



Huron Pines

Conserving the Forests, Lakes and Streams of Northeast Michigan

North Branch Au Sable River Road/Stream Crossings

Summer 2011

Project Details

- 7 road/stream crossing replacements and engineering for an eighth site
- 10 river miles reconnected for improved aquatic passage
- 15 less tons of sediment estimated to run into the watershed annually
- Total estimated project cost = \$675,000
- Estimated completion date = December 2013

Watershed Benefits

- **Reducing sediment pollution** – reducing the amount of sand that enters the river will create more natural stream conditions for aquatic wildlife
- **Improving fish passage** – a number of fish species, such as brook trout and steelhead, will be able to freely move
- **Fostering community awareness** – by working with local partners, we will promote long-term stewardship of the watershed

Project Partners

- U.S. Forest Service
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Anglers of the Au Sable
- Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation
- Huron Pines
- County Road Commissions
- WadeTrim

“Great Eight” Set for Construction

Huron Pines selected Gaylord-based WadeTrim to engineer designs for eight road/stream crossing sites and provide construction oversight for seven of them on the North Branch of the Au Sable River. Since then, it has been full steam ahead! Engineers have surveyed and provided designs for all sites. Throughout the process, project partners are providing valuable technical expertise.

Permits for the project are being submitted and construction of three sites will begin in September. Road commissions in Oscoda, Otsego and Montmorency counties will provide labor and equipment, demonstrating local investment crucial to the success of the project.

The high degree of partner involvement for this effort and others in the watershed resulted in the Au Sable River being named one of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan’s 10 “Waters to Watch” in 2011. This accolade highlights, at the national level, the importance of local partners joining together to protect high quality waters for current and future generations.

Look for Huron Pines to be on site this fall as the North Branch Au Sable Road/Stream Crossing Project hits the ground running.

Top right: Jeff Silagy, project partner with the Michigan DEQ, assesses a road/stream crossing. Above right: Project Manager Abigail Ertel takes project supporters from the Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation on a tour.



Road/stream crossing inventory in the greater Au Sable River Watershed

Huron Pines is currently conducting a road/stream crossing inventory focusing on other areas of the Au Sable River Watershed. While out, crews record important data to identify and prioritize resource concerns. Watch for the high priority projects to join the Huron Pines Mega-List in 2012 and provide guidance for future funding and project efforts.

Watershed Protection: Dedicated Partners Help Guide Projects

Enhancing Instream Habitat North Branch Au Sable Large Woody Debris

Huron Pines received \$10,000 from Anglers of the Au Sable to place large woody debris (LWD) in four stretches of the North Branch of the Au Sable River. This funding, awarded to Anglers of the Au Sable through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, is a direct result of completing the 2009 North Branch Au Sable Watershed Action Plan. The plan, funded by the Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation, identified areas of the river in need of woody debris for fish cover and stream enhancement.

By the end of the project, approximately 100 trees will be placed by the Huron Pines Restoration Crew to create well-situated, high quality fish habitat. Many thanks to local landowners for their involvement in this project. Partnerships like these are vital to the success of the Huron Pines LWD program.

For more information on the Huron Pines LWD Program and the North Branch project, please contact Patrick Ertel, Project Manager, at patrick@huronpines.org or 989-344-0753 ext. 19



Look for the Huron Pines Restoration Crew placing trees on these North Branch Au Sable Stretches:

From Old Eamons to the Peterson Property

In the stretch along the Ludwig Property

From Jackson Hole to Fighting Deers Bridge

Between the Symone and Calvin Properties



DID YOU KNOW?

Additional instream work, independent of Huron Pines, is happening from Twin Bridge to Lovells Bridge. If you would like to learn more about this effort please contact Steve Sendek, DNR Fisheries Biologist, at sendecks@michigan.gov or by calling 989-348-6371.

Huron Pines Receives Funding to Remove Invasive Species

Huron Pines recently bid on and was awarded funding from the Michigan DNR to inventory and treat invasive species on the North Branch Au Sable River. Building on the efforts of the Lovells Hook and Trigger Club and the North Branch River Keepers to eradicate purple loosestrife from the North Branch, Huron Pines will be floating the entire stream searching for populations of purple loosestrife, reed canary grass, and phragmites. Those populations will then be treated by our crew of certified pesticide applicators. The project is slated to begin in late July and our Invasive Species SWAT Team welcomes participation by any volunteers for survey or treatment.

To report an invasive species occurrence, give permission to treat on your property, or participate in the project contact Jennifer Muladore, Ecologist at jennifer@huronpines.org or 989-344-0753 ext. 31.

Left to right: Purple loosestrife, phragmites and reed canary grass.



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ABOUT HURON PINES

Huron Pines works to conserve the forests, lakes and streams of Northeast Michigan. We bring partners together to take a hands-on approach to conservation problems. Our vision is that through active leadership and coordination of conservation projects, we make the region a better place to live, work and enjoy. To learn more or to help support our work, contact us at:



501 Norway Street | Grayling, Michigan 49738
(989) 344-0753 | info@huronpines.org



www.huronpines.org