

WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator Lindsay Peterson
October 1, 2025 BOD Meeting
Menominee County



Recent 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
- August 27 – Invasives Upcycling Summit NAISMA
- September 18 – Marinette Environmental Days
- September 18 – Wild Ones: EcoBeneficial Landscape Strategies for the Climate Crisis
- September 23 – WRIC Outdoor Education Series: AIS & Prevention
- September 24 – Partnership meeting – Renewable Resource Solutions
- September 27 – Autumn Olive Workday – Groveland Rec Area

Upcoming Events

- October 2 – Forest County Environmental Days
- October 9 – Kingsford HS Invasive Workday
- October 15 – Menominee 5th Grade Outdoor Day
- December 9-10 – IISCC Virtual Conference NAISMA

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 all conducted river runs and PL management along the river. Several joint Cisma runs occurred on the upper stretches and progress is being made. WRISC will handle the data management and project close-out this winter.

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

\$107,000 for 2023-2025

This project expires September 2025

A short-term extension and minor budget amendments were requested and approved. The grant will now end September 30, 2025. Management guides will be the primary deliverable getting attention during the final quarter of this project. Final payout pending final report submission.

GLRI – Boat Wash

[USFS GLRI CBCW](#)

Inspector is done for the 2025 season. Data management will take place this fall. 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 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 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 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. WRISC will be hiring for HWA survey technicians as of October 1st.

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.

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 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 – NOT FUNDED**
- ~~*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
- MISGP 25 – Core funding, possible project funds
- EGLE – Lake monitoring, AIS Early Detection Funding – possibility

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
- **MISGP proposals: UPRC&D**, potential sub-award from **North Country CISMA** for ATV/UTV outreach & events (Ride. Clean. Repeat.)

Misc.

Staffing:

Short-staffed and weather making for a difficult treatment season. Will be posting for HWA technician positions in October for winter work. Should be able to hire full crew in 2026, will be posting early 2026.

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 that pages 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)	435	446	2.5%

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	569	575	1.1%	6,593	6,136	-6.9%
	Facebook	1,398	1,413	1.1%	28,309	14,186	-49.9%
	TikTok	408	444	8.8%	18,588	10,632	-42.8%

- 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: June – July 2025

Current period: August – September 2025

Top content by views

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We were lucky enough to be in the right plac...

Tue Sep 9, 4:21pm

317 views 15 likes 1 comment 2 shares

Welcome back to #WhatIsItWednesda...

Wed Sep 10, 11:00am

271 views 8 likes 0 comment 4 shares

Join Wild Rivers ISC for an Invasive Species...

Fri Sep 12, 11:44am

269 views 8 likes 0 comment 2 shares

Coordinator Lindsay will be presenting at...

Tue Sep 16, 12:30pm

227 views 13 likes 4 comment 1 share

Hike a Phragmites infestation with us! ...

Thu Sep 25, 3:33pm

184 views 11 likes 3 comment 1 share