



## **CITIZEN MEMBERS**

### **Information and Agreement Package**



## WHIP MISSION STATEMENT

*The Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership (WHIP), in recognition of damage from invasive species to public and private lands of Lincoln, Oneida, and Vilas Counties of North Central Wisconsin, will coordinate available resources to foster public awareness and to control these species.*

## WHIP BACKGROUND

Invasive species are recognized as an increasing problem across Wisconsin and beyond, with serious consequences for our lands and waters. The Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership (WHIP) is a nonprofit cooperative of partners working together to offer invasive species education and management in Wisconsin's north-central region. Our group was formed in 2010 when Vilas and Oneida County land and water conservation staff wanted to formalize a group who could manage invasive species projects across ownership and jurisdictional boundaries. Since our first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), WHIP has grown to include 17 Partners, an additional county (Lincoln), a Coordinator, Action Teams, and many successful invasive species projects throughout three counties. WHIP's invasive species projects are supported by a diverse collection of grant awards, and we are fortunate to have the Lumberjack RC&D Council as our fiscal agent.

Today, WHIP members pool resources together to protect native species by working to detect and contain the invasive ones. Our partners have signed an MOU to show their commitment to our mission, and we renew their signatures every five years. Partners are listed below:

**USDA Forest Service, Chequamegon – Nicolet National Forest**  
**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
**Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission**  
**Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians**  
**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**  
**Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands**  
**The Nature Conservancy, Wisconsin Chapter**  
**Lumberjack RC&D Council**  
**Oneida County**  
**Vilas County**  
**Lincoln County**  
**Partners in Forestry Co-op**  
**Trees For Tomorrow**  
**Town of Newbold**  
**Wisconsin Department of Transportation**  
**Northwoods Land Trust**  
**Blackwell Job Corps**

## CITIZEN ROLE DESCRIPTION

Beginning in spring 2025, **WHIP invites interested citizens to participate in our group, by creating two new “citizen member” positions.** These positions are open to anyone interested in conservation in Oneida, Vilas, or Lincoln County, with a focus on terrestrial invasive species (those found in the forest, meadow, garden, and more). Citizen members will have a chance to make meaningful contributions towards protecting our natural resources and preventing the damages caused by invasive species.

Citizen members will serve two-year terms, during which they will attend our WHIP meetings, vote on WHIP business items, offer input, and become involved in invasive species activities as much and as often as they like. As residents of our service area with diverse backgrounds and experiences, they will bring a unique perspective to our programs.

### What does a Citizen Member position involve? You can expect to:

- ⇒ Attend two 90-minute WHIP meetings per year (in October and March) held virtually over Zoom and scheduled according to the group's availability
- ⇒ Vote in WHIP decision making, such as grant funding applications and other decisions related to invasive species management
- ⇒ Support current WHIP outreach projects and help to coordinate when possible
- ⇒ Provide feedback on WHIP activities as needed
- ⇒ Offer support and guidance to WHIP's Coordinator
- ⇒ Participate in ad-hoc committees or project-based action teams as needs arise
- ⇒ Record volunteer hours for grant match requests
- ⇒ Contribute towards furthering WHIP's mission

Please get in touch with any questions about this role or about our organization, and thank you!

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## CITIZEN MEMBER APPLICATION

Thank you for your interest in joining WHIP as a citizen member! Please tell us a little about yourself and why you would like to work with us.

**Name:**

**Contact Information (phone and email):**

**Please describe any previous experience with invasive species (could include identifying, reporting, removing)?**

**Are you involved in any other conservation groups or committees?**

**Are there any relevant skills you would bring to the group? (either technical such as IT, GIS; or nonprofit-related such as volunteer recruitment or fundraising)**

**Please tell us more about why you are interested in becoming a WHIP citizen member!**

### SIGNATURE

I agree to support the activities of the Wisconsin Headwaters Invasives Partnership and help the group achieve its mission and goals to the best of my ability. I understand that my voluntary participation does not involve any legally binding authority and does not prevent me from participating in similar activities with other public or private organizations.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_