds. Additionally, the federal cost-share language allows states to utilize the federal gypsy moth funds. Michigan applies these same federal funds to gypsy moth suppression on their state lands. Finally, the department currently applies for these funds through the counties that participate in the program, and has done so since the inception of the state program. There would be no change to the Department’s ability to apply for federal cost-share funding for affected properties, while there would be increased administrative efficiency and cost savings, as noted below in the plain language analysis.

Related statute or rule: There are no related statutes or rules.

Plain language analysis of rule: The purpose of this rule is to revise the existing procedures for participation in a voluntary, cooperative state suppression program for outbreaks in Wisconsin of a foreign pest, the gypsy moth. The suppression program includes an aerial insecticide treatment program (administered in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection) and administration of federal cost sharing for participants in that treatment program.

To maintain eligibility of the WI suppression program for federal cost sharing funds changes need to be made to the rule governing the suppression program. Changes to eligibility criteria are, 1) an increase in the canopy cover for residential areas from 25 to 50%, and 2) a liberalization of the canopy composition criterion from “50% or more of the canopy must be preferred hosts” to, “50% or more of the canopy must be hosts that are moderately or highly susceptible to defoliation by gypsy moth”.

The federal cost share grant maximum has been increased for publically owned land from 25 to 50% of costs and for private lands over 500 acres from 33 to 50% of costs. Making this change to the grant calculation section of our rule will allow the program to obtain the maximum cost share available for landowners and communities.

Also included in this revision are procedures for department managed lands to apply through their bureaus to the suppression program instead of the current procedure, which requires department managed lands to apply through counties in order to participate in the program. There have been several instances where gypsy moth outbreaks developed in state parks or forests before the pest became a widespread problem for the county in which the property was located. There are biological reasons why outbreaks may occur in state campgrounds and recreational areas before other land uses and we can expect this to happen in the future. It is a workload for a county to sponsor the suppression program and it is unreasonable to ask counties to take on this workload for department managed properties when no other residents or communities in the county are requesting the program. The revision also includes housekeeping changes which will improve the program's efficiency and accommodate the needs of the participating counties.

Summary and comparison with federal regulation addressing activities to be regulated by rule:

The USDA Forest Service under the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (appendix A) as amended (P.L. 95-313) and the 1990 Farm Bill offers a cost sharing program to states for the suppression of gypsy moth outbreaks. Their objective is to assist state agencies in protecting forest resources by preventing defoliation in residential, recreational and timber production lands. Cost share is made available to state cooperators who have established an acceptable integrated pest management strategy for the gypsy moth as determined by the Forest Service. The cost share from the Forest Service can be used to pay for the treatment and preparatory work for the treatment including monitoring, administration, and public notification. The current maximum federal share of project costs is 50%. The Forest Service cost-share rate, however, may be adjusted downwards to meet annual federal budget limitations. The Forest Service requires that the treatments that receive cost sharing be voluntary and are eligible by the minimum criteria decided by the Forest Service.

Comparison of similar rules in adjacent states: Of the adjacent states, only Michigan has a suppression program for gypsy moth. The Department of Agriculture takes it's authority to run the suppression program from the Insect Pest and Plant Disease Act 189 of 1931. There are no legislative rules governing the Michigan suppression program, however. Like Wisconsin's program, Michigan receives cost sharing from the USDA Forest Service so requirements described above apply to both. The two states suppression programs are similar in many ways though in Wisconsin all land uses are allowed to apply to the program and there is no prioritization of treatment for different land uses as there is in the Michigan program.

Summary of data and analysis to support regulatory approach of rule: Not applicable to this rule as it is not a regulatory provision but is instead a voluntary grant program.

Supporting documentation on effect on small business or used in an economic impact report: Not applicable to this rule as it is not a regulatory provision but is instead a voluntary grant program.

Anticipated costs to private sector: The program is a voluntary one and is only done at resident's request or agreement so we do not expect any involuntary expenses. We expect that this program will provide cost savings for private businesses facing losses from damage to their property by gypsy moth. Private businesses may apply to the suppression program for treatment as can any other resident or community. The program provides access to a cost-effective aerial spray treatment that may not be available in that area and also provides cost sharing from the federal government reducing costs for participants.

Effect on small businesses: The effect on small business is expected to be positive as the suppression program will make avoidance of losses from gypsy moth less expensive than other options.

Agency contact: Dr. Andrea Diss-Torrance
Andrea.DissTorrance@wi.gov
608-264-9247

SECTION 1. NR 47.912(2) is amended to read:

NR 47.912(2) “Applicant” means a Wisconsin county or department bureau that submits an application for inclusion in the state gypsy moth suppression program and cost sharing for the treatment of and associated administrative costs for suppression of gypsy moth outbreaks.

SECTION 2. NR 47.912(2m) is created to read:

NR 47.912(2m) “Bureau coordinator” means a person designated to represent and act on behalf of an applicant department bureau for the purpose of applying for cost sharing and executing an agreement binding his or her principal as detailed under this subchapter.

SECTION 3. NR 47.912(3m) and (7) are amended to read:

NR 47.912(3m) “County coordinator” means the person designated to represent and act on behalf of an applicant county for the purpose of applying for cost sharing and executing an agreement binding his or her principal, either by duly adopted resolution or otherwise, as detailed under this subchapter.

(7) “High use recreational land” means land that is used primarily for recreation and where trees are at a similar density, stress level and individual value to those in residential areas. This category includes campgrounds, urban parks, playgrounds, and picnic areas ~~and golf courses~~.

SECTION 4. NR 47.912(10) is renumbered NR 47.012(8) and, as renumbered, is amended to read:

NR 47.912(8) “~~Preferred hosts~~ Hosts that are moderately or highly susceptible to defoliation by gypsy moth” means tree species listed as Class I and II in the Gypsy Moth Management in the United States: a cooperative approach, Environmental Impact Statement, Appendix G, Table 2–2. This document can be obtained from the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, 1992 Folwell Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.

SECTION 5. NR 47.913(1)(a) and (b)(intro.) are amended to read:

NR 47.913 Eligibility. (1) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS. (a) Only counties and department bureaus may apply for participation in the state cost shared suppression program.

(b)(intro.) An applicant shall designate a ~~county~~ coordinator. County coordinators ~~who~~ shall administer requests for treatment from and for all residents of the county. Bureau coordinators shall administer requests for treatment for properties within that department bureau or division. Training shall be provided by the department.

1. A county coordinator, or his or her designee, shall complete all of the following tasks:

SECTION 6. NR 47.913(1)(b)1. to 12. are renumbered NR 47.913(1)(b)1.a. to L.

SECTION 7. NR 47.913(1)(b)2. is created to read:

NR 47.913(1)(b)2. A bureau coordinator, or his or her designee, shall complete all of the following tasks:

- a. Respond to requests for assistance from property managers of properties managed by the bureau.
- b. Ensure that the property manager of properties applying for treatment have approved gypsy moth management plans and that proposed spray areas are in agreement with this plan.
- c. Determine if areas requested for treatment within properties managed by the bureau are eligible for treatment.
- d. Identify areas for treatment and map treatment blocks.
- e. Complete and file applications with the department under this subchapter.

- f. Collect program cost share moneys for treatments.
- g. Notify residents within eligible treatment blocks and surrounding areas determined by the applicant by publication of a class one legal notice under ch. 985, Stats. in a local newspaper at least 10 days before a deadline, a press release and a public meeting. The department program coordinator, or his or her designee, shall conduct the public meeting.
- h. Accommodate residents within the proposed spray block who object to treatment of their property by revising or dropping treatment blocks. If other resident's properties are dropped from a suppression block due to accommodating an objector, the department program coordinator shall notify affected residents.
- i. Assist as a ground observer or provide observers, or both, as required by the department during the aerial treatment. All observers shall attend observer training provided by the department.
- j. Perform a post treatment evaluation of defoliation within blocks identified by the department. The department shall provide the procedure for evaluation.
- k. Maintain records and file with the department materials requested for an annual report.

SECTION 8. NR 47.913(2)(b) and (c) are amended to read:

NR 47.913(2) (b) Have a canopy coverage of ~~any of the following:~~

- 1. ~~25% or more on residential or high use recreational land.~~
- 2. ~~50% or more on rural land~~ 50% or more.

(c) 50% or more of the canopy must be preferred hosts that are moderately or highly susceptible to defoliation by gypsy moth.

SECTION 9. NR 47.914(2), (3), (7), (8)(intro.), (10), (11)(a) and (12) are amended to read:

NR 47.914(2) Applicants shall submit applications for cost sharing to department staff, identified on the application ~~for the area of the state involved~~, no later than the first Friday in December, along with a digitized map of each proposed treatment block in the format specified on the application form to be eligible for participation in the treatment program for that year. For treatment in 2009 only, applications will be accepted from department bureaus until April 1, 2009 if all other required activities and deadlines have been met. Application forms can be obtained from the grants section of the department's gypsy moth suppression web pages or by writing to the program manager for the gypsy moth grant program.

Note: The address for the program manager for the gypsy moth grant program is Bureau of Community Financial Assistance, P.O. Box 10448, Green Bay, WI 54307-0448.

(3) Applicants shall submit with the application an electronic list of telephone, facsimile, mailing address and email contacts associated with each treatment block to the designated department staff specified in the application and in the format provided by the department. Required contacts for each block include all schools and licensed daycare providers within a treatment block, local government officials, health, police, sheriff and fire departments within whose jurisdiction a treatment block exists, hospital emergency rooms in the area of treatment blocks, and other ~~concerned parties~~ public and quasi public institutions or organizations as deemed necessary by the department. These lists shall be used by department staff to provide prior notification of aerial treatments.

(7) The applicant shall designate ~~a county-wide~~ either:

(a) A county deadline for residents of county proposed spray blocks to register their objection to treatment and also the method for registering an objection.

(b) A deadline for residents within the boundaries of properties managed by the bureau and within bureau proposed spray blocks to register their objection to treatment and also the method for registering an objection.

(8) (intro.) The applicant shall notify landowners and tenants within the eligible proposed treatment blocks and an area surrounding those blocks to be determined by the applicant. All notices shall provide information on location of proposed treatment blocks, insecticide to be used, approximate

timing of treatment, how to register an objection to treatment of property and the name, address and phone number of the county or bureau coordinator as appropriate. Notification requirements of applicants to landowners and tenants shall include:

(10) County or bureau coordinators shall contact objectors who register an objection to treatment of their property before the deadline, determine the cause for objection and attempt to resolve it. If ~~objections~~ an objection cannot be resolved, county or bureau coordinators shall work with the department's designated staff to remove the property and add ~~any~~ a buffer strip necessary to avoid treatment of the property. The buffer strip may not exceed 250 feet. If a treatment block is canceled because accommodating objectors makes the block untreatable in the judgment of the contractor for pesticide application, the county or bureau coordinator shall notify residents and property managers and return money that has been collected. The applicant shall resolve any objections on the basis of payment and the applicant is responsible for the entire local share of costs of treatment for blocks under its jurisdiction as of the date the applicants submits the grant application referenced in sub. (6). Treatment blocks shall be removed from the program due to nonpayment of the cost share by the applicant.

(11) (a) The department shall provide an estimate of per acre cost for treatment to county and bureau coordinators ~~no later than February 15th of each year~~ as soon as it is available. The applicant shall collect the entire estimated cost for treatment of the blocks the applicant applied for and pay it to the department by 30 calendar days following invoice or April 4 30 which ever is first unless otherwise provided on the application. If payment is not received by the deadline, the block shall be dropped from the program. Once the payment for treatment blocks has been received, the boundaries of these treatment blocks shall be considered fixed. Alteration or cancellation of a treatment block may only occur in the event of an irreconcilable conflict with a federally listed threatened or endangered species or where the contractor for pesticide application determines treatment of the block to be hazardous to the contractor. If a block is removed for these reasons, the department shall return the payment for that treatment block and the county coordinator shall notify residents and return money that has been collected for the spray treatment.

(12) ~~Applicants~~ If applying for cost sharing for administrative expenses, applicants shall submit a record of administrative costs incurred in the project period of July 1 through June 30 to the department by July 15.

SECTION 10. NR 47.915 is amended to read:

NR 47.915 Grant calculation. (1) A grant under this subchapter shall be no more of the eligible costs of treatment and administration than the maximum ~~for the appropriate category described in the following paragraphs of 50%~~ and be based on the amount of cost share funding received from the forest service:

~~(a) Privately owned lands under 500 acres per owner may be cost shared up to 50%.~~

~~(b) Private lands of over 500 acres per owner may be cost shared at up to 33%.~~

~~(c) Publicly owned lands may be cost shared at up to 25%.~~

(2) If full funding from the forest service to cover the maximum share of treatment and administrative expenditures of the applicants is not available, the federal funds shall be applied to treatment and administrative costs on a pro-rata basis based on acreage per applicant. Reimbursement for both treatment and administrative work shall be returned to the counties or bureaus. Applicants are responsible for all treatment and administration costs that exceed the amount reimbursed. The county or bureau may collect adequate funds to cover administrative expenses or treatment expenses and determine how reimbursement of federal cost share is distributed once it is received by the county or bureau. Any funds recovered by counties in excess of total program expenses shall be proportionally returned to the source of local cost share.

SECTION 11. NR 47.917(1)(intro) and (2)(e) are amended to read:

NR 47.917(1) ELIGIBLE COSTS. (intro.) Applicant expenditures eligible for reimbursement under this subchapter shall be documented and provided to the department with any request for cost-share reimbursement. Eligible costs from July 1 to June 30 of each year are subject to cost share reimbursement under this subchapter. Reimbursement for treatment and administration of a block may not be more than the maximum ~~for the appropriate category for the block or portion thereof as described in s. NR 47.915 (1) (a) to (c)~~ of 50%. The following items are eligible for cost share reimbursements under this subchapter only if aerial treatments are conducted and the costs are eligible under this subchapter and as identified in the grant agreement:

(2)(e) Professional meetings and conferences attended by applicants are ineligible for cost sharing.

SECTION 12. EFFECTIVE DATE. This rule shall take effect the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin administrative register as provided in s. 227.22(2)(intro.), Stats.

SECTION 13. BOARD ADOPTION. This rule was approved and adopted by the State of Wisconsin Natural Resources Board on _____.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin _____.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By _____
Matthew J. Frank, Secretary

(SEAL)