



2024 Crew Assistance Program Capital Region Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (CR-PRISM)

Description and Purpose

The Capital Region Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (CR-PRISM) is a not-for-profit quasi government agency hosted by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County. The PRISM provides services in eleven counties in the New York State Capital Region. Albany, Columbia, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Schenectady, and parts of Fulton, Greene, Herkimer, Saratoga, Warren, and Washington counties encompass this region. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) provides financial support to the Capital Region PRISM via the Environmental Protection Fund. The Capital Region PRISM is one of eight Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management or PRISMs in New York State.

The CR-PRISM works in collaboration with partner groups to promote prevention, education, and outreach strategies, create early detection and response networks, and execute best management practices for invasive species control including post-treatment monitoring and restoration actions. In addition, we support research involving studies pertaining to the ecological impact and effective control of invasive species. Work is also conducted to help train community scientists in these measures. The goal of these efforts is to protect conservation targets within our communities and slow the spread of invasive species.

Program Objectives

To supplement the great work that is already being done by our partners, we are able to offer a Crew Assistance Program (CAP) on behalf of the NYS DEC. The CAP provides a method for the CR-PRISM to share and leverage limited resources within the Partnership. The CR-PRISM is seeking to assist partners with detection, monitoring, delineation, and control/response projects of invasive species and associated restoration projects. The CAP program is offered in multiple parts, as needed. One part is to offer technical training to staff on the identification and proper management of invasive species. The second part will be the provision of dedicated staff time to provide assistance with the proper management of those identified invasive species. The CR-PRISM will only conduct manual, mechanical, cultural, biological, and restorative controls. The PRISM does not conduct chemical applications. The CR-PRISM staff are available to work in collaboration with partners on new or on-going projects, free of charge. The CR-PRISM crew is available mid-June through August and consists of three to four trained Invasive Species Technicians. Seasonal staff are available Monday-Friday, 8am-2pm to assist with projects. Please take travel time into account with your request. Our office is located at 50 West High Street in Ballston Spa, NY 12020.

Awards

A Crew Assistance Program proposal is generally awarded when a project best meets the goals, objectives, and priority actions that are aligned to the [Capital Region PRISM Five-Year Strategic Plan](#). In addition, selected CAP proposals will demonstrate the greatest possible justifications and feasibility for success that include post-treatment monitoring and follow-up maintenance. Applications should include proposals that follow a recommended [framework of response](#) to address priority objectives. Awards will be dependent on the merits of each project compared to other competing projects. The scope of work should provide a clear connection to invasive species issues or concerns. Projects will be reviewed and selected by staff and conservation committee





members. The CR-PRISM is not obligated to select proposals. Certificates of insurance may be required or requested as needed.

Eligibility

The CR-PRISM welcomes members from academic institutions, local governments and municipalities, not-for-profit organizations, private preserves and parks, land trusts, conservancies, lake associations, agricultural institutions, local businesses, environmental groups, tribal groups, and volunteer scientists from the community at large to apply. All are welcome. Awarded projects must serve areas within the [boundary](#) of the CR-PRISM.

The Capital Region PRISM recognizes the unique circumstances that land managers may have in relation to invasive species projects. Be creative in submitting a proposal that will apply to a terrestrial invasive species-related project. In general, the projects can include, but are not limited to forest, grassland, riparian, wetland, and disturbed areas. The projects can relate to invasive species detection, monitoring, control/response, restoration, or research projects. Control/response and restoration projects should be less than 1 acre in the scope of work. Projects can be on public or private land (natural areas, preserves, parks, wildlife refuges, sanctuaries, conservation areas, etc.). The CR-PRISM does not conduct work on residential properties unless there is a high threat invasive species that directly impacts human health. **The Crew Assistance Program is designed to address terrestrial based ecosystem needs.** Small discreet populations of target invasive species are preferred. **CR-PRISM is not obligated to award all projects.** The CR-PRISM anticipates awarding 3-4 projects each lasting up to 5 days. If the applicant has designated the property as an [Invasive Species Prevention Zone](#), they can apply for up to 8 days of Crew Assistance. Notice of selected proposals for assistance will be announced by **May 15th, 2024**.

Procedure and Requirements

1. Complete and submit the application along with any relevant supporting materials as a PDF file no larger than 5MB in size. Send materials to Sam Schultz, ss986@cornell.edu and cc Kristopher Williams, kbw44@cornell.edu. (Indicate in subject line: '2024 Crew Assistant Program Proposal'). The attached application with all supporting materials must be received **by April 30th, 2024, by 9:00 a.m. Eastern time.**
2. CR-PRISM expects to select several projects through this application process. Please note the CR-PRISM is not obligated to award all projects.
3. Projects must be completed in 2024. Multi-year projects will be considered and may be accepted with a new application each year. Repeated projects, when deemed appropriate, through submitted applications will be contingent upon satisfactory completion of prior projects. Post-treatment actions are encouraged.
4. Proposals for award will be pre-selected by the members of the Capital Region PRISM Conservation Committee.
5. Proposals that have been selected will be notified by **May 15th, 2024**. Applicants will be required to participate in a pre-meeting to outline the scope of work and project logistics.
6. Partners will be required to meet the crew on their first day of work when they arrive on-site to provide a brief introduction of the project, direct them to the project site(s) and review any site-specific safety concerns.





7. Partners will be required to provide acknowledgement of CR-PRISM efforts through project outreach (i.e. signage, newsletter articles, presentations, social media, and volunteer effort(s)).

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8. Copies of signed landowner and right-of-way access permissions will be provided prior to the commencement of an awarded project. All appropriate state, county, and local permitting requirements will be in place prior to the commencement of work with copies provided to the PRISM. Permission will also be granted, in writing, to upload and report actions into the NYS Invasive Species Database (iMapInvasives).
9. Please call or email Sam Schultz (ss986@cornell.edu, 518-885-8995 ext. 2211) with questions pertaining to this application.

Thank you for your interest and participation. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,
The Capital Region PRISM



2024 CR-PRISM Crew Assistance Program Review Criteria

Each proposal will be reviewed for consistency with the CR-PRISM Five-Year Strategic Plan. Complete project proposals found to be consistent with the Strategic Plan will be reviewed and ranked by the CR-PRISM staff and Conservation Committee based on the following criteria:

Program Priorities

Invasive Species Targets

- Species priorities are based on the CR-PRISM Tier Rankings and New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP) Threat Rankings, where Tier 1 and Tier 2 species are the highest priority, and Tier 4 the lowest. Please see the [NYNHP Tier List](#) for these rankings.
- Species that are new to the property in question and do not have well-established source populations and/or seedbanks present.

Conservation Targets

- Areas with that protect conservation targets or ecologically significant locations
- Project areas with high conservation value including unique habitats and communities, rare, threatened, and endangered species, and areas with ecological connectivity for wildlife. Sites of high social and/or cultural value will also be considered.
- Project sites with low invasive species cover, and/or areas managed for vector management.
- CR-PRISM will favor projects in designated natural areas or significant as indicated on the [NYNHP Prioritization Model](#).

Partnership

- CR-PRISM is looking for projects that further strengthen our partnership network in which we work alongside one another towards common goals.
- CR-PRISM seeks projects that may not be possible to implement with current partner resources. Assistance should further the scope of work and improve the efficiency for completion of the project.
- Partners must acknowledge CR-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

- CR-PRISM will favor projects that demonstrate sustainability of efforts and partner implemented long-term monitoring and management. Partners designating areas, using proper criteria, as Invasive Species Prevention Zones will be favored for award.
- CR-PRISM supports the use of Best Management Practices and Integrated Pest Management.
- Projects that present a clear plan for how the project will be leveraged with CR-PRISM assistance or used to support further invasive species management efforts will be favored.

CR-PRISM Capacity

- Project must fit within CR-PRISM's current capacity. This involves the ability to implement the proposed method of management (equipment, training) but also cost and scheduling limitations.