

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES FISCAL ESTIMATE AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Type of Estimate and Analysis

Original Updated Corrected

Administrative Rule Chapter, Title and Number

NR 47 Subchapter VII– The Private Forest Landowner Grant Program, and Subchapter XIII – The Weed Management Area Private Forest Grant Program. FR-19-11

Subject

NR 47 Subch. VII – Rule revision and Subch. XIII – Rule creation.

Fund Sources Affected

GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEG-S

Chapter 20 , Stats. Appropriations Affected

s. 20.370 (5) (av), Stats.

Fiscal Effect of Implementing the Rule

No Fiscal Effect
 Indeterminate

Increase Existing Revenues
 Decrease Existing Revenues

Increase Costs
 Could Absorb Within Agency’s Budget
 Decrease Costs

The Rule Will Impact the Following (Check All That Apply)

State’s Economy

Local Government Units

Specific Businesses/Sectors

Public Utility Rate Payers

Would Implementation and Compliance Costs Be Greater Than \$20 million?

Yes No

Policy Problem Addressed by the Rule

Wis. Stats. 26.38 Forest Grant Program (2m) (a) The Department of Natural Resources shall establish a program to award grants for developing and implementing forest stewardship management plans by owners of nonindustrial private forest (NIPF) land and award grants to groups of interested parties for projects to control invasive plants in weed management areas.

Subch. VII revisions will amend policy issues and implement updates and improvements to the program related to the implementation and administration, including practice description and priorities, grant calculations, allowable costs, funding sources, and eligibility of applicants who previously failed to use or misused grant funds.

Subch. XIII rule development will implement a cost-sharing grant program for controlling invasive plants in weed management areas on NIPF lands. This includes administration, practice description and priorities, grant calculations, allowable costs, and eligibility for applicants and practices.

Summary of Rule’s Economic and Fiscal Impact on Specific Businesses, Business Sectors, Public Utility Rate Payers, Local Governmental Units and the State’s Economy as a Whole (Include Implementation and Compliance Costs Expected to be Incurred)

Subch. VII – There will be no change to the current economic impact based on the proposed rule revisions as the amount of funding and eligibility are not changing. NIPF landowners wishing to apply for grants to create a forest stewardship plan or implement a forestry practice on their land, cooperating foresters, and resource managers or other private businesses that may be hired by a landowner to implement a practice under the grant program have been positively impacted by this voluntary cost-share grant program from its inception.

Subch. XIII – There will be a small positive impact with the implementation of this new voluntary cost-share grant program, with \$60,000.00 awarded annually. The impact will be to any party, organized landowner group, or organization owning less than 500 acres of NIPF land wishing to apply for a grant for the control of invasive plants; federal, state, and local agencies interested in the control of invasive plants on NIPF land; and any cooperating forester, restoration/landscape consultant, farm coop or other private businesses that may be

hired to implement a practice under the grant program.
For both subchapters, there are administration costs that will be absorbed by the department.
During the solicitation period, one comment was received from a cooperating forester stating that there would not be an economic impact associated with the proposed rule change and rule creation.

Benefits of Implementing the Rule and Alternative(s) to Implementing the Rule

Subch. VII – Implementing the rule changes would allow needed improvements and efficiencies in the implementation and administration of the program. The alternative is to continue with the program as is.
Subch. XIII – Benefits of implementing this rule would be to the interested parties who want to control invasive plants or implement a practice for invasive plants. There are currently very limited funds available to persons for controlling invasive plants. Implementing this rule would be well received by all interested parties. If this rule is not implemented, NIPF landowners will either continue paying for the control of invasive plants or they will choose not to control due to cost restrictions.

Long Range Implications of Implementing the Rule

Subch. VII – Increased efficiency in administering the grant program and increased understanding by partners and landowners.
Subch. XIII – Development of a cost-sharing grant program benefits weed management groups who have interest in controlling invasive plants on NIPF land.

Compare With Approaches Being Used by Federal Government

There are no known federal rules or programs that apply directly to the control of invasive plants on NIPF lands. There are several programs that provide cost-sharing for development and implementation of forest stewardship plans on NIPF lands. However, the programs were developed for, and primarily focus on agricultural lands, and the funding is inconsistent. 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).

Compare With Approaches Being Used by Neighboring States (Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota)

There are no known programs in neighboring 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-NRCS: EQIP and CSP; and USDA-FSA, CRP. Illinois is the only one with a state funded cost-sharing program for NIPF lands. The program covers practices similar to WFLGP and is funded from a timber harvest fee.

Name and Phone Number of Contact Person

Carol Nielsen (608) 267-7508 and Thomas Boos II (608) 266-9276