

## **WNY PRISM Crew Assistance Program 2019 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 by providing coordination for invasive species management efforts. 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](http://www.wnyprism.org).

WNY PRISM is seeking project proposals for consideration under the 2019 WNY PRISM Crew Assistance Program. To assist with invasive species management activities within the 8-county WNY PRISM region, the WNY PRISM Crew is available to work with partners on new and ongoing management projects. The Crew works June through early September and consists of trained Invasive Species Management Assistants. Eligible activities fall into three primary work areas: Invasive Species Removal and Habitat Restoration, Invasive Species Surveys and Mapping, and Outreach.

Projects will be selected based on review criteria and all projects may not be selected. Partners may submit multiple, separate project requests. Incomplete applications may not be considered. Projects that fall outside the current ability for WNY PRISM to implement, may also not be considered. Review of project proposals will begin after the specified due date (**Monday, January 28, 2019**).

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 may be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) describing responsibilities and expectations.

Pesticide application:

WNY PRISM may apply *non-restricted use herbicides on terrestrial sites*, only. 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.

Only those 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) are eligible.

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

Project proposals and/or questions may be submitted to Lucy Nuessle, WNY PRISM Terrestrial Projects Manager at [nuesslm@buffalostate.edu](mailto:nuesslm@buffalostate.edu) or 716-878-4708.

**All requests must be received by 5:00 pm on Monday, January 28, 2019 to be considered for Crew assistance in 2019.**

## **WNY PRISM Crew Assistance Program Required Components**

Please provide the following information for all project requests:

### 1. Organization/Agency

Please provide the name of the organization/agency requesting assistance and primary point of contact (Name, Organization, Email, Phone, and Full Address) for the project.

Please indicate any additional owners and stakeholders. This may include property owner, easement holders, and any organization/agency with an MOU or contract related to site/project activities (such as organizations that have management agreements or corporations with current habitat management contracts within the site/project area).

### 2. Project Site

Please describe the project site including address and any parking and/or access instructions. Project site description should include the entire property (not just the area within the property where efforts are to take place), including property boundaries and brief descriptions of adjacent properties. Include maps when appropriate.

Descriptions should include ecological communities, any rare, threatened or endangered species or communities, and invasive species presence and distribution. Descriptions should also include information on the level and types of disturbance and threats present (both human and natural).

*Note:* The project site should be the location where the Crew will be working. If Partner would like to meet the Crew at a location other than the project site, please include address and parking/access instructions for this location as well.

### 3. Project Description

Please provide a detailed description of the proposed project including: project goal and objectives, information on the invasive species targeted for removal (size class, density of infestation, source populations), preferred removal method (if any), additional invasive species present, size of the project area, plans for follow-up monitoring, management plans or timelines. If this project is part of an ongoing effort, please include a summary of previous work conducted. Include maps when appropriate.

For invasive species survey and/or mapping projects, please indicate how this information will be used.

For habitat restoration/planting efforts, please include information on any previous invasive species management work and information on plant materials to be used.

If project involves outreach or working with volunteers, please indicate full scope of work and how the responsibilities involved with these efforts is to be divided among WNY PRISM and partner requesting assistance.

Project descriptions should also include descriptions of how partner requesting assistance may be participating in the project, such as assisting the Crew in the field or providing outreach support.

#### 4. Dates

Please indicate the preferred dates and estimated number of days being requested.

In general, the WNY PRISM Crew is available from mid-June through early September. Partners will be expected to meet the Crew on-site for the first day of work, and may be needed to provide additional on-site assistance, depending on the project/location. WNY PRISM can't guarantee specific dates requested. If dates are firm, such as for scheduled outreach or volunteer events, clearly indicate this.

#### 5. Permits and Permissions

Permits will be required for any work to take place in state designated wetland areas. Permits may also be required for certain pesticide applications. Please indicate if necessary permits have been obtained, if they will need to be obtained, or if you need assistance with obtaining necessary permits. Permits are submitted and processed through NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and may take several months or more, to be approved.

Permissions may be necessary depending on property ownership, easements and management agreements that may be in place. Letters of permission from all appropriate entities (as indicated in section 1) will need to be provided to WNY PRISM. Letters of permission may include the MOU and/or easement that indicates permission for the organization/agency submitting this request to implement the identified scope of work or may consist of a Letter of Support for the project.

## Review Criteria

Each project proposal will be reviewed for consistency with our 5-year Strategic Plan (<http://www.wnyprism.org/about/news/>). 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
    - Please see WNY PRISM Invasive Species Priorities Lists: <http://www.wnyprism.org/priority-invasives/>. Species that are not included in WNY PRISM's priorities species lists may still be considered, especially those that meet early detection criteria.
  - 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 is looking for 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 is looking for additive projects that may not be implemented through use of current partner resources or that would otherwise be considered redundant in nature.
  - WNY PRISM will favor projects that have proposed outreach or public recognition efforts associated with them, to be led by Partner requesting assistance. 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. This includes the reasonable expectation of resources to continue for invasive species management.
  - WNY PRISM will look at the proposed management method and plan and will favor projects that identify appropriate and effective management methods and strategies (Best Management Practices and Integrated Pest Management).
  - WNY PRISM will favor projects in areas under some form of permanent protection.
  - For survey/mapping projects, we will consider the likelihood of invasive species management efforts to take place based on collected data.
- **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.