

WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson
August 14, 2024 BOD Meeting
Forest County



Recent Events

- June 5 – WRISC Annual Meeting
- June 10 – Knapweed Pull @ Kowalski Walking Trails
- June 12 – Watercress Pull Norway
- June 12 – Forest County Collaborative Meeting
- June 20 – Fay Lake AIS Training
- June 20 – Menominee CD Summer Camp
- June 22 – Exotic Pet Surrender Event – Florence
- June 26 – Native Seed Bomb Workshop – Spies Library
- June 27 – Spread Eagle Garden Club Presentation
- June 28 – EFB E&O Workgroup Meeting
- June 29 – Exotic Pet Surrender Event – Marinette
- July 6 – Hamilton Lake Association Meeting
- July 14 – Shakey Lakes GLOW Paddle Event
- July 26 – DEI Assessment Meeting
- July 27 – Kentuck Days
- July 28 – West Shore Fishing Museum Heritage Days Event
- August 1 – EFB Pull Red Arrow Park
- August 5 – MI Paddle Stewards Training
- August 6-7 – MISC Summer Field Trip
- *Several webinars and/or online meetings*

Upcoming Events

- August 14 – Town of Wagner Meeting
- August 19 – Region 1
- August 22 – DCD Annual Meeting
- September 14 – Wagner Sportsman’s Club Training (Tentative)
- September 18-20 – Marinette Environmental Days
- September 23-27 – Forest Co Environmental Days (TBD)
- September 29 – October 3 – NAISMA Conference
- October 27 – Iron Mountain School Forest Workday
- November 12-14 – UMISC
- *Other events being planned for Summer 2024*

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

This project will help fund efforts to remove and manage purple loosestrife infestations along approximately 26 miles of the Michigamme River from the dam in Republic to the Way Dam reservoir. COVID-19 disrupted planning for this project, but we are hoping to get this back on track. Project team leads have met to assess the budget, and a request for an extension to this project timeline and budget adjustment was submitted and approved.

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 have been growing well. Cost share program is running well this year with many more sign-ups.

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.

This project will continue in 2024 with some careful budget monitoring to ensure the early start to spending does not impact this year's efforts.

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

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.

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 has been extended again through December 2024. WRISC has completed most committed survey efforts, which focuses mainly the northern half of Dickinson Co., but prioritized outlier populations and has some flexibility. WRISC has been conducting surveys and will be implementing treatment work in Sept-Oct 2024.

MISGP Core Funding 2022 - Extended

Awarded – \$91,700

The Core project, Oriental Bittersweet EDR, and European Frog-bit survey and management funds were fully awarded. The Wild Parsnip fund was not awarded.

Crews have been conducting some surveys for both survey/treatment projects and core funds have been funding CISMA operations.

WRISC requested and was granted an extension for this project. Project will run through December 2024.

Michigan DNR Hemlock Woolly Adelgid EDR Survey Funding

Sub-award – \$14,300; October 2023 – May 2024

WRISC received sub-award funding from the MI DNR to conduct a limited amount of early detection surveys for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) during the 2023–2024 winter season. With sudden staffing changes in the new year, WRISC turned back some funds from this award and met approx. 75% of the deliverables.

MISGP Core Funding for 2024 - AWARDED!

Awarded – \$70,000

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

UPRC&D – MISGP Priority Funding – HWA Surveys – AWARDED!

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.

WRISC Proposals

GLRI Landscape Scale Restoration – Proposal Submitted November 2023 – Not funded

~~Early Detection Rapid Response project: Flowering Rush – Proposal flexible~~

WE Energies – Mitigation & Enhancement Fund (MEF) – Proposal Submitted March 2024 – pulled proposal*

NFF Collaborative Capacity Program – Proposal submitted July 2024

Partner Proposals

UPRC&D – NOAA Project – Phragmites Coastal Restoration – Proposal Submitted November 2023 – Not funded

UPRC&D/MI DNR – GLRI EPA - Protecting Michigan's Upper Peninsula from AIS Introduction and Spread – Pre-Proposal submitted July 2024

Misc.

Staffing: WRISC has had an amazing crew this year! One seasonal left in mid-July, while two others will be leaving at the end of August. One will remain on full time while another can come back to continue working a day or two a week through October. R.Henes will continue CBCW efforts through Labor Day. N. Hunding will likely be kept on as a project manager throughout the winter months.

Newsletters/Articles: WRISC has published or was featured in a few articles this summer, including a TV6 interview for wild parsnip. WRISC has also published a few blog posts.

Website/Facebook/Instagram: The website will be undergoing further updates, so please be patient and aware of pages that may be changing or under construction at times.

K. Mentel has been doing an amazing job at keeping WRISC's social media running. Instagram has received several updates throughout the last period and currently has **503 followers**. Facebook received several updates as well and has seen some great feedback and engagement. The WRISC Facebook page has continued to grow, going from **939 likes and 1,149 followers** (at the last meeting) to **990 likes and 1,230 followers** at the end of July.

WRISC has also been seeing great response on TikTok. We have **128 followers**, and have gotten **2,514 views** and **99 likes** in the last month.

Total reach for our online pages (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, & website) for the past month (July 2024) has been great! Overall, social media activity reached a total of 11,653 people.

The Facebook page generally sees great reach whenever something is posted. Our top-performing posts from the last period are included below:

Top post

[See all](#)

Last 28 days

Boost this post to reach up to 7445 more people with every \$217 you spend.



Field season is as busy as ever! Last week, WRISC treated acres of Wild Parsnip across our five counties, conducted a Purple Loosestrife pull alo...

Published by Katherine Mentel

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Post Impressions

515

Post reach

486

Post Engagement

174