

Habitat Structure – Wildlife Nesting Structure General Permit Application Instructions

Determine eligibility for this general permit:

- Choose an activity decision module on web, <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/waterways>, **or**
- Review the eligibility criteria below
 - If the project does not meet all of the eligibility standards, apply for an Individual Permit

To apply:

- Apply online using our online ePermitting System at <http://dnr.wi.gov/permits/water>
- Include all required attachments. Each document must be less than 15 megabytes and our online system offers a help guide to reduce file sizes,
- Permit processing review times begin when all of the required application materials are received by the DNR. The department may require additional information to evaluate the project.
- If you have questions regarding your application, contact the local Water Management Specialist for your county <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waterways/contacts.html#county>.

Please note, prior to starting any work at the project site, you are responsible for:

- Obtain all necessary local (e.g. city, town, village or county) permits.
- Obtain U.S. Army Corps of Engineer permits or approvals, <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.
- Any other applicable state permits

Required attachments - Forms or documents you upload in our online ePermitting System

1. **Application form** - A complete, signed application form "Water Resources Application for Project Permits (WRAPP)" (Form 3500-053).

2. **Application fee** - Payment must be submitted through the ePermitting System as part of the application process. A list of fees can be found at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/waterways/documents/PermitDocs/feesheet.pdf>.

3. **Ownership documentation** - (i.e. copy of deed, land contract, current property tax statement/receipt)

4. **Photographs** that clearly show the on-the-ground conditions of the existing project areas. Remember that too much snow cover or vegetation may obscure important details. If possible, have another person stand near the project area for size reference. Color images are preferred.

5. **Site maps** that clearly illustrate the location and perimeter of the project site, and its relationship to nearby water resources (e.g. lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands), major landmarks and roads. Provide copies of relevant maps (e.g. wetland, aerial, topographical, soil, floodplain, or zoning maps), with the project location clearly identified. The department offers a web mapping tool to assist in creating these maps at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/swdv/>.

6. **Plans and specifications** that show what you intend to do. Plan drawings should be clear and to scale. Be sure to draw all plans as accurately and detailed as possible. The department reserves the right to require additional information to evaluate the project.

7. **Narrative description** of your proposal on a separate page. Please include:

- What the project is, purpose of project, and need for the project
- How you intend to carry out the project, including methods, materials, and equipment

- Your proposed construction schedule and sequence of work
- What temporary and permanent erosion control measures will be used
- The location of any disposal area for dredged or excavated materials
- For disturbances or fill, provide a description of type, composition, and quality of materials
- How you plan to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to waterways
- Area (e.g. linear feet) impacted

8. **Endangered and threatened resources** - The applicant is not required, but is encouraged to request an endangered resources (ER) review letter before applying for the permit. Information on how to obtain a review can be found by visiting the website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/Review.html>. The applicant can also visit the NHI Public Portal, <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/ERReview/PublicPortal.html>, to determine if a full ER Review is required. Read the ‘What is an ER Preliminary Assessment and what do the results mean?’ section to determine follow-up steps.

9. **Historical and cultural resources** - If you are aware there is a historical or cultural resource present, you are **required** to contact the Wisconsin State Historical Society to verify and receive documentation that the activity will not result in an adverse impact to these resources.

Eligibility criteria:	
Projects that do not meet all criteria are not eligible for this general permit. If your project does not qualify for this general permit, you may apply for an individual permit.	
I am the riparian owner, or authorized representative of the riparian, that will be placing and maintaining the nesting structure within the riparian zone of interest.	
The nesting structure is placed solely for the purpose of improving wildlife habitat.	
The nesting structure will be designed and constructed of unpainted wood or of materials that are nonglossy earth tone colors that blend into a natural shoreline setting during leaf-on condition.	
I will report the placement of the nesting structure to the department local fisheries biologist within 30 days of placement.	
The nesting structure will not exceed 25 square feet.	
Dredging associated with the placement of the nesting structure will not exceed 2 cubic yards of material.	
Any deposition of sand, gravel or stone will only occur immediately underneath and within 1 foot of the half log and will consist of less than 2 cubic yards of material.	
Erosion control measures shall meet or exceed the technical standards for erosion control approved by the department under subch. V of ch. NR 151. Any area where topsoil is exposed during placement, repair or removal of a structure shall be immediately seeded and mulched to stabilize disturbed areas and prevent soils from being eroded and washed into the waterway. These standards can be found at: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/stormwater/standards/ .	
Unless part of a permanent storm water management system, all temporary erosion and sediment control practices will be removed upon final site stabilization. All areas disturbed during removal of temporary erosion and sediment control practices will be restored.	

The project plans minimize adverse impacts on fish movement, fish spawning, egg incubation periods and high stream flows, the project may not occur during the following time periods:

- ✓ September 15 through May 15 for trout streams and navigable tributaries to trout streams.
- ✓ March 15 through May 15 for ALL waters located south of state highway 29.
- ✓ April 1 through June 1 for ALL waters located north of state highway 29.

Note: Per ch. NR 1.02(7), the department identifies and classifies trout streams to ensure adequate protection and proper management of this unique resource. To determine if a waterway is a trout stream, you may use the Designated Waters Theme on DNR’s Surface Water Data Viewer:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/swdv/>

Note: The applicant may request that these time period restrictions be waived by the department on a case-by- case basis, by submitting a written statement signed by the local department fisheries biologist, documenting consultation about the proposed dredging project, and that the local department fisheries biologist has determined that the requirements of this paragraph are not necessary to protect fish spawning for the proposed project.

All equipment used for the project including but not limited to tracked vehicles, barges, boats, hoses, sheet pile and pumps shall be de-contaminated for invasive and exotic viruses and species prior to use and after use.

The following steps must be taken every time you move your equipment to avoid transporting invasive and exotic viruses and species. To the extent practicable, equipment and gear used on infested waters shall not be used on other non-infested waters.

- Inspect and remove aquatic plants, animals, and mud from your equipment.
- Drain all water from your equipment that comes in contact with infested waters, including but not limited to tracked vehicles, barges, boats, hoses, sheet pile and pumps.
- Dispose of aquatic plants, animals in the trash. Never release or transfer aquatic plants, animals or water from one waterbody to another.
- Wash your equipment with hot (>104° F) or high pressure water, steam clean or allow your equipment to dry thoroughly for 5 days.

Follow the most recent department approved washing and disinfection protocols and department approved best management practices to avoid the spread of invasive species as outlined in NR 40, Wis. Adm. Code. These protocols and practices can be found on the Department website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/bmp.html> Keyword: “equipment operator” and at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/documents/EquipOper.pdf>