

WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson
February 5, 2025 BOD Meeting
Florence County



Recent Events

- December 17 – WRISC DEI Committee Meeting
- December 18 – HWA Training, Torch Lake
- January 10 – MISC Annual Meeting Planning Committee
- January 13 – Tri-CISMA Workshop Planning Meeting
- January 16 – HWA UP Stakeholder Meeting
- February 1 – Invasive Species Management Training – Menominee Co

Upcoming Events

- February 6 – MISC Annual Meeting Planning Committee
- February 24 – 28 – NISAW
- March 19-20 – MISC Annual Meeting
- April 21-26 – Dickinson CD Tree Sale
- May 4 – May 17 – Invasive Species Trade-Up Days

Grants:

Red = Ending / Recently Closed; **Orange** = Pending Proposal; **Green** = New / Recently Awarded;

Blue = Existing Award; **Purple** = OTHER/MISC.

Lose the Loosestrife: Purple Loosestrife Management along the Michigamme River - EXTENDED

- Joint project with WePIC, Lake 2 Lake CISMA, WRISC, and respective CDs.
- \$253,465 over 5 years

Project teams made good progress on river runs and PL management along the river. Several joint CISMA runs were made on the upper stretches and progress is being made. WRISC is handling the data management this winter to get everyone's data updated as there were several data issues. Beetles were released by L2L CISMA and were doing well when monitored.

WE Energies 2022 – Sustainable Programming for IS Management

\$107,000 for 2023-2025

This project began in January 2023

The focus of this project is to develop and implement a cost-share program specifically for long-term management (retreatment) while also supporting long-standing programs to be more successful and sustainable. Purple loosestrife biocontrol rearing station was established this spring and both plants and beetles did well. We'll be looking to upgrade the cage set up for 2025 after some storm and deer damage. The cost-share program is ran well this year with a total of 30 landowner sign-ups. Payments are still

coming in, paperwork management is a bit of a time sink during the busy season, so we'll be looking to streamline that process more. Management guides will be primary deliverable getting attention during the final quarter of this project, which expires March 2025. May seek short timeline extension, due to lower staffing this winter.

GLRI – Boat Wash

[USFS GLRI CBCW](#)

This project was set to start in 2024 but was initiated late in 2023 season due to the high demand on the previous project for mileage reimbursements.

Project ran well this summer with one return watercraft inspector. Spending stayed on track, but may be a bit short for the 2025 season. Additional funding is being sought to supplement.

USFS Template 7a: Pathway Education: Public Outreach Campaign

Request: \$18,000

The goal of this outreach campaign will be to raise awareness of pathways and prevention of invasive species in a “call to action” effort. WRISC continued to implement billboard campaigns this summer, along with radio PSAs. WRISC has been planning field videos and doing some filming as well as maintaining social media channels.

USFS CWMA Funding – Buffer Zone Project - EXTENDED

Funded: \$50,000 Total Project: \$64,370

This project began in January 2023.

The focus of this project is to map “buffer zones” around all federal & state land and natural areas and prioritize survey and treatment within those zones, while promoting invasive species prevention messaging. Survey and control work was ramped up this season and has been progressing well. This project did receive an extension through 2025 which will allow for some deliverables wrap-up in early 2025.

GLRI CWMA – Addressing Primary Invasive Species Pathways through Multi-County Collaboration

Funded: \$100,000

This project was awarded in June 2024.

The focus of this project is invaded roadsides. Roadsides prove to be one of the most commonly invaded habitats, establishing an extensive connected network of invasive species with high spread potential. WRISC will focus management on high priority invasives such as Purple Loosestrife, Wild Parsnip, & Phragmites. WRISC will work with county highway departments to develop a regional management strategy for priority

roadside invasives & will create training materials to help crews identify & limit the spread of these specific species.

EPA UPRC&D Partner Project – UP Wide Phragmites

This project subaward has been expended and the grant will close out in the next quarter. WRISC conducted additional survey and management of phragmites under this project.

MISGP Core Funding 2022 - Extended

Awarded - \$91,700

WRISC requested and was granted an extension for this project. Project will expire in January 2025. This grant is still a bit behind on spending, since we have remained limited to one project manager, so spending this project out will be a priority or it may require a very short extension.

MISGP Core Funding 2023 – Extension Requested

Awarded - \$70,000

Operational funding, including primarily core staff time (coordinator, project manager x 2) along with annual supplies and some seasonal staff time.

Will be requesting an extension on this project, again due to under spending in Project Manager funds.

UPRC&D – MISGP Priority Funding – HWA Surveys

Awarded - \$91,800* (reduced from 3-year \$337,800 proposal to 1-year \$91,800 award)

Partner project with UP RC&D, Lake 2 Lake & Three Shores CISMAs. Unfortunately reduced and excluded WePIC and KISMA. Will focus on HWA surveys within priority 5-mile target zone near Lake Michigan Shoreline in Menominee Co.

Training scheduled for December 18th, surveys will likely begin in January.

WRISC Proposals

- **CirclePower DACF Groveland Mine Area Project – Proposal Submitted January 31, 2025**
- **WE Energies MEF Pre-proposal Due March 15, 2025**
- **GLRI Landscape Scale Restoration – Proposal submitted November 15, 2024**
- **MISGP Core Funding – Proposal submitted November 1, 2024**
- ***Early Detection Rapid Response project: Flowering Rush – Proposal flexible – *May submit in 2025***
- **—NFF Collaborative Capacity Program—Proposal submitted July 2024— **Not Awarded****

Partner Proposals

- **UPRC&D/MI DNR – GLRI EPA - Protecting Michigan’s Upper Peninsula from AIS Introduction and Spread – Pre-Proposal submitted July 2024**
- **UPRC&D – MISGP Proposal for UP Wide Trade Up Days initiative – Proposal Submitted November 1, 2024**
- **UPRC&D – MISGP Proposal for UP Wide HWA Survey Initiative – Proposal Submitted November 1, 2024**

Misc.

Staffing:

N. Hunding has been familiarizing herself with the project manager role and is doing very well so far. Recently hired Madison Hayes as an HWA Field Survey Technician. Madison has great experience in the IS field and will likely be kept on as a summer seasonal technician as well.

Newsletters/Articles:

WRISC is working to do more blogposts, articles, and to produce an annual report newsletter. Annual report will also be tailored to each county and distributed via mailing as part of a donation campaign to support WRISC’s non-profit transition.

Website/Facebook/Instagram:

2024 online outreach statistics will be included in the annual report, but all platforms saw growth in a majority of categories! The website will be undergoing further updates, so please be patient and aware of pages that may be changing or under construction at times. Website has not been seeing great traffic, so this will be a focus this winter and the updated pages will help.

Website Site Sessions:

Website	Previous Period	Current Period	% Growth
Page Views	339	714	110.6%

N. Hunding has been doing an amazing job stepping into WRISC’s social media. Statistics are included below.

Social Media Tracking Stats:

Platform	Previous Followers	Current Followers	% Growth	Previous Impressions	Current Impressions	% Change
Instagram	516	524	1.6%	4,221	7,461	76.8%
Facebook	1,302	1,340	2.9%	46,043	58,624	27.3%
TikTok	176	218	23.9%	7,145	10,572	48.0%

- Stats are based on a two-month period, using the numbers listed in the previous project update compared to the end of the most recent month.

Previous period: October – November 2024

Current period: December '24 – January '25

Top content by views

[Boost content](#) [See all content](#)

<p>Welcome back to #WhatIsItWednesda...</p> <p>Wed Jan 8, 8:00am</p> <p>👁️ 2.3K ❤️ 54</p> <p>👍 13 ➡️ 23</p>	<p>Time to stretch! Squats for pulling...</p> <p>Thu Jan 30, 3:10pm</p> <p>👁️ 1.6K ❤️ 47</p> <p>👍 9 ➡️ 2</p>	<p>This #WhatIsItWednesda...</p> <p>Wed Jan 22, 8:00am</p> <p>👁️ 466 ❤️ 10</p> <p>👍 0 ➡️ 3</p>	<p>Frustrating to say the least... Japanese...</p> <p>Fri Jan 10, 4:03pm</p> <p>👁️ 412 ❤️ 9</p> <p>👍 0 ➡️ 3</p>	<p>Humans have a profound impact on..</p> <p>Fri Jan 3, 8:00am</p> <p>👁️ 405 ❤️ 11</p> <p>👍 0 ➡️ 4</p>