

## WRISC Project Update

Submitted by WRISC Coordinator, Lindsay Peterson  
February 7, 2024 BOD Meeting  
Florence County



### **Recent Events**

- MSU Extension Strategic Direction Meeting – January 10<sup>th</sup> – virtual
- MISC Annual Meeting – January 16–17<sup>th</sup> – Grand Rapids, MI
- Region 1 Strategic Planning Meetings – January 23<sup>rd</sup> – virtual
- UP MI Paddle Stewards meeting – January 24<sup>th</sup> – virtual
- Invasive Species Collective (FCP) – January 24<sup>th</sup> – Crandon, WI
- Wildlife Unlimited Meeting – January 25<sup>th</sup> – Kingsford, MI
- Invasive Species Climate Change Conference – January 30–31 – virtual
- *Several webinars and/or online meetings*

### **Upcoming Events**

- NR40 Public Information Sessions – multiple dates
- Marinette Harbor Commission Meeting – February 15<sup>th</sup> – Marinette
- Environmental Health Conference – February 27–29<sup>th</sup> – Bark River, MI
- IM/Kingsford Women’s Club Presentation – March 1<sup>st</sup> – Iron Mountain, MI
- Glacier Gardeners Presentation – March 11<sup>th</sup> – Florence, WI
- Kingsford High School Enviro Science Class Presentation – March 14<sup>th</sup> – Kingsford, MI
- UP Invasive Species Conference – April 16–17
- *Other events being planned for late season*

### **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**

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

This project will help fund efforts to remove and manage purple loosestrife infestations along approximately 26 miles of the Michigamme River from the dam in Republic to the Way Dam reservoir. COVID-19 disrupted planning for this project, but we are hoping to get this back on track. Project teams have since regrouped and have been able to make progress on field activities, with all groups completing river runs this season

last season and on track to complete mapping and management runs this season. Project team leads will be meeting this fall to ensure the project is progressing appropriately for all partners, to assess the budget, and request an extension to this project timeline.

### **WE Energies 2022 – Sustainable Programming for IS Management**

\$107,000 for 2023-2025

This project began in January 2023

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. It will also allow the construction of a purple loosestrife biocontrol rearing station, supplies for which had been delayed in the spring and will likely be purchased and constructed in the fall.

### **GLRI – Boat Wash**

*WRISC Boatwash FY20: WRISC Boatwash*

Awarded: \$39,000;

Deliverables: 3,000 boater contacts

This project ended sooner than anticipated this season due to the high level of mileage reimbursements being distributed to staff as they used their own vehicles due to lack of trucks. Final report is being completed and will be submitted in March to close out the project.

*USFS GLRI CBCW*

This project was set to start in 2024 but was initiated late in 2023 season due to the high demand on the previous project for mileage reimbursements.

This project will continue in 2024 with some careful budget monitoring to ensure the early start to spending does not impact this year's efforts.

### **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.

### **USFS CWMA Funding – Buffer Zone Project**

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. Some survey and control work has been conducted in 2023 in tandem with the WI DNR SOGL project.

### **Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) Category 5 Proposal: WDNR Natural Area Buffer Project – Partner Project**

This project closed out in the last period. Final reporting and reimbursement will be completed in February.

### **EPA UPRC&D Partner Project – UP Wide Phragmites**

This project has already been extended through September 2024. WRISC has started some survey effort towards this project, which focuses mainly on the Lake Superior watershed, so includes primarily the northern half of Dickinson Co., but prioritized outlier populations and has some flexibility. WRISC has been conducting surveys and implementing treatment work in Sept–Oct 2023.

### **MISGP Core Funding 2022**

Awarded – \$91,700

This project was awarded at the end of March. The Core project, Oriental Bittersweet EDR, and European Frog-bit survey and management funds were fully awarded. The Wild Parsnip fund was not awarded. Crews have been conducting some surveys for both survey/treatment projects and core funds have been funding CISMA operations.

WRISC will be requesting an extension for this project.

### **Michigan DNR Hemlock Woolly Adelgid EDR Survey Funding**

Sub-award – \$14,300; October 2023 – May 2024

WRISC received sub-award funding from the MI DNR to conduct a limited amount of early detection surveys for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) during the 2023–2024 winter season.

### **WRISC Proposals**

**MISGP Core Funding for 2024 – Proposal Submitted - November 2023**

**GLRI CWMA – Proposal Submitted - October 2023**

**GLRI Landscape Scale Restoration – Proposal Submitted November 2023**

**Early Detection Rapid Response project: Flowering Rush – Proposal flexible**

## Partner Proposals

UPRC&D – NOAA Project – Phragmites Coastal Restoration – Proposal Submitted November 2023

UPRC&D – MISGP Priority Funding – HWA Surveys – Proposal Submitted November 2023

## Misc.

**Staffing:** Seasonal staff A. Kirschner is remaining on in a part-time capacity to conduct HWA survey work and assist on miscellaneous project work throughout the winter. WRISC will be posting 2024 seasonal positions by early February 2024.

T. Norris has left WRISC due to unforeseen circumstances.

**Newsletters/Articles:** T. Norris had been developing an article series on various invasive species topics which will begin releasing monthly in 2024.

**Website/Facebook/Instagram:** The website will be undergoing further updates, so please be patient and aware of pages that may be changing or under construction at times.

K. Mentel has been doing an amazing job at keeping WRISC's social media running. Instagram has received several updates throughout the last period and currently has **478 followers**. Facebook received several updates as well and has seen some great feedback and engagement. The WRISC Facebook page has continued to grow, going from **907 likes and 1,100 followers** (at the last meeting) to **924 likes and 1,121 followers** at the end of January.

WRISC has also been seeing great response on TikTok. We have 37 videos posted, have **74 followers**, and have gotten 15,696 views and **571 likes** across all videos!


Total reach for our online pages (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, & website) for the past month (Jan 2024) has been a great start to the new year! Overall, social media activity **reached a total of 9,085 people**.

The Facebook page generally sees great reach whenever something is posted. Our top-performing posts from the last period are included below:

### Top post

Last 28 days [See all](#)

Boost this post to reach up to 3067 more people with every \$42 you spend.



**As the common names suggest, Common and Glossy Buckthorn are real "thorns" in the sides of landowners and land managers! Both species are...**

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Post Impressions	Post reach	Post Engagement
2,677	2,591	255