

WNY PRISM Crew Assistance Program 2023 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 and works 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. For more information about WNY PRISM and our programming, please visit www.wnyprism.org.

WNY PRISM is seeking project proposals for consideration under the 2023 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 in collaboration with partners on new and ongoing management projects, free of charge. The Crew works May 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), and all submitted projects may not be selected. Applicants should ensure their proposals include and address the listed criteria. Proposals are evaluated and selected based on project goals and outcomes, ability of the applicant to conduct long-term management, and WNY PRISM's capacity. Partners may submit multiple, separate project proposals for consideration.

Terms and Conditions

Partner Requirements:

- There is no fee charged for Crew assistance, however WNY PRISM's capacity is limited, so in-kind or other assistance is factored into consideration.
- 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. This document is standard regardless of project type and cannot be altered.
- Partners will be required to attend a short (~1 hour) pre-selection meeting during February or March to go over communication details and project logistics ahead of the field season. Participation in this meeting does not guarantee a project will be selected.

Eligibility and Restrictions:

Eligible entities include non-profit organizations, local governments, agencies, associations and institutions located within, or serving areas within, the 8 counties of WNY PRISM (Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming Counties).

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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 take place within designated wetland areas however no applications may occur over water, standing or otherwise. Permits may be required to implement herbicide treatments. It is the responsibility of the partner to obtain any necessary permits, and WNY PRISM may be able to assist with the permit application process.

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 27, 2023). Questions may be submitted to Douglas Knoph, WNY PRISM Field Operations Manager at knophdh@buffalostate.edu or 716-878-3290.

All proposals must be received by 5:00 PM on Friday, January 27, 2023, to be considered for the Crew Assistance Program in 2023.

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 2023 Review Criteria

Each project proposal will be reviewed for consistency with our 5-year Strategic Plan. Complete project proposals found to be consistent with this Strategic Plan will be reviewed and ranked by WNY PRISM staff and Steering Committee based upon the following criteria:

Priorities

- Invasive Species
 - Invasive species priorities are based on the WNY PRISM Tier Rankings, where Tier 1 and Tier 2 species are the highest priority. Please review the WNY PRISM early detection and approaching region priority species and Tier Ranking lists.
- Conservation Targets
 - WNY PRISM would like to work on areas with high conservation value including unique habitats and communities, rare, threatened and endangered species, natural areas with low invasive species cover, areas with low probability of being invaded again and areas of low human impact pressures.
- Education/Demonstration
 - WNY PRISM would like to assist with projects with high visibility, that demonstrate the success of our work, incorporate new or novel methods and may serve as demonstration projects.

Partnership

- WNY PRISM is looking for projects that further strengthen our partnership network in which we work alongside our partners towards common goals.
- WNY PRISM seeks additive projects that may not be implemented through use of current partner resources. Assistance should further the scope of work and improve upon effectiveness of the project.
- Partners must acknowledge WNY PRISM's assistance, and projects that include additional partner-led public recognition efforts such as press releases, volunteer involvement or education efforts are preferred.

Long-Term Project Sustainability

- WNY PRISM will favor projects that demonstrate sustainability of efforts and partner implemented 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.
- Projects should have a long-term management plan, and assistance should directly address long-term management 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 capacity. This involves the ability to implement the proposed method of management(equipment, training) but also cost and scheduling limitations.

WNY PRISM Crew Assistance Program 2023 Required Components

All applications must be submitted online, using the 2023 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:

Project Information:

- Organization/agency.
- Project location (address, county).
- Target species.
- Project dates (timeframe and number of days requested).
- Specific plans to acknowledge WNY PRISM's efforts.
- Permits and permissions.

Project Narrative:

- A one-page (maximum) project proposal narrative that addresses 2023 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 survey and management/restoration work that has been conducted on-site. Please include any reporting tools used such as iMapInvasives or iNaturalist, where existing data can be viewed.
 - Partner support for project (site preparation, providing staff and/or volunteers, providing supplies or equipment, etc.).
 - Plans to maintain and monitor management efforts after WNY PRISM involvement.
 - Plans to use survey data for management efforts, grant applications or strategic planning.

Project map(s) that include:

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

Current Management Plan(s)

Additional Documents