

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention



Aquatic invasive species are not all equally damaging, but most are impossible to eradicate once they are established. Prevention is key. Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) is Wisconsin's flagship prevention program. Additional details on the CBCW program appear in program guidance [Appendix G: Clean Boats, Clean Waters](#).

Prerequisites

Eligible organization

Applicants must submit their pre-proposal by September 2, applications are due November 1.

Funding

Grants cover up to 75% of total project costs.

Up to \$24,000 is available per Clean Boats, Clean Waters project (\$4,000 per landing or pair of landings).

Up to \$24,000 is available for supplemental prevention projects approved by the department.

Reimbursements

A 25% advance on the total grant award is available, with one partial payment allowed per year.

10% of the grant award is retained until approval of final deliverables and reimbursement documents.

Eligible projects

Clean Boats, Clean Waters projects focus on boater education and AIS prevention.

Supplemental Prevention projects further reduce the spread or risk of introduction of AIS. Up to \$4,000 is available per landing for supplemental prevention activities. Applicants must have successfully completed a CBCW project the prior year and plan to continue their CBCW program.

Larger prevention grants of up to \$24,000 are available for department-approved prevention projects when one or more of the following conditions are met (listed in order of decreasing priority):

- Proposes statewide coordination of prevention programs approved by the department.
- Contains the spread of a verified NR40 prohibited species or shields a waterbody within 15 miles of an NR40 prohibited population.
- Addresses one of the top 300 waterbodies for AIS Prevention (list in Appendix H)
- Contains the spread of an isolated AIS population with low prevalence in the geographic region
- Prevents introduction to on a waterbody within 15 miles of a verified AIS population.

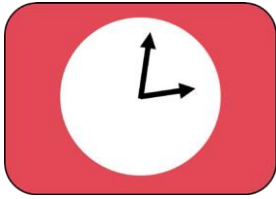
Unless approved by the department, supplemental prevention projects must be conducted in conjunction with Clean Boats, Clean Waters. See program guidance [Appendix H: Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention](#).

Conditions

CBCW inspectors must attend an approved training workshop prior to conducting inspections. Trained inspectors conduct inspections at waterbody access points, collect data, educate users, collect or report aquatic invasive species, and upload data to the [Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System \(SWIMS\) database](#). Inspectors must accumulate a minimum of 200 inspection hours per landing or pair of landings. Hours may be spent at one waterbody access point or spread across two access points.

Grantees must prioritize high-use events such as holidays, weekends and fishing tournaments.

Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grants – Early Detection & Response



When invasive species are newly introduced, it's a good idea to learn more about the population and start planning; some applicants may not want to wait for the next annual grant cycle to secure funding. Early detection and response grants can give eligible applicants a jump-start into planning and management. Because projects occur without the guidance of a management plan, projects must be conducted in coordination with the department.

Prerequisites

Eligible organization. Individual land holders may apply for grants for [prohibited species](#). Populations of [restricted species](#) must be *pioneering* populations

Funding

Grants may cover up to 75% of total project costs.
Up to \$25,000 is available per project.

Reimbursements

One grant advance is available for up to 25% of the total grant award.
One partial payment is available per year.
10% of the grant award is retained until approval of deliverables and reimbursement documentation.

Eligible projects

Early Detection & Response projects should focus on education, population monitoring and early planning steps for any population of ch. NR40 classified [prohibited species](#), or pioneering populations of ch. NR40 [restricted species](#). Control actions may be appropriate when they are likely to result in population removal or limitation of a population to small size. Control actions must be developed in coordination with the department and are subject to department approval.

Conditions

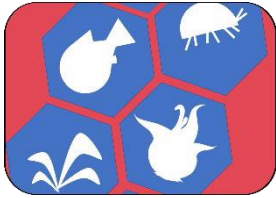
One grant is available for *pioneering* populations of restricted invasive species. Multiple grants sought in succession are available for prohibited species.

Pioneering populations are in the early stages of colonization. The department may use best professional judgement, considering the population extent, abundance, and spatial distribution to determine whether the population may be qualified as a pioneer population.

For rooted aquatic plant species, a pioneering population covers a small area, is typically sparse, and will have been verified during the preceding 5 years. A pioneering population will cover an area that is less than 3 acres in size or has colonized less than 3% of the habitable area of the lake, stream reach, or wetland, whichever is greater.

The department may specify control measures and require monitoring and reporting activities for projects funded in part with early detection and response dollars.

Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grants – Large- or Small-Scale Population Management



When an established population of aquatic invasive species is having adverse effects on a waterbody or wetland, funding is available for control activities. Managing aquatic invasive species can be challenging, but adaptive and integrated pest management can help. For more information, see program guidance [Appendix I: Integrated Pest Management](#). Participation in the large- or small-scale control program requires an approved recommendation in an aquatic plant or aquatic invasive species management plan. Eligible projects will implement one or more of the resulting recommendations.

Prerequisites

Eligible organization. For control of prohibited species only, individual land holders may also apply. Applicants must submit their pre-proposal by September 2, applications are due November 1. Applicants must request a determination of project eligibility by September 2 (see *Conditions*, below). Public access, unless controlling a population of ch. NR40 [prohibited species](#)

Funding

Grants may cover up to 75% of total project costs. Up to \$50,000 is available for small-scale projects and \$150,000 is available for large-scale projects.

Reimbursements

One grant advance is available for up to 25% of the total grant award. One partial payment is available per year. 10% of the grant award is retained until approval of deliverables and reimbursement documentation.

Eligible projects

[Large-Scale Population Management](#) projects will result in long-term, multi-season suppression of one or more established populations of aquatic invasive species. Projects are large in scale, affecting a substantial portion of a lake, stream reach, or wetland.

Projects that address multiple populations across a region should employ a strategic approach to managing multiple populations, prioritizing control actions in a way that ensures wise spending of grant funds. For example, a regional wetland control project might focus on populations that threaten high-functioning natural wetlands or focus on small, more easily controlled populations.

[Small-Scale Population Management](#) projects will maintain a low abundance of one or more aquatic invasive species populations or further reduce their size. Projects should implement management activities with the goal of continued suppression of the target species where the actions are unlikely to affect the entire lake, stream reach or wetland. Projects should be designed to result in long-term, multi-season suppression of one or more established populations of the target species.

Conditions

All projects must employ an integrated pest management approach, focusing on long-term suppression of pests or their damage, considering all the available pest control practices. Integrated pest management projects will be informed by current, comprehensive information on pest life cycles and

the interactions among pests and the environment. Integrated pest management will include more than one management practice. See program guidance [Appendix I: Integrated Pest Management](#).

Practices eligible for inclusion in an integrated pest management strategy include:

- Prevention
- Biological control
- Biomanipulation
- Nutrient management
- Habitat manipulation
- Modification of cultural practices
- Pesticide application
- Water level manipulation
- Mechanical removal
- Population monitoring
- Other approved methods

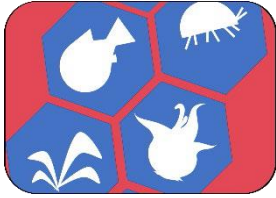
Most control actions will have non-target impacts. Pesticide applications may be approved when other pest control methods are considered, and when pesticide applications are conducted with the goal of removing only the target species.

AIS control projects must be consistent with an approved recommendation in a management plan. An applicant must request a determination of eligibility for one or more recommendations in a current management plan at least 60 days prior to the application deadline. The request must include 1) a cover letter with a brief description of the activities proposed for grant funding, 2) The citation of the supporting recommendation(s) in the plan, 3) a complete copy of the management plan, and 4) a summary of any public comments received. For more information, see the section on eligibility determinations at the end of program guidance [Appendix B: Management Planning](#).

For AIS control projects, a current plan has a completion date of no more than 5 years prior to submittal of the recommendation for approval. The department may determine that a longer lifespan is appropriate for a given management plan if the applicant can demonstrate it has been actively implemented and updated during its lifespan. However, a point-intercept survey of the aquatic plant community conducted within 5 years of the year an applicant applies for a grant is required. The department may also determine a survey more recent than 5 years is necessary.

Monitoring and assessment are an integral part of adaptive management and critical for making good decisions. All AIS Control projects must include monitoring and evaluation, employing department-approved methods where they exist. Projects that include prevention activities are likely to fare better during application review and ranking. For more information, see program guidance [Section 6: Developing a Budget](#), which contains cost containment measures and a list of department-approved protocols.

Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grants – Research & Demonstration



It is often helpful to take a knowledge-generating approach to natural resources management. Aquatic invasive species research and development projects should have the goal of increasing scientific understanding of the ecological and economic implications of AIS and management, and to assess innovative techniques for prevention, containment and control. Projects should be cooperative activities between a grantee and the department.

Prerequisites

Eligible organization
Submission of a pre-proposal
Invitation to submit a formal application

Funding

Grants may cover up to 75% of total project costs.
Up to \$500,000 is available annually.

Reimbursements

One grant advance is available for up to 25% of the total grant award.
One partial payment is available per year.
10% of the grant award is retained until approval of deliverables and reimbursement documentation.

Eligible projects

AIS [Research & Demonstration](#) projects should focus on increasing scientific understanding of the ecological and economic implications of AIS, AIS control and management, and prevention and control within a socio-ecological context. Projects may assess experimental and innovative techniques for the prevention, containment and control of AIS.

Pre-proposal

Pre-proposals must be submitted to the department by June 1 each year to be considered for funding. Send pre-proposal to DNRSurfaceWaterGrants@wisconsin.gov. Pre-proposals shall include:

- Research question
- Project goals and objectives
- Research methods
- Estimated costs
- Project timeline

Pre-proposals received will undergo an internal review in order to identify high priority projects based on current scientific needs. Successful pre-proposals will be invited to submit a full final grant proposal application, which must be received by no later than November 1 of each year.

Surface Water Education Grants



Education projects reach people with information about how surface waters work, their importance, and how we can protect them. Eligible projects might focus on the quality of aquatic ecosystems, their beneficial uses, ecological condition, and the threats or challenges they face. Projects often contribute data and other products to planning efforts. Funding is available for lakes, rivers, wetlands and watersheds. In addition, funding is available to support the formation and development of river management organizations.

Prerequisites

Eligible organization

Applicants must submit their pre-proposal by September 2, applications are due November 1.

Funding

Grants may be awarded for up to 67% of total project costs, up to \$5,000.

The maximum combined annual amount of all education and planning grants per waterbody is \$50,000.

Reimbursements

One grant advance is available for up to 75% of the total grant award.

25% of the grant award is retained until approval of deliverables and reimbursement documentation.

Eligible projects

[Surface Water Information & Education projects](#) collect data to better understand waterbody condition and disseminate that information to broaden public understanding. Projects may also focus on surface water condition, quality, protection and restoration.

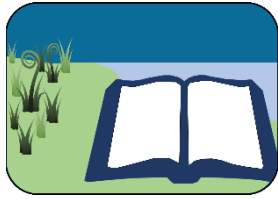
[Aquatic Invasive Species Information & Education projects](#) often collect data on AIS populations, focus on AIS identification, communicate information about threats and effects, and how to prevent spread or control existing populations.

[Training & Skill Development projects](#) can help a grantee fund workshops or other training programs for volunteers or other participants involved in another lake or river planning or management project.

[Organization Development projects](#) help an organization develop the capacity to carry out planning or management work. An organization may build capacity by growing its membership, enhancing relationships with partners and building skills and resources. Projects may also assist an organization to formulate goals and objectives for other surface water planning or management projects.

[River Management Organization Formation projects](#) can be used to provide programs and materials to assist in forming a river management organization. Eligible activities include training, facilitated planning programs and workshops, development, printing and dissemination of information, surveys or other materials designed to understand or attract members.

Surface Water Planning Grants



Surface water planning grants can be used to assess surface water quality or to create a plan outlining future management actions for the benefit of surface water. Planning projects must lay the groundwork to protect or improve surface water, prevent pollution, prevent aquatic invasive species, or protect or improve aquatic ecosystems, including biological populations and habitat. For more details, see program guidance [Appendix B: Management Planning](#).

Prerequisites

Eligible organization

Applicants must submit their pre-proposal by September 2, applications are due November 1.

Funding

Grants may be awarded for up to 67% of total project costs, up to \$10,000.

No more than 20% of the funding for a planning project may support education and outreach activities.

The maximum combined annual amount of all education and planning grants per waterbody is \$50,000.

Reimbursements

One grant advance is available for up to 75% of the total grant award.

25% of the grant award is retained until approval of deliverables and reimbursement documentation.

Eligible projects

[Preparing to Plan projects](#) take the first steps toward a comprehensive management plan. Eligible projects inventory and identify data gaps, collect new data, conduct condition assessments following the [Wisconsin Consolidated Assessment and Listing Methodology \(WisCALM\)](#), identify management problems, inventory historical management, or assess planning needs to scope and scale a project.

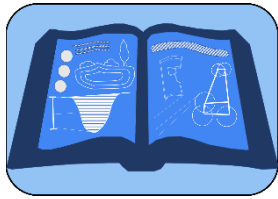
[Management Plans & Plan Update projects](#) write a focused management plan to address a management challenge or update a focused or comprehensive management plan when necessary. Updates to management plans that have been implemented will have priority over those that have not. Required elements for management plans can be found in program guidance [Appendix B: Management Planning](#).

[Organization & Community Assessment projects](#) focus on the social dimensions of collaborative planning projects. See program guidance [Appendix C: Social Science Tools](#). Projects may identify stakeholders, assess a community's capacity, identify values or define management goals or objectives.

[Water Quality, Watershed, or Aquatic Life Assessment projects](#) attempt to understand ecological condition and contribute to planning and management. These projects often collect or assemble and analyze data on waterbodies, biological populations, or watersheds. Eligible projects might conduct WisCALM assessments, conduct field surveys, inventory stressors, or predict (model) the outcome of management actions.

[Pre-Implementation projects](#) provide a transition between planning and implementation. Design work may be required before a project is 'shovel-ready'. A pre-implementation project might result in engineering plans, site assessments, modelling or design plans. Projects should contribute to the implementation of projects that will benefit surface water. Projects related to dredging feasibility must focus on evaluating alternatives, determining sources, and finding long-term water quality solutions.

Comprehensive Management Planning for Lakes & Watersheds



A strategic plan can lay the foundation for good management decisions for years to come. A comprehensive management planning project will take a hard look at a waterbody or watershed to determine condition and quality. It will identify threats, problems and causes, while providing strategic direction and timeline for implementation of management objectives. The plan will strive to understand your community, its goals, and suggest actions to accomplish them. Funding is available for writing new plans and updating existing plans. For more details, see program guidance [Appendix B: Management Planning](#).

Prerequisites

Eligible organization

Applicants must submit their pre-proposal by September 2, applications are due November 1.

Funding

Grants may be awarded for up to 67% of total project costs, up to \$25,000.

Phased projects may be undertaken simultaneously or in succession.

The maximum combined annual amount of all education and planning grants per waterbody is \$50,000.

Reimbursements

One grant advance is available for up to 75% of the total grant award.

25% of the grant award is retained until approval of deliverables and reimbursement documentation.

Eligible projects

[Comprehensive Management Planning](#) projects will result in a new or updated comprehensive management plan. A management plan is a dynamic document that presents baseline information, explores management challenges, defines management goals and objectives, and provides strategic direction for selecting management actions and planning activities to accomplish plan objectives. The plan should present a set of recommended management actions, and include a plan for implementation, progress assessment, and future updates. Comprehensive plans will address in-water, shoreline, and watershed conditions. See program guidance [Appendix B: Management Planning](#).

Conditions

A description of the public review process, a summary of comments, and the steps the grantee will take to adopt the plan must be submitted along with the plan at the same time the grantee requests final payment for the planning project.

Plans must contain the core elements identified in program guidance [Appendix B: Management Planning](#).

The department will review submitted plans and may require modifications prior to final payment.

Plan recommendations must be approved in order to be eligible for implementation under the surface water management grant program. A grantee may request a determination of eligibility of one or more recommendations for a management grant at the time the grantee requests final payment on the planning grant.

Surface Water Management Grants – Healthy Lakes & Rivers



Healthy Lakes & Rivers is a subprogram of the Surface Water Management grant program that focuses on shoreland landowners that want to install practices on their property to improve habitat and water quality. Healthy Lakes & Rivers grants support five simple and inexpensive best practices that may be installed in the littoral, transition/buffer, and upland zones of shoreland properties. Practices must follow department guidelines published in the

Healthy Lakes and Rivers Action Plan and supporting technical guidance. See program guidance [Appendix D: Healthy Lakes & Rivers](#). Detailed information is available on the Healthy Lakes & Rivers website: <https://healthylakeswi.com/>

Prerequisites

Eligible organization

Applicants must submit their pre-proposal by September 2, applications are due November 1. First-time applicants must provide design plans for approval before implementation. Projects must occur within 1,000 feet of the ordinary high-water mark of a lake, or within 300 feet of the landward side of the floodplain.

Funding

Grants may be awarded for up to 75% of total project costs, up to \$25,000. \$1,000 in state cost-share is available per practice. At least 90% of the DNR cost share of a project must be spent on implementation. Tangential costs like project management or technical assistance may make up no more than 10% of the DNR cost share, calculated on a per project basis.

Reimbursements

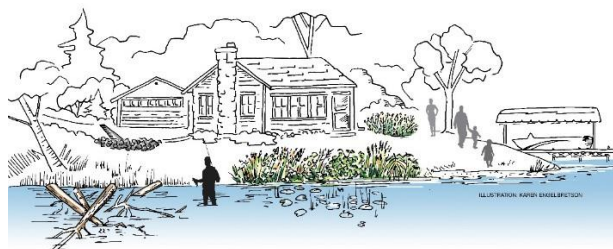
One grant advance is available for up to 25% of the total grant award. A grantee may request up to 2 partial payments overall, no more frequently than one per year. 10% of the grant award is retained until approval of deliverables and reimbursement documentation.

Eligible projects

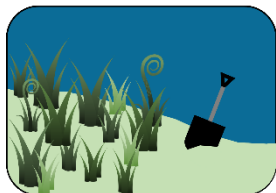
Best practices include fish sticks, native plantings, diversion practices, rain gardens and rock infiltration. Fish sticks are not eligible for rivers.

Conditions

Operation and maintenance requirements are prescribed by the department and must be followed. A signed conservation contract indicating a commitment to operate and maintain the practices' function for at least 10 years must be obtained for all participating landowners.



Surface Water Management Grants – Surface Water Restoration



Surface water restoration grants help you implement protection and restoration actions. Choose from a set of best practices to make a difference right away. Unlike plan implementation grants, these projects *don't* require a management plan, however, projects shall follow the appropriate NRCS standards published in Appendix E: Surface Water Restoration. Applications shall be submitted with a project design plan.

Prerequisites

Eligible organization

Applicants must submit their pre-proposal by September 2, applications are due November 1.

Applications shall be submitted with a project design plan

Public access required for projects that enhance in-water habitat (e.g., aeration, biomanipulation)

Funding

Grants cover up to 75% of total project costs, \$50,000 for lakes and wetlands, \$25,000 for rivers.

Wetland incentives are also available: these are not cost-shared; each incentive grant is \$10,000.

Reimbursements

One grant advance is available for up to 25% of the total grant award.

A grantee may request up to 4 partial payments overall, no more frequently than one per year.

10% of the grant award is retained until approval of deliverables and reimbursement documentation.

Eligible projects

Shoreland protection projects must follow the standards of [s. ATCP 50](#), as published in the NRCS [Field Office Technical Guide](#) for Wisconsin, Section IV: Practice Standards and Specifications. We included direct links for each practice in program guidance [Appendix E: Surface Water Restoration Practice Standards](#).

- Critical area stabilization
- Diversions
- Filter strips
- Grade stabilization structures on artificial or non-navigable watercourses
- Riparian buffers
- Water bars
- Sediment and water basins
- Pervious pavement
- Rain gardens
- Vegetation planting
- Urban pollution and runoff control
- Streambank or shoreline protection
- Impervious area removal within 35 feet of the ordinary high-water mark

[In-Water Management projects](#) protect or improve in-water conditions. Eligible activities include the installation of department-approved habitat structures, culvert or road crossing removal or modification and aquatic re-vegetation. For connectivity projects, see program guidance [Appendix F: Surface Water Connectivity](#). Aeration projects are eligible if dissolved oxygen levels are below water quality standards and the project will provide adequate supply. Aeration for sediment translocation is not eligible. Other projects are subject to department approval.

[Wetland Restoration projects](#) will help restore or enhance a prior converted or existing wetland. Projects must occur on hydric soils and implement the best practices for wetland restoration or enhancement.

Projects must follow the [NRCS standards](#) for either [Wetland Restoration \(657\)](#) or [Wetland Enhancement \(659\)](#). Eligible activities included drainage tile disablement, ditch plugs and fills, water level manipulation or vegetation enhancement, but cannot be necessary to achieve mitigation standards.

[Wetland Incentives](#) are available for grantees that have completed a comprehensive land use plan that includes a recommendation for wetland enhancement or restoration. Incentive grants are \$10,000 each with no cost-sharing required. Activities are the same as those for Wetland Restoration projects, above.

[Ordinance Development](#) projects help a grantee develop local regulations to support water quality, aquatic life, and habitat. Ordinances include lake use, boating, conservancy, wetland, shoreland, floodplain, construction erosion control and others. Eligible activities include development, legal fees, facility rental, training for compliance and enforcement, and presentation for adoption as well as an assessment of the administrative and enforcement capacity and implementation costs.

Note: Comprehensive land use plans are defined by Wisconsin state statute, s. 66.1001 (1) (a)

Conditions

Projects must occur within 1,000 feet of the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) of a lake or wetland, within 300 feet of the OHWM of a river, or to the landward side of a flood plain, whichever is greater.

Unless state-owned, a grantee shall have control over the restored property and ensure its conservation value is maintained for at least 20 years with easements, deed restrictions or recorded contracts.

Streambank or shoreline protection projects may contain structural practices (e.g. rip rap) where the site assessment determines bioengineering and vegetation management will not control erosion. Structural practices must include shoreland habitat restoration following the NRCS [shoreland habitat standard 643A](#). Planting dimensions shall be a minimum of 35 feet deep with an exception for principal structures, extending the entire length of the project or property, save an optional viewing and access corridor, and shall include structurally diverse plantings. Refer to the technical standard for more detail.

Project design plan

Although surface water restoration projects do not require a comprehensive management plan, they still must be well-planned and appropriate for the site. **A project design plan includes the following elements:**

Project implementation timeline

Establish goals and objectives for the project and outline tasks to accomplish them. Organize the tasks on a schedule, include a timeline that indicates when each phase of the step will start and end, and who will accomplish the task.

Maintenance plan

Describe how the project will be managed or maintained to maintain its conservation value.

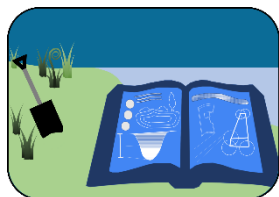
Site map

Clearly indicate the location and bounds of the project

Additional supporting documents (if applicable)

Many of the projects fundable under this section require design; some of them require engineering. You may include additional materials that will help biologists understand what the project will accomplish. Consider including schematics, site plans, a monitoring plan and schedule, landscape designs or vegetation planting lists as appropriate for the project.

Surface Water Management Grants – Management Plan Implementation



Management plan implementation projects will always implement an approved recommendation found in a surface water management plan. Projects will improve or protect surface water or aquatic ecosystems. Eligible activities include the actions necessary to implement the recommendation. Detailed instructions related to management plans and their required elements, and how to go about getting recommendation and implementation projects approved can be found in program guidance [Appendix B: Management Planning](#).

Prerequisites

Eligible organization

Applicants must submit their pre-proposal by September 2, applications are due November 1. Applicants must request a determination of project eligibility by September 2 (see *Conditions*, below). Public access, for projects that enhance in-water habitat (e.g., aeration, biomanipulation, habitat work).

Funding

Grants cover up to 75% of total project costs, \$200,000 for lakes and wetlands, \$50,000 for rivers and ordinance development.

Reimbursements

One grant advance is available for up to 25% of the total grant award, not to exceed \$25,000. A grantee may request up to 4 partial payments overall, no more frequently than one per year. 10% of the grant award is retained until approval of deliverables and reimbursement documentation.

Eligible projects

Management plan implementation grants support a broad range of projects, some examples are below:

Nonpoint Source Pollution Control projects reduce the loading of nutrients and sediment into the waterbody. A wide range of best management practices are available depending on the pollution source and location. For additional examples, see the list of practices outlined under s. NR 154.04. Applications should be specific as to the BMPs proposed and their location.

Habitat Restoration projects improve the shoreline, nearshore or upland habitat in a way that will significantly improve the ecological condition of surface water or aquatic life.

Water Quality projects address problems related to water quality that remain after best management practices have controlled nonpoint source pollution. Activities include alum treatments or other solutions that support a return to the natural characteristics of a lake, wetland or river.

Management Staffing grants provide funding for implementation and support. The project must result in the implementation of one or more approved recommendations in one or more management plans. Applications must be submitted with a position description, including goals, objectives and tasks, and the percentage of time assigned to each activity. For grants of over 1,000 hours, the department may require semi-annual performance reviews.

Applied Management studies employ a research-based approach to increase understanding of surface water management. Projects must implement an approved recommendation from a management plan;

some will involve close collaboration with community groups. Projects will employ innovative approaches, experiments, or otherwise increase understanding waterbody protection and restoration.

[Landowner Incentives](#) encourage the implementation of an approved management plan recommendation. Payments may provide incentive for installing conservation best practices, participating in program-approved initiatives, or taking agricultural land out of production. Landowner incentive costs do not include the cost of implementation of the best management practice. Applications must include a justification, a description of the payment and documentation process, and expected outcomes. Incentive payments may make up no more than 10% of total project cost of a grant. One-time or annual incentive payments should include compensation for a period no greater than 3 years or the duration of the grant period.

Conditions

It is better to treat the ultimate cause of a problem rather than repeatedly treating the symptoms. External sources or causative factors that create adverse conditions must be controlled to the best practical extent possible before a project is eligible under this section. Eligible projects must be likely to meet the management objectives or achieve state water quality standards.

It is important that state dollars are invested in projects that will maintain their conservation value over time. Unless the property is owned by the state, the grantee shall have control over the property through ownership, easements, deed restrictions or recorded contracts such that the sites being restored with grant funds maintain their conservation value for at least 20 years.

Implementation projects must be consistent with an approved recommendation in a management plan. A grantee must request a determination of eligibility for one or more recommendations in a current management plan at least 60 days prior to the application deadline. The request must include 1) a cover letter with a brief description of the activities proposed for grant funding, 2) The citation of the supporting recommendation(s) in the plan, 3) a complete copy of the management plan, and 4) a summary of any public comments received.

Management plans establish project eligibility. Plans must supply enough information for a biologist to evaluate the recommendation. Biologists will consider ecological condition, management goals, recommendations and alternatives, management history, and stakeholder views. A plan funded with a Surface Water Planning Grant will provide this information. Other plans (e.g. Nine Key Element Plans, Total Maximum Daily Load implementation plans, county land and water plans, aquatic plant management plans) may also provide the necessary information to establish project eligibility. For more information, see the section on eligibility determinations at the end of program guidance [Appendix B: Management Planning](#).

Eligible plans have a completion date of no more than 10 years prior to the year in which an implementation grant application is submitted. The department may determine a longer lifespan is appropriate if the applicant can demonstrate a plan has been actively implemented and updated during its lifespan.