

Request for Proposals:

Control of Eurasian watermilfoil or flowering rush on a partial-lake basis to reduce interference with recreation and risk of spread.

2 May 2011

Funds are available from the MN DNR in 2011 for control of Eurasian watermilfoil (hereafter called milfoil) and flowering rush. These funds may be used for:

- 1.) Control during spring or early summer of dense and matted milfoil or dense flowering rush that interferes with recreational activities by a number of people who use a lake.
- 2.) Control of dense and matted milfoil or dense flowering rush growing next to a public water access to reduce risk of spread from the lake.

Funds are available to organizations such as lake associations, lake improvement districts, etc. To be eligible for this program, a lake must have at least one public water access. Your organization must have a federal tax id number in order to participate in this grant program.

Requirements for grants for use of herbicides to control milfoil or flowering rush

Control usually is done by use of herbicide or mechanical harvesting. If you plan to seek a grant to use herbicides, then you will need to meet the legislative requirement listed below.

- **You may not use 2,4-D herbicide.**

If you propose to use herbicide to control milfoil, then you will be required to use triclopyr, which is selective, and may be used to control milfoil during 2011 on projects supported with grants from the DNR.

To learn more about this offer, please read on.

[Also avail. at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/eurasian.html>]

Background on availability of funds from the DNR for control of Eurasian watermilfoil or flowering rush

Eurasian watermilfoil, *Myriophyllum spicatum* (hereafter called milfoil) and flowering rush, *Butomus umbellatus*, are invasive, non-native aquatic plants. Milfoil or flowering rush can interfere with recreational and other uses of lakes and rivers where the plants produce dense mats of vegetation at the water's surface. These mats are similar to, but can be more extensive than, those produced by native vegetation.

Not all lakes with milfoil or flowering rush have dense and matted growths of the invasive plants in areas where control is either necessary or eligible for reimbursement by the DNR. Each year, we receive some applications for control that are not approved for reimbursement, usually due to a lack of dense and matted milfoil growing in areas where the plant would create an unavoidable nuisance for the general public.

To be eligible to receive a grant from the DNR to support control of nuisances caused by milfoil or flowering rush, a lake must have at least one public water access.

This offer of funds from the DNR is a competitive grant program. There is no guarantee that there will be sufficient funds available from the DNR to provide grants to all cooperators with reasonable projects. Submission of an application for these funds is not a guarantee that they will be granted. Funds made available through this program must be spent during the year when they are offered and will not be carried over into following years.

On some lakes there may be more than one potential cooperator with an interest in managing milfoil or flowering rush. The DNR will first seek to work with municipalities such as conservation, watershed, lake improvement, or park districts; cities; or counties. If no such organization exists or is willing to manage milfoil or flowering rush on an individual lake, then the DNR will work with lake associations.

These funds are paid to cooperators as a reimbursement for work that has been completed. The DNR will provide technical assistance in support of management of milfoil or flowering rush to outside organizations when requested. Under this program, the DNR is *not* obligated to do surveys or supervise control work.

The maximum amount of funds for which an organization may apply to use for control on an individual lake is determined as follows.

1. First, determine the number of littoral or acres less than 15 feet deep there are in a lake. This can be done by consulting the "LakeFinder" at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html>
2. Lakes with less than 51 littoral acres are eligible to receive up to \$2,000. Lakes with 51 to 100 littoral acres are eligible to receive up to \$4,000. Lakes with 101 to 2500 littoral acres are eligible to receive up to \$4,000 plus \$6.00 for each littoral acre in addition to

the first 100. Lakes with 2,500 to 6,000 littoral acres are eligible to receive up to \$4,000 plus \$5.00 for each littoral acre in addition to the first 100. Lakes with more than 6,000 littoral acres, i.e., Mille Lacs and Leech, currently are monitored and managed on a limited basis by the DNR.

These funds may *NOT* be used for control work that would otherwise be done by private individuals. Typically, control undertaken by private individuals is done immediately adjacent to the owner's shoreline or adjacent to structures such as docks. This area extends up to 150 feet lakeward from the shoreline, or 50 feet lakeward of any structures such as docks, whichever is farther lakeward (see Figure 1). In addition, these funds may not be used for control of aquatic plants other than milfoil or flowering rush.

Control of milfoil or flowering rush during spring or early summer. The DNR encourages potential cooperators to manage nuisances caused by milfoil or flowering rush by controlling the plant in late spring and early summer. In this way, the relief from milfoil or flowering rush problems is provided during summer, the time of year when recreational use of lakes is usually greatest. Some herbicides are more effective when applied in spring or early summer to actively growing plants as opposed to application later in a season.

Treatments of milfoil during fall are discouraged because any relief provided by such control is provided at a time of year when levels of boating are generally lower than they are in spring or summer. In addition, control of milfoil in the fall generally is not likely to eliminate the need to control milfoil during the following spring when the plants grow back.

Selective Control of milfoil or flowering rush. The DNR usually requires that selective herbicides be used for control of milfoil or flowering rush that is supported with a grant from the DNR.

Control of nuisances caused by dense and matted milfoil and dense flowering rush. The DNR encourages potential cooperators to focus on management of nuisances caused by dense and matted milfoil and dense flowering rush. Mats of milfoil or flowering rush at the water's surface can interfere with watercraft use, swimming, or other traditional recreational uses.

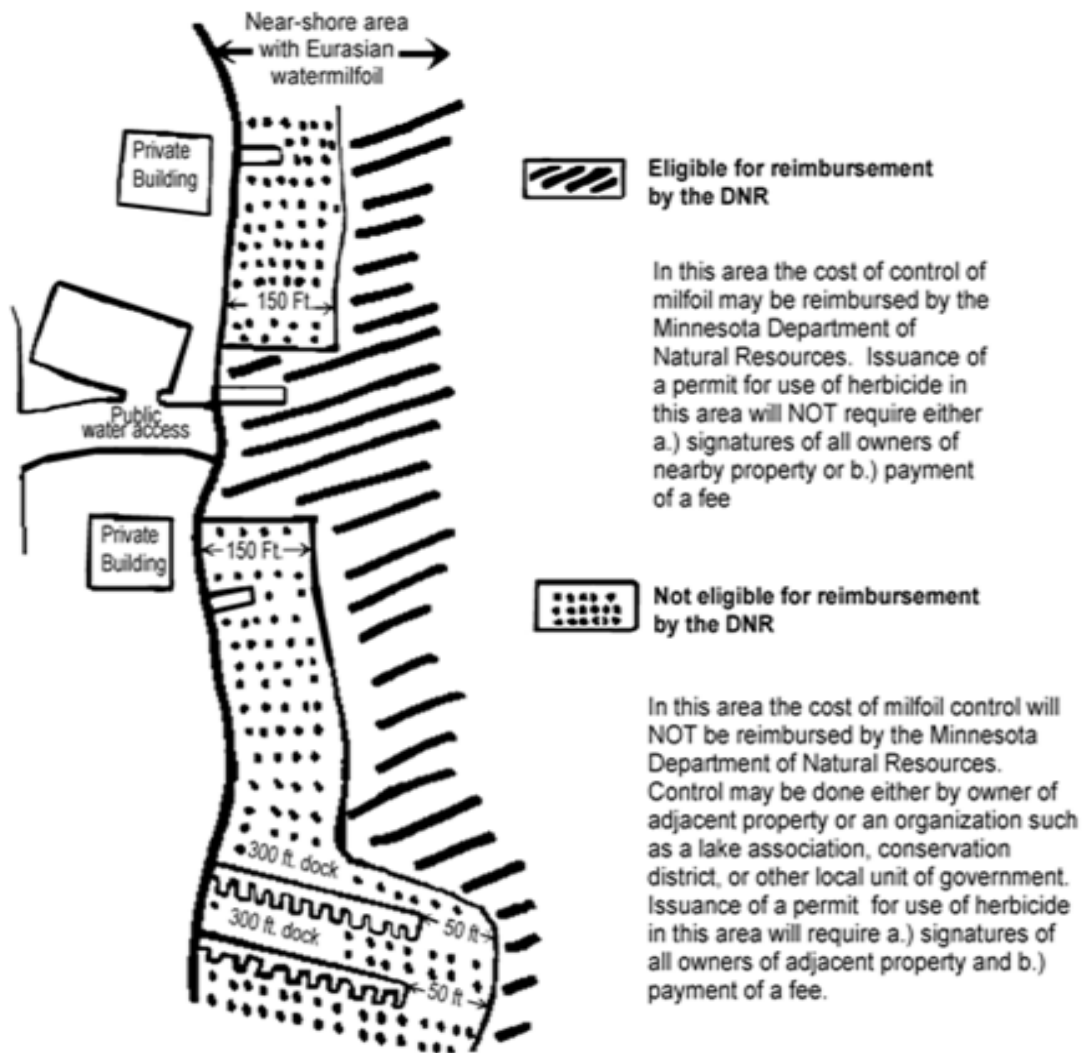
Control of Eurasian watermilfoil or flowering rush near a Public Water Access. Also eligible for reimbursement is control of Eurasian watermilfoil or flowering rush near a public water access to reduce the risk of accidental transport of milfoil or flowering rush from a lake by boaters leaving the lake.

Control is usually done by a contractor using the following methods:

- a) Use of herbicide, or
- b) Mechanical control.

Figure 1. Differences between areas where control of Eurasian watermilfoil or flowering rush is or is not eligible for reimbursement by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Control eligible for reimbursement includes:



If you would like to discuss the situation on your lake and the grant program, please contact the Invasive Species Specialist for your region (Figure 2).

DNR Contacts for Aquatic Invasive Plant Management Grants

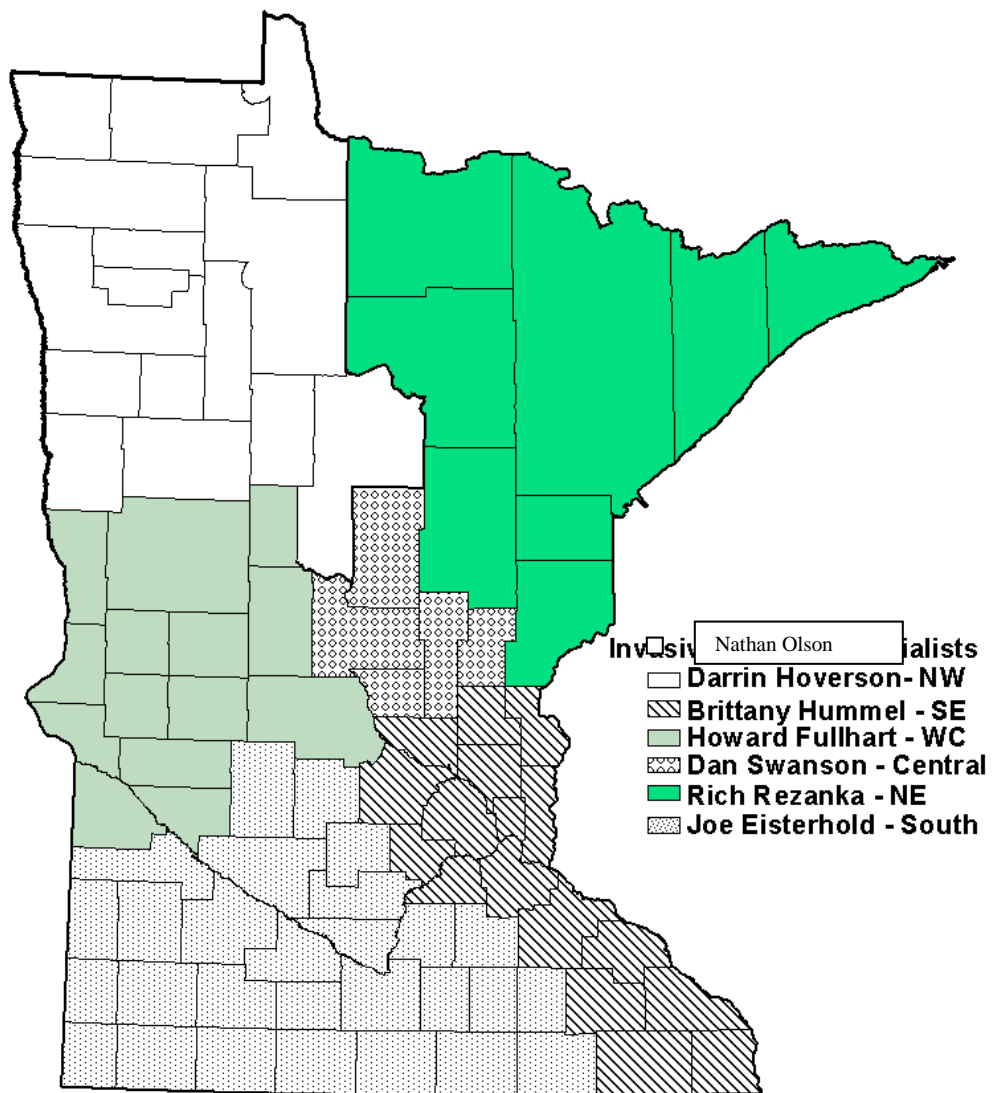


Figure 2. Invasive Species Specialists by region

To obtain funds for control of Eurasian Watermilfoil or flowering rush:**Step 1. Submit to the DNR an application for grant to control milfoil or flowering rush.**

Complete the attached application [which also may be found at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/eurasian.html>] for a grant from the DNR for control of Eurasian Watermilfoil or flowering rush and submit it to the DNR by sending it to:

Wendy Crowell

Ecological Resources Grants Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Ecological Resources, Box 25
500 Lafayette Rd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Wendy.crowell@state.mn.us

The Ecological Resources Grants Coordinator, Wendy Crowell, will record the date, when the application was received and send a note to the applicant to acknowledge this. The application will then be forwarded to an Invasive Species Specialist for review.

The sooner you submit an application to the DNR, the more likely it is that we will be able to determine the adequacy of your plans in time for you to be eligible to receive a grant during 2011.

In 2011 there will be four deadlines for approval of projects with pre-determined allocations of dollars for each deadline. In this way we will be able to allow organizations who have a reasonable proposal ready early in the season to proceed in a timely way and also have funds available for other organizations that either need additional time to prepare a proposal or do not become aware of the extent and severity of the nuisances caused by milfoil or flowering rush lake until later in the season. Funds allocated for one period but not used in that period will be added to the amount available during the subsequent period, if any.

Proposals reviewed in one period but not approved for funding due to a low ranking may be reconsidered in a subsequent period, if there is one. Proposals reviewed in one period but not approved for funding due to a failure to meet the criteria specified above would not be reconsidered unless they are revised.

<u>Deadlines</u> Project Approval	Allocation for this period	Cumulative Allocation
13 May	\$30,000	
27 May	\$40,000	\$70,000
24 June	\$40,000	\$110,000
8 July	\$20,000	\$130,000

Criteria that will be considered in review of applications:

- 1.) Extent and severity of the nuisances caused by dense and matted milfoil or flowering rush at the time of application for funding.
- 2.) Documentation of the extent and severity of the nuisances caused by dense and matted milfoil or flowering rush in the previous year and the history of efforts by the applicant to manage milfoil or flowering rush.

We will review applications as soon as we receive them. We will visit or inspect as many areas in lakes proposed for control as is necessary or possible. Lastly, we will communicate the results of our review of the application to the applicant.

If you propose to use herbicide to control milfoil, then you will be required to use triclopyr, which is selective, and may be used to control milfoil during 2011 on projects supported with grants from the DNR. This requirement is necessary to meet new standards established by the Minnesota Legislature during 2007 for grants to control invasive aquatic plants issued by the DNR. These standards include a provision that "grants may not be made for chemicals that are likely endocrine disruptors" (*Laws of 2009, Chap 37 [H.F. 2123] Sec. 4, Subd. 7*).

Based on information provided by the MPCA and the lack of guidance from the EPA, the DNR has determined that aquatic-labeled herbicides that have 2,4-D as the active ingredient are not acceptable for control of aquatic invasive plants supported by grants from the DNR in 2011. The DNR's assessment of this issue may be modified in the future if more information is received from the EPA and other agencies offering relevant information.

Step 2. Obtain the necessary permits

All of the types of projects eligible for this grant program require a permit from the DNR. Please complete and return to the DNR an application for an Aquatic Plant Management (APM) permit. Application materials and instructions on how to obtain an APM permit are found on the DNR website, here:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/apm/index.html>

Only one permit for control of milfoil that will benefit a number of home-owners and the general public, as opposed to control in areas adjacent to privately owned property, will be issued free of charge per lake (see Figure 1). This limit does not restrict owners of private property from applying, either individually or collectively through a conservation district, lake association or other organization, for permits to control aquatic plants in areas adjacent to their property. A cooperator may propose to control milfoil or flowering rush with herbicide in areas adjacent to privately owned shoreline, even though the work is not eligible for reimbursement by the DNR. In such cases, the cooperator must obtain a permit.

If your application for a grant is approved

Step 3. Sign and return a grant agreement to the DNR

If your application is approved, then you will be sent a grant agreement for this program, which you need to sign and return. You will need to provide a federal tax identification number to the DNR in order to be reimbursed by the agency. **THIS MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE YOU BEGIN WORK. OTHERWISE THE WORK WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR REIMBURSEMENT BY THE DNR.**

Step 4. Solicit competitive bids for the proposed work

The DNR *strongly recommends* that you solicit at least two (2) competitive bids for the proposed work and select a contractor to do the work **before** proceeding with the proposed management of milfoil or flowering rush.

Attached are lists of licensed commercial applicators of aquatic herbicides and licensed operators of mechanical harvesters.

This list also may be found at:

Omission of a firm or company from the attached lists is not meant to exclude any legitimate firm or company from consideration, nor is inclusion in the attached lists intended as an endorsement by the DNR.

If you are unable to obtain a second bid for the proposed work after spending a reasonable amount of time and effort in the attempt, then we ask that you briefly describe these efforts in writing and submit the document to us.

Step 5. Request reimbursement from the DNR.

After a grant agreement between the organization and the DNR has been fully executed and the proposed work has been completed, the cooperators may bill the DNR for any amount up to the maximum specified in the grant agreement, and be reimbursed.

In order to be reimbursed after the work is completed, cooperators must provide to the DNR:

- 1) Copies of bids received,
- 2) A description of methods used for control of milfoil or flowering rush – a treatment report - and a copy of the original invoice from the contractor,
 - a.) If herbicide was used, name of herbicide and rate of application
 - b.) Date(s) when work was done
- 3) Maps of area(s) with Eurasian watermilfoil or flowering rush actually treated, if they were different from area(s) originally proposed for treatment
- 4.) A request made in writing using the format in the attached example, preferably on stationary of the cooperator's organization, for reimbursement by the DNR for control of milfoil or flowering rush.