

Chapter NR 50

ADMINISTRATION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION  
PROGRAM GRANTS AND STATE AIDS

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Note: The following recreational aids programs are found elsewhere: Motorcycle Recreation Program, ch. NR 65 and Recreational Boating Facilities Program, ch. NR 7

History: Chapter NR 50 as it existed on March 31, 1975 was repealed and a new chapter NR 50 was created, effective April 1, 1975.

**NR 50.01 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to establish procedures for implementation of various recreational aids programs under ss. 20.370 (4) (bx), 23.09 (11), (12), (17m) and (26), 23.30 (3) (h) and 350.12 (4), Stats., and 16 U.S.C. ss. 460d, 460L-4, et seq.

History: Cr. Register, May, 1983, No. 329, eff. 6-1-83; am. Register, April, 1984, No. 340, eff. 5-1-84.

**NR 50.02 Applicability.** The provisions of this chapter are applicable to all sponsors of recreational aid programs under ss. 20.370 (4) (bx), 23.09 (11), (12), (17m) and (26), 23.30 (3) (h) and 350.12 (4), Stats., and 16 U.S.C. ss. 460d, 460L-4, et seq.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1975, No. 231, eff. 4-1-75; cr. (6), Register, March, 1977, No. 255, eff. 4-1-77; cr. (7) and (8), Register, June, 1980, No. 294, eff. 7-1-80; cr. (9), Register, September, 1980, No. 297, eff. 10-1-80; r. and recr. Register, May, 1983, No. 329, eff. 6-1-83; am. Register, April, 1984, No. 340, eff. 5-1-84.

**NR 50.03 Definitions.** (1) "Department" means department of natural resources.

(2) "Secretary" means secretary, department of natural resources.

(3) "Applicant" means unit of government applying for a grant.

(4) "LAWCON" means land and water conservation fund act of 1965.

(5) (a) "Acquisition project" includes the acquisition of land or rights thereto for a well defined outdoor recreation area or purpose.

(b) "Development project" includes the development of structures, utilities, facilities or landscaping necessary for outdoor recreation use of an area.

(6) "Approval" means the signing by the secretary or designee of a project agreement resulting in encumbering a specified amount of federal or state aid funds for a specific purpose.

(7) "Assistance" means funds made available by the department to a sponsor in support of a public outdoor recreation project.

(8) "Contingency fund" means that part of the LAWCON apportionment that is not immediately apportioned to counties or state agencies but held by the department to meet high priority, unforeseen, or emergency needs.

(9) "Project agreement" means a contract between the sponsor and department setting forth the mutual obligations with regard to a portion or all of a specific project.

(10) "Sponsor" means local unit of government, state agency, Indian tribe or snowmobile club receiving assistance.

(11) "Snowmobile trail" means a marked corridor on public property or on private lands subject to public easement or lease, designated for use by snowmobile operators by the governmental agency having jurisdiction, but excluding highways except those highways on which the roadway is not normally maintained for other vehicular traffic by the removal of snow.

(12) "District" means one of the 6 field administrative offices of the department of natural resources.

(13) "Project period" means the period of time specified in the agreement during which all work must be accomplished.

(14) "Basic facilities" means the minimum improvements necessary to enable people to make use of recreation sites with minimum maintenance.

(15) "State outdoor recreation plan" means the comprehensive statewide outdoor recreation plan required by the land and water conservation fund act.

(16) "Enforcement" means the detection and prevention of crimes and civil violations, and the arrest of those persons who violate such laws. To qualify for state aids under ss. 30.79 and 350.12, Stats., and ss. NR 50.12 and 50.13, officers involved in the "enforcement" of ss. 30.50 to 30.80 or ch. 350, Stats., must have the authority to make arrests for the violations of the laws they are employed to enforce.

(17) "Force account" means the performance of a development or maintenance project with the forces and resources of the sponsor, including personal services, equipment and materials.

(18) "Conservancy zone" is the designation a unit of government may give to a natural area held for the preservation of open space and supporting environmental education, nature interpretation and research activities.

(19) "Qualified naturalist" means a person who has had academic training and/or experience in ecology and outdoor education.

(20) "Fringe benefits" are employers' contributions or expenses for social security, employee's life and health insurance plans, unemployment insurance coverage, worker's compensation insurance, pension retirement plans, and employee benefits in the form of regular compensation during authorized absences from the job (i.e. annual, sick, court or mili-

(5) In addition to conditions listed in sub. (4), the general provisions of s. NR 50.05 also apply.

History: Cr. Register, June, 1980, No. 294, eff. 7-1-80; emerg. cr. (1) (b), eff. 10-15-80; r. and recr. Register, May, 1983, No. 329, eff. 6-1-83.

**NR 50.15 Wildlife habitat development on county forests.** (1) **PURPOSE.** The purpose of this section is to establish standards for the implementation of a grant-in-aid program for forest wildlife habitat improvement on county forest lands entered under s. 28.11, Stats., pursuant to s. 23.09 (17m), Stats.

(2) **APPLICABILITY.** Provisions of this section are applicable only to counties having county lands entered under s. 28.11, Stats.

(3) **ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.** (a) Counties may receive aids on a priority basis for:

1. Maintenance of intolerant forest types in danger of being replaced through natural conversion to forest types of lower value to wildlife; maintenance of existing forest openings.

2. Deer yard improvement; creation of forest openings.

3. Trail seeding and maintenance road and trail construction.

(4) **ALLOWABLE COSTS, BILLINGS AND AUDITS.** (a) One hundred percent of approved eligible project costs will be funded.

(b) Fifty percent advance payments may be made at the time of project approval if requested by sponsor.

(5) In addition to conditions listed in sub. (4), the general provisions of s. NR 50.05 also apply.

(6) **USEFUL LIFE.** (a) The maximum useful life of habitat development activities on lands withdrawn from s. 28.11, Stats., and the title to which is transferred by the county to other than a public agency, may not exceed the following guidelines:

ACTIVITY	MAXIMUM USEFUL LIFE IN YEARS
All weather roads	20
Openings	10
Hunter access trail construction	10
Aspen regeneration	10
Tree planting	10

(b) In the event a reimbursement is due the department, the calculation of such amount shall be based on a straight line depreciation of the original value of the development over its maximum useful life as specified in par. (a).

History: Cr. Register, June, 1980, No. 294, eff. 7-1-80; r. and recr. Register, May, 1983, No. 329, eff. 6-1-83.

**NR 50.16 Conservancy zone grant program.** (1) **REIMBURSEMENT.** Cities, villages and towns may receive up to 100% reimbursement of funds used for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment on trail development, wildlife habitat improvement, shelter facilities and similar projects on municipally owned conservancy zones or areas of 160 acres or more.

(2) **GENERAL PROVISION.** (a) A conservancy zone or area developed with funds from the program shall not be converted to any other use without prior consent of the department secretary or designee in writing. The department shall require the payback of all funds granted.

(b) Facilities developed with funds from the program shall be open to the general public.

(c) To be eligible the municipality must have an established nature study program under the supervision of a qualified naturalist.

(3) **ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.** Types of projects eligible for funds may include but are not limited to the following:

(a) Improvement of accessibility which includes materials and equipment to create or extend trails including bridges, shelters, observation platforms and trail markers.

(b) Identification and definition of boundaries including signing and surveying.

(c) Construction of structures for instruction, the storage of instructional equipment.

(d) Instructional equipment including display cabinets, cages, tanks and related furnishings.

(4) **ALLOWABLE COSTS, BILLINGS, AND AUDITS.** (a) To be eligible for reimbursement, costs must have been incurred within the project period unless written retroactivity has been granted by the department secretary or designee.

(b) Force account work is eligible for reimbursement. Fringe benefits, indirect costs, and donated labor, equipment and materials shall not be allowable costs in force account projects.

(c) Billings may be submitted upon completion of a project or an usable portion of a project.

(d) Final payment will be dependent on completion of the project in accordance with the conditions described in the approved project agreement.

(5) **PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATION.** (a) An application shall be submitted on prescribed department forms including a resolution officially adopted by the governing unit.

(b) Environmental assessment information, cost estimates, specifications, and other information shall be furnished to evaluate the application.

(c) If applications for aids exceed the funds available, the department shall prorate the funds available to the municipalities.

History: Cr. Register, September, 1980, No. 297, eff. 10-1-80.