



DEQ
Michigan's
Nonpoint Source #2002-0244
Program

**Clean Michigan Initiative
Clean Water Fund**



Huron Pines

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Au Sable River Conservation Easement and Education Project

March 1, 2004 through March 31, 2006

The Au Sable River is a high quality river system located in Northeast Michigan which eventually drains to Lake Huron. The Upper Watershed, which was the focus of this project, is approximately 1,358 square miles and is designated by the State of Michigan as a Natural River. Though the area is predominantly rural, increased recreation use and development pressures are straining the water resources. By working with numerous partners and stakeholders, Huron Pines was able to ensure that 12 voluntary conservation easements were secured protecting 907 riparian acres and 2.41 river miles. In addition, staff met directly with landowners to discuss stewardship topics, hosted riparian workshops and disseminated educational materials to over 1,200 riparian property owners.



Grant Amount: \$77,400

Match Funds: \$1,971,700

Total Amount: \$2,049,100

Best Management Practices:

- 12 conservation easements secured
- 907 riparian acres protected
- 2.41 river miles protected
- 100 contiguous acres protected

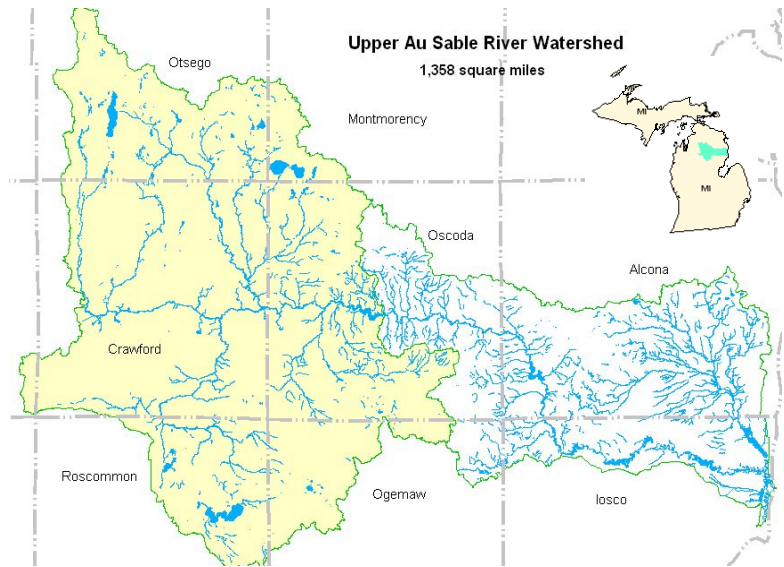
Annual Load Reductions:

- 93 tons sediment reduced
- 310 pounds of phosphorous reduced
- 2,630 pounds of nitrogen reduced



I&E Activities:

- Produced 6 riparian fact sheets and *Caring for the Au Sable River* newsletter which was sent to 1,290 landowners and used at various workshops.
- Met individually with 29 riparian landowners to discuss various stewardship topics.
- Presented project information, land conservation options, and riparian stewardship practices at 5 property associations/conservation groups
- Hosted a landowner workshop focusing on riparian stewardship and bio-erosion control practices.
- Developed a Riparian Landowner Survey



Partners involved:

- Au Sable River Watershed Restoration Committee
- HeadWaters Land Conservancy
- Huron Pines
- Lovells Hook and Trigger Club
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources-Fisheries Department
- North Branch Property Owners Association
- Upper Au Sable River Preservation Association
- US Fish and Wildlife Service

Au Sable River

