

WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator Lindsay Peterson
February 4, 2026 BOD Meeting
Florence County



Recent Events

- December 2-4 – Great Lakes PFAS Summit
- December 9-10 – IISCC Virtual Conference NAISMA
- December 11 – HWA Training (Torch Lake)
- December 17 – HWA Crew Celebration
- January 22-23 – The Stewardship Network Conference
- Several webinars

Upcoming Events

- February 10 – Laona 7th Grade IS Presentation
- February 18-19 – MISC Annual Meeting
- February 23-27 – National Invasive Species Awareness Week
- February 24 – HWA Survey Training (Menominee)
- February 26 – Forest Resilience Series – UW Ext. Presentation
- March 23 – WI Spring AIS Partnership Meeting
- April 16-17 – WI Lakes & Rivers Convention

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

– Closed 12/31/25

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

Project teams all conducted river runs and PL management along the river. WRISC is wrapping up the data management and project close-out.

WE Energies 2022 – Sustainable Programming for IS Management – In Close Out

\$107,000 for 2023-2025

This project expires September 2025

The grant ended September 30, 2025. Final payout pending final report submission in February.

GLRI – Boat Wash

USFS GLRI CBCW – In Close Out

Final reimbursement has been submitted. Final report has been submitted.

USFS Template 7a: Pathway Education: Public Outreach Campaign – Extension request submitted

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 aired the Play Clean Go commercial on WLUC TV6 and has gotten good feedback on it. WRISC has been planning field videos and doing some filming, as well as maintaining social media channels. WRISC has requested a one-year extension for this project, with remaining deliverables implemented during 2026 field season.

USFS CWMA Funding – Buffer Zone Project – Closed 12/31/25

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 allowed for some deliverables wrap-up in 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. End Date: 9/2/2027

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.

MISGP IS23 Core Funding – Extended – Closes 4/30/26

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 April 2026

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

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. WRISC hired HWA survey technicians and they have been surveying throughout Menominee Co.

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

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.

WRISC has conducted survey and some limited management on the site. More management is slated for next year, primarily with autumn olive along roadsides.

MISGP IS24 CORE Funding - \$70,000 – Extension Approved – End Date: 4/30/27

Awarded \$70,000, \$24,500 subaward to Menominee CD (*amended*)

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. This subaward has been modified and an extension for this project has been granted. Scope and award for subaward has been reduced.

WE Energies MEF Full proposals submitted June 15, 2025;

Final Agreement approvals received December 18, 2025

- **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**

MISGP IS25 Core Funding – Proposal submitted Nov 1, 2025 - \$70,000

WRISC Proposals

- **EGLE** – Lake monitoring, AIS Early Detection funding, partner with IBCD – will be submitting proposal Feb 2026
- **National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program Grant** – Submitted Jan 22, 2026

- **Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program (Restore America's Estuaries) - Letter of Intent – Submitted Jan 16, 2026**

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,**
 - **have heard that this was approved, no contract or official allocation yet.**
- **SOGL – UPRC&D – Submitted February 6, 2025**
 - **Early Detection AIS - \$210,000 subaward**
 - **No word on this proposal**
- **MISGP proposals:**
 - **UPRC&D: Purple Jewelweed Proposal - \$28,000 subaward**
 - **North Country CISMA: Subaward for ATV/UTV outreach & events (Ride. Clean. Repeat.) - \$4,000 in 2027 & 2028**

Potential Contracts

- **Lake Management Plan revision – Shakey Lakes (Menominee Co) - \$13,000 quoted**
 - **Includes lake monitoring data collection and AIS / aquatic plant survey, plus management plan update**

Misc.

Staffing:

Hired two HWA technician positions in November for winter work (January – March/April). Hopefully will maintain HWA crew as summer seasonals. Currently assessing capacity for 2026 seasonals (part-time Watercraft Inspector, possible field crew).

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:

2025 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 that pages may be changing or under construction at times. We will be transitioning the website to a new one for Roots & Rivers Collaborative in early 2026. We'll keep www.wrisc.org live for some time to redirect traffic to the new site, likely for

about 6–9 months while we transition. We'll be continuing to utilize Wix for our web hosting so stats and reporting will remain the same.

Website Site Sessions:

Website	Previous Period	Current Period	% Growth
Page Views	593	695	17.2%

Social Media Tracking Stats:

Period	Platform	Previous Followers	Current Followers	% Growth	Previous Impressions	Current Impressions	% Change
Prev. Period 1	Instagram	582	584	0.3%	5,452	9,193	68.6%
	Facebook	1,429	1,447	1.3%	14,528	19,650	35.3%
	TikTok	442	453	2.5%	3,370	3,393	0.7%

- 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 2025

Current period: December 2025 – January 2026

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Our HWA crew has officially started...

Thu Jan 8, 10:00am

463 15
4 3



Our winter HWA crews are tough! But in all...

Wed Jan 21, 9:34am

687 17
1 1



Today is National Trivia Day, so here are som...

Sun Jan 4, 5:00pm

371 8
0 3



There has been so much snow in our are...

Tue Jan 6, 6:00pm

219 10
0 2



Introducing WRISC's new HWA Technician.

Wed Jan 7, 10:00am

201 5
0 0