

WNY PRISM Crew Assistance Program

Frequently Asked Questions

How do we know if a project is within WNY PRISM's capacity?

WNY PRISM has many tools at our disposal and train our seasonal staff for a broad array of invasive species management projects from surveys to removal and restoration, and we can include information specific to your project during our training. However, regarding removal efforts we are primarily restricted to hand tools and equipment such as backpack herbicide sprayers and brushcutters. We do not have access to heavy machinery, mowers, or off-road vehicles (other than a couple kayaks!).

Our capacity may also be limited by project cost and/or the seasonal timing or amount of time it would take the Crew to complete a project (we only have them May-September and have lots of work to get done!). But the best way to find out if a project is within our capacity is to reach out and ask, prior to submitting a proposal.

Is WNY PRISM able to use pesticides?

WNY PRISM has certified pesticide applicators in category 3A and trains seasonal staff how to apply herbicides safely and effectively as apprentice applicators, under the supervision of a certified pesticide applicator. Category 3A allows for terrestrial applications only.

We are not currently able to carry out insecticide treatments, including treatments for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

Does WNY PRISM take care of securing permits?

No, WNY PRISM does not take care of securing necessary permits for Crew Assistance Program projects. It is expected that the partner seeking assistance already has the necessary permits and/or permissions in place. If certain permits are needed for a project, it is unlikely those permits could be obtained between the time a project is selected and the start of the project.

WNY PRISM is happy to help partners with invasive species management related permits by reviewing language and proposed management strategies, methods, and tools. However, all questions regarding permit needs and regulations should be directed to DEC.

Can I apply on behalf of another organization?

WNY PRISM strongly encourages proposals to be submitted by the owner or agent representing the property in question – the person applying must have the authority to approve the work they are requesting. If you are applying on behalf of an organization, you must include written approval of the work and proposal from the owner as part of your proposal for the Crew Assistance Program. We will also require written approval for the agreed upon scope of work from the owner of the property, should the project be selected.

Does WNY PRISM work on private land?

Yes, WNY PRISM does work on private lands, quite a bit in fact. However, private lands are subject to the same requirements and selection criteria as all other projects. This means that WNY PRISM does not select projects that involve the removal of common and widespread invasive species from small lots or isolated projects that are subject to high invasive species pressure (high likelihood of reestablishment) from adjacent properties. We can still help with those types of projects by giving you the information and technical assistance you need to tackle them yourself, but they aren't likely be selected for the Crew Assistance Program.

Is there a fee for the Crew Assistance Program?

No, there is no fee charged for the Crew Assistance Program.