

## Chapter NR 50

### ADMINISTRATION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION PROGRAM GRANTS AND STATE AIDS

NR 50.01	Purpose.	NR 50.125	Law enforcement aids to counties (s. 23.33, Stats.).
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NR 50.12	Law enforcement aids to counties (ch. 350, Stats.).		

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

**Note:** Chapter NR 50 as it existed on March 31, 1975 was repealed and a new ch. 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 (5) (cy), 23.09 (11), (12), (17m), (19), (20) and (26), 23.094, 23.195, 23.30 (3) (h), 30.275, 30.277, 30.79 and 350.12 (4), Stats., and 16 USC 460d, 460L-4, et seq., 669 et seq., 1261, 1262 and 26 USC 9503 (6), 9511.

**History:** Cr. Register, May, 1983, No. 329, eff. 6-1-83; am. Register, April, 1984, No. 340, eff. 5-1-84; am. Register, November, 1986, No. 371, eff. 12-1-86; am. Register, April, 1989, No. 400, eff. 5-1-89; am. Register, February, 1996, No. 482, eff. 3-1-96; correction made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register, December, 1999, No. 528.

**NR 50.02 Applicability.** The provisions of this chapter are applicable to all sponsors of recreational aid programs under ss. 20.370 (5) (cy), 23.09 (11), (12), (17m), (19), (20) and (26), 23.094, 23.195, 23.30 (3) (h), 30.275, 30.277, 30.79 and 350.12 (4), Stats., and 16 USC 460d, 460L-4, et seq., 669 et seq., 1261, 1262 and 26 USC 9503 (6), 9511.

**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; am. Register, November, 1986, No. 371, eff. 12-1-86; am. Register, April, 1989, No. 400, eff. 5-1-89; am. Register, February, 1996, No. 482, eff. 3-1-96; correction made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register, December, 1999, No. 528.

**NR 50.03 Definitions.** (1) “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.

(2) “Applicant” means unit of government applying for a grant.

(3) “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.

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

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

(6) “Department” means department of natural resources.

(8) “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. 23.33 (9),

30.79, and 350.12, Stats., and ss. NR 50.12, 50.125, and 50.13, officers involved in the “enforcement” of ss. 23.33 or 30.50 to 30.80, Stats., or ch. 350, Stats., must meet the requirements in s. 165.85, Stats., by the end of the patrol period and must have the authority to make arrests for the violations of the laws they are employed to enforce.

(9) “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.

(10) “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 military leave). These contributions and expenses must be equitably distributed to all employee labor activities.

(11) “Indirect costs” are those costs not directly assignable to a grant, program or project. Such costs are generally administrative in nature, are incurred for a common or joint purpose, or are not readily assignable to a project or program.

**Note:** Examples of indirect costs include central office heat, light, utilities, administrative salaries, secretarial services, postage, etc., which are not supported by time reports or other documentation which identifies the expenditure to a particular project or program.

(12) “Inland patrols” means water safety patrol units which operate on waters other than those designated by s. 29.001 (63), Stats.

(13) “LAWCON” means land and water conservation fund act of 1965.

(14) “Major snowmobile bridge rehabilitation” means construction activities, including complete bridge replacement, that are necessary to return a snowmobile bridge or a culvert to a functioning, safe structure.

(15) “Outlying patrols” means water safety patrol units which operate on waters designated in s. 29.001 (63), Stats.

(16) “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.

(17) “Project period” means the period of time specified in the agreement during which all work must be accomplished.

(17m) “Region” means one of 5 field administrative offices of the department.

(18) “Secretary” means secretary, department of natural resources.

(19) “Snowmobile trail maintenance” means the activities associated with establishing and keeping a trail safe and enjoyable to use. Snowmobile trail maintenance activities include

posting signs, brushing, grooming of snow, minor repair of bridges, purchase of liability insurance by counties for snowmobile trails, and acquisition of easements, leases, permits or other agreements for a period of less than 3 years.

(20) "Snowmobile recreation council" has the meaning given in s. 15.347 (7), Stats.

(21) "Snowmobile trail" means a marked corridor on public property or on private land 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.

(22) "Sponsor" means a local unit of government, state agency, Indian tribe, nonprofit conservation organization as defined in s. 23.0955 (1), Stats., or snowmobile club as defined in s. 350.138 (1) (e), Stats., receiving assistance under this chapter.

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

(24) "Snowmobile trail development" means the construction of a trail including grading, initial signing, construction of bridges and other support facilities. Snowmobile trail development also includes the purchase of land in fee simple and the acquisition of interests in land by easement, lease, permit or other agreement or a term of 3 years or greater.

(25) "Snowmobile trail rehabilitation" means trail repair and renovation activities that are necessary to improve a trail for user safety and enjoyment.

**Note:** The repairs or renovation referred to in snowmobile trail rehabilitation may be the improvement of the trail for safety reasons or in response to natural events that adversely affect trail safety, such as clean up of wind storm damage.

**History:** Cr. Register, March, 1975, No. 231, eff. 4-1-75; am. (8), Register, March, 1976, No. 243, eff. 4-1-76; am. (8), Register, October, 1978, No. 274, eff. 11-1-78; cr. (16), Register, May, 1979, No. 281, eff. 6-1-79; cr. (17), Register, June, 1980, No. 294, eff. 7-1-80; cr. (18) and (19), Register, September, 1980, No. 297, eff. 10-1-80; renum. from NR 50.01 and am. (4), (6), (9), (10), (11) and (17), cr. (20) and (21), Register, May, 1983, No. 329, eff. 6-1-83; am. (5), Register, April, 1984, No. 340, eff. 5-1-84; emerg. cr. (22) and (23), eff. 3-15-90, cr. (22) and (23), Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; renum. (1) to (7), (9) to (17), (20) to (23) to be (6), (18), (2), (13), (1), (3), (4), (16), (22), (21), (7), (17), (5), (23), (8) to (12) and (15) and am. (22), r. (8), (18) and (19), cr. (14), (19), (20), (24) and (25), Register, February, 1996, No. 482, eff. 3-1-96; reprinted to restore dropped copy in (10), Register, April, 1998, No. 508; renum. (7) to be (17m) and am., Register, December, 1999, No. 528, eff. 1-1-00; correction in (12) and (15) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register, December, 1999, No. 528; CR 14-062; am. (8) Register September 2015 No. 717, eff. 10-1-15.

**NR 50.05 General provisions.** (1) This section applies to all grant programs governed by this chapter.

(2) Environmental quality is essential and shall be preserved and enhanced.

(3) Local governments shall agree to operate and provide adequate maintenance of recreational areas or facilities purchased or developed with state or federal aids.

(4) Recreational lands purchased or facilities developed under this chapter may not be converted to other uses or to other outdoor recreation uses without approval of the department for all programs and the secretary of the interior for LAWCON projects.

(5) Income accruing to an area receiving assistance during the project period from a source other than the intended recreational use shall be used to reduce the total costs of the project.

(6) Income from the sale of structures must be reimbursed to the appropriate aid program.

(7) Reasonable entrance, service or user fees may be charged to pay for operation and maintenance costs and are subject to department review.

(8) Acquisition of real property shall be in accordance with state and federal guidelines for preparation of appraisals and relocation assistance.

(9) Before development of certain public facilities begins, formal approval may be required from state or federal agencies concerning health, safety or sanitation requirements.

(10) Sponsors shall comply with applicable state or federal regulations concerning bidding and awarding contracts, wage and labor rates, access for the disabled, flood disaster protection, environmental quality and historical preservation.

(11) Sponsors shall comply with Title VI of the civil rights act of 1964, 42 USC 2000d, et seq. and with the regulations promulgated under such act by the secretary of the interior.

(12) Assistance may be given to develop leased real property provided control and tenure of such property is commensurate with the proposed development.

(13) Project expenditures must be within the project period, project scope and project amount as shown on the project agreement.

(14) Billings may be submitted for partial payment or upon completion of the project.

(15) Donated labor, materials, land, or other activities which do not result in an actual expenditure by the sponsor and indirect costs are not allowable in the claim.

(16) Direct costs which are supported by time sheets, vouchers or similar documentation reflecting specific assignment to a project are eligible project costs.

(17) Actual cost of force account labor and equipment is allowable. Equipment rental rates may not exceed the county machinery rates established annually by the department of transportation.

(18) Actual fringe benefits paid as part of the direct labor costs claimed are eligible project costs.

(19) Claims for payment must be submitted within one year of the project termination date.

(20) A request for a project extension must be submitted prior to the project termination date.

(21) All payments are contingent upon final audit. Financial records including all documentation to support entries in the accounting records to substantiate charges for each project must be kept available for review by state or federal officials for a period of 3 years after final payment.

(22) Land acquisition costs may be retroactive upon prior written approval of the department or the secretary of the interior providing the sponsor can demonstrate a need to proceed at this time.

(23) Engineering or planning fees necessary to complete eligible items may be retroactive.

(24) The department may approve variances from nonstatutory requirements of this chapter upon the request of a sponsor when the department determines that variances are essential to effect necessary grant actions or program objectives, and where special circumstances make such variances in the best interest of the program. Before granting a variance, the department shall take into account such factors as good cause and circumstances beyond the control of the sponsor.

(25) Total grant assistance provided under this section shall be limited to a maximum of 50 percent of eligible project costs unless otherwise provided by law.

(26) The department may conduct compliance inspections on properties for which assistance has been provided under this

chapter. The department may require project sponsors to conduct self inspections on these properties.

**History:** Cr. Register, March, 1975, No. 231, eff. 4-1-75; am. (4) (a) 4. and 6., (7) (b) 7., 13., 14. and 17., (7) (c) 1. and 12., (7) (e) and (9), Register, March, 1976, No. 243, eff. 4-1-76; r. and recr. Register, October, 1978, No. 274, eff. 11-1-78; am. (11) and (14) (m), Register, June, 1980, No. 294, eff. 7-1-80; r. and recr. Register, May, 1983, No. 329, eff. 6-1-83; cr. (22) to (25), Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; am. (10) and (18), cr. (26), Register, February, 1996, No. 482, eff. 3-1-96.

**NR 50.06 LAWCON program. (1) PURPOSE.** The purpose of this section is to establish standards for the administration of the land and water conservation fund act of 1965 (LAWCON) under ss. 20.370 (5) (cy) and 23.30 (3) (h), Stats.

**(2) APPLICABILITY.** The provisions of this section are applicable to all towns, counties, villages, cities, Indian tribes, school districts, soil and water conservation districts and state agencies participating in the LAWCON aid program.

**(3) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.** (a) LAWCON funds apportioned to Wisconsin each fiscal year shall be allocated as follows:

1. Fifty percent to local governments;
2. Fifty percent to state agencies.

(b) The federal cost sharing may not exceed 50 percent of the total LAWCON eligible cost of the projects, unless otherwise specified by law.

(c) Funds allocated to local governments and state agencies but not encumbered shall remain allocated for use under this section and shall be available for use during subsequent funding cycles to the extent provided by law.

**(4) GENERAL PROVISIONS.** (a) Applicants are required to submit comprehensive outdoor recreation plans which have been formally approved by resolutions passed by the local governing bodies; or applicants may qualify for eligibility if their proposed projects are identified in approved plans of other units of government. The University of Wisconsin System shall have support for its applications in department approved plans of the communities in which the schools are located. The system and the communities are required to coordinate their respective programs through the comprehensive planning process. The system shall rely on comprehensive outdoor recreation plans which have been formally approved by the local governing bodies.

(b) Priorities in ranking are given to projects based on the following project, activity and applicant criteria:

1. Projects which meet urban needs;
2. Activities for the general public over those for a limited group;
3. Basic over elaborate facilities;
4. Participant over spectator facilities;
5. Projects not having other public or private funds available to them;
6. Projects where a scarcity of recreational land exists;
7. Acquisition over development;
8. Projects which may enhance or preserve natural beauty;
9. Completion of projects already started where possible, when it has been shown those projects are sound and well conceived;
10. Development, when possible, of areas previously acquired;
11. Renovation of existing facilities which are in danger of being lost for public use;
12. Applicants which have not received outdoor recreation funds in the past;
13. Applicants which have good performance records on prior outdoor recreational projects;

14. Applicants which are financially able to adequately maintain and operate the area or facility;

15. Projects which are located where the greatest number of people live and work;

16. Projects which offer safe, rapid and convenient access by all types of transportation modes appropriate for that type of facility;

17. Projects which serve a wide segment of the public;

18. To projects in which the resource would be lost for recreation use if not immediately acquired or developed;

19. Projects which, in relation to their costs, provide access for the greatest number of potential users and provide the greatest opportunities for public outdoor recreation;

20. Projects which meet needs and deficiencies identified in the statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, or in the statewide plan and the comprehensive outdoor recreation plans of other units of government.

21. Projects which provide multiple season, multiple activity use; and

22. Projects which are designed to serve the recreation needs of elderly persons, minorities and disabled persons.

(c) Sponsors shall be required to acknowledge federal (LAWCON) assistance by placement of signs approved by the department and the department of interior.

(cm) Fifty percent of the grant amount may be paid to a local unit of government at the time of project approval if requested.

**Note:** This applies only to grant contracts executed after March 1, 1996.

(d) Land acquisition — eligible types of projects. Eligible types of projects for land acquisition include:

1. Areas with frontage on rivers, streams, lakes, estuaries and reservoirs which will provide water based public recreation opportunities;

2. Land for creating water impoundments to provide water based public outdoor recreation;

3. Areas which provide special recreation opportunities, such as floodplains, wetlands and areas adjacent to scenic highways;

4. Natural areas and preserves and outstanding scenic areas where the objective is to preserve the scenic or natural values, including areas of physical or biological importance and wildlife areas. These areas must be open to the general public for outdoor recreation use to the extent that the natural attributes of the areas will not be seriously impaired or lost;

5. Land within urban areas for day use picnic areas, neighborhood playgrounds, play areas for small children, areas adjacent to school playgrounds, and competitive nonprofessional sports facilities;

6. Land for recreation trails; and

7. Land for golf courses.

(e) Land development — eligible types of projects. Eligible types of projects for land development include:

1. Observation and sightseeing facilities such as overlooks, turnouts and trails;

2. Boating facilities, such as launching ramps and docks;

3. Picnic facilities, including tables, fireplaces, shelters and paths;

4. Camping facilities, including tent and trailer sites, tables and fireplaces;

5. Swimming, bathing and water sports facilities, including beaches, swimming areas and swimming pools, guard towers and bathhouses;

6. Fishing and hunting facilities, such as trails and fishing piers;

7. Winter sports facilities, such as slopes and trails for sledging and tobogganing, cross-country ski trails, facilities for skating and snowmobiling;

8. Urban recreation areas, such as neighborhood playgrounds, bicycling paths, walking or riding trails and participant sports facilities, including playing fields and tennis courts;

9. Supporting facilities, including entrance and circulation roads, utility and sanitation systems, erosion control work, parking areas, toilet buildings and interpretive facilities where there is a permanent professional naturalist staff and the facilities are on the land being used for nature interpretation;

10. Renovation or redevelopment of existing facilities or areas when the facilities or areas have received adequate and regular maintenance, yet have deteriorated to the point where their usefulness is impaired, or have become outmoded. Renovation or redevelopment may be undertaken to rebuild the facilities or areas into more useful forms;

11. Beautification of areas may be undertaken provided that the beautification is not regular maintenance and that the site's condition is not due to inadequate maintenance. Beautification may include landscaping to provide a more attractive environment, cleaning and restoration of areas which have been exploited, polluted, littered, etc., and screening, removal, relocation or burial of overhead wires;

12. Playgrounds and recreation areas on public school grounds, provided that such recreation grounds and facilities being developed are in excess of those normally provided to meet minimum education requirements. In determining the eligibility of a project, a statement or schedule of the time the facility will be available to the public is required;

13. Open shelters and multipurpose shelter buildings which support an outdoor recreation activity.

14. Fences for the protection of park users, tennis court fences and ballfield fencing;

15. Lighting for tennis courts, hockey rinks, games courts, ball fields, sports fields, multipurpose courts and safety lighting; and

16. Outdoor swimming and wading pools.

(f) Development, acquisition or acquisition and development projects which generally will not be assisted include;

1. Acquisition, restoration or preservation of historic structures;

2. Development of areas and facilities to be used primarily for semiprofessional and professional arts and athletics;

3. Acquisition of areas for and development of amusement facilities such as merry-go-rounds, ferris wheels, children's railroads, exhibit type developments, convention facilities and commemorative exhibits, or the construction of facilities, including their furnishings, that are only marginally related to outdoor recreation such as professional type outdoor theaters;

4. Construction of, and furnishings for, employee residences;

5. Development of areas and facilities to be used solely for game refuges or fish production purposes unless they are open to the public for general compatible recreation use, or if they directly serve priority public outdoor recreation needs identified in the state plan;

6. Construction of lodges, motels, luxury cabins, or similar elaborate facilities;

7. Development projects in new or previously undeveloped recreation areas which consist solely of support facilities, unless it is clearly indicated that such facilities are required for proper and safe recreational use of the area; and

8. Buildings primarily devoted to operation and maintenance.

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

(6) APPLICATION PROCEDURE. (a) Applicants for local LAWCON monies shall submit applications on the prescribed department form to the appropriate district office by May 1 of each year.

(b) The department shall evaluate completed applications utilizing a project rating sheet to determine which applications shall be approved.

**History:** Cr. Register, March, 1975, No. 231, eff. 4-1-75; am. (2), cr. (6) (e), Register, March, 1976, No. 243, eff. 4-1-76; r. and recr. Register, October, 1978, No. 274, eff. 11-1-78; r. and recr. Register, May, 1983, No. 329, eff. 6-1-83; am. (1), (2), (3) (a) 2., (4) (a), (d), (e) and (f), r. and recr. (3) (b) and (c), (4) (b) and (6), Register, April, 1984, No. 340, eff. 5-1-84; am. (6) (a), Register, April, 1989, No. 400, eff. 5-1-89; am. (6) (a), Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; am. (3) (a) 1. and 2., (c), (4) (b) 12., 13. and 22., (e) 13., (6) (a), r. (3) (a) 3., (4) (e) 15., (6) (b) and (d), cr. (4) (cm), renum. (4) (e) 16. and 17., (6) (c) to be (4) (e) 15. and 16., (6) (b) and am. (6) (b), Register, February, 1996, No. 482, eff. 3-1-96; correction in (1) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register, December, 1999, No. 528; 2015 Wis. Act 330 s. 20: am. (4) (a) Register April 2016 No. 724, eff. 5-1-16.

**NR 50.09 County snowmobile aids.** (1) PURPOSE. The purpose of this section is to establish standards for the implementation of the snowmobile aids program under ss. 23.09 (11) and (26) and 350.12 (4), Stats.

(2) APPLICABILITY. The provisions of this section are applicable to all counties participating in the snowmobile aids program.

(3) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS. The distribution of funds according to priority ranked purposes is specified in s. 23.09 (26) (c), Stats. Should funds not be sufficient to satisfy the total request for either maintenance or acquisition, the funds remaining to satisfy that priority ranked purpose shall be distributed on a proportional basis.

(4) GENERAL PROVISIONS. (a) *Planning requirements.* 1. Counties not previously participating in the snowmobile aids program and desiring to sponsor public snowmobile trails are required to have a comprehensive snowmobile plan approved by the county board of supervisors and the department.

2. Counties that have previously met the comprehensive snowmobile plan requirement are required to maintain a current trail system map that describes trail locations, trail classifications and existing trail mileage by classification.

(b) *Acquisition of snowmobile trail rights-of-way.* 1. The value of an easement, lease, permit or other agreement for a period of less than 3 years is an eligible cost of maintenance under s. 350.12 (4) (be), Stats.

2. The value of an easement, lease, permit or other agreement entered into by a project sponsor and the owner of land, including for bridge construction or rehabilitation, is an eligible cost of development under s. 350.12 (4) (bc), Stats. The length of any easement, lease, permit or other agreement for the placement on private land of a bridge that is either constructed or rehabilitated with funds under this chapter shall be for a period of at least 3 years if the total cost of the bridge is more than \$3,000, per s. 23.09 (26) (am) (1), Stats.

**Note:** The Governor's Snowmobile Trail Council will, at one of its duly-noticed meetings, consider public comment, develop criteria for easements, leases, or permits, and recommend these criteria to the department, including minimum year lease requirements beyond the required 3 year lease for bridge projects costing more than \$50,000. The Council may meet with the Off Road Vehicle Advisory Council to develop joint recommendations for easement criteria for joint snowmobile and ATV trails to the department. Online materials are available at [dnr.wisconsin.gov](http://dnr.wisconsin.gov).

3. The value of either a short term or long term easement, lease, permit or other agreement may be based on the rental rate of land. The value may be one percent per month of equalized or assessed valuation. An annual fee of 10 cents per rod may be paid if the assessed valuation procedure is not used.

4. The minimum term of the short or long term easement, lease, permit or other agreement shall be 4 months between December 1 and the following March 31.

5. The width of the snowmobile right-of-way eligible for cost sharing may not exceed one rod in width unless approved by the department.

6. The short or long term easement, lease, permit or other agreement shall contain at a minimum the right to sign, right of limited construction, right to maintain, and the right of use by snowmobiles and snow grooming equipment.

7. The county shall submit a certification that all easements, leases, permits or other agreements secured grant public access and use of the land for snowmobiling. The county shall maintain a current file of all easements, leases, permits or other agreements which shall include the name of the property owner, description of the property, duration and amount paid for the easement, lease, permit or other agreement, date owner was contacted and name of the county or snowmobile club representative who obtained the easement, lease, permit or other agreement.

8. Eligible costs for fee simple acquisition of property under s. 350.12 (4) (bc), Stats., are the fair market value of the property and reasonable costs related to the purchase of the property, but limited to the cost of appraisals, land survey fees, relocation payments, title evidence costs, title insurance costs and recording fees.

(bm) The length of any easement, lease, permit or other agreement for the placement on private land of a bridge that is either constructed or rehabilitated with funds under this chapter shall be for a period of at least 3 years if the total cost of the bridge is \$50,000 or less. Any easement, lease, permit or other agreement for the placement of a bridge on private land that is either constructed or rehabilitated shall be in writing. The length of any easement, lease, permit, or other agreement may be a factor in determining the amount of snowmobile trail funds to be awarded for a project.

(c) *Development of snowmobile trail.* 1. Development shall begin the same year land is acquired.

2. 'Snowmobile trail design and construction specifications.'

a. Minimum graded width for one-way trails is 6 feet and maximum 8 feet.

b. Minimum graded width for 2-way trails is 10 feet and maximum 12 feet.

c. Minimum turning radius is 25 feet.

d. A height of 10 feet above the trail will be cleared.

e. Sustained grades and slopes will be a maximum of 25 percent.

f. Snowmobile trails may not be routed over bodies of water. If stream crossings make bridging necessary, bridging shall be at least 8 feet wide free from obstruction. If the bridge is located on an abandoned railroad grade, the bridge shall be a minimum of 10 feet wide free from obstruction. The department shall determine the need for bridging or if ice crossings may be used.

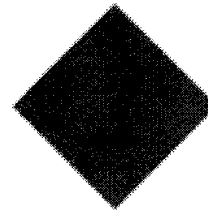
g. Trails shall be routed away from areas designated in department wilderness policy, game preserves, winter browse areas, experimental stations, nurseries, plantations, residences and other areas of anticipated conflict, particularly areas which may be damaged by trail development or snowmobile use.

3. 'Snowmobile highway and trail sign specifications.' a. Snowmobile highway signs shall conform with sign reflectorization, colors and legend listed in the Wisconsin manual of traffic control devices.

b. With the exception of snowmobile guide and information signs, signs for use on snowmobile trails to regulate snowmobile traffic or advise the snowmobile user of a specific trail condition

shall be totally reflectorized. Guide signs which assist the snowmobile driver to reach a destination shall have the letters and legend reflectorized. Information signs do not need to be reflectorized. Trail signs shall also conform with the following specifications and illustrations:

TRAIL BLAZER

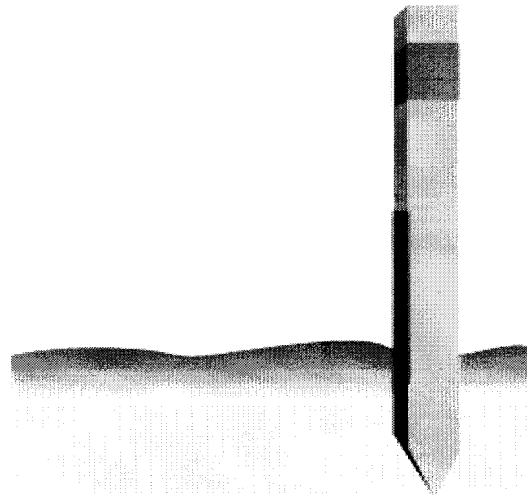


Purpose: To delineate the trail and to reassure the user that he or she is on the trail

Size: 6 inches by 6 inches

Color: Orange

FIELD STAKING



Purpose: Acceptable alternative to use of blazers in agricultural areas and other cleared areas.

Size: Minimum of 6 square inches of reflective orange material mounted 4 inches to 6 inches below top of stake. Material is mounted on each side of stake and stakes are installed in pairs. Top 12 inches to 16 inches of stake is painted non-reflective orange.

DIRECTIONAL ARROW



Purpose: Indicates a change in trail direction.

Minimum Size: 12 inches by 6 inches

Color: Yellow background with black border and legend

Legend: 10 inch black directional arrow.

REGULATORY SIGNS - RIGHT OF WAY



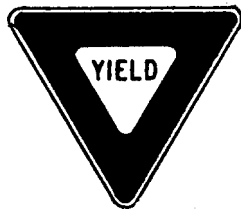
STOP SIGN

Purpose: Halt snowmobile operators at a road crossing, railroad crossing or trail intersection.

Minimum size: 12 inches by 12 inches

Color: Red background and white letters and border.

Legend: 4 inch Upper case letters.



YIELD SIGN

Purpose: To notify snowmobile operator that the right of way should be given to other vehicles, snowmobiles or other trail users at trail intersections and limited vehicle crossings.

Minimum size: 12 inches by 12 inches by 12 inches

Color: Red background and letters with white border and center.

Legend: 4 inch Upper case letters.

REGULATORY - MOVEMENT

Purpose: To inform snowmobile operator of laws or regulations.  
Minimum size: Either 12 inches by 18 inches or 12 inches by 12 inches.

Color: White background and black letters and border. Additional colors such as red or green may be added to reinforce sign message of snowmobile prohibition or permission.

Examples



ONE WAY

12 inches by 18 inches



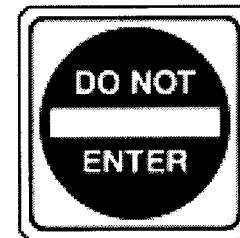
SPEED LIMIT

12 inches by 18 inches



RESTRICTIVE

12 inches by 12 inches



DO NOT ENTER

12 inches by 12 inches

CAUTION SIGNS

Purpose: To advise the snowmobile operator to proceed with caution at a reduced speed or to advise of a specific trail condition.

Minimum size: 12 inches by 12 inches

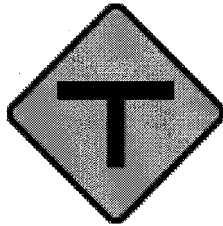
Color: Yellow background and black letters and/or legend.

Examples

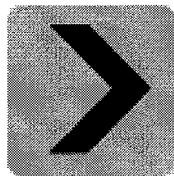


STOP AHEAD

12 inches by 12 inches

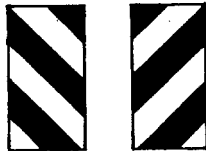


INTERSECTION  
12 inches by 12 inches



CHEVRON  
12 inches by 12 inches

HAZARD MARKERS



Left Right

Purpose: Used in pairs, hazard markers indicate the trail opening through which a snowmobile operator may pass over a bridge or culvert. The stripes of each sign face inward and show the bridge opening. Used singly, a hazard marker indicates a trail obstruction. The stripes of the sign point down toward the path around the obstruction.

Minimum size: 6 inches by 12 inches

Colors: Alternate black and yellow 45 degree diagonal stripes.

BARRIER MARKERS



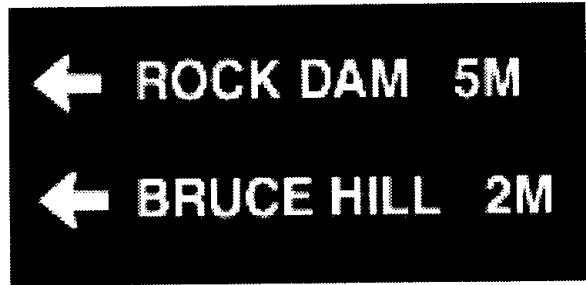
Left Right

Purpose: Barrier markers are used in pairs to indicate a barrier or gate that restricts entry to a trail or road for snowmobiling. The stripes of each sign face inward and toward the center of the trail or road.

Minimum size: 6 inches by 12 inches

Color: Alternate red and white 45 degree diagonal stripes.

GUIDE SIGN



Purpose: Directs snowmobile operator to a destination.  
Size: Variable - 2 inch Upper case letters  
Colors: Brown background with reflective white letters and legend.

INFORMATION SIGNS



Purpose: Furnish information about trails or facilities.  
Size: Variable - 2 inch Upper case letters.  
Color: Brown background with white letters.

SPECIAL SIGN - CORRIDOR MARKER



Purpose: To indicate that the trail is part of the designated state corridor trail system.

Minimum size: 6 inches by 6 inches

Color: Blue background with reflective white border, shield and letters.

c. Federal forest service sign specifications may be used on federal forest service lands.

(d) *Maintenance of snowmobile trail.* 1. Counties shall be required to groom and maintain snowmobile trails developed on lands receiving aids for acquisition and/or development.

2. Trails shall be groomed to a minimum width of 4 feet for one-way and 8 feet for 2-way trails. Maximum width for a 2-way trail to be groomed shall be 12 feet unless the amount of snowmobile traffic and safety warrant grooming to a greater width as approved by the department.

3. The costs of performing the activities of snowmobile trail maintenance under s. NR 50.03 (19) are eligible for assistance.

(e) *Major bridge rehabilitation.* 1. For bridge rehabilitation projects that involve total deck replacement, the deck shall be reconstructed to a width of at least 8 feet, free from obstruction.

2. When a bridge rehabilitation project is located on an abandoned railroad grade and involves total deck construction or replacement, the width of the bridge, free from obstruction, shall be at least 10 feet.

3. Bridges or culverts that have been developed or improved through the use of bridge rehabilitation funds are not eligible for additional rehabilitation funds for a period of 10 years after rehabilitation, except where a natural event or other circumstances beyond the control of the county adversely affect bridge or culvert safety during this period and an affirmative recommendation of the snowmobile recreation council is obtained.

(f) *Supplementary snowmobile trail maintenance payments.*

1. Counties are eligible for supplementary snowmobile trail maintenance payments under s. 350.12 (4) (bg), Stats., if all of the following conditions are met:

a. The county applies for a supplementary snowmobile trail maintenance payment for the snowmobile trail maintenance expenses of the previous fiscal year by August 1 of the current fiscal year.

b. The reimbursement claim for the previous fiscal year maintenance expenses is submitted to the appropriate department regional office prior to August 1 of the current fiscal year.

c. The county has expended the entire amount specified under s. 350.12 (4) (b) 1., Stats., on eligible snowmobile trail maintenance cost items in the previous fiscal year.

d. The county has spent at least \$150 per mile for eligible snow grooming expenses during the previous fiscal year.

2. All counties qualifying under subd. 1. shall be subject to a cap of \$250 per mile for all eligible non-snow grooming activities listed in s. NR 50.03 (19) in the calculation of a supplemental snowmobile trail maintenance payment.

3. All counties qualifying under subd. 1. are subject to a cap of 5 times the per mile maximum for maintenance specified under s. 350.12 (4) (b) 1., Stats., for all eligible snowmobile maintenance activities in the calculation of a supplemental snowmobile maintenance payment.

4. Counties requesting supplemental snowmobile trail maintenance payments shall submit full financial documentation prescribed by the department to the appropriate department regional office for audit purposes. Counties may request an advance payment of 50 percent of the audited supplemental request prior to August 1 of the current fiscal year.

5. Should the amount of funds approved for supplementary snowmobile trail maintenance payments under s. 350.12 (4) (bg), Stats., not be sufficient to satisfy the total audited requests received under subd. 1., the funds shall be distributed on a proportional basis.

(g) *Snowmobile trail rehabilitation.* 1. Snowmobile trail segments eligible for rehabilitation assistance shall be a minimum of 3 miles in length and shall have been a part of the funded trail system of the county for a minimum of 10 years from the date of application for trail rehabilitation except where a natural event or other circumstances beyond the control of the county adversely affected trail safety prior to this 10 year period.

2. Snowmobile trail segments that have been improved through the use of rehabilitation funds are not eligible for additional rehabilitation funds for a period of 10 years except where a natural event adversely affects trail safety during this period.

3. A county is not eligible for rehabilitation funds for snowmobile trail segments that total more than 10 percent of the total mileage of the county funded for maintenance.

(5) ALLOWABLE COSTS, BILLING AND AUDITS. (a) Reimbursement of costs of county acquisition of rights-of-way or fee title may be up to 100 percent of eligible acquisition expenses.

(b) 1. Reimbursement of costs of county development of snowmobile trails shall be up to 100 percent of approved eligible project costs. Counties may request an advance payment of up to 75 percent of the signed contract amount for development.

2. Development work cannot be started or project costs incurred until an agreement has been approved by the department and the sponsor.

(bn) 1. Eligible costs for snowmobile bridge development and rehabilitation projects include the following: construction and replacement of entire structure including approaches and abutments, construction and repair to the superstructure of the bridge, construction and replacement of the entire deck and railings and construction and repair or construction and replacement of protective riprap around abutments or footings.

2. Costs which are not eligible for development and rehabilitation cost sharing are: construction and replacement of bridge railings only, and patching of decking, grading or minor repair to approaches, construction and bridge repairs to bring bridge structure within any existing codes, construction and reinforcement of bridge structures to accommodate weights in excess of 14,000 pounds and deck construction and replacement for the primary purpose of accommodating larger grooming equipment.

3. Cost sharing for the purchase and installation of prefabricated bridges shall be limited to structures with a maximum design load of 14,000 pounds.

4. Cost sharing for the purchase of materials and construction of bridges built on site by either contractors or clubs shall be limited to a maximum design load of 14,000 pounds unless there are circumstances that lead to a capacity greater than 14,000 pounds for no demonstrated increase in cost.

5. Reimbursement of costs of bridge rehabilitation projects shall be up to 100 percent of approved eligible project costs. Counties may request an advance payment of up to 75 percent of the signed contract amount for bridge rehabilitation.

(bp) 1. Eligible costs for snowmobile trail rehabilitation projects include: clearing of trees from storm damage to re-establish the trail corridor, filling and grading to re-establish the trail tread damaged as a result of erosion and widening and straightening trail segments to improve visibility.

2. The following are not considered eligible costs of trail rehabilitation: brushing, signing and similar activities conducted as part of routine maintenance, costs associated with bringing a trail up to standards listed in sub. (4) (c), construction of a new bridge or culvert with an inside diameter of greater than 24 inches or rehabilitation or replacement of a bridge or culvert with an inside diameter of greater than 24 inches.

3. Snowmobile trail rehabilitation projects shall be up to 100 percent of approved eligible project costs. Counties may request an advance payment of up to 75 percent of the signed contract amount for trail rehabilitation.

4. The total cost of the snowmobile trail rehabilitation project may not exceed \$500 per mile unless approved by the snowmobile recreation council.

(c) Reimbursement of costs of county maintenance of snowmobile trails shall be up to 100 percent of approved eligible project costs of maintaining the trail up to the amount per mile per year maximum specified under s. 350.12 (4) (b) 1., Stats. Counties may request advance payments of up to 50 percent of the signed contract amount for maintenance. To be eligible for maintenance advance payments, a county shall have settled all maintenance claims from previous years.



(d) County liability insurance payments for approved trails shall be reimbursed at 100 percent of eligible costs. Liability insurance is an eligible cost under the category of maintenance.

(e) Aids for development of trail shelters or sanitary facilities shall not exceed \$5,000. Aids for a combination building including shelter and sanitary facilities shall not exceed \$10,000.

(f) Claims shall be on a reimbursement basis except for snowmobile trail development, bridge rehabilitation, trail rehabilitation and maintenance project advances.

(g) The project period will not exceed one year. All maintenance agreements will terminate on June 30 of each year.

(h) Trail grooming rates, including operator, power unit and drag, shall be established by the department.

(i) Equipment rates for other maintenance activities and trail development performed by force account, snowmobile clubs or snowmobile club associations may not exceed the county machinery agreement rate established annually by the department of transportation.

(j) Labor rates for other maintenance activities and trail development performed by snowmobile clubs or snowmobile club associations shall be established by the department.

(k) Labor rates for other maintenance activities and trail development by county employees or others included in a labor contract shall be as established by the contract.

(L) Claims for payment of maintenance, acquisition, development and bridge rehabilitation projects shall be submitted within 6 months after the project termination date for the costs to be eligible for reimbursement.

(m) Reductions in grant payments for failure to comply with the requirements of maintenance, development or bridge rehabilitation project agreements may be made on a case-by-case basis. A partial or total reduction in funds shall be preceded by specific written notification of conditions which were not met and shall include a timetable for improvement in performance. Continued failure to comply with the grant agreement within the prescribed timetable may result in a reduction of grant funds. The reduction shall be calculated based on a percentage of poor performance in relation to the total trail system specified in the grant agreement.

(n) For counties which do not request supplemental grooming payments under sub. (4) (f), financial audit of claims shall take place as part of each county's year-end single audit. Counties not requesting supplemental grooming payments are not required to submit financial documentation with their payment request. After the single audit is completed, the department may perform additional financial audits of these claims to supplement work done in a single audit.

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

(7) PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING FOR GRANT. Contact appropriate department regional office for prescribed application forms and instructions. Submit completed application to the regional office by April 15.

(8) USEFUL LIFE. A table of maximum useful life for project elements is established for the purpose of record management and record disposition. The listing of the maximum useful life figures for snowmobile maintenance, acquisition, development and bridge rehabilitation projects is as follows:

Activity	Description	Maximum Useful Life in Years
Maintenance	Includes brushing, signing, grooming, minor structural repairs	0
Acquisition	Annual easements and leases.	0
Insurance	Fee simple Purchase of county liability coverage	Perpetuity
Development	General trail construction, signing, brushing, grading	0
	Bridge structures	10
	Culverts	3
	Gates	3
	Multi purpose buildings	20
	Trail shelter	5

**History:** Cr. Register, March, 1975, No. 231, eff. 4-1-75; am. (1) (d), (2) (a) 2. b. and c, (2) (b), (c) and (d), and (3), Register, March, 1976, No. 243, eff. 4-1-76; r. and recr. Register, June, 1980, No. 294, eff. 7-1-80; renum. (1) (a), (b), (c), (2) and (3) to be (4) (b), (c), (d), (5) and (7), renum. (5) (h) and (i) to be (5) (g) and (h), am. (4) (b) 5., (4) (c) 3. b., (5) (b) and (c), r. and recr. (5) (f) and (h), cr. (1), (2), (3), (4) (a), (5) (i), (j) and (k) and (6), r. (7) (b), Register, May, 1983, No. 329, eff. 6-1-83; am. (3), (4) (c) 2. f., 3. b., (5) (c), (d) and (f), cr. (4) (e) and (f), (5) (L) to (m) and (8), Register, November, 1989, No. 407, eff. 12-1-89; r. and recr. (4) (b) and (5) (b) 1., am. (4) (d) 2., (f) 1. intro., a., c. and d., (5) (a), (c) and (f), cr. (4) (d) 3., (e) 3., (f) 2., (g), (5) (bn) and (bp), renum. (4) (f) 2. and 3. to be (4) (f) 3. and 4. and am., Register, February, 1996, No. 482, eff. 3-1-96; r. and recr. (4) (c) 3. b., am. (4) (f) 1. a. to c., 2. and (7), renum. (4) (f) 3. and 4. to be (4) (f) 4. and 5. and am. (4) (f) 4., cr. (4) (f) 3., Register, December, 1999, No. 528, eff. 1-1-00; CR 04-014: am. (4) (c) 3. b. and (5) (c) Register September 2004 No. 585, eff. 10-1-04; CR 11-050: am. (4) (b) 2., cr. (4) (bm), am. (4) (f) 1. d., (5) (bn) 1. to 4. Register July 2012 No. 679, eff. 8-1-12; 2023 Wis. Act 110: am. (4) (f) 3. Register March 2024 No. 819, eff. 4-1-24.

**NR 50.10 Aids to cities, villages or towns for route signs. (1) PURPOSE.**

The purpose of this section is to establish standards for the posting of route signs and directional arrows and for the implementation of an aids program for cities, villages or towns for the initial purchase of snowmobile route signs and for purchase of signs briefly explaining the intoxicated snowmobile law along snowmobile routes under ss. 23.09 (26) and 350.12 (4), Stats.

(2) APPLICABILITY. The provisions of this section are applicable to all cities, villages or towns. Aids are available to cities, villages, or towns for up to 100 percent for approved eligible project costs of initial signing of snowmobile routes which connect authorized trails or which offer entrance to or exit from trails leading to such municipalities. Aids are also available to cities, villages, or towns for up to 100 percent of the cost to purchase signs explaining the intoxicated snowmobile law along snowmobile routes.

(3) GENERAL PROVISIONS: (a) *Snowmobile route sign standards.* 1. Snowmobile route signs. Signs for use on highways and sidewalks designated for use by snowmobile operators by the governmental agency having jurisdiction or authorized by s. 350.04, Stats., are as follows:

a. The snowmobile route (D11-6) sign shall have a reflectorized white symbol, margin and message on a reflectorized green background. The standard and minimum size of this sign is 24 inches by 18 inches. The design of the stylized snowmobile symbol and the word message "SNOWMOBILE ROUTE" shall essentially conform to the standard design on file in the division of highways, department of transportation.

am. The combination snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle route sign (Drawing D11-8) may be used when the highway or

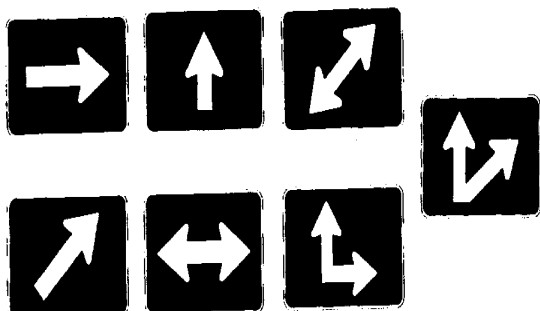
sidewalk is designated for use by both snowmobile and all terrain vehicles. The sign shall have a reflectorized white symbol, margin and message on a reflectorized green background. The standard and minimum size for this sign is 24 inches by 8 inches. The design of the stylized snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle symbol and the word message "ROUTE" shall essentially conform to the standard design on file in the division of highways, department of transportation.

b. A directional arrow marker (Drawing M7 series) shall have a reflectorized white arrow and margin on a reflectorized green background. The standard and minimum size of a directional arrow marker is 12 inches by 9 inches.

c. A snowmobile route sign with appropriate directional arrow shall be placed at the beginning of a snowmobile route and at such locations and intervals as necessary to enable snowmobile operators to follow the route.

d. All snowmobile route signing shall be done by or under the direction of and is the responsibility of the unit of government which designates the snowmobile routes. The department of transportation reserves the right to require such changes in the signing of snowmobile routes marked over the state trunk highway system as it deems necessary in the interest of efficient and safe operation of the highway.

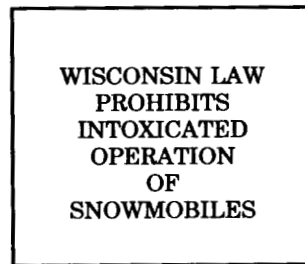
2. ReflectORIZATION. The reflective material for all reflectorized signs shall meet the specifications of paragraph 637.2.2.1 on reflective sheeting in the state of Wisconsin department of transportation division of highways standard specifications for road and bridge construction, edition of 1981.



(b) *Intoxicated snowmobile law sign standards.* Signs explaining the intoxicated snowmobile law, to be used on highways or sidewalks designated as snowmobile routes by the governmental agency having jurisdiction, shall meet all of the following standards:

1. The intoxicated snowmobile law sign shall have reflectorized black letters and border on a reflectorized white background.

2. The standard size of this sign shall be 24 inches by 24 inches.



(4) ALLOWABLE COSTS AND BILLING. (a) Snowmobile route signs and route arrows, trail crossing warning signs, intoxicated snowmobile law signs, and sign posts are eligible for aid.

(b) Signs and posts may not be purchased until funds are approved for the project by the department.

(c) Labor costs to install signs are not eligible for reimbursement.

(d) Sponsors may submit a claim for payment upon placement of signs.

(5) APPLICATION PROCEDURE. Application forms and instructions are available from any department regional office. Completed applications shall be submitted to the appropriate regional office by April 15.

**History:** Cr. Register, March, 1975, No. 231, eff. 4-1-75; am. (3), Register, March, 1976, No. 243, eff. 4-1-76; r. and recr., Register, June, 1980, No. 294, eff. 7-1-80; r. and recr. (1), renum. (2), (3) and (4) to be (3), (4) and (5), cr. (2), am. (3) (a) 2., r. (5) (b), Register, May, 1983, No. 329, eff. 6-1-83; am. (1) and (2), cr. (3) (b), r. and recr. (4) and (5), Register, November, 1989, No. 407, eff. 12-1-89; am. (1), (2) and (3) (a) 1. b., cr. (3) (a) 1. am., Register, February, 1996, No. 482, eff. 3-1-96; r. and recr. (3) (a) 2., am. (5), Register, December, 1999, No. 528, eff. 1-1-00.

**NR 50.11 Aids to snowmobile clubs.** (1) PURPOSE. The purpose of this section is to establish standards for the implementation of the cooperative sign program under to ss. 23.09 (26) and 350.12 (4), Stats.

(2) APPLICABILITY. The provisions of this section are applicable to all snowmobile clubs participating in the cooperative sign program. Free cardboard signs and reflectorized material are available to snowmobile clubs.

(3) GENERAL PROVISIONS. (a) Trails signed must meet standards under s. NR 50.09 (4) (d) 2.

(b) Trails must be open to the public.

(c) Signs will be limited to directional arrows, trail blazers, stop and caution signs.

(4) PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATION. Submit department application to the proper regional office by October 1. Application shall include:

(a) Certification that the trail meets standards set out in department guidelines and that landowners on whose property the trail traverses have given their permission for trail use.

(b) A map of the trail.

**History:** Cr. Register, March, 1975, No. 231, eff. 4-1-75; am. Register, March, 1976, No. 243, eff. 4-1-76; r. and recr., Register, June, 1980, No. 294, eff. 7-1-80; r. and recr. (1), renum. (2) and (3) to be (3) and (4), cr. (2), am. (3) (a), Register, May, 1983, No. 329, eff. 6-1-83; correction in (4) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 1., Stats., Register, April, 1998, No. 508; am. (4) (intro.), Register, December, 1999, No. 528, eff. 1-1-00.

**NR 50.12 Law enforcement aids to counties (ch. 350, Stats.).** (1) Counties may receive up to 100 percent reimbursement of monies spent on the enforcement of ch. 350, Stats.

(2) Claim forms shall be filed with the bureau of law enforcement, department of natural resources, on or before June 1 of the

year following the 12-month period for which the claim is made. Claims shall be made for the May 1 to April 30 period immediately preceding the filing date.

(3) The following forms will be used in the snowmobile enforcement aid program:

(a) *Form 8700-59 — Notice of intent to patrol.* In order to be eligible for the state aids, a snowmobile patrol must function as an enforcement unit and file an intent to patrol form with the department of natural resources listing the authority under which the snowmobile patrol will operate. On or before June 1 of each year a county must file an intent to patrol form with the department, sent to the attention of the Office of the Coordinator of Snowmobile Safety, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin.

(b) *Form 8700-89 — Daily log.* This form is to be used in compiling a summary of the snowmobile patrol's daily activities and expenses. It is not to be filed with the department, but is to be used for assembling information necessary to complete form 8700-90. This form must be kept on file by the snowmobile patrol to augment its records and must be available in chronological order for periodic checks by representatives of the department during normal business hours and at the time of the annual audit.

(c) *Form 8700-90 — Monthly report.* This form is to be completed and filed with the department no later than the tenth day following the month covered. The information shown on this form will be a computation of the information taken from the daily logs (form 8700-89).

(d) An appropriate official of the snowmobile patrol shall complete the following forms, retain one set for the county's records, and file one set with the bureau of law enforcement on or before June 1, covering the patrol expense for the preceding 12-month period of May 1 to April 30. Claims that are received by the department after June 1 will not be processed for payment.

1. 'Form 8700-60 — Application for state aid.' Form 8700-60 shall be completed by the appropriate county official, who shall list the total net cost of the snowmobile patrol claimed by the county.

2. 'Form 8700-61 — Salary schedule.' Form 8700-61 shall be completed by the appropriate county official, who shall list the names and salaries of persons engaged in the enforcement of ch. 350, Stats. Salary rate is restricted to no more than the regular straight time rate that the officer normally receives. Allowable fringe benefit rates are actual costs up to a maximum of 50 percent of the reimbursable straight time salary rate.

3. 'Form 8700-62 — Travel, materials and supplies schedule.' Form 8700-62 shall be completed by the appropriate county official, who shall list all reimbursable expenditures other than salaries and depreciable items.

4. 'Form 8700-63 — Depreciation schedule - straight line method.' Form 8700-63 shall be completed by the appropriate county official, who shall list all capital outlay equipment and the resulting depreciation. Purchase of capital equipment shall be preapproved by the department. Depreciation shall be calculated at the rate of 20 percent annually for each new item of capital equipment for which the cost is \$2,500 or greater. All costs of repairs that are \$2,500 or greater to an item of capital equipment shall be reimbursed by the department on a 20 percent per year straight line depreciation schedule.

5. 'Form 8700-64 — Record of court cases for violations of ch. 350, Stats.' This form is to be completed by the appropriate county official, who shall list all violations and court actions for the calendar year.

(e) In order to help achieve uniformity, accountability and cost controls, the following standards are established:

1. For the purpose of patrol reimbursement, each patrol is eligible for reimbursement for only those hours for which the ratio of hours per arrest is no more than 3 times the state average of hours per arrest for participating sheriff patrols for the past 3 years computed from the statewide snowmobile sheriff patrol records. Two documented written warnings will be given the same weight as an arrest. No more than 50 percent of the credits to reach the standard may be for written warnings.

2. For the purpose of reimbursement of leased snowmobiles or trailers, the amount may not be more than 50 percent above the average depreciation cost of the prior year for snowmobiles or trailers for all snowmobile patrols claiming depreciation. If a personal snowmobile is used for patrol, the reimbursement rate shall be no more than the maximum rate for leased snowmobiles prorated for the days of use.

3. When more than 50 percent of the eligible patrols are submitting claims, no one patrol may receive more than 20 percent of funds available.

4. A minimum of 40 patrol hours is required in order to be eligible for reimbursement.

5. For the purpose of administering reimbursement, search and rescue enforcement costs are eligible only for officers actively looking for snowmobile operators and passengers who are, or who are reasonably believed to be, alive, in distress or in a life threatening situation.

6. For the purpose of reimbursement of capital equipment under s. 350.12 (4) (a) 4., Stats., for law enforcement aids to counties, the amount is limited to depreciation for snowmobiles and snowmobile trailers.

7. A county may be reimbursed for the actual teaching hours of a law enforcement officer who conducts an authorized department snowmobile safety education course. Teaching hours are considered exempt hours and may not be included in patrol hour totals. Reimbursement will be limited to 2 snowmobile safety education courses per patrol year.

8. Administrative time that exceeds 30 percent of the total number of hours claimed on form 8700-61 is not eligible for reimbursement. Hours claimed for teaching snowmobile safety education courses do not count as administrative time for purposes of this subdivision.

**History:** Cr. Register, March, 1977, No. 255, eff. 4-1-77; am. (2), (3) (a), (d) (intro.), 4. and (e), Register, May, 1983, No. 329, eff. 6-1-83; am. (3) (d) 2. and 4., Register, February, 1996, No. 482, eff. 3-1-96; r. and recr. (3) (e), Register, December, 1999, No. 528, eff. 1-1-00; CR 02-098: am. (3) (a), (d) and (e) 3., Register May 2003 No. 569, eff. 6-1-03; CR 14-062: am. (3) (d) (intro.), 1. to 4., (e) 4., cr. (3) (e) 7., 8. Register September 2015 No. 717, eff. 10-1-15.

**NR 50.125 Law enforcement aids to counties (s. 23.33, Stats.).** (1) Counties may receive up to 100 percent reimbursement of monies spent on the enforcement of s. 23.33, Stats. Officers involved in the enforcement of s. 23.33, Stats., must have authority pursuant to s. 23.33 (12), Stats. Claims for reimbursement shall be made on claim forms filed with the bureau of law enforcement, department of natural resources on or before June 1 of the year following the 12-month period from May 1 to April 30 for which the claim is made.

(2) The following forms shall be used in the all-terrain/utility terrain vehicle enforcement aid program:

(a) '*Form 8700-59 — Notice of intent to patrol.*' In order to be eligible for the state aids, an all-terrain/utility terrain vehicle patrol shall function as an enforcement unit and file form 8700-59 with the department listing the authority under which the all-terrain/utility terrain vehicle patrol will operate. On or before June 1 of each year, a county shall file an intent to patrol form with the department, sent to the attention of the Department of Natural

Resources, Bureau of Law Enforcement, P.O. Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin 53707.

(b) *'Form 8700-89 — Daily log.'* Form 8700-89 shall be used in compiling a summary of the all-terrain/utility terrain vehicle patrol's daily activities and expenses. It is not to be filed with the department, but is to be used for assembling information necessary to complete form 8700-90. This form shall be kept on file by the all-terrain/utility terrain vehicle patrol to augment its records and shall be available in chronological order for periodic checks by representatives of the department during normal business hours and at the time of the annual audit.

(c) *'Form 8700-90 — Monthly report.'* Form 8700-90 shall be completed and filed with the department no later than the tenth day following the month covered. The information shown on this form will be a computation of the information taken from the daily logs in form 8700-89.

(d) An appropriate official of the all-terrain/utility terrain vehicle patrol shall complete the following forms, retain one set for the county's records, and file one set with the bureau of law enforcement, department of natural resources on or before June 1, covering the patrol expense for the preceding 12-month period of May 1 to April 30. Claims that are received by the department after June 1 will not be processed for payment.

1. *'Form 8700-60 — Application for state aid.'* Form 8700-60 shall be completed by the appropriate county official, who shall list the total net cost of the all-terrain/utility terrain vehicle patrol claimed by the county.

2. *'Form 8700-61 — Salary schedule.'* Form 8700-61 shall be completed by the appropriate county official, who shall list the names and salaries of persons engaged in the enforcement of s. 23.33, Stats. Salary rate shall be restricted to no more than the regular straight time rate that the officer normally receives. Allowable fringe benefit rates are actual costs up to a maximum of 50 percent of the reimbursable straight time salary rate.

3. *'Form 8700-62 — Travel, materials, and supplies schedule.'* Form 8700-62 shall be completed by the appropriate county official, who shall list all reimbursable expenditures other than salaries and depreciable items.

4. *'Form 8700-63 — Depreciation schedule — straight line method.'* Form 8700-63 shall be completed by the appropriate county official, who shall list all capital outlay equipment and the resulting depreciation. Purchase of capital equipment shall be preapproved by the department. Depreciation shall be calculated at the rate of 20 percent annually on each new item of capital equipment for which the cost is \$2,500 or greater. All costs of repairs that are \$2,500 or greater to an item of capital equipment shall be reimbursed by the department on a 20 percent per year straight line depreciation schedule.

5. *'Form 8700-64 — Record of court cases for violations of s. 23.33, Stats.'* Form 8700-64 shall be completed by the appropriate county official, who shall list all violations and court actions for the calendar year.

(e) Each claim shall be audited by the department as soon as possible after the claim has been received. Payment of claims shall be made no later than October 1. Reimbursement of the actual cost and maintenance of all-terrain/utility terrain vehicle enforcement patrols is authorized. Travel expenses and salaries for training purposes are authorized only for attendance of all-terrain/utility terrain vehicle enforcement training sessions conducted by the department. The person in charge of the patrol or designee is required to attend all designated department all-terrain/utility terrain vehicle enforcement patrol training sessions as a condition of receiving aids under this section and s. 23.33, Stats.

(f) Should funds not be sufficient to satisfy the total request of eligible audited costs, funds shall be distributed on a proportional basis.

(g) In order to help achieve uniformity, accountability, and cost controls, the following standards are established:

1. For the purpose of patrol reimbursement, each patrol is eligible for reimbursement for only those hours up to 3 times the state average of arrests per hour for participating sheriff patrols for the past 3 years computed from the statewide all-terrain/utility terrain vehicle sheriff patrol records. Two documented written warnings will be given the same weight as an arrest. No more than 50 percent of the credits to reach the standard may be for written warnings.

2. For the purpose of reimbursement of leased capital equipment, the amount may not be more than 50 percent above the average depreciation cost of the prior year for all all-terrain/utility terrain vehicle patrols claiming depreciation. If a personal all-terrain/utility terrain vehicle is used for patrol, the reimbursement rate shall be no more than the maximum rate for leased all-terrain/utility terrain vehicles prorated for the days of use.

3. When more than 50 percent of the eligible patrols submit claims, no one patrol may receive more than 20 percent of funds available.

4. A minimum of 40 patrol hours is required in order to be eligible for reimbursement.

5. For the purpose of administering reimbursement, search and rescue enforcement costs are eligible only for officers actively looking for all-terrain/utility terrain vehicle operators who are, or who are reasonably believed to be, alive, in distress, or are in a life threatening situation.

6. For the purpose of reimbursement of capital equipment under s. 23.33 (9), Stats., for law enforcement aid to counties, the amount is limited to depreciation for all-terrain/utility terrain vehicles and all-terrain/utility terrain vehicle trailers.

7. A county may be reimbursed for the actual teaching hours of a law enforcement officer who conducts an authorized department all-terrain/utility terrain safety education course. Teaching hours are considered exempt hours and may not be included in patrol hour totals. Reimbursement will be limited to 2 all-terrain/utility terrain safety education courses per patrol year.

8. Administrative time that exceeds 30 percent of the total number of hours claimed on form 8700-61 is not eligible for reimbursement. Hours claimed for teaching all-terrain/utility terrain safety education courses do not count as administrative time for purposes of this subdivision.

**History:** CR 14-062: cr. Register September 2015 No. 717, eff. 5-1-16.

#### **NR 50.13 Law enforcement aids to municipalities.**

(1) Municipalities may receive law enforcement aids for up to 75 percent of the net costs (determined by deducting all fines and forfeitures imposed upon persons convicted of violations of ordinances enacted pursuant to s. 30.77, Stats.) which are directly attributable to the operation and maintenance of the water safety patrol unit. State aid is available only for those activities associated with the local enforcement of ss. 30.50 to 30.80, Stats., and any administrative rules and ordinances enacted pursuant thereto. No municipality shall receive state aid in excess of 20 percent of the funds available.

(1m) No local unit of government may receive state aids under s. 30.79, Stats., for costs contrary to the following guidelines:

(a) On-water patrol hours for each water safety patrol are fundable based on a formula of the number of on-water patrol hours per arrest. The maximum number of on-water patrol hours per arrest shall be not more than 50 percent above the state average of on-water patrol hours per arrest for the past 3 years com-

puted from the statewide municipal patrol records. This ratio may not be less than 15 on-water patrol hours per arrest for inland water patrols or less than 22 on-water patrol hours per arrest for patrols that operate on outlying waters or on lakes of over 100,000 acres. Patrols with a ratio of on-water patrol hours per arrest in excess of the maximum ratio may be funded only for those hours that result in a ratio equal to the maximum ratio allowed. Two documented written warnings will be given the same weight as an arrest. No more than 50 percent of the credits to reach the standard may be for written warnings. Patrols are also subject to all of the following guidelines:

1. For the purpose of establishing the average patrol hour per arrest for each claim, the inland patrols shall be based on the average of all inland water patrols and the outlying water patrols shall be based on the average of all the patrols that operate on outlying waters or on lakes of over 100,000 acres participating in the program of aids to municipal water safety patrol units.

2. For the purpose of establishing on-the-water patrol average, on-the-water patrol hours are one person times one hour of on-the-water on patrol.

(b) The maximum number of fundable crew members on a water safety patrol shall be limited to:

1. Two certified law enforcement officers per boat on inland waters, having authority to make arrests; and

2. Three certified law enforcement officers per boat on outlying waters or on lakes of over 100,000 acres, having authority to make arrests.

(c) No local unit of government is eligible for reimbursement unless it contains within its jurisdiction at least one of the following:

1. A lake of at least 100 acres in size, determined by the current department lake survey.

2. At least one mile of river within the jurisdiction of the local unit of government.

(d) A local unit of government operating within the guidelines of this section may be reimbursed for actual expenses for search and rescue on all waters within its jurisdiction.

(e) No local unit of government may receive aid under any portion of the program of aids to municipal water safety patrol units unless its water safety patrol has performed at least 80 hours of fundable on-the-water patrol time during the calendar year.

(f) A local unit of government may be reimbursed for the actual teaching hours of a law enforcement officer who conducts an authorized department boating safety education course.

(g) Water safety patrol expenses on lakes less than 100 acres and sections of rivers less than one mile in length may only be reimbursed if the patrol qualifies under par. (c) and the expenses are justified in the interest of public health and safety. Such justification shall be documented on each daily log Form 8700-59 and included on the monthly report Form 8700-90.

(2) For the purpose of administering the aids to local units of government provided in s. 30.79, Stats., search and rescue is defined as the activity of looking for a person or persons who are, or who are reasonably believed to be alive, in distress and are in a life threatening situation.

(a) Search and rescue aids may be provided to authorized municipal water safety patrol units operating under the following circumstances:

1. Enforcing the provisions of ss. 30.50 to 30.80, Stats.;
2. Requesting outside assistance when circumstances exist which justify employing such assistance, on a case-by-case basis. The basis for requesting outside assistance must be justifiable from a cost and effectiveness standpoint.

3. Towing where the disabled boat and occupants are in distress and in a life threatening situation.

(3) Claim forms shall be filed with the bureau of law enforcement, department of natural resources, as specified in s. 30.79, Stats. Claims are to be made for the calendar year immediately preceding the filing date.

(4) The following forms shall be used by each water safety patrol unit to qualify it for state aid:

(a) *Form 8700-59 — Notice of intent to patrol.* In order to be eligible for state aids, a water safety patrol must function as a law enforcement unit and file an intent to patrol form with the department, listing the authority under which the water safety patrol will operate. On or before March 1 of each year the municipality shall file an intent to patrol form with the department, sent to the attention of the coordinator of boating safety, Madison, Wisconsin.

(b) *Form 8700-89 — Daily log.* This form is to be used in compiling a summary of the water safety patrol's daily activities and expenses. It is not to be filed with the department, but is to be used for assembling information necessary to complete form 8700-90. The form must be kept on file by the water safety patrol to augment its records and must be available in chronological order for periodic checks by representatives of the department during normal business hours and at the time of the annual audit.

(c) *Form 8700-90 — Monthly report.* Form 8700-90 shall be completed and filed with the department no later than the tenth day following the month covered. The information shown on this form will be a computation of the information taken from the daily logs in form 8700-89.

(d) The appropriate official shall complete the following forms, retain one set for the municipality's records, and file one set with the bureau of law enforcement, department of natural resources as specified in s. 30.79, Stats., covering the patrol expense for the preceding calendar year. Claims which are received by the department after January 31 will not be processed for payment.

1. 'Form 8700-60 — Application for state aid.' Form 8700-60 shall be completed by the appropriate municipal official, who shall list the total net cost of the water safety patrol claimed by the municipality.

2. 'Form 8700-61 — Salary schedule.' Form 8700-61 shall be completed by the appropriate municipal official, who shall list the names and salaries of persons engaged in the local enforcement of ss. 30.50 to 30.80, Stats., and any administrative rules and ordinances enacted pursuant thereto. Salary rate is restricted to no more than the regular straight time rate which the officer normally receives. Allowable fringe rates are actual costs up to a maximum of 50 percent of the reimbursable straight time salary rate.

3. 'Form 8700-62 — Travel, materials and supplies schedule.' Form 8700-62 shall be completed by the appropriate municipal official, who shall list all reimbursable expenditures other than salaries and depreciable items.

4. 'Form 8700-63 — Depreciation schedule - straight line method.' Form 8700-63 shall be completed by the appropriate local unit of government official, who shall list all capital outlay equipment and the resulting depreciation. Purchase of capital equipment shall be preapproved by the department. Depreciation shall be calculated at the rate of 20 percent annually for each new item of capital equipment for which the cost is 2,500 or greater. All costs of repairs \$2,500 or greater to an item of capital equipment shall be reimbursed on a 20 percent per year straight line depreciation schedule.

5. 'Form 8700-64 — Record of court cases for violations of ss. 30.50 to 30.80, Stats., and any administrative rules and ordinances enacted pursuant thereto.' This form is to be completed by the appropriate municipal official, who shall list all violations and court actions for the calendar year.

6. 'Form 8700-330 — U.S. Coast Guard Annual Report.' Form 8700-330 shall be used to compile a summary of the water safety patrol activities for submittal to the U.S. coast guard.

(5) Travel expenses and salaries for training purposes are authorized only for attendance at boating safety enforcement training sessions conducted by the department. The person in charge of the patrol, or his/her designee, is required to attend all designated department boating safety enforcement patrol training sessions as a condition of receiving aids under this rule and s. 30.79, Stats.

(6) Administrative time that exceeds 30 percent of the total number of hours claimed on from 8700-61 is not eligible for reimbursement. Hours claimed for teaching boating safety education courses do not count as administrative time for purposes of this subdivision.

(7) A municipality may be reimbursed for the actual teaching hours of a law enforcement officer who conducts an authorized department boat safety education course. Teaching hours are considered exempt hours and may not be included in patrol hour totals. Reimbursement will be limited to 2 boat safety education courses per patrol year.

**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1977, No. 262, eff. 11-1-77; renum. (2) to (4) to be (3) to (5), cr. (2), Register, May, 1979, No. 281, eff. 6-1-79; emerg. cr. (1m), (2) (a) 3. and (6), am. (2) (intro.) and (4) (a) 4., eff. 3-15-90; cr. (1m), (2) (a) 3. and (6), am. (2) (intro.) and (4) (d) 4., Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11-1-90; am. (1m) (a) (intro.), (4) (d) 2. and 4., Register, May, 1995, No. 473, eff. 6-1-95; am. (4) (d) (intro.), Register, December, 1999, No. 528, eff. 1-1-00; CR 01-007: am. (6), Register November 2001 No. 551, eff. 12-1-01; CR 02-098: am. (1m) (a) (intro.), 1. and (b) 2. and (4) (d) (intro.) Register May 2003 No. 569, eff. 6-1-03; CR 14-062: am. (1m) (a) (intro.), (e), (3), (4) (c), (d) (intro.), 1. to 4., cr. (4) (d) 6., am. (6), cr. (7) Register September 2015 No. 717, eff. 1-1-16.

**NR 50.14 County fish and wildlife aid. (1) PURPOSE.** The purpose of this section is to establish standards for the implementation of a grant-in-aid program for county fish and wildlife projects under s. 23.09 (12), Stats.

(2) **APPLICABILITY.** Provisions of this section are applicable to counties and tribal governing bodies participating in the county fish and wildlife program.

(3) **ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.** (a) County fish and wildlife aids will be allocated for use as soon after July 1 of each year as they become available.

(b) Funds will be allocated to each county and Indian tribe until October 1. Unused county and tribal funds revert to 6 district funds on October 1. These district funds are available to counties and tribes within district boundaries. Unused district funds revert to a statewide fund on May 1 of each year. These statewide funds are available to counties and tribes anywhere in the state.

(c) State aid allocated to any county or tribe for the enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat shall be based on the ratio of the area of the county (less reservation lands) or reservation to the total area of the state (excluding outlying waters and interstate boundary waters of the Mississippi river and Lake Pepin).

(4) **ALLOWABLE COSTS, BILLING AND AUDITS.** (a) The state share may not exceed one-half of the actual project cost.

(b) Except for specialized equipment useful solely for fish or wildlife management purposes, aids under this program may not be used to purchase equipment.

(5) **OTHER CONDITIONS.** 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 50.17 Shooting range development. (1) PURPOSE.** The purpose of this section is to establish standards for the implementation of a grant-in-aid program for development of shooting ranges under 16 USC 669, et seq.

(2) **APPLICABILITY.** The provisions of this section are applicable to counties, cities, villages, townships, other governmental agencies or units, clubs or organizations, businesses or corporations and educational institutions.

(3) **BIENNIAL ALLOTMENT.** (a) On July 1 of each odd-numbered year, the secretary shall establish an allotment available as matching funds for shooting range construction. Funding shall be a portion of 16 USC 669, et seq. money returned to the state allocated for hunter education. This allotment shall be separate from funding used to construct shooting ranges on land owned by the state of Wisconsin.

(b) Fifty percent of approved eligible project costs may be funded.

(c) Twenty percent of the established allotment may be exempted from the provisions of sub. (4) (c) 1. if used to fund range

projects which can be developed with not more than 10 percent of the total established allotment.

**(4) GENERAL PROVISIONS.** (a) The following projects are eligible:

1. Outdoor range construction, including: backstops and berms, target holders, shooting benches, baffles, protective fencing, signs, trenches, gun racks, platforms, restrooms and other items considered essential for the project by the department.

2. Indoor ranges, when it is determined by the department they are needed, including classroom, storage and restroom facilities.

(b) The following projects are not eligible:

1. Construction of clubhouses and facilities not essential to the operation of the shooting range.

2. Operation and maintenance of the range.

(c) Applications will be ranked based on a comparative basis considering the following criteria:

1. First consideration will be given projects in major metropolitan areas where ranges are not available for hunter education training.

2. Second consideration will be given projects in locations where ranges are not available within 20 miles for hunter education training.

3. More consideration will be given projects to improve an existing range than to develop new ranges in the same locality.

4. The potential of the project to meet the needs of hunter education programs and public shooting in the locality.

5. Zoning requirements.

(d) Sponsors shall demonstrate an ability to operate the range for at least 20 years and shall contract with the state of Wisconsin for use by the hunter education program during this period.

(e) Applicants shall submit an application on the prescribed department form.

**History:** Cr. Register, August, 1985, No. 356, eff. 9-1-85; r. and recr. (3), am. (4) (d), Register, May, 1994, No. 461, eff. 6-1-94.

#### **NR 50.19 Scenic urban waterways grant program.**

**(1) PURPOSE.** The purpose of this section is to establish standards for the implementation and administration of the scenic urban waterways grant program under s. 30.275, Stats.

**(2) APPLICABILITY.** The provisions of this section are applicable to all counties, cities, villages, towns and Indian tribes within a designated scenic urban waterway and to the department.

**(3) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.** The following types of projects are eligible for funding under this section:

(a) Acquisition and development of land for parks, open spaces, scenic easements, public access, automobile parking, fish and wildlife habitat, woodlands, wetlands and trails.

(b) Layout and development of scenic drives.

(c) Improvement of surface water quality and surface water flow.

**(4) APPLICATION PROCEDURE.** Applications for project grants shall be submitted to the department no later than November 1 of each state fiscal year for which funding is requested. The department shall review applications for completeness. An application shall contain the following items:

(a) A completed application form.

(b) A resolution adopted by the governing body of the municipality, Indian tribe or the department designating an authorized representative to apply for grants under s. 30.275, Stats., and this section on behalf of the municipality, Indian tribe or the depart-

ment. The authorized representative shall be an official or employee of the municipality, Indian tribe or the department.

(c) Description of project; including proximity to urban areas, types of water-based recreational activities the project would promote, a detailed estimate of project costs, and an estimate of the number of people who would be expected to enjoy the benefits of the project.

(d) Plans and specifications for the project.

(e) Other information as requested by the department.

**(5) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.** Annual appropriations will be allocated equally among all designated scenic urban waterways as soon as possible after July 1 of each year. Funds allocated to a designated scenic urban waterway that are not needed to fund applications received by November 1, may be reallocated equally among designated scenic urban waterways which have requested funds in excess of their allocations. The reallocation shall be completed by February 1 of the following year.

**(6) WATERSHED COMMITTEES.** The selection of projects within a designated scenic urban waterway shall be made by a watershed committee for that scenic urban waterway appointed by the department. The committee shall have members from each county within the designated scenic urban waterway; some cities, villages, towns and inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts within the designated scenic urban waterway; the department and independent citizens within the designated scenic urban waterway. Existing watershed committees may be used to select projects. Regional planning commissions may and the department shall be coordinators and advisors to the committee.

**(7) SELECTION OF PROJECTS.** The watershed committee shall give priority to local government projects. Department projects may be selected only if sufficient funds remain after local government projects within the designated scenic urban waterway are selected. Priority shall be given to applications based on the degree to which the potential benefits of each project correspond to the program's purpose pursuant to s. 30.275 (1), Stats.

**(8) GRANT AWARDS.** The department shall issue grant awards by February 28 of each year. The state share of the project cost shall be no greater than 80 percent of the eligible project costs. The department may not issue grants to applicants whose application is not complete.

**(9) GRANT CONDITIONS.** (a) Grant awards are subject to the conditions of this section and s. 30.275, Stats.

(b) Projects funded under this section shall be consistent with any approved areawide water quality management plan encompassing the project.

(c) Nonpoint source projects to improve surface water quality and surface water flow are subject to the requirements of ss. NR 120.14 and 120.15.

(d) The general provisions of s. NR 50.05 apply to awards made under this section.

**History:** Cr. Register, November, 1986, No. 371, eff. 12-1-86.

#### **NR 50.21 National recreational trails program. (1)**

**PURPOSE.** The purpose of this section is to establish standards for the administration of the Symms national recreational trails fund act of 1991, 16 USC 1261, 1262 and 26 USC 9503 (6), 9511.

**(2) APPLICABILITY.** The provisions of this section are applicable to all towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governing bodies, school districts, state agencies, federal agencies and incorporated organizations participating in the national recreational trails program.

**(3) DEFINITIONS.** As used in this section:

(a) "Applicant" means a town, village, city, county, elected governing body of an Indian tribe, school district, state agency, federal agency or incorporated organization applying for a grant.

(b) "Incorporated organization" means an organization incorporated pursuant to s. 181.0202, Stats., whose primary purpose is promoting, encouraging or engaging in outdoor recreational trail activities.

(c) "National recreational trails program" means the program created under 16 USC 1261, 1262 and 26 USC 9503 (6) and 9511 with funds appropriated under s. 20.370 (5) (cy) and (7) (fy), Stats.

(d) "Recreational trail" means a thoroughfare or track across land or snow used for recreational purposes such as bicycling, cross country skiing, day hiking, equestrian activities, jogging or similar fitness activities, trail biking, overnight and long distance backpacking, snowmobiling, aquatic or water activity, and vehicular travel by motorcycle, 4-wheel drive or all-terrain off-road vehicles.

(e) "Sponsor" means a town, village, city, county, tribal government, school district, state agency, federal agency or incorporated organization receiving assistance.

(f) "State trails council" means the 9 member council created under s. 15.347 (16), Stats.

**(4) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.** (a) National recreational trails program funds allocated to Wisconsin each fiscal year shall be divided as follows:

1. An amount not exceeding 7 percent of the amount received by the state to the department for the costs of administering the national recreational trails program.

2. An amount not to exceed 5 percent of the amount received by the state to the department for the operation of environmental protection and education programs relating to the use of recreational trails.

3. After the reductions of subs. 1. and 2., the amount received by the state shall be allocated by the department in the following manner:

a. At least 30 percent shall be reserved for uses relating to motorized trail recreation. Of this amount, 80 percent shall be used for grants to applicants under sub. (3) (c) and 20 percent shall be used by the department for trail purposes. Funds not encumbered before the first day of the 4th quarter of the state fiscal year may be used for either grants or used by the department for motorized trail purposes.

b. At least 30 percent shall be reserved for uses relating to non-motorized trail recreation. Of this amount, 80 percent shall be used for grants to applicants under sub. (3) (c) and 20 percent shall be used by the department for trail purposes. Funds not encumbered before the first day of the 4th quarter of the state fiscal year may be used for either grants or used by the department for non-motorized trail purposes.

c. Not less than 40 percent for uses that provide for the greatest number of compatible recreational trail uses or that provide for innovative recreational trail corridor sharing to accommodate motorized and non-motorized recreational trail use. Of this amount, 50 percent shall be used for grants to applicants under sub. (3) (c) and 50 percent shall be used by the department for trail purposes. Funds not encumbered before the first day of the 4th quarter of the state fiscal year may be used for either grants or used by the department for diversified trail purposes.

(b) Funds allocated to the state but not encumbered in projects shall remain allocated to the state during subsequent state fiscal years. These funds shall remain allocated under the respective motorized, non-motorized and diversified categories.

**(5) GENERAL PROVISIONS.** Unless otherwise noted, the general conditions of s. NR 50.05 also apply:

(a) Eligible applicants may receive a state grant for up to 100 percent of the total project costs of a recreational trail project.

(b) Any use of national recreational trail program funds for trails on private lands shall be accompanied by a written easement or other legally binding agreement that ensures public access to the trail improvements.

(c) When a corridor to be developed is obtained through an easement or subject to other legally binding agreement, the degree of control over the corridor by the sponsor and the period of time that the written easement or legally binding agreement continues shall be factors in determining the amount of national recreational trails program funds to be granted to the project.

(d) National recreational trails program funds are to be used on trails and trail related projects which have been identified in or which further a specific goal of a trail plan included or referenced in a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan required by LAWCON.

(e) Cost overruns beyond the original grant award may be allowed for good cause. Awarding of cost overruns shall be contingent upon funds available and review by department staff.

(f) Acquisition of real property shall be in accordance with state and federal guidelines for preparation of appraisals and relocation assistance.

(g) Administrative costs of acquiring lands or land rights including the cost of appraisal, relocation payments, title insurance and recording fees are not eligible costs for reimbursement.

(h) A grant may not be made to share costs for land acquisition, planning or engineering costs incurred prior to approval of a grant application.

(i) Title to lands or rights in land acquired under this section shall vest in the sponsor, but the lands purchased may not be converted to uses inconsistent with this section without the prior approval of the department. Proceeds from the sale or other disposal of the lands shall be used to promote the objectives of this section.

(j) Project agreements with incorporated organizations for the acquisition of land shall incorporate a special condition that should the sponsoring incorporated organization be dissolved, the title to property acquired with national recreational trails program funds shall revert to the department.

(k) Actual fringe benefits paid as part of the direct labor costs

(L) Claims for payment shall be submitted by the sponsor within 6 months of the project termination date.

(m) Claims for payment shall be paid on a cost reimbursement basis.

(n) Trail grooming rates shall be established by the department. These rates will reflect the operating costs of tractor units and attached grooming devices.

(o) Rates for equipment used for maintenance, rehabilitation or development activities performed by a sponsor may not exceed the county machinery agreement rate established annually with each county by the state department of transportation. All hand tools necessary to carry out a project are the responsibility of the sponsor.

**Note:** Copies of the county machinery agreements are available from the county highway departments.

(p) The department may approve a variance from the requirements of this section that are not elements of the federal statutes, 16 USC 1261, 1262, upon request of a sponsor when the department determines that the variance is essential to effect necessary grant actions or program objectives, and where special circum-



stances make the variance in the best interest of the program. Before granting a variance, the department shall take into account factors such as good cause and circumstances beyond the control of the sponsor.

**Note:** The following provisions of the rule are elements of the federal statutes: ss. NR 50.21 (2); (4) (a) 1. and 2; (5) (b) to (d), (g); (6); and (7). The remaining provisions are not elements of the federal statutes.

**(6) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.** Projects eligible for funding under this section include:

(a) Development of urban trail linkages near homes and workplaces;

(b) Maintenance of existing recreational trails, including the grooming and maintenance of trails across snow;

(c) Restoration of areas damaged by use of recreational trails;

(d) Development of trailside and trail head facilities;

(e) Provision of features which facilitate the access and use of trails by persons with disabilities.

(f) Acquisition of easements for trails, or for trail corridors identified in a state trail plan;

(g) Acquisition of fee simple title to property from a willing seller when the objective of the acquisition cannot be accomplished by acquisition of an easement or by other means;

(h) Construction of new trails on state, county, municipal or private lands where a recreational need for this construction is shown;

(i) Construction of new trails crossing federal lands only where necessary and required by the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, approved by the department and the administering federal agency or agencies charged with administering all impacted lands and consistent with applicable federal land management plans and policies.

**(7) INELIGIBLE PROJECTS.** National recreational trails program funds may not be used for the following:

(a) Condemnation of any kind of interest in property;

(b) Construction of any motorized trail on national forest lands unless the lands have been allocated for uses other than wilderness by a forest land and resource management plan approved by the U. S. forest service or have been released to uses other than wilderness by an act of congress and the construction is consistent with management direction in the national forest land and resource management plan.

(c) Upgrading, expanding or otherwise facilitating motorized use or access to trails predominately used by non-motorized trail users, and as of May 1, 1991 motorized use is either prohibited or has not occurred.

(d) As otherwise noted in 16 USC 1261 (e) (2).

**(8) PRIORITIES.** The department shall establish a project priority list based on the following factors to select projects for financial assistance:

(a) For motorized projects;

1. The type of trail project is given preference in the following ranked order: trail rehabilitation project, trail maintenance project, trail development project and trail acquisition project.

2. The trail sponsor has or can demonstrate the ability to carry out a trail project.

3. The trail project will promote safe trail use.

4. The degree to which the trail project will utilize volunteer or non-traditional labor and donations of materials and equipment.

5. The trail provides for more than one motorized activity.

6. The trail provides for year around trail use.

7. The trail links with other trails to form a trail system or leads to a trail system.

8. The trail project is located on land where control of the trail corridor is long term.

(b) For non-motorized projects;

1. The type of trail project is given preference in the following ranked order: trail rehabilitation project, trail maintenance project, trail development project and trail acquisition project.

2. The trail sponsor has or can demonstrate the ability to carry out a trail project.

3. The trail project will promote safe trail use.

4. The degree to which the trail project will utilize volunteer or non-traditional labor and donations of materials and equipment.

5. The trail project is located close to high population areas.

(c) For multiple or compatible use projects;

1. The type of trail project is given preference in the following ranked order: trail rehabilitation project, trail maintenance project, trail development project and trail acquisition project.

2. The trail project will promote safe trail use.

3. The degree to which the trail project will utilize volunteer or non-traditional labor and donations of materials and equipment.

4. The trail project will provide for the greatest number of compatible trail uses.

5. The trail project will provide for the greatest number of other outdoor recreational uses in addition to trail use.

6. The trail project will resolve conflict between historically conflicting trail uses.

7. The trail project will provide for innovative recreational trail corridor sharing to accommodate motorized and non-motorized trail use.

8. The trail project is located close to high population areas.

**(9) APPLICATIONS AND GRANT AWARD PROCEDURES.** (a) Applicants for national recreational trails program funds shall submit applications on the prescribed department form to the appropriate district office by May 1 of each year.

(b) The department shall evaluate completed applications to determine which applicants will receive grants according to priorities in sub. (8).

(c) Successful applicants shall be notified by the department and sent a project agreement. Development or maintenance work under the project agreement may not proceed until the agreement is signed by the department and the applicant.

**(10) ROLE OF STATE TRAILS COUNCIL.** The state trails council shall provide guidance on the administration of the national recreational trails program and rules to implement the program.

**History:** Cr. Register, November, 1993, No. 455, eff. 12-1-93; corrections in (3) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register, December, 1999, No. 528; correction in (3) (c) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register May 2003 No. 569; correction in (3) (a) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register April 2013 No. 688.

**NR 50.23 Wildlife damage control grants for urban areas.** (1) **APPLICABILITY.** This section is applicable to municipalities in urban areas applying for grants under s. 29.887, Stats.

(2) **DEFINITIONS.** In this section:

(a) "Municipality" means a town, city, village, county or tribal government.

(b) "Urban area" means any area designated pursuant to s. 86.196 (1) (c), Stats.

(3) **COST SHARING GRANTS.** Municipalities in urban areas may apply for cost-sharing grants for cost-effective wildlife abatement and control measures. The department may award matching grants for up to 50 percent of the department approved

costs of the projects. No grant may exceed \$5,000 in any fiscal year.

**(4) ELIGIBLE SPECIES.** Only projects addressing white-tailed deer or Canada geese are eligible for grants.

**(5) ELIGIBLE PRACTICES.** Municipalities may apply for a grant for 50 percent of the cost to do any of the following:

- (a) Develop an urban wildlife population control plan.
- (b) Monitor wildlife populations and establish population estimates.
- (c) Remove deer under a department approved project which uses sharpshooters.
- (d) Trap and translocate deer and geese.
- (e) Implement managed hunts.
- (f) Remove resident Canada geese by methods approved by the department.
- (g) Perform required health and tissue sampling.
- (h) Process, distribute or dispose of geese or deer to a charitable organization.
- (i) Modify habitat.
- (j) Implement any other wildlife control or damage abatement practices approved by the department.

**(6) APPLICATION AND GRANT AWARD.** (a) Applicants for grants from the urban wildlife damage program shall submit applications to the appropriate department regional office no later than December 1 of each year on forms prescribed by the department.

(b) The department shall notify successful grant applicants and send them a grant agreement. Development and implementation of the applicant's population control plan may not proceed until the grant agreement is signed by the applicant and the department.

**(7) GRANT CONDITIONS.** (a) Applicants shall agree in the application to develop an urban wildlife population control plan approved by the department. The plan shall be completed within one year of the date of the signed grant agreement. This control plan shall include all of the following:

1. A description of the public input process conducted by the municipality in establishing the need for urban wildlife population control.
2. Description of need for urban wildlife population control. Need may include public concern about nuisance, health, human safety, property or crop damage.
3. A description of population monitoring procedures used to establish estimates of local deer or goose numbers.

4. A desired population management goal.
5. A description of the approved control methods.
6. Other information required by the department.

(b) The department shall consider the following criteria when awarding grants:

1. The extent that the application addresses prevention and abatement of wildlife damage to human safety, health or property.
2. The extent that the application addresses prevention and abatement of nuisance wildlife problems not addressed in subd. 1.
3. The extent that the application includes long-term solutions to wildlife problems such as habitat modification or adopting a no wildlife feeding ordinance.
4. The cost effectiveness of practices.
5. The severity of the wildlife damage or nuisance problem being addressed by the application.
6. The likelihood of preventing the specified damage or nuisance.
7. The municipality's compliance with s. 29.038, Stats., and other department administered laws, rules and programs.

**(8) PAYMENT.** (a) Grantees shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations including chs. NR 12, 19 and 50 and ss. 29.885, 29.887 and 29.889, Stats., unless otherwise provided under this chapter.

(b) The department may pay 50 percent of the grant amount to municipalities at the time the grant agreement is signed and executed if requested by the municipality.

(c) If municipalities do not use the grant to develop or implement a department approved wildlife control plan, they shall repay the department their grant money that was not spent or that was inappropriately spent plus interest at 5 percent annually accrued within 3 years of the date the grant agreement was executed.

(d) At the time of the grant award, the grantee may request an amount equal to 25 percent of the total cost of developing the plan.

**(9) TERMINATION AND REPAYMENT.** If the grantee does not complete the control plan within one year of the date the grant was signed, or implement the approved plan within 2 years of the date the grant was signed, the department may terminate the grant, and the grantee shall repay the department their grant money that was not spent or that was inappropriately spent plus interest at 5 percent annually accrued within 3 years of the date the grant agreement was executed.

**History:** Cr. Register, May, 1999, No. 521, eff. 6-1-99.