Protocols for surveying and mapping non-native invasive species for the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC)

General Information
This work builds upon WRISC's mapping project within the Menominee River Watershed. The priority of the work is to continue collecting information on existing invasive species distribution throughout the WRISC coverage area. Mapping helps WRISC and other invasive managers to see the distribution of invasive species across the area, gives information needed to plan management strategies, and can catch new populations early, allowing us to start control work and keep the invasive from spreading further.

Standard mapping protocols are also important, and should be followed carefully. These protocols will allow us to merge these new location data with existing data. Our protocols also allow the data to be uploaded to the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN) at www.misin.msu.edu. There, citizens, scientists, and managers alike can all view the information.

Field Log Form
A standard field log form will be used to record survey and mapping activity. Record the information in the following manner:

Estimated Area of the Infestation: Select one of the following:
> **0** = None
> **1** = Individual/few/several
> **2** = < 1,000 square feet (half of a tennis court)
> **3** = 1,000 square feet to 0.5 acre (half a football field or about the size of a hockey rink)
> **4** = 0.5 acre to 1 acre (football field without end zones)
> **5** = > 1 acre
> ***Reporting Actual Area:*** *If the infestation is more than 1,000 square feet in size, it is recommended that you run a track around to find the actual area. Write the actual area either in Area Column or in the comments. Tracks may also be taken and the actual infestation length recorded later.*

Density of the Infestation: Select one of the following options:
> **1** = Sparse (scattered individual stems or very small stands)
> **2** = Patchy (a mix of sparse and dense areas)
> **3** = Dense (greater than 40% of the area)
> **4** = Monoculture (nearly 100% of area)

Recording Tracks, Lines, and Points
How to define individual infestations (where does one infestation end and another start?) – In general, if there is a break of more than 50 feet between one infestation and the next, these should be mapped as two separate stands.

GPS Coordinates: All coordinates must be recorded in decimal degrees. For example: N44.75723 W85.65276 or 44.75723, -85.65276. You may also save waypoints to the GPS unit to be transferred later, in this case record the waypoint name/code.

Comments: Use this space to record anything of interest about the find or location. Examples: anything you can determine about past treatment (sprayed, mowed, etc.); natural area/habitat type; native/invasive plants growing in the same area; general location (i.e. Iron Mountain or Indiana Mine Rd.); notes on how to find the site/where it is growing (example, north side of road next to house). Property ownership info can also be useful to WRISC. For example, if the invasive is growing next to a house, write down the address if you see a street number. (Property ownership information will be used by WRISC to contact owners with priority/high concern invasives on their property, and will not be submitted to MISIN.)

Plant Codes:

Common Name	Abbrev. Code	Scientific Name
Autumn Olive	AO	*Elaeagnus umbellata*
Bishop's Goutweed	BG	*Aegopodium podagrari*
Bittersweet Nightshade	BN	*Solanum dulcamar*
Black locust	BL	*Robinia pseudoacacia*
Bristly Locust	RH	*Robinia hispida*
Bull Thistle	BT	*Cirsium vulgare*
Canada Thistle	CT	*Cirsium arvense*
Common Buckthorn	CB	*Rhamnus cathartica*
Common Tansy	TV	*Tanacetum vulgare*
Common Teasel	TE	*Dipsacus fullonum*
Crown Vetch	CV	*Coronilla varia*
Cut Leaf Teasel	CL	*Dipsacus laciniatus*
Cypress Spurge	CS	*Euphorbia cyparissia*
Dame's Rocket	DR	*Hesperis matronali*
European Swamp Thistle	ST	*Cirsium palustre*
Exotic Honeysuckle	HS	*Lonicera spp.*
Flowering Rush	FR	*Butomus umbellatu*
Garlic Mustard	GM	*Alliaria petiolata*
Giant Knotweed	GK	*Polygonum sachalinense*
Glossy Buckthorn	GB	*Rhamnus frangula*
Hound's Tongue	HT	*Cynoglossum officinale*
Japanese Barberry	JB	*Berberis thunbergii*
Japanese Knotweed	JK	*Polygonum cuspidatum*
Leafy spurge	LS	*Euphorbia esula*
Narrowleaf cattail	NC	*Typha angustifolia*
Oriental bittersweet	OB	*Celastrus orbiculatus*
Phragmites (non-native)	PH	*Phragmites australis*
Purple Loosestrife	PL	*Lythrum salicaria*
Soapwort (Bouncingbet)	SO	*Saponaria officinalis*
White Poplar	PA	*Populus alba*
Wild Parsnip	WP	*Pastinaca sativa*
Yellow Floating Heart	FH	*Nymphoides pelta*
Yellow Iris	YF	*Iris pseudacorus*

Wild Rivers

Invasive Species Coalition