

**Turkey Advisory Committee Meeting
Teleconference, Feb 20, 2019**

Attendance: Steve Easterly, Dan Eklund, Carrie Milestone, Matt Weegman, Dean Edlin, Mark Witecha, Travis Anderson, Rich Kirchmeyer, Jaqi Christopher

The meeting today is to discuss adjusting the funding allocations for the FY20/21 Turkey Stamp funding biennium. The DNR Wildlife Leadership team looked at the allotment recommendations from the committee's last meeting, which sparked a discussion on overall program budgets. The Wildlife Leadership Team decided that due to budget changes in the wildlife program, no Turkey Stamp dollars will be used for DNR habitat projects for the FY20/21 biennium. This is a one-time decision and the FY22/23 biennium will likely default to past allocations.

In the past, 64.5% of the turkey stamp funds went towards habitat development and management on DNR lands. The committee will discuss how to reallocate that percentage to the other funding pools.

There is a considerable balance left in the turkey stamp account from past projects under spending, projected revenue being lower than actual revenue and other factors. It is possible a portion of the outstanding balance will be available for allocation for the FY20/21 biennium. A portion of the balance will also be used for equipment purchases for DNR habitat work. Only equipment purchases that will be used for projects that fit the Turkey funding guideline priorities will be funded by the extra turkey stamp account balance.

FY18/19 Allotments:

Funding Pool	Allocation (% of total funds available)	Automatic/Competitive
Habitat Development & Management on DNR-Managed Lands	64.5% (\$877,000) in FY18-19	Automatic (DNR only)
Statewide Coordination of the Wild Turkey Management Program	15% (\$204,000 in FY18-19)	Automatic
Habitat Development & Management on Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest	2.5% (\$34,000 in FY18-19)	Automatic (USFS only)
Hunter Access to Private Lands (Turkey Hunter Access Program)	2% (\$27,000 in FY18-19)	Automatic
Cooperator Habitat Development & Management	7% (\$95,000 in FY18-19)	Competitive (cooperator only)
Research & Monitoring	5% (\$68,000 in FY18-19)	Competitive
Information & Education	4% (\$54,000 in FY18-19)	Competitive

New Allotments for FY20/21:

Automatic Allocations:

The automatic allotments for the Statewide Coordination and Hunter Access to Private Land will remain the same for the FY20-21 biennium.

The US Forest Service typically gets an automatic allotment of \$34,000 each funding biennium. They propose increasing their allotment for the FY20/21 biennium to \$160,000, approximately 12% of the available funding. They have \$160,000 worth of projects to complete which include prescribe burning and openings maintenance on their highest used turkey habitats throughout northern Wisconsin. The committee votes unanimously to increase their allotment to \$160,000.

Competitive Allocation:

In the past, there have been 3 competitive funding pools: habitat projects for external partners, information/education projects for all applicants and research projects for all applicants.

The committee proposes to combine the 3 of these pools into one complete pool open to all habitat, info/ed and research projects. This pool will be open to DNR staff outside of the Bureau of Wildlife Management to apply for habitat projects as well as anyone applying for info/ed and research projects. The competitive pool will be the remaining percentage, roughly 71% of the available funding.

The committee votes to approve combining the 3 separate competitive pools into one funding pool.

Partners that would like to propose a habitat project on DNR managed lands may still apply through the complete pool. They should work with their local DNR staff when submitting a proposal for DNR managed lands.

New funding breakdown for the FY20/21 biennium:

Funding Pool	FY20-21 Allocation (% of total funds available)	Automatic/Competitive
Statewide Coordination of the Wild Turkey Management Program	15% (\$204,000)	Automatic
Habitat Development & Management on Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest	12% (\$163,200)	Automatic (USFS only)
Hunter Access to Private Lands (Turkey Hunter Access Program)	2% (\$27,200)	Automatic
Habitat Development & Management, Information & Education and Research & Monitoring	71% (\$965,600)	Competitive

Timeline:

The stamp guideline document will be updated with the committee’s recommendations and will go back to WLT for approval. A press release will go out early March announcing the application period is open and proposals will be due mid/late-April. The committee will reconvene in May to review and rank the proposals and provide funding recommendations.