

# Fumee Creek Watershed Project

EPA Section 319 Planning Grant  
Tracking Code: 2000-0022



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**Watershed Project Background:** The Fumee Creek Watershed Project covers 24,500 acres in southeastern Dickinson County in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It includes the most urbanized portion of the county, including the cities of Iron Mountain, Kingsford, and Norway and was greatly impacted by mining and logging. The project was initiated in 1998 by the Dickinson Conservation in response to three of the subwatersheds being identified as #1 priority problem areas in the 1992 Menominee River Basin Study. An EPA Clean Water Act, Section 319 Planning Grant was awarded to the Conservation District and work began October 2000. This grant provided monies to identify and monitor non-point source pollution sources, educate the public about water quality issues, define priority areas of concern, prescribe Best Management Practices (BMPs) for them, and develop a Watershed Management Plan. The EPA grant amount of \$113,416 was matched with over \$24,000.00 in additional grant monies and in-kind services.

## Watershed Advisory Council

Dickinson Conservation District Board of Directors  
Perry Franzoi, Iron Mountain City Manager  
Ray Anderson, Norway City Manager  
Daryl Wickman/Tony Edelbeck, City of Kingsford  
Mike Schira, MSU Extension  
Ron Matonich, Dickinson-Iron County Health Dept.  
Tim Klenow, UP Engineers & Architects  
Steve Soltis, Breitung Township Supervisor  
Don & Roxanne Anderson (landowners)  
Susan Pope (landowner)  
Lucy Shampo (landowner)  
Tom Berndt, NRCS Kingsford Field Office  
Paula Chapman, Girl Scouts  
Quentin Peterson, Retired NRCS

## Watershed Partners

### Government Partners:

Cities: Iron Mountain, Kingsford, and Norway  
Dickinson Co. Board  
Breitung Township  
CUPPAD  
MDOT  
Waste Water Treatment Plants (2)  
Dickinson County Fair Board  
Dickinson-Iron Health Dept.  
Dickinson Co. Road Commission

### Corporate Partners:

WE Enregies  
Bilski Enterprises  
Dickinson County Health care  
International & StoraEnso Paper Co.  
Nelson Paint Company

### Resource Partners:

Dickinson Conservation District  
USDA-NRCS  
USDA- Farm Services Agency  
U.S. EPA  
Michigan DNR- Fish & Wildlife  
Michigan River Network  
MI Dept. of Agriculture  
MI Dept. of Environmental Quality

### Community Organizations:

Fumee Lake Commission  
Dickinson Area Partnership  
Peninsula Waters Girl Scouts  
Trout Unlimited

### BMP Partners:

Approx. 35 public and private land-owners signed letters of commitment

## "Storm Drain Stenciling Campaign"



**Press Partners:** The Daily News,  
The Advertiser, WJNR & WMIK radio

## Educational Outreach Activities

### School Participation

Kingsford HS Environmental Science Class  
Iron Mountain Middle School  
Dickinson Area Catholic School  
Holy Spirit School  
Woodland Elementary School  
Norway/Vulcan School

### Presentations and Displays

WJNR Home Show (2001)  
Dickinson County Fair (2001, 2002)  
Dickinson Conservation District Open House  
Dickinson Conservation District Annual Meetings  
"Lakescaping for Water Quality" Workshop  
Fumee Lake Natural Area Open House  
Conservation District Watershed Bus Tours  
Greater Iron Mountain Women's Club  
Iron Mountain City Council



Area citizens were kept updated through The Fumee Creek Crusader, a quarterly newsletter



## Visit the Fumee Creek Watershed Website:

<http://www.dickinsoncd.org/fumeeecreek/>



# Project Activity & Accomplishment Highlights

## Watershed Management Planning Process Identifies Areas of Concern:

Resident surveys, stream crossing surveys, visual inventories, and various water quality monitoring techniques were used to identify and rank non-point pollutant concerns in the Fumee Creek watershed. Sediment is the most significant pollutant and the ranked sources are:

1. Urban Stormwater
2. Transportation— especially road ditches, crossings
3. Recreation— ORV Trails, unguided foot traffic
4. Streambanks

Systems of Best Management Practices were prescribed for over 50 sites, with landowner cooperation. BMP site plans, cost estimates, watershed data can be found in the *Fumee Creek Watershed Management Plan*.



## Water Quality Monitoring

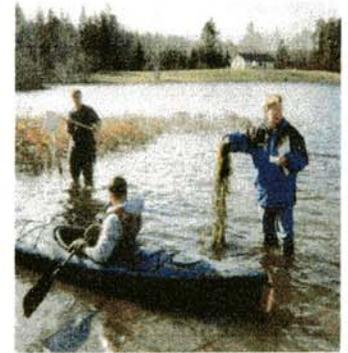
- ◆ Baseline physical and chemical data was taken at 32 stations in the watershed.
- ◆ Temperature loggers were deployed at six stream locations previously designated coldwater trout streams.
- ◆ Benthics and stream habitat were surveyed at 12 stations in the watershed.

Water Quality Sampling Stations for the Fumee Creek Watershed



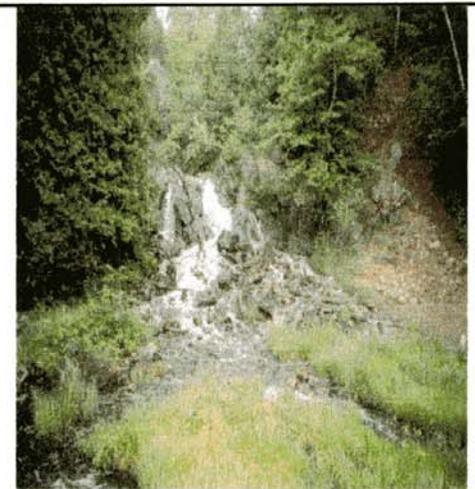
## Exotic Species Battled:

- Eurasian Milfoil was officially identified in Cowboy Lake, which led to its recognition in at least five other water bodies in the County.
- The increasing spread of Buckthorn in the Fumee Lake Natural Area was brought to the attention of the Fumee Lake Commission.
- A zebra mussel and monitoring program included the watershed.
- Students battled Purple Loosestrife.



## MDOT Funds Sought & Received For Fumee Falls

The Watershed project worked with MDOT staff to secure funds through the Michigan Transportation Enhancement Program to stabilize severely eroding slopes caused by unguided foot traffic at this very visible tourist attraction/ roadside park.



## Streams Cleaned

In 2002, two stream clean-ups were sponsored with help from a \$979 Michigan River Network Grant. 34 four volunteers cleaned up sections of White and Fumee Creek.



## Joint Effort Enlisted For Whites Creek

A system of BMPs that includes restoring a section of the creek to its original streambed, adding a sediment basin, and regulating mine discharge flows will be combined with efforts on behalf of the City of Norway to enroll a portion of the floodplain in a Federal Wetlands Reserve Program, mitigate wetlands, and install a recreational trail.

