

LH PRISM Invasives Strike Force Crew 2026 Request for Project Proposals

The Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (LH PRISM) is seeking proposals for the Invasives Strike Force (ISF) 2026 field season. The ISF is housed within LH PRISM's host organization, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, with funding provided by the Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. They are a boots-on-the ground crew that manages high priority invasive species populations across the region, including eradicating emerging invasive species, protecting high value native species and habitats, and enhancing areas of high recreational, cultural, and historic value. The ISF operates in terrestrial ecosystems and provides partners with assistance implementing manual and/or chemical invasive species management and restoration efforts through the use of our trained seasonal staff. Chemical applications may take place in terrestrial settings. The ISF field season is mid-May through mid-October. ISF assistance is provided free of charge.

Applicants should read the application thoroughly before applying and include all required information. Do not leave any section blank; estimate, use "N/A" if not applicable, or "unknown" if unsure. Proposal, landowner permissions, maps, and any other supplemental materials are due to Ryan McClean at rmcclean@nynjtc.org by **end of day February 13th**. Questions about the ISF program or this application can be emailed to Ryan McClean. Additional necessary permits are encouraged early and are **due one month before the scheduled project begins**. Late applications will not be considered. Project notifications will be announced by the **end of day March 13th**. Proposals may be accepted in full or in part. Accepted proposals may be rescheduled and are not guaranteed to take place if weather, scheduling, permitting, high priority, etc. conflicts arise.

Eligibility

- All are welcome to apply, including but not limited to nonprofit organizations, private landowners, institutions, businesses, and agencies.
- Projects must take place within the [boundaries](#) of the LH PRISM.
- Multi-year projects will require a yearly application to be evaluated against other proposals.

Partner Expectations

- Obtain [landowner permissions](#) and additional necessary permits; assistance may be provided upon request.
- **New to 2026:** Request a wetland jurisdictional determination (JD) (see Appendix B) and provide a copy of the confirmation letter. Follow appropriate permitting steps if JD is positive.
- Produce and submit a map of project; this can be as detailed as an ArcGIS produced map or as simple as an aerial screenshot marked with pencil, but must include property and project boundaries.
- Coordinate with the Program Manager, Ryan McClean, to schedule project and develop workplan.
- Meet with the ISF upon arrival on their first day to provide an introduction of the project site, direct them to project site(s), review any site-specific concerns, and discuss their organization and career path.
- Large trees that are being managed chemically will be left standing. Partners will approve management of each large tree in hazardous areas (trailside, roadside, etc.), assume full liability of hazard, and responsibility for removal.
- Have a plan for continued management and monitoring of project after ISF assistance.

Areas of Special Interest

We are looking to experiment with the following land management techniques.

- Utilization of natives restoration, cover cropping, and/or living or dead mulch as a tool to suppress invasives regrowth.
- Flame weeding on annuals and multi-stemmed shrubs.

Evaluation Criteria

Target Species

The ISF prioritizes management of Lower Hudson [Tiers 1 and 2](#) species with low regional abundance and high or very high ecological and/or socio-economic invasiveness ranking.

Conservation Targets

The ISF prioritizes management of invasive species that are threatening rare/endangered habitat/species as determined by the DEC Environmental Resource Mapper, New York Natural Heritage Program data, and local knowledge.

Cultural & Recreational Resource Protection

The ISF prioritizes trail corridors with significant value for public access, connectivity, and recreation, and other high value recreation, historic, and cultural resources.

Control Effectiveness

The ISF prioritizes managing species that have known and effective Best Management Practice and projects that allow for Best Management Practices use.

On-Going Project

The ISF prioritizes managing projects that have management history and future management plans.

Site Logistics

The ISF prioritizes managing projects management will not be impeded by terrain, difficult access, or lack of permissions.

Resource Contribution

The ISF prioritizes managing projects where the partner provides staff time or other resources and commits to post-ISF management.

Organization/Individual Requesting Service:

Contact Name:

Title:

Phone:

Email:

Mailing Address:

Communication Preferences (select all that apply) Email Phone Text

Are you an LH PRISM Partner? Yes No No, but interested

Other contacts to be included in communications:

Project Narrative:

Describe how this project fits into your broader plans. If requesting multiple projects within the same jurisdiction, make a new paragraph for each project site. In your narrative, describe:

- The goal(s) or expected outcome(s)
- Information for target invasive(s) within the project site including
 - Common name (as listed on [NYNHP website](#))
 - Tier (as listed on [NYNHP website](#); changes yearly, please check each year)
 - Density (trace, sparse, dense clumps, monoculture) or % cover (<5%, 6-25%, 26-50%, 51-75%, 76-100%)
 - Age class and relative amounts (seedling, sapling, mature/reproducing adult)
- Area in square feet or acres
- Known natives within and nearby the project site
- Known non-target non-natives/invasives within and nearby the project site
- Known conservation targets or significant natural areas within and nearby the project site
 - [Environmental Resource Mapper](#) (See Appendix A for instructions)
 - [Rare Plants, Rare Animals, Important Areas](#)
 - More detailed information on known presence of rare/threatened/endangered species can be requested from the [NYNHP](#)
- Social value of site as a recreational, historic, or cultural resource
- If an ongoing project, summary of recent survey, removal, or restoration efforts
- Terrain of site including habitat type and steep slopes, rocky terrain, trailside, roadside, sun exposure, and known hazards
- Proximity to standing water, wetlands, or DEC regulated wetlands
 - [Environmental Resource Mapper](#) (See Appendix A for instructions)
- Plans for site preparation (i.e. cutting paths, cutting low in preparation for foliar spray, etc.)
- Plans for continued monitoring, management, and/or restoration
- Directions for parking, written directions to project site(s), and GPS coordinate (decimal degrees) in center of project site

Project Narrative (please answer all bulleted questions listed on page 3 even if "n/a" or "unsure"):

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Project Narrative Continued:

[Empty text area for project narrative]

Project Logistics:

- Will a certificate of insurance be requested? Yes No
- Are pesticides permitted to be used? Yes No
- Map with property boundaries and project site(s) attached? Yes No

It is the project proposer’s responsibility to obtain [landowner permissions](#) and additional necessary permitting. Additional permitting may be necessary on lands owned by the municipality, county, or state, in DEC regulated wetlands, on lands with other restrictions, or to work near conservation targets. Additional permits are encouraged early and are due one month before the scheduled project begins. What additional permits are required for this project?

Project partners will be required to meet the crew on their first day of work to provide a brief introduction of the project site, direct them to the project site(s), review any site-specific concerns, and discuss their organization and career path. The ISF operates mid-May through mid-October, Tuesdays through Saturdays. Field days are typically scheduled Wednesdays through Saturdays. If any, indicate preferred days of the week and days that will not work, preferred dates or month, and number of days requested.

The ISF workday is 8:30am to 5:00pm, including gathering tools and cleaning equipment at [Welch Trail Education Center](#) (WTEC) unless alternative housing is secured or provided. Especially for larger projects or projects far from WTEC, do you have leads for housing? Housing aims to accommodate six individuals. Indicate the number and sizes of beds, sleeping surfaces, and floorspace for air mattresses and availability of showers, laundry, cooking spaces, climate control, and WiFi.

The ISF hosts volunteer workdays to increase capacity as well as engage the public on invasives ecology and management. Are you open to allowing the ISF to host a volunteer workday here? Consider sensitivity of habitat, site hazards, parking availability, and distance from parking location to project site(s).

How will you be supporting the project? Examples include providing staff help to the ISF in field work, funding for materials and supplies, plant materials for restoration, housing for Crew members for project duration, etc. Note that ISF assistance is provided free of charge; funding support helps increase our capacity but has no impact on project acceptance.

Space for additional information:

Appendix A

Instructions for using the DEC Environmental Resource Mapper to determine if project is likely in or near DEC Regulated Wetland or if the project overlaps with conservation targets:

- Visit the DEC Environmental Resource Mapper (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/38801.html>) or (<https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/erm/>)
- Your popup blocker must be disabled to use this interactive resource.
- On the left, under “Search by Location,” type in the project address or GPS coordinates (long, lat) and adjust zoom to encapsulate project site.
- If helpful or necessary, the basemap may be changed in the top right next to “Base Map”
- On the left, under “Layers and Legend,” select “All Layers”
- On the left, under “Tools,” click the “Identify” tool (which is an italicized ‘I’).
- There may be overlapping colors/shapes/map features. Click on the map within your project area where there is the most overlap/ where the color is darkest. This will produce the results of the highest number of conservation targets within the project site.
- Once map is clicked, a new tab will open. Scroll down to view relevant information: “State Regulated Freshwater Wetlands,” “Significant Natural Communities,” and “Rare Plants and Rare Animals.”
- Save a copy of this page as a PDF (Ctrl + p or “print” in browser “...” menu).
- If you are unable to encapsulate all relevant information within the project area with one click using the “Identify” tool, please repeat previous steps and save multiple PDFs with all relevant information.
- Attach this/these PDF(s) in email when submitting proposal.

Appendix B

Contact your New York State Department of Environmental Conservation permitting office to inquire about permits needed for project locations, if applicable. <https://dec.ny.gov/about/contact-us/statewide-office-information>

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has implemented new freshwater wetland permitting requirements. To determine if this applies to your project location, a freshwater wetland Jurisdictional Determination (JD) may be required. A freshwater wetland JD is a formal assessment conducted by DEC to determine if an area meets the criteria for classification as a regulated freshwater wetland and is an integral step in determining if an activity will require a permit.
- Request a wetland jurisdictional determination (JD) at the time of completing this application! The DEC has 90 days to provide a JD letter which is effective for 5 years after the date of issuance. If JD comes back positive, additional steps will be required with your local DEC permitting office which will take additional time. More information, including instructions on how to request a jurisdictional determination, is available on the [Freshwater Wetland Jurisdictional Determination webpage](#). Provide a copy of the confirmation letter from the JD office that a request was received as an addendum.