



WNY PRISM Crew Assistance Program 2021 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 2021 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, free of charge. 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.

Projects will be selected based on established review criteria (see Page 3). 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.

Terms and Conditions

Partner Requirements:

- 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 be required to provide acknowledgment of WNY PRISM efforts through project outreach (examples include signage, newsletter articles, presentations, social media and volunteer efforts).
- Partners will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which describes responsibilities and expectations for both parties.

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).

Private Landowners may apply for assistance on their own property for projects focused on [WNY PRISM early detection priority species](#) and/or other Tier 2 species ([WNY PRISM Tier Rankings](#)).

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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 to implement herbicide treatments.

Application Deadline:

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 (**Friday, January 29, 2021**). Questions may be submitted to Lucy Nuessle, WNY PRISM Terrestrial Projects Manager at nuessllm@buffalostate.edu or 716-880-6151.

All proposals must be received by 5:00 pm on Friday, January 29, 2021 to be considered for Crew assistance in 2021.

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.

WNY PRISM Crew Assistance Program 2021 Review Criteria

Each project proposal will be reviewed for consistency with our [5-year Strategic Plan](#). 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
 - Priority Level 1: Early detection & approaching region [priority species](#) and additional Tier 2 species ([WNY PRISM Tier Rankings](#)).
 - Priority Level 2: Tier 3 and 4 species.
- Conservation Targets
 - WNY PRISM would like to focus on areas with high conservation value including unique habitat types and communities, rare, threatened and endangered species, 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.

Partnership

- WNY PRISM seeks projects that further strengthen our partnership network.
- WNY PRISM is 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.
- WNY PRISM seeks projects that have proposed outreach or public recognition efforts associated with them, to be led by partner, in addition to the minimum requirements described in the RFP.

Long-Term Project Sustainability

- WNY PRISM will favor projects that demonstrate sustainability of efforts and partner support for long-term monitoring and management.
- WNY PRISM supports use of Best Management Practices and Integrated Pest Management.
- WNY PRISM will favor projects in areas under a form of permanent protection.
- 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 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 the ability to implement the proposed method of management (equipment, training) but also cost and scheduling limitations.

WNY PRISM Crew Assistance Program 2021 Required Components

All applications must be submitted online, using the [2021 Crew Assistance Program Application](#) form. Plan to complete your work in one sitting to avoid your data being lost. Applications are final once you select "Submit" at the end of the form and no edits can be made after this point.

The form will ask for the following information:

Basic information regarding:

- The organization/agency requesting assistance,
- Project location,
- Target species,
- Project dates,
- Plans to identify or acknowledge WNY PRISM's efforts and
- Permits and permissions.

A one-page (maximum) project proposal narrative that addresses 2021 review criteria and should include (*at a minimum*):

- Ecological communities present on-site,
- Invasive species target(s) and the size & density of infestation(s),
- Preferred removal method and/or any restrictions on use of various methods,
- Additional invasive species present on-site or nearby,
- Summary of any previous management/restoration work that has been conducted on-site,
- Partner support for project (site preparation, providing staff and/or volunteers, providing supplies or equipment, etc.) and
- Plans to maintain and monitor management efforts after WNY PRISM's involvement.

Map(s) that identify:

- The entire property and property boundaries,
- Project site,
- Parking/access and
- Nearby trails, water bodies or other invasive species vector pathways.

Current Management Plan(s).