

COUNTY FOREST ADMINISTRATION GRANT

Authorization: ss. 20.370(5)(bw) and 28.11(5m), Wis. Stats.

Budget: \$1,316,720 annually

Objective: Promote the hiring of professional forestry staff by counties.

Eligibility: Counties must have land enrolled under the County Forest Law. Annual work plan must be approved. Salary must be for a County Forest Administrator or Assistant Administrator possessing a 4-year forestry degree from a university accredited in forestry curriculum.

Level of Assistance: Grant contributes 50% of the annual salary and fringe benefit costs. Fringe benefit costs may not exceed 40% of the salary of the applicant's eligible staff. Grant also pays for up to 50% of the dues for a county's participation in a not-for-profit organization that represents the collective interests of the County Forests.

Priorities: County determines interest and priority.

Eligible Types of Projects: County Forest Administrator or Assistant County Forest Administrator and County Forest organization dues.

Applications: Requests must be submitted by January 31 with the County Forest Specialist, DNR Division of Forestry.

History: In its present form, the County Forest Administrator grant program has been in existence since 1994. The grant essentially replaced state cost-sharing for county forest administrator positions that were created during the 1980s. None of the past cost-shared administrator positions remain. Provision to cost-share dues to a not-for-profit organization representing County Forest interests was created by a statutory change in 2007.

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