



**Federal Section 319
Nonpoint Source Grant**
2003-0044

Benzie Conservation District
Telephone: (231) 882-4391
Fax: (231) 882- 9767
Email: ronharrison@charterinternet.com

Herring Lake Watershed Transition Grant

August 2004 - September 2005

The Herring Lakes Watershed drains a land area of roughly 25 square miles in southwestern Benzie County. The primary water bodies are Upper and Lower Herring Lakes, Herring Creek and extensive wetlands. Herring Creek and its tributaries drain a large area of the watershed which includes 41% forest land, 27% agricultural and livestock farms, 14% open land, 6.3% residential land, 6.4% wetlands and 2.4% water. Pollution problems include high nutrient and bacterial loadings and excessive weed growth in both lakes.

This project improved the 2003 CMI approved watershed management plan to meet the EPA minimum elements. A secondary purpose was to implement outreach and education activities outlined in the CMI-approved management plan.

Project Activities:

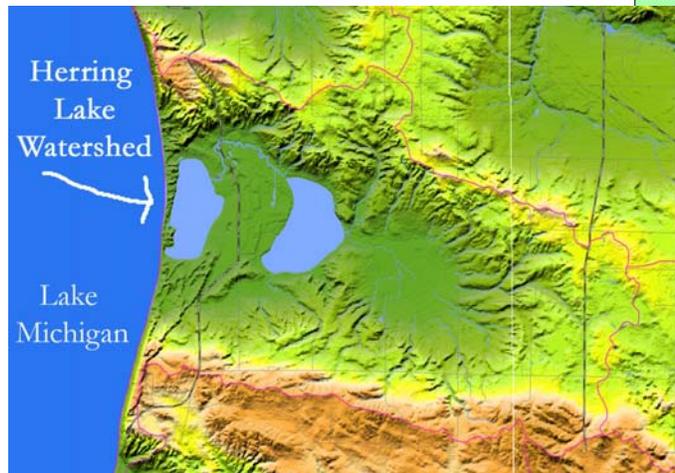
- Continued tributary and lake monitoring
- Refined pollution source assessments
- Calculated loading estimates from sampling data and weed biomass
- Completed EPA 9 element upgrade to the CMI-approved management plan

Grant Amount: \$ 85,400
Match Funds: \$ 8,700

Total Amount: \$ 94,100

Partners involved:

- Lower Herring Lake Association
- Osaha Inc. (Camp Lookout)
- Evergreen Association-Upper Herring Lake
- Benzie County Equalization Department
- Benzie County Planning Department
- Benzie County Road Commission
- Blaine Township
- Joyfield Township
- Northwest Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program
- Grand Traverse Land Conservancy
- Great Lakes Environmental Center
- Watervale Inn



I&E Activities:

- Prepared an aquatic plant management plan
- Completed a 1,000-ft greenbelt demonstration project
- Enrolled 3 farmers into the Farm-A-Syst Program
- Completed 2 well closures
- Installed Invasive Species signs at boat launches
- Prepared a draft landowner handbook for the lake associations