

## WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator Lindsay Peterson  
April 1, 2026 BOD Meeting  
Marinette County



### Recent Events

- February 10 – Laona 7<sup>th</sup> Grade IS Presentation
- February 18-19 – MISC Annual Meeting
- February 23-27 – National Invasive Species Awareness Week
- February 23 – Laona HS IS Presentation
- February 24 – HWA Survey Training (Menominee)
- February 26 – Florence HS Lake Field Trip
- February 26 – Forest Resilience Series – UW Ext. Presentation
- March 12 – KHS IS Presentation
- March 19 – MI DNR Invasive Species Training
- March 23 – WI Spring AIS Partnership Meeting
- Several webinars/partner meetings

### Upcoming Events

- April 1 – MI Strategic Management Planning Session
- April 8 – Natural Resource Volunteer Training
- April 14 – MI Strategic Management Planning Session
- April 16-17 – WI Lakes & Rivers Convention
- May 3-16 – Invasive Species Trade Up Days
- May 7 – Native Plant Presentation
- May 13 – Florence HS School Forest Workday
- May 22 – KMS Salmon Release Field Trip
- May 27 – Florence MS School Forest Workday
- May 30 – Exotic Pet Surrender Event – Marinette

### Grants:

**Red** = Ending / Recently Closed; **Orange** = Pending Proposal; **Green** = New / Recently Awarded;

**Blue** = Existing Award; **Purple** = OTHER/MISC.

### **Phase 2 - Lose the Loosetrife: Purple Loosetrife Management along the Michigamme River**

- Joint project with WePIC, Lake 2 Lake CISMA, WRISC, and respective CDs.
- \$382,966 over 5 years

Project was initiated during 2026.

Project will be similar to previous project but adds an additional stretch of river upstream to Lake Michigamme. Subaward agreements will be set up with partner organizations and field training will take place once seasonal staff are in place.

## **WE Energies MEF 2025 – Promoting Healthy Ecosystems**

\$227,000 for Jan 2026– March 2029

This project was initiated in 2026.

The project aims to enhance educational outreach for recreational pathways of spread by meeting recreationists where they are—at campgrounds and trailheads. WRISC will also allocate efforts towards forest pest prevention by supplementing ongoing Hemlock Woolly Adelgid surveying along the Lake Michigan shoreline with early detection surveying along the Menominee River corridor as well. Native plant restoration and outreach is also included, along with SCUBA removal of invasive milfoil at access sites.

## **GLRI – Boat Wash**

*USFS GLRI CBCW – Pending*

## **USFS Template 7a: Pathway Education: Public Outreach Campaign – Extended**

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 to be implemented during 2026 field season.

## **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.

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

- **Need to sign award by July 31, 2026**

### **MISGP IS25 Core Funding – Awarded! - \$70,000**

#### **WRISC Proposals**

- **EGLE - \$104,000 – Lake monitoring, AIS Early Detection funding, partner with IBCD – proposal submitted Feb 2026, sounds secured – funding available August 2026**
- **National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program Grant - \$54,000 total project value – Pulled proposal, wait until 501(c)(3) status; Did secure \$20,000 from BFL Foundation in match**
- **Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program (Restore America's Estuaries) - \$320,000 – Invited to submit Full Proposal – Due April 17th**

## Partner Proposals

- **UPRC&D/MI DNR - \$125,000** – 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.**
- **MISGP proposals:**
  - **UPRC&D: Purple Jewelweed Proposal - \$28,000 subaward – NOT FUNDED**
  - **North Country CISMA: Subaward for ATV/UTV outreach & events (Ride. Clean. Repeat.) - \$4,000 in 2027 & 2028 – NOT FUNDED**

## 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). Will maintain one HWA crew member as summer seasonal. Currently assessing capacity for 2026 seasonals (part-time Watercraft Inspector, possible field crew). Hiring open until March 27<sup>th</sup>, or until filled.

### 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:

Working on new branding design with Boyle Design Group (BDG) out of Marinette, WI. Should have new logo and branding in a few weeks. Will begin phasing in new name and logo then, with hard launch of the new brand in June at the annual meeting.

We will be transitioning the website to a new one for Roots & Rivers Collaborative in early 2026. We’ll keep [www.wrisc.org](http://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	695	523	-24.7%

## Social Media Tracking Stats:

Period	Platform	Previous Followers	Current Followers	% Growth	Previous Impressions	Current Impressions	% Change
Prev. Period 1	Instagram	584	611	4.6%	9,193	8,601	-6.4%
	Facebook	1,447	1,481	2.3%	19,650	30,613	55.8%
	TikTok	453	446	-1.6%	3,393	3,487	2.8%

- 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: December 2025 – January 2026

Current period: February – March 2026

### Top content by views

Boost content

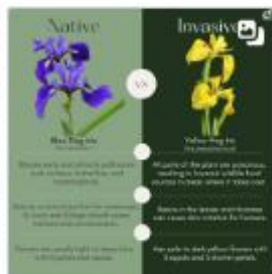
See all content



"Deer resistant", "quick spreading", "easy-to-...

Tue Mar 24, 7:42pm

7.3K views, 126 likes, 5 shares, 37 reposts



Welcome back to #WhatIsItWednesda...

Wed Feb 18, 10:00am

3.7K views, 23 likes, 2 shares, 7 reposts



Welcome back to #WhatIsItWednesda...

Wed Feb 4, 10:00am

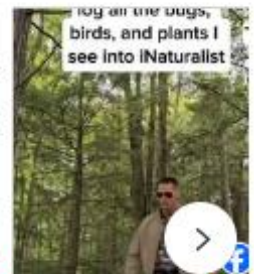
1.3K views, 22 likes, 2 shares, 10 reposts



Right now is a great time to go out and lo...

Mon Feb 9, 12:50pm

1.1K views, 12 likes, 0 shares, 8 reposts



Today is National Take a Walk in a Park Day..

Mon Mar 30, 6:04pm

1.2K views, 20 likes, 0 shares, 4 reposts