



**Federal Section 319
Nonpoint Source Grant**
2000-0195

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

Herring Lake Watershed Planning Grant
October 2001 - October 2003

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.

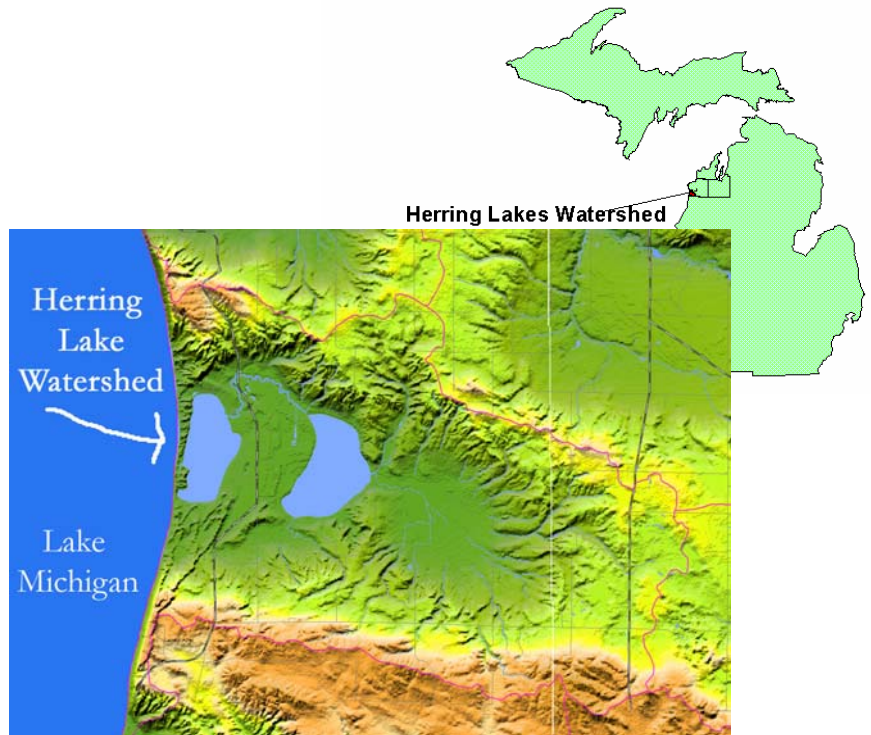
The aim of this project was to develop a watershed management plan which would define water quality problems and threats so that sensible and timely actions could be implemented. Water resource degradation and threats identified in the Upper and Lower Herring Lakes and their tributary streams included nutrient, sediment, bacterial contamination and invasive species. The watershed management plan stresses the need for protection and community based prevention methods.

Grant Amount: \$ 161,542
Match Funds: \$ 119,125

Total Amount: \$ 280,667

Project Activities:

- Conducted a comprehensive monitoring program including lake and tributary sampling, aquatic weed survey, fecal bacteria sampling and a hydrologic investigation including soil, hydrology, land cover, and chemical concerns.
- Protected over 1,800 acres of land with our partners the Grand Traverse Land Conservancy.
- Promoted adoption of Township and County planning and zoning measures to buffer waterways from future development.



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:

- Installed road side Watershed Signs
- Assisted Lake Association with landowner handbook
- Survey of lake access sites needing Invasive Species signs
- Native trees, perennials and grasses mailing to 1,650 residents
- Designed a Greenbelt Demonstration Project for the small historic Watervale Inn on Lower Herring Lake
- Assisted livestock farmers and fruit growers with Farm-A-Syst Program and groundwater well closures
- Daily Radio ads about Non-Point Source Pollution on local WBNZ radio station. Local students star in the ads

