

Report to
Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse
NR , Wis. Adm. Code
Natural Resources Board Order No.

Wisconsin Statutory Authority: Sections 26.38 and 227.11 (2) (a), Stats.

Federal Authority:

There are no known federal regulations that apply to the Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program (WFLGP) or the Weed Management Area Private Forest Grant Program (WMA-PFGP). Federal funds distributed through subch. VII and subch. XIII are subject to the rules of the specific program.

Comparison of Adjacent States:

There are no known programs in adjacent states regarding cost-sharing grants for invasive plant control. Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, and Iowa primarily use federal cost-sharing programs for development and implementation of forest stewardship plans on NIPF lands. Programs include USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS): Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP); and USDA-Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Illinois is the only one with a state funded cost-sharing program for NIPF. This program covers practices similar to WFLGP and is funded from a timber harvest fee.

Court Decisions Directly Relevant: Not applicable.

Analysis of the Rule - Rule Effect - Reason for the Rule:

A review of the 12 year old WFLGP was completed by the Division of Forestry's Private Land Management Specialist Team to identify ways to streamline administration, more efficiently use the dollars available and to continue to address landowner and forest resource needs. The team included internal forestry and wildlife staff, and external landowner, consulting forester and educator representatives.

As directed in 2007-09 Biennial Budget (2007 Wis. Act 20), the department is proposing to create subch. XIII NR 47 to establish the rules for administering and implementing a cost-share grant program for controlling invasive plants in weed management areas (WMA-PFGP).

The proposed rules address 1) revision to the current WFLGP for NIPF landowners in subch. VII NR 47 Admin. Code and 2) the establishment of WMA-PFGP in subch. XIII NR 47, Admin. Code.

Creation of subch. XIII NR 47, Admin. Code (WMS-PFGP) will enable the department to award funds to groups to control invasive plants on NIPF lands in weed management areas, by defining application requirements, eligible practices and costs, and rules for administration.

Agency Procedures for Promulgation:

Procedures include solicitation of public comments on the economic impact, three public hearings, solicitation of written comments, final adoption by Natural Resources Board, Legislative Review, and final promulgation.

Description of any Forms (attach copies if available): Not applicable.

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