

**Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grants**  
**Section 23.22, Wis. Stats., NR 198, Wis. Admin. Code**

**Overview:**

The AIS Prevention and Control grants are a cost-share effort by the DNR to provide information and education on types of existing and potential aquatic invasive species in Wisconsin, the threats that invasives pose to the state's aquatic resources, and available techniques for invasives control. These grants also assist in the planning and implementation of projects that will prevent the introduction of invasive species into waters where they currently are not present, controlling and reducing the spread of invasive species from waters where they are present, and restoring native aquatic communities.

There are five Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Control grants subprograms:

- a. Education, Prevention and Planning Projects (including Clean Boats Clean Waters)
- b. Early Detection and Response Projects
- c. Established Population Control Projects
- d. Maintenance and Containment Projects
- e. Research and Demonstration Projects

**Education, Prevention and Planning Projects**  
**NR 198.20, Wis. Admin. Code**

**Purpose:**

Education projects are intended to broaden the public's awareness and understanding of, and ability to identify, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), the threats that AIS pose to the health of aquatic ecosystems, the measures to prevent the spread of AIS, and the management practices used for control of AIS. Prevention projects are intended to prevent the introduction of new AIS into a waterbody/wetland, or prevent the spread of an AIS population from one waterbody to another unpopulated waterbody/wetland. Planning projects are intended to assist in the development of plans for the prevention and control of AIS.

**Eligible Projects:**

- Educational programs including workshops, training sessions, or coordinated volunteer monitors. Projects will be reviewed for consistency with the DNR's statewide education strategy for controlling AIS including the use of existing publications and outreach materials.
- Development of AIS prevention and control plans
- Monitoring, mapping, and assessing waterbodies for the presence of AIS or other studies that will aid in the AIS prevention and control.
- Watercraft inspection and education projects following the guidelines of the DNR's Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. Specifically, projects involving watercraft inspectors are required to train inspectors at a Clean Boats, Clean Waters workshop where they will learn inspections techniques, data collect, and reporting in a DNR statewide database. Inspection projects using an AIS grant must provide a minimum of 200 hours of inspection time between May 1 and October 30 or conduct an approved alternative.
- A streamlined Clean Boats Clean Waters Funding Request and Agreement process has been created for sponsors interested only in this subprogram. You can access the application at <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/forms/8700/8700-337.pdf> For more information on the simplified process, read the fact sheet on Clean Boats Clean Waters at: [http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/AIS/CBCW\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/AIS/CBCW_Fact_Sheet.pdf)

**Ineligible Projects:**

Any project not specified above.

**Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW):**

All CBCW projects will follow protocols and procedures established for this program found at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnrap/UWEXLakes/Pages/programs/cbcw/default.aspx>

Project should closely follow the CBCW Handbook and Forms ([PUB-WT-780](#)). Additional guidance on alternatives to a standard CBCW program can be found in *Alternative Equivalent CBCW Activities for Grant Projects for Lakes* found at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/AIS/CBCWActivities.pdf>

**Funding Possibilities:**

Maximum amount of grant funding is 75% of the total project costs, not to exceed \$150,000. Applications will be separated into three classes: less than \$10,000 in state funding, between \$10,001 and \$50,000 in state funding and between \$50,001 and \$150,000 in state funding. Clean Boats Clean Waters projects are limited to \$4,000 per public boat launch facility but may be a component of a larger project.

**Early Detection and Response Projects**  
*Section NR 198.30, Wis. Admin. Code*

**Purpose:**

Early detection and response grants provide funds for the early identification and control of pioneer populations of AIS before those populations become established. These projects are intended for waters and wetlands where the presence of AIS is relatively new and the area of coverage is limited such that there is a high likelihood that they can be removed or significantly reduced and managed at low densities.

Your DNR regional AIS Coordinator will determine whether an AIS population qualifies as “pioneer” based on best professional judgment. For rooted aquatic plants like Eurasian Water Milfoil, pioneer infestation are typically 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.

**Eligible Projects:**

- Identification and removal of pioneer AIS populations in the early stages of colonization, or re-colonization by approved methods.
- Control of a re-colonization following the completion of an established population control project.
- Monitoring, outreach, and education efforts.

**Ineligible Projects:** Any project not specified above.

**Funding Possibilities:**

Maximum amount of grant assistance is 75% of eligible project costs, not to exceed \$20,000.

**Established Population Control Projects**  
*NR 198.40, Wis. Admin. Code*

**Purpose:**

Established population control grants are intended to assist applicants in eradicating or substantially reducing established populations of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) to protect and restore native species communities. Established populations are defined as substantial reproducing populations of AIS that are not pioneer populations.

For projects on lakes and rivers, adequate public boating access is required, as defined in [s. NR 1.91\(4\) or \(6\)](#), Wis. Adm. Code.

**Eligible Projects:**

- Activities recommended in a DNR-approved control plan including monitoring, education, and prevention activities.
- If participating in a DNR designated program, such as the Purple Loosestrife bio-control projects, no prior plan approval is required.

**Ineligible Projects:**

- Dredging
- Chemical treatments or mechanical harvesting of aquatic plants to provide single season nuisance or navigational relief.
- Maintenance and operation of aeration systems and mechanical structures used to suppress aquatic plant growth.
- Structural facilities for providing boat washing stations. Equipment associated with boat washing facilities is eligible if included in a management plan.

**Funding Possibilities:**

Maximum amount of the grant funding is 75% of the total project costs, not to exceed \$200,000.

**Maintenance and Containment Projects**

*NR 198.50, Wis. Admin. Code*

**Purpose:**

Maintenance and containment grants are intended to provide sponsors limited financial assistance for the ongoing control of established AIS population without the assistance of an Establish Population Control grant. These projects are intended for waters where management activity has achieved the target level of control identified in an approved plan that meets the criteria of s. [NR 198.43](#), Wis. Adm. Code. Ongoing maintenance is needed to contain these populations so they do not re-establish throughout the waterbody, spread to other waters, or impair navigation and other beneficial uses of the waterbody.

**Eligible Costs:**

Application fees for s. [NR 107](#) or [NR 109](#) aquatic plant management permits issued by the DNR, surveying, monitoring, reporting and recordkeeping required by the DNR.

**Procedures:**

Reimbursement claim Form [8700-323](#) will be provided to eligible sponsors that receive DNR-approved s. [NR 107](#) or [NR 109](#) permits. Reimbursement claims may be submitted at any time to the DNR after the permitted activities are completed and have been paid in full by the sponsor. Reimbursement requests must include all necessary compliance reports; these reports will be reviewed by DNR staff.

**Funding Possibilities:**

Maximum amount of grant funding will be determined by DNR based on the sponsor's permit application fee, specified monitoring and reporting requirements in the permit, or DNR-approved management plan. The maximum grant amount shall not exceed the cost of the permit application fee.

**Research and Demonstration Projects**

*NR 198.60, Wis. Admin. Code*

**Purpose:**

Research and demonstration projects are intended as a cooperative activity between applicants and the DNR. Such projects shall be designed to increase scientific understanding of the ecological and economic implications of AIS and its management and to assess experimental and innovative techniques for AIS prevention, containment, and control.

**Eligible Projects:**

- Increase scientific understanding of the ecological and economic implications of AIS
- Increase scientific understanding of the management of AIS.
- Assess experimental and innovative techniques for their prevention, containment and control of AIS.

**Ineligible Projects:**

Any project not specified above.

**Procedures:**

Proposal briefs for research or demonstration projects must be submitted to the DNR by July 1 in every even numbered year to be considered for funding for the next biennium. Proposals can be emailed to [dnrsurfacewatergrants@wi.gov](mailto:dnrsurfacewatergrants@wi.gov) . Proposal briefs shall include the following:

- Goals and objectives of the project
- Brief description of the methods to be used
- Estimated costs
- Timeline for project completion

Prior to each two-year state budget cycle, the DNR develops a Biennial Research Agenda to identify the highest priority research. Only projects that are included in the agenda may be funded by the DNR. Initial topics are compiled in July of even numbered years by DNR staff and work their way through various levels of review and approval. High priority AIS research projects eligible for funding will be identified by December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and applicants will be directed to complete a full proposal using the application for AIS Established Population Control. Full proposals must be received by or postmarked no later than the February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

**Funding Possibilities:**

In years when funding under this subprogram are available, the maximum amount of grant funding is 75% of total project costs up to the maximum established for the AIS grant category for which the application was submitted. No more than \$500,000 shall be awarded annually for research or demonstration projects.