

WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator Lindsay Peterson
August 6, 2025 BOD Meeting
Forest County



Recent Events

- June 6 – WRISC Annual Meeting
- June 9 – Butternut Franklin Lakes Garlic Mustard Workday
- June 12 – FLOW Annual Meeting
- June 20 – Sunrise Solstice Paddle Event
- June 21-22 – WI Invasive Species Awareness Weekend
- June 21 – SEBSNA Hike (ISAW Event)
- June 26 – Spread Eagle Garden Club
- June 27 – July 13 – Great Lakes Landing Blitz
- June 28 – Wild Rivers 60th Anniversary
- July 18 – Hiles Foray - WI Mycological Society
- July 22 – Menominee CD Summer Camp
- July 25 – UW Ext Forestry - Forest Resilience and Invasive Sp
- July 26 – Exotic Pet Surrender Event
- July 26 – Kentuck Days
- July 27 – West Shore Fishing Museum Heritage Days event
- July 30 – UW Ext - Florence - Outdoor Adventure

Upcoming Events

- August 7 – Dickinson Co Road Commission - Wild Parsnip Training
- August 20-21 – MISC Summer Field Training
- August 8 – DCD Annual Meeting
- August 22-24 – Florence County Fair

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

WRISC handled the data management this winter to get everyone's data updated as there were several data issues. Project teams are starting in on river runs and PL management along the river. Several joint CISMA runs are being scheduled on the upper stretches and progress is being made.

WE Energies 2022 – Sustainable Programming for IS Management - EXTENDED

\$107,000 for 2023-2025

This project expires September 2025

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](#)

One return inspector has been working consistently throughout the 2025 season. Project will expire at the end of the year.

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. WRISC may request a short term extension for this project.

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 spent more towards this project during the last quarter after receiving late reimbursements from USFS. However the delay resulted in short staffing for field crew. WRISC will request an extension for this project.

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.

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

Will focus on HWA surveys within priority 5-mile target zone near Lake Michigan Shoreline in Menominee Co. WRISC staff have installed and been checking eDNA traps for HWA at Menominee Co parks.

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

Awarded \$5,795.45 for Year 1

This project will focus on invasive species management at Groveland Mine Ponds area (phragmites and woody shrubs), and work to maintain clean habitats (fishing line receptacles at landings, stream clean up along Pine Creek). Funding awarded for three years, allocated on yearly basis.

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

Awarded \$70,000, \$24,500 subaward to Menominee CD

This project helps supplement the current Core fund – staff time, operation funds, etc. Sub award built in for Menominee CD to allow for Autumn Olive control for private lands in Menominee County.

WE Energies MEF Full proposals submitted June 15, 2025; Agreements expected Jan 2026

- **AWARDED!** WRISC Project – Jan 2026 - Spring 2029 - \$317,000 -> Reduced to \$227,311
- **AWARDED!** Phase 2 Purple Loosestrife Project – Jan 2026 – Dec 2030 - \$380,000

USFS-CNNF – Submitted March 14, 2025 – Unofficially awarded for approx. \$66,000?

- 2026 – 2028 - \$130,000

WRISC Proposals

- **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 – Reached out to Forest Co~~

Potawatomi on pursuing proposal, but didn't hear back

Partner Proposals

- **UPRC&D/MI DNR** – GLRI EPA - Protecting Michigan's Upper Peninsula from AIS Introduction and Spread – Pre-Proposal submitted July 2024 -> Moved Forward and full proposal submitted, no other updates
- **SOGL – UPRC&D** – Submitted February 6, 2025
 - Early Detection AIS - \$210,000 subaward

Misc.

Staffing:

Late job posting in June did not result in any qualified hires. Rehired B. Martonen (part-time) for Strike Team and rehiring R. Henes for CBCW. Short staffed and weather making for a difficult treatment season. Will be posting for HWA technician positions soon for winter work.

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 – Have not completed this yet...may come later in 2025 as a dual year report and promo for 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. The website has been seeing better traffic in 2025, and this will be a focus this spring, and the updated pages will help.

Website Site Sessions:

Website	Previous Period	Current Period	% Growth
Page Views (prev. period 1)	648	1,398	115.7%
Page Views (prev. period 2)	1,398	435	-68.9%

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

Social Media Tracking Stats:

Period	Platform	Previous Followers	Current Followers	% Growth	Previous Impressions	Current Impressions	% Change
Prev. Period 1	Instagram	532	545	2.4%	7,150	5,130	-28.3%
	Facebook	1,355	1,385	2.2%	36,205	72,887	101.3%
	TikTok	285	335	17.5%	6,925	8,289	19.7%
Prev. Period 2	Instagram	545	569	4.4%	5,130	6,593	28.5%
	Facebook	1,385	1,398	0.9%	72,887	28,309	-61.2%
	TikTok	335	408	21.8%	8,289	18,588	124.2%

- 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 1: February – March 2025

Previous period 2: April – May 2025

Current period: June – July 2025

Top content based on views

[See all](#)

 Father & Son Frog Wednesday, July 12, 2025 1:00pm - 3:00pm Join us for a special presentation by a father and son team sharing their knowledge of frogs and toads. They will discuss various species found in our area, their life cycles, and how to identify them.	 Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Wednesday, July 12, 2025 1:00pm - 3:00pm Learn about the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, its life cycle, and how to control its population. This presentation will provide practical tips for managing this invasive pest.	 Red Eared Slider Wednesday, July 12, 2025 1:00pm - 3:00pm Join us for a presentation on the Red Eared Slider, one of the most popular pet turtles. We will discuss their care, diet, and behavior.	 Exotic Pet Surrender Event Friday, July 20, 2025 12pm - 3pm Join us for a special event where pet owners can surrender their exotic pets to the community. This is a great opportunity for pet owners to find new homes for their pets.	 Iguana Friday, July 20, 2025 10:00am - 12:00pm Learn about the Iguana, its diet, and care requirements. This presentation will provide practical tips for caring for these fascinating reptiles.	 Man in a boat Thursday, July 20, 2025 12:00am - 1:00pm Join us for a presentation on the life of a fisherman. This presentation will provide practical tips for fishing and生存.	 Man in a boat Wednesday, July 26, 2025 12:00pm - 1:00pm Join us for a presentation on the life of a fisherman. This presentation will provide practical tips for fishing and生存.
Wed Jul 9, 1:00pm 1,452 Views	Wed Jul 30, 10:00am 830 Views	Wed Jul 16, 3:00pm 802 Views	Fri Jul 25, 10:00am 785 Views	Thu Jul 3, 12:00am 609 Views	Wed Jul 23, 5:01pm 480 Views	Mon Jul 7, 9:30am 417 Views