



Clean Water Act
 Nonpoint Source Grant
 2002-0006



Northeast Michigan Council of Government
 contact: Diane Rekowski
 Phone: 989-732-3551
 Email: drekowski@nemcog.org

Thunder Bay River Watershed Planning Project: North and South Tributaries

November 1, 2002 - October 31, 2004

This project resulted in a watershed management plan for the North Branch, Upper South Branch, and Lower South Branch of the Thunder Bay River. It compliments planning efforts completed for the Main Branch of the Thunder Bay River. Many local groups have been actively involved in protecting and enhancing the watershed, including the Thunder Bay River Watershed Council, Thunder Bay Audubon Society, and the Hubbard Lake Sportsmen & Improvement Association. Some of the known pollutants that have been documented in past studies include sedimentation and nutrient runoff from cattle access and crop production, urban runoff, storm water runoff, and sedimentation and pollutants resulting from road stream crossings.

Northeast Michigan is experiencing growth, primarily in retirement and second homes. As development increases within the watershed, so do nonpoint sources of pollution. The goal of the plan is to correct existing sources of pollution and prevent future impacts from occurring.

Grant Amount:	\$ 143,604
Match Funds:	\$ 19,478
<hr/>	
Total Amount:	\$ 163,082

Goals of the watershed plan:

- Improve the quality of watershed lakes and rivers through an enhanced knowledge of the ecological & biological integrity of the water resources.
- Reduce the amount of erosion and sediments entering water bodies.
- Improve, restore and protect the coldwater fisheries of the Thunder Bay River Watershed
- Reduce the amount of storm water runoff to lakes and rivers of the watershed
- Develop Educational Tools for Citizens of the Watershed
- Complete a comprehensive lake assessment of Lake Hubbard
- Reduce Amount of Chemical and Nutrient Runoff
- Develop an emergency first-action response plan to reduce reaction time following a hazardous materials spill



Partners involved:

- Huron Pines Resource Conservation & Development Council
- Montmorency County Conservation District
- Alpena County Conservation District
- USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service



While conducting an inventory of the Thunder Bay tributaries, this site was identified as a source of sediment and nutrients due to unrestricted livestock access to the stream. Proposed best management practices identified as needing implementation include 6,000 feet of fencing, a livestock crossing, alternate watering source, riparian buffer strip (50 feet by 5,500 feet) and an animal waste facility.



The watershed planning effort also included inventorying road-stream crossings. Once road-stream crossings are evaluated for erosion severity, they are prioritized. This site was rated severe and is contributing sediment directly to the stream at the crossing site. Proposed best management practices include paving the approaches, erosion control structures, extending or replacing the culvert, and stabilizing the side slopes.