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Eagle River Watershed Management Plan

January 3, 2006, to September 30, 2008

The Eagle River Watershed (ERW) contains the Eagle River and tributaries and covers 13,594 acres in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula. Pre-historic and historic mining, including the Central, Cliff and Phoenix/St. Clair mines, has been conducted in the ERW. Significant amounts of stamp sand from copper mines have direct contact with surface waters and are eroding into the Eagle River. As a result of high copper concentrations, the Eagle River is on the state's non-attainment list. The ERW Management Plan project conducted field research to confirm that excessive copper was the only major negative impact to this watershed. The ERW Management Plan outlines best management practices at major locations—primarily former mine sites—to minimize and prevent copper from entering the Eagle River. The ERW Management Plan enables the Keweenaw Community to obtain additional funding to implement practices to control stamp sand erosion and reduce copper concentrations in the Eagle River and restore this cold-water fishery.

Grant Amount: \$ 100,584

Match Funds: \$ 20,075

Total Amount: \$ 120,659



Overall Map of Keweenaw Peninsula and the Eagle River Watershed (ERW)

Watershed Partners:

- Copper Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District
- Houghton Township Board of Commissioners
- Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners
- Keweenaw County Historical Society
- Keweenaw County Road Commission
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Michigan Technological University
- UP Engineers and Architects
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Whitewater Associates

I&E Activities:

- Public Meetings with Power Point Presentations at Houghton Township Hall, Eagle River, MI.
- Power Point Presentation at CC Trout Unlimited Meeting and Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District Annual Meetings.
- A Reading-the-Landscape (RTL) Program, a natural history field trip, sponsored in part by HKCD at Central Mine, a part of the Eagle River Watershed.



Central Stamp Sand