



WNY PRISM Crew Assistance Program 2020 Request for Project Proposals

The Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (WNY PRISM) is one of 8 regional partnerships within New York State focused on combating invasive species and associated threats. WNY PRISM addresses invasive species priorities using a partnership network, for which we provide leadership, technical assistance and collaboration opportunities. We work to improve, restore, and protect local aquatic and terrestrial resources by improving the effectiveness of invasive species management efforts and increasing awareness of invasive species issues throughout the 8-county region. For more information about WNY PRISM and our programming, please visit www.wnyprism.org.

WNY PRISM is seeking project proposals for consideration under the 2020 WNY PRISM Crew Assistance Program. To assist with invasive species management activities within the 8-county WNY PRISM region, the WNY PRISM Crew (Crew) is available to work with partners on new and ongoing management projects. The Crew works June through September and consists of trained Invasive Species Management Assistants (3). Eligible activities fall into two primary work areas: invasive species surveys & mapping and invasive species removal & habitat restoration.

There is no fee charged for Crew assistance, however in-kind or other assistance may be considered as it relates to WNY PRISM partnership and capacity review criteria. Partners will be required to meet the Crew on their first day of work when they arrive on-site. Partners will also be required to provide acknowledgment of WNY PRISM efforts through project outreach and to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which describes responsibilities and expectations for both parties.

Projects will be selected based on established review criteria (see below). WNY PRISM does not know how many projects will be selected as this depends on submitted proposals - all projects will not be selected. Partners may submit multiple, separate project proposals. Projects that fall outside the current ability for WNY PRISM to implement may not be considered.

Eligibility and Restrictions:

Eligible entities include non-profit organizations, local governments, agencies and institutions located within, or serving areas within, the 8 counties of WNY PRISM (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming Counties). A project location may include land outside of WNY PRISM, but the area of work (project site) must be within WNY PRISM.

Private Landowners may apply for assistance on their own property for projects focused on early detection priority species (www.wnyprism.org/priority-invasives/) and/or other Tier 2 species (<http://bit.ly/WNYPRISMTiers>)

Pesticide Application:

WNY PRISM may apply *herbicides* on *terrestrial sites* only, in accordance with New York State Pesticide Application Laws. Terrestrial applications may be applied within designated wetland areas however no applications may occur over water, standing or otherwise. Permits may be required in order to implement herbicide treatments.

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We ask that partners reach out with any questions before a project proposal is submitted. Applications will be reviewed as is, incomplete applications will not be considered. Review of project proposals will begin after the specified due date (**Monday, January 27, 2020**). Questions may be submitted to Lucy Nuessle, WNY PRISM Terrestrial Projects Manager at nuessilm@buffalostate.edu or 716-878-4708.

All proposals must be received by 5:00 pm on Monday, January 27, 2020 to be considered for Crew assistance in 2020.

Funding for WNY PRISM is provided by the Environmental Protection Fund through a contract with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. WNY PRISM is hosted by the Great Lakes Center and is a sponsored program of the Research Foundation for SUNY Buffalo State.

Required Components

Please submit project proposals by filling out this form: <http://bit.ly/WNYPRISM2020CAP> which will ask for the following information:

- Provide basic information regarding:
 - The organization/agency requesting assistance,
 - Project location,
 - Project dates and
 - Permits and permissions
- Provide a one-page (maximum) project proposal narrative that addresses review criteria (see below) and should include (*at a minimum*):
 - Ecological communities present on-site,
 - Invasive species target(s) and size & density of infestation(s),
 - Preferred removal method and/or any restrictions on use of various methods,
 - Additional invasive species present on-site and
 - Summary of any previous management/restoration work that has been conducted.
- Provide map(s) that identify (*at a minimum*):
 - The entire property and property boundaries,
 - Project site and
 - Parking/access.
- Provide any current Management Plan(s)

WNY PRISM Crew Assistance Program Review Criteria

Each project proposal will be reviewed for consistency with our 5-year Strategic Plan (<https://www.wnyprism.org/reports-and-workplans/>). If project proposals are found to be consistent, they will be reviewed and ranked by WNY PRISM staff and Steering Committee based upon the following criteria:

- **Priorities**
 - Invasive Species (www.wnyprism.org/priority-invasives/)
 - Priority Level 1: Early detection & approaching region priority species and additional Tier 2 species (<http://bit.ly/WNYPRISMTiers>)
 - Priority Level 2: Tier 3 species
 - Priority Level 3: Tier 4 species
 - Conservation Targets
 - WNY PRISM would like to focus management work on areas with high conservation value, including rare and unique habitat types and communities, rare, threatened and endangered species, nature preserves/natural areas with low invasive species cover and/or areas of low human impact pressures.
 - Education/Demonstration
 - WNY PRISM would like to assist with projects with high visibility, education/outreach components and/or projects that may serve as demonstration projects for further invasive species efforts.
- **Partnership**
 - WNY PRISM seeks projects that further strengthen our partnership network and build capacity for invasive species management in the region (we are looking for projects in which we work *with* our partners towards common goals).
 - WNY PRISM seeks additive projects that may not be implemented through use of current partner resources or that would otherwise be considered redundant in nature.
 - WNY PRISM seeks projects that have proposed outreach or public recognition efforts associated with them, to be led by partner, in addition to minimum requirements set forth. Examples include signage, newsletter articles, social media or volunteer efforts.
- **Long-Term Project Sustainability**
 - WNY PRISM will favor projects that have a long-term management plan in place and which WNY PRISM's assistance will further current goals for the property.
 - WNY PRISM will favor projects that demonstrate sustainability of efforts and partner support for long-term monitoring and management.
 - WNY PRISM supports use of appropriate and effective management methods and strategies (Best Management Practices and Integrated Pest Management).
 - WNY PRISM will favor projects in areas under a form of permanent protection.
 - WNY PRISM seeks survey/mapping projects that will result in management efforts.
- **WNY PRISM Capacity**
 - Project must fit within WNY PRISM's current ability to implement. This involves not only the ability to implement the proposed method of management (equipment, training), but also involves cost and scheduling limitations.