Hydrologic Restoration General Permit
GP22 Fact Sheet

For projects that reconnect, reestablish, and restore functions and hydrology in a watershed.

Pre-applications are encouraged!

Applicants are encouraged to request a pre-application meeting with the DNR's local Water Management Specialist (WMS) – especially if any of the following apply:

- ✓ Activities affect multiple waterways and wetlands.
- ✓ Proposing permanent discharges to wetlands.
- ✓ The project may affect ASNRIs or wetlands of high value as listed under 281.36(3g)(d).
- ✓ The project may impound or divert water or change stream channels.
- ✓ The project is located in a Zone A or Zone AE mapped floodplain.

Hydrologic restoration projects are designed to:

- Restore the hydrology of a wetland, stream and/or floodplain to a natural, self-regulating system. Often achieved by slowing runoff, reducing peak flows, reconnecting ground and surface water, improving water quality and increased in-situ soil retention practices.
- Reconnect streams with floodplains.
- Reestablish healthy channel form and condition.
- Remove or reduce historic or existing wetland drainage.

Hydrologic restoration projects are NOT designed to:

- Construct artificial wetlands.
- Construct stormwater treatment ponds.
- Construct large dams or dams posing risk to health, life and safety.
- Straighten streams, dredge sediment, armor banks, enhance fish/wildlife habitats or create berms as a primary purpose. These practices should be submitted through other permitting options.

Goals of GP22 projects:

- Project designs must be able to demonstrate an overall net environmental benefit and/or improvement to the public interests in navigable waterways.
- Applications must include a detailed narrative describing the anticipated hydrologic restoration goals of the proposed project.
- You must demonstrate:
  - That any wetland impacts are necessary to achieve the project's net environmental benefit goals.
  - Why permanent fill is a necessary element of the project.
  - The project will not adversely impact Great Lakes ridge and swale complexes, interdunal wetlands, coastal plain marshes, emergent marshes containing wild rice, boreal rich fens, calcareous fens or spagnum bogs located south of a horizontal line drawn across the state based on the routes of STH 16 and STH 21 west of Lake Winnebago and on USH 151 east of Lake Winnebago.
- For projects altering the flow in, to or from an *Area of Special Natural Resource Interest* or (ASNRI), the project purpose must be to restore or repair surface or subsurface connections between the site and other waters of the state.

How to apply for GP22:

- Visit the DNR's Water Permits homepage (https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/permits/water), expand the "Waterway and Wetland" activities category and view the list of application types listed alphabetically with a link in the right-handed column to start an application.
- If the project is not eligible for the GP22, take a look at the other GP options. There are several alternatives that may better align with your plan. You can find general information and start an online application at the DNR's Water Permits homepage listed above.

Reminder: Projects must comply with local floodplain and shoreland zoning requirements.

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