



Michigan's
Nonpoint Source
Program

**Clean Michigan Initiative
Nonpoint Source Grant**

Tracking code: 2009-0074



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West Grand Traverse Bay Protection Project

September 15th, 2009 - December 31st, 2010

This project helped make progress towards meeting the top three goals in the Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Plan (GTBWPP): Goal 1, Protect the integrity of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems; Goal 2, Protect and improve the quality of water resources within Grand Traverse Bay and its watershed; and Goal 3, Establish and promote land and water management practices that conserve and protect the natural resources of the watershed. The three permanent conservation easements established under this grant protect 175 acres. Permanent protection of these high priority land protection parcels prevents over 12 tons of sediment, 506 pounds of nitrogen and 47 pounds of phosphorus from loading into West Bay Grand Traverse Bay every year by preventing poor land management practices or conversion of the land under conservation easement to residential use. In addition, this project permanently protected 1,336 of shoreline along Cedar Lake and 1,870 feet along both banks of Belanger's Creek, which is a second order stream classified by the MDNRE as a Type 1 Trout and Salmon stream.



Grant Amount: \$ 418,000

Match Funds: \$ 714,200

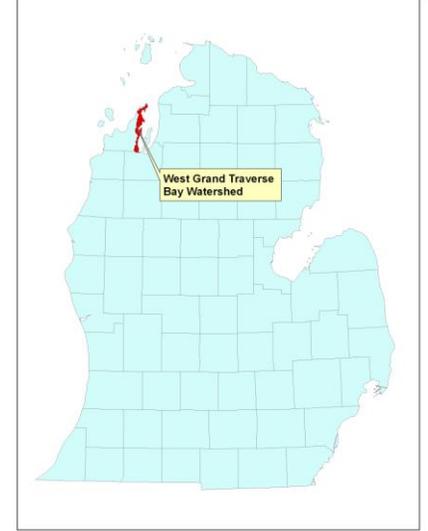
Total Amount: \$ 1,132,200

Best Management Practices:

- 3 Permanent Conservation Easements

Annual Load Reductions:

- 12 tons of sediment
- 506 pounds of nitrogen
- 47 pounds of phosphorus



Mitchell Permanent Conservation Easement: Leather leaf bog with a thick carpet of Sphagnum moss.



Goss Permanent Conservation Easement: Emergent wetland along 1,336 feet of permanently protected shoreline on Cedar Lake. Healthy natural riparian corridors are critical to near-shore water quality and support important native wetland plants.



Dlugopolski Permanent Conservation Easement: Seasonally flooded lowland hardwood pocket. Protecting intact wetland corridors is important for native wildlife habitat.



Mitchell Permanent Conservation Easement: Rice cut grass and red osier dominate this northern shrub thicket, interlaced with a matrix of dead standing timber. Protecting unique wetland communities provides important ecological diversity and critical habitat for cavity nesting creatures. Additionally, the broad, lush wetland filters stormwater runoff and groundwater seepage from adjacent agricultural uplands before emptying into Belanger's creek.