

WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator Lindsay Peterson
April 2, 2025 BOD Meeting
Marinette County



Recent Events

- February 6 – MISC Annual Meeting Planning Committee
- February 20-21 – HWA Training, Frankfort, MI
- February 24 – 28 – NISAW
- March 5 – Michigan Lesser Celandine Coalition Partner meeting
- March 12 – Kingsford HS Environmental Science Class Presentation
- March 19-20 – MISC Annual Meeting
- March 21 – Career Presentation, North Dickinson School

Upcoming Events

- April 11 – WI CISMA Spring Meeting
- April 21-26 – Dickinson CD Tree Sale
- April 22 – Earth Day Park Clean Up, Strawberry Lake Park, Norway, MI
- May 3 – One Big Day for Healthy Kids, Iron Mountain, MI
- May 4 – May 17 – Invasive Species Trade-Up Days
- TBD – Florence School Forest Workday
- June 6 – WRISC Annual Meeting
- June 12 – FLOW Annual Meeting
- June 20 – Sunrise Solstice Paddle Event
- June 21-22 – WI Invasive Species Awareness Weekend
- June 21 – SEBSNA Hike & WRISC Fundraiser

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 - EXTENDED

\$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 spring 2024 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 ran well in 2024 with a total of 30 landowner sign-ups. There are still a few outstanding payments. The 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 the primary deliverable getting attention during the final quarter of this project, which expires March 2025. A short-term extension and minor budget amendments were requested and approved. The grant will now end September 30, 2025.

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 in 2024 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.

One return inspector is expected for the 2025 season.

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, primarily for data management and mapping.

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.

WRISC has not spent much on this project during the last quarter due to federal funding freeze and unclear information from USFS on status of this project and reimbursements.

EPA UPRC&D Partner Project – UP Wide Phragmites

This project subaward has been utilized, and the grant will conclude in the next quarter. WRISC conducted further surveys 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 project was spent out and is in the process of closing out.

MISGP Core Funding 2023 – Extended

Awarded - \$70,000

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

Extension was approved and grant will now end in December 2025.

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.

WRISC staff have been consistently conducting HWA surveys, totaling nearly 700 points this winter across several properties in Menominee Co. This project ends in April 2025.

Circle Power DACF Groveland Mine Area Project - \$23,600 – AWARDED!

MISGP CORE Funding - \$70,000 – AWARDED!

MISGP HWA UPRC&D – UP Wide HWA Survey Initiative - \$50,000 subaward – AWARDED!

WRISC Proposals

- **WE Energies MEF Pre-proposals submitted March 14, 2025**
 - **WRISC Project – Jan 2026 - Spring 2029 - \$317,000**
 - **Phase 2 Purple Loosestrife Project – Jan 2026 – Dec 2030 - \$380,000**
- **USFS-CNNF – Submitted March 14, 2025**
 - **2026 – 2028 - \$130,000**

- **GLRI Landscape Scale Restoration – Proposal submitted November 15, 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 – **Not Awarded****
- **SOGL – UPRC&D – Submitted February 6, 2025**
 - **Early Detection AIS - \$210,000 subaward**
- **Tri-CISMA Workshop – UW Center for Cooperatives 2025 Cooperative Forestry Funding – \$11,800 – **Not Funded****

Misc.

Staffing:

Did not post seasonal positions due to federal funding freeze and uncertainties around funding for 2025. For field season, we will likely keep M. Hayes on, as well as rehiring B. Martonen (part-time) for Strike Team and rehiring R. Henes for CBCW.

Newsletters/Articles:

WRISC is working 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 spring, and the updated pages will help.

Website Site Sessions:

Website	Previous Period	Current Period	% Growth
Page Views	714	648	-9.2%

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	524	532	1.5%	7,461	7,150	-4.2%
Facebook	1,340	1,355	1.1%	58,624	36,205	-38.3%
TikTok	218	285	30.7%	10,572	6,925	-34.5%

- 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: December '24 – January '25

Current period: February – March 2025

Top content by views

Boost content

See all content



Spring is officially here —at least according ...

Thu Mar 20, 8:00am

1.3K views 20 likes
1 comment 8 shares



#NISAW #invasivespecies...

Mon Feb 24, 8:53am

1K views 36 likes
8 comments 11 shares



#NISAW #invasivespecies...

Wed Feb 26, 9:00am

975 views 24 likes
2 comments 8 shares



Welcome back to #WhatIsItWednesday...

Wed Feb 5, 9:00am

637 views 20 likes
4 comments 4 shares



February 2nd, 2025, marks World Wetlan...

Sun Feb 2, 9:00am

529 views 17 likes
0 comments 8 shares



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