

Sustainability & Protected Areas In the U.P.

By Karin Steffens



Joyce Koskenmaki

UPPER PENINSULA ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION

U.P. Environment

This is the second of a series of articles on sustainability and the state of the U.P. Sustainability is a term that is often used but difficult to define. Sustainability refers to activity that can be maintained over the long term. In the environmental area sustainability is associated with, for example, renewable energy sources, waste management efforts that incorporate recycling, waste reduction, composting, and forest management that focuses on the long-term ecological health and productivity of the forest. The World Commission on Environment and Development in its 1987 Brundtland report defines sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" (SRDS). Sustainable policies take a long-term perspective, keeping interests of future generations in mind; these policies typically result in a reduced environmental impact.

To be a useful term, sustainability needs to be defined more specifically in terms of measurable objectives or at least in terms of measurements that can be assessed repeatedly over time to determine whether we are making improvements. We may choose a variety of measurable indicators we can track over time. The problem of comparability of indicators remains. Some indicators of sustainability such as water quality and land area protected from development may be improving while others, such as air quality and waste generation, are deteriorating. Would that mean that we moved toward or away from a more sustainable U.P.?

If the U.P. improved on all of the indicators, then we would unequivocally know that we had created a more sustainable U.P. Some improvements, however, come at a very high

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The Tragic Tale of Walmart, the City of Houghton & Wetlands

By Jim Mihelcic



When the Houghton Wal-Mart was constructed in the early 90s, Wal-Mart and the City of Houghton

obtained a permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to fill in 2.3 acres of wetlands. Anyone that remembers those wetlands can recall they were a magical place, a diverse habitat for plants and animals, and they excelled at the water-improving characteristics for which wet-

lands are widely valued. Fisherman, hunters, bird-watchers, hikers, and families could all agree to the high quality of these wetlands that the DEQ allowed to be destroyed.

At the time the permit was approved, the DEQ promised the public that Wal-Mart and the City of Houghton would

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UPEC Action...

- UPEC begins environmental education mini-grant program,
- UPEC hosts annual meeting, elections, dinner, and presentation

Newsletter Editor: Suzanne Van Dam

About UPEC...

More Sprawl ?

By Susan Dlutkowski



The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition has a 27-year track record of protecting and seeking to maintain the unique environmental qualities of the U.P. through public education and watchful monitoring of industry and government. UPEC seeks common ground with diverse individuals and organizations, in order to promote sound planning and management decisions for all the region's natural resources. The *Upper Peninsula Environment* is published four times per year. Contributions and correspondence should be sent to: P.O. Box 673, Houghton, MI 49931 or e-mailed to: svandam@chartermi.net.

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News reports have been circulating that Wal-Mart is considering building a Super Wal-Mart in the Houghton area. Reportedly, this would mean either expanding in their current location and destroying additional land, or else extending the sprawl up M-26 into Portage Township to a wooded site approximately one mile away.

In addition to environmental impacts, the building of a Super Wal-Mart could have social and economic impacts on the community if locally owned businesses, particularly grocery stores, are forced out of business and local money is directed to a distant, giant corporation.

To express your environmental, economic, or community concerns about an expanded Wal-Mart, write their corporate headquarters:

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

702 SW 8th St.
Bentonville, AR 72716

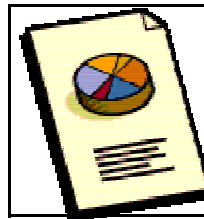
Attn: Real Estate Dept.

Or call Wal-Mart's corporate office at: 479-273-4313 (then press 5 to speak to Customer Relations).

Additional Information available at:

www.doorcountycompass.com/news/walmart.

Susan Dlutkowski is an environmental activist and UPEC member.



The wetlands mitigation project for the existing Walmart received a failing grade by the DEQ. Once permits are issued, however, very little follow-up and enforcement is ever conducted to ensure compliance. Environmentalists need to examine the process at all stages of development.



Send a Letter to Your Legislators

Senator Carl Levin

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Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-6221
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State Capitol, P.O. Box 30036
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Rep. Scott Shackleton : (517) 373-2629

Rep. Tom Casperson: (517) 373-0156

Rep. Stephen Adamini: (517) 373-0498

Rep. Richard Brown: (888) 663-4031

Tragic Tale of Walmart, Wetlands..., Continued



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create 4.6 acres of wetlands off-site. At the time, this two-for-one deal sounded better than anything Wal-Mart would ever provide their future customers. Unfortun-

nately, the new "mitigated" wetlands were created by digging a giant hole in an ugly area, covered deep with stamp sand (the area is located just south of Houghton along US 41). So, in effect, the DEQ allowed paradise to be exchanged for a giant water-filled crater that is void of any of the hydraulic, chemical, or biological benefits that the destroyed wetlands provided.

Now a recent report card performed by DEQ's Land and Water Management Division (*Michigan Wetland Mitigation and Permit Compliance Study*, February, 2001) confirms this "failing" grade for the mitigated wetlands.

In fact, the mitigated wetland did receive an overall rating of "failure" and on a 0 to 10 scale, the quality of this mitigated wet-

land was rated a dismal 2. Some of the reasons for this poor rating include: the construction of the mitigation area was not completed in accordance with the permit requirements, and most importantly, the new wetland does not function properly in regards to issues related to the site's hydrology, soils, vegetation, and wildlife usage.

Of course the blame is not only on Wal-Mart and the City of Houghton, it also goes to the DEQ who failed to perform a follow-up site inspection, has not required any type of corrective action, and continues to give out wetland permits like they are giving candy out to children on Halloween.

Is this just an isolated case? Sadly, the answer is no. In fact, in the whole study that investigated 159 sites across Michigan, only 18% of permittees complied with all permit conditions and only 22% of the projects evaluated were determined to be successful.

Copies of the *Wetland Mitigation and Permit Compliance Study* can be reviewed online from the DEQ's web site

http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3313_3687---,00.html.

Jim Mihelcic is a long-time resident of the U.P. and a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Michigan Tech.

How good is the DEQ's wetland permitting process? A recent audit provides the following facts:

- 42 % of sites had excessive open water
- 32% of the sites had insufficient water
- 41% of the sites did not contain sufficient topsoil to facilitate plant growth
- 29% of permittees were successful in creating the required amounts of wetlands
- 22% of projects were determined to be successful overall
- 26% of projects were visited later by DEQ staff after the permit was issued



Governor's Land Use Council



Governor Granholm has established a 26-member Land Use Leadership Council and charged them with the task of developing policy recommendations on

critical land use issues facing Michigan. The council's goal is to develop workable recommendations to reverse the trend of sprawl that is damaging the core of Michigan's towns and cities, and degrading finite natural resources.

This council is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reform the way land and resources in Michigan are developed. With strong bipartisan State leadership backing it, this council has the real opportunity to reform statewide policy so that it reflects what citizens in Michigan want -- thriving downtowns, clean lakes and rivers, nice places to live, habitat protection and open space, recreational opportunities, prosperous farms, and transportation choices.

To gather public input, the Council will conduct 6 public hearings---the ONE hearing in the Upper Peninsula was on April 21 at NMU, but others downstate are planned. For more information and a schedule of public hearings, contact:

Michigan Land Use Institute

Johanna Miller

Tel: 231-882-4723

Email: joey@mlui.org

Website: www.mlui.org

The Land Use Leadership Council's

website is: www.michiganlanduse.org

Ed McMahon, Community Planning Expert Visits Copper Country



Joyce Koskenmaki

"You *can* take beauty to the bank," Ed McMahon, Vice President of The Conservation Fund, told a standing-room only crowd at Michigan Tech. Residents packed the room to hear McMahon expound on the economic, social and environmental benefits of enhancing a community's historic and natural character.

McMahon termed historic preservation as preserving the "heart and soul of a community." He says, "If you don't know *where* you are, you don't know *who* you are."

McMahon offered practical and proven lessons on how residents can protect their community's identity while stimulating a healthy economy and safeguarding nearby natural and historic resources. He also had the hard facts to back it up. A 2002 survey by the American Association of Realtors asked homeowners to rank what amenities they look for when choosing a community in which to live. Homeowners ranked walking trails as number one (36%), followed by nearby parks (26%), playground (21%), daycare (14%), soccer (9%), and golf courses (6%).

McMahon noted, "We're building more chain stores and franchises than anything else. Typical franchise 'cookie cutter architecture' threatens to make everyplace look like Anyplace, USA making it difficult for communities to maintain their unique character. However, communities don't *have* to accept the typical corporate design for a new MacDonald's, Burger King, Taco Bell, Subway, K-Mart, Wal-

Mart, or any of the other franchises." He asked, "If the federal or state government came in here and told you something had to be done a certain way, would you meekly go along with it? Then why should communities roll over when a big multi-national franchise comes in and makes demands?"

In economically depressed areas, there is a tendency to accept any new business proposal that comes along. "Tourism is the #1 or #2 industry in 38 states," McMahon observed. When deciding where to vacation, sameness is *not* a plus. Tourism is the sum total of the experience and includes the highways that people travel to reach their destination, the main street they walk down, the hotels they sleep at, the restaurants they eat at, and the activities they do.

Successful communities develop a shared vision and create an inventory of local resources.

Surprisingly, McMahon advocates regulation as a last resort. People won't preserve what they don't understand. He recommends first using education, incentives and voluntary initiatives to achieve a community's goals.

McMahon cited Atlanta, Georgia and Denver, Colorado as examples of how providing bike trails will increase business and ultimately revenue. Atlanta, a city of 3 million people, has no bike trails and only 28 bike dealers. Denver, a city of 2 million with more than 200 miles of paved off-road bike trails, has 136 bike dealers!

Every premiere vacation place has extensive walking and biking trails that are easy to access. In West Virginia, economically depressed Somerset County observed that every time a new section of the Allegheny Rail Trail opened up, new businesses opened and 8-12 new jobs were created in the adjacent community.

McMahon noted, "People must get out of their car to spend money. The community must make it easy to get out and walk or bike."

"Growth and change are inevitable," observes McMahon. "The important question is not *whether* a community will grow, but *how* will it grow? Development isn't the problem. Rather problems arise when the following questions are not asked first: Where do you put new development? How do you arrange it? And what does it look like?"

McMahon argues that successful communities develop a shared vision, create an inventory of local resources, minimize regulations, meet the needs of landowners and the community, team up with public land managers, pay attention to aesthetics, and recognize the role of nongovernmental organizations.

Recognizing the U.P.'s attraction as both a tourist destination and a desirable place to live for those escaping the traffic, congestion, crime, and pollution of the city---McMahon urged residents to create their own future.

As UPEC embarks upon our State of the U.P. Report, we will keep this advice in mind.

McMahon's visit to the Copper Country was sponsored by thirty organizations and units of government. A thirty-minute video by McMahon titled Community of Choices may be borrowed from the Western Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Mathematics and Environmental Education by contacting Joan Chadde at 487-3341 or email jchadde@mtu.edu. Several articles by Ed McMahon are available online: <http://www.plannersweb.com>



North Woods Native Plant Society Plans Summer Field Trips

By Doug Welker



Drawing courtesy of Steve Chadde

The North Woods Native Plant Society, an informal group of naturalists with varying levels of expertise, visits unique and fascinating ecological sites in the U.P. and northern Wisconsin on a fairly regular basis throughout the snow-free season.

This year's tentative schedule includes the following:

May 17 – 400 foot high talus slope on

the north side of Lake of the Clouds in the Porkies (east of Lake of the Clouds Cabin). We'll be looking for rare plants, and seeing how plants adapt to such a harsh environment.

June 7 – A tract owned by The Nature Conservancy near Presque Isle, Wisconsin.

July 12 – Slate River slough with canoe and snorkeling, south end of Lake Gogebic. We'll be checking out aquatic plants and possibly invertebrates.

August 2 – Silver Mountain and Sturgeon Falls, south of Alston. Here we'll find

spectacular scenery, fascinating geology, and a wide variety of flora.

August 23 – Shakey Lakes savanna, Menominee County. This largely open area features some rare plants and perhaps some interesting grassland birds.

September 13 – Brule River cliffs on the Michigan/Wisconsin border. The rock here is limestone, so expect some rare ferns (and more).

To find out more about these trips, get on the group's mailing list by contacting Sherry Zoars at: thezoars@excite.com or 906-358-1110.



Hog Wild

By Doug Hagley



You may have read it in one of the downstate papers. The story, which was first reported in the *L'Anse Sentinel* and the *Houghton Daily Mining Gazette*, was picked up by the AP: "Wild boars are loose in Michigan's U.P.!" It was almost comical—one person had been chased into his house by a pig! (The person wasn't amused, but frightened.)

Unfortunately, scaring people is the least of our worries now that "wild Russian boars" have escaped from an exotic game ranch and are breeding on state land in the U.P. Many wildlife biologists agree that now is the time to stop their spread, yet state agencies in Michigan are paralyzed.

Russian boars originated in Eurasia, and over the years have mostly hybridized

with other races of pigs, resulting in what are called "feral pigs," "wild pigs," "razorbacks," etc. Wild pigs closer to the original boar are covered in coarse hair, have dangerous tusks, and are aggressive—the pit bulls of the pig world. All pigs, however, are in the same species, *Sus scrofa*.

One concern about feral hogs is that they adapt easily to most environments because, like all pigs, they are omnivores and eat just about everything. They relish plants, soil insects and tubers by "rooting" which creates damage "like the trenches of World War I," according to one researcher. Rooting also increases erosion, as hogs congregate near water sources.

Wild hogs also eat vast amounts of acorns and beech nuts, out competing native species—in particular they drive turkey and whitetail deer out of the area. They eat the eggs of ground nesting birds (like grouse, quail and turkey) as well as the birds themselves when they can get them. Additionally, they eat carrion of all kinds, reptiles, amphibians, and larger animals like fawns and young livestock.

Another concern is that a few escaped wild pigs can reproduce rapidly, producing from 10-24 piglets a year in good conditions. Wild hog populations have been known to double every four months, with their birthrate far exceeding their death rate. Feral hogs have few predators besides man, with the exception of losing a piglet to a wolf, coyote or eagle. And these hogs are thriving in the U.P.'s nasty winters, having already passed two cold seasons on their own outside the fence, with new young this year.

Feral hogs can carry 13 known diseases, including brucellosis, pseudorabies, tuberculosis, bubonic plague, tularemia, anthrax, leptospirosis and trichinosis, many of which infect either people, domestic animals and/or wildlife. Brucellosis, known as undulant fever in humans, infects people who handle the infected meat. Wallowing pigs contaminate water supplies with parasites like *E. coli* and chlamydia.

Escaped wild boars will do in northern Michigan what they have done around the nation. In Texas, there are between 3-4

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Hog Wild, Continued



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million wild hogs, and while hunting is a big industry there, USDA

Wildlife Services District Supervisor Jan Loven, said at an economic growth conference, "Wild pigs are utter destruction, that's what they are." A combination of snaring, trapping, poisoning and even aerial hunting has failed to control wild hog numbers in both Texas and California. Finally, when a wild hog population reaches a certain point, THEY CAN NO LONGER BE ERADICATED BY ANY MEANS.

The Missouri Department of Conservation says, "we do not want wild hogs in Missouri. Their negative impact on wildlife, natural communities and the agricultural economy is too great. We must eliminate them while the populations are relatively small and isolated." Like those in the U.P. right now.

Arkansas takes a similar position. In fact, though I don't have the exact number, between 14 and 17 states have banned the importation of wild boars. Why isn't Michigan addressing the problem of this aggressive, exotic species running loose in our north country? We have much to lose-- with our precious natural resources,

recreation areas, and renowned deer, bear, and bird hunting lands.

This is the upsetting part. Not long ago, someone in our state government decided that exotic game "farm" animals were "livestock," not "wildlife" and no longer under the jurisdiction of the DNR. Now they are overseen by the Michigan Department of Agriculture, whose regulations state that if "livestock" escapes, it is to be returned to its owner. Under these rules, if a wild boar escapes from a ranch and becomes a nuisance on your property, the owner can sue you if you kill it!

This is absurd. Exotic game farms never refer to ANY of their animals as anything but wild game. You don't hear, "Come here and shoot some of our livestock. \$500 for a pig. Want one of these cows or sheep over here?" This change of classification protects owners of game farms who don't or won't install adequate fences, or who import uncontainable animals, and who could be held liable for the destruction escaped exotics cause.

Oregon recently changed the status of wild boars from livestock to wildlife. George Buckner, director of ODFW's Wildlife Divisions says, "This bill aims to help eliminate feral swine degradation of riparian areas and the depredation of

ground nesting birds. The hunter can help control the nuisance." One DNR wildlife biologist told me, "Frankly, I don't want to see them [wild boars] up here [in the U. P.]. But our hands are tied." Maybe we should think about untying them.

Doug Hagley originally published "Hog Wild!" in the February 2003 issue of *The Mackinaw Journal*. For further reading on feral hogs, see Doug's annotated list of references posted on UPEC's website.

Ed. Note: Though many of the references in this article refer to Texas, there is a growing body of literature documenting the problem of wild boar escapes in both Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The idea that it is too cold up here in the U.P. for these animals to thrive is misguided.

Be sure to check out "The Boar Wars," an evening slide show and discussion presented by Rob Aho, a wildlife biologist of the DNR!

Saturday, May 3rd at 7:30 p.m. at UPEC's Annual Meeting held at the Ameurasia in downtown Houghton.

Update on Trap Hills Alliance

By Doug Welker

The Trap Hills Conservation Alliance is a grass roots organization that recently formed because of concerns over the future of the Trap Hills, an area rich with old growth forests and scenic overlooks alike. The Alliance is advocating for a greater level of national protection for these lands, seeking congressionally-designated wilderness for the Trap Hills of Ontonagon County northeast of Bergland. Volunteers are preparing maps and brochures for use in its campaign.

A campout in the Trap Hills area is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of May 17, and there will likely be one or more additional campouts before next winter.

For more information on the Trap Hills Wilderness Campaign visit http://www.northwoodswild.org/pro_trap_hills.shtml.

To get on the THCA mailing list, email Doug Cornett at doug@northwoodswild.org.

To learn about the geology of the Trap Hills, hiking opportunities, etc., check out <http://www.northcountrytrail.org/pwf/traphills.html>.



Petasites Sagitatus, a plant found in the Trap Hills. Photo courtesy of Steve Chadde

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cost and our scarce resources of time, money, expertise, and labor, might be better spent focusing on a few areas than trying to spread our resources equally across a variety of efforts and achieving very little in any given area and possibly overall.

Given limited resources, we cannot avoid making decisions about priorities. We will have to revisit the prioritization from time to time as we make progress on some fronts while conditions in other areas deteriorate. The 'we' in the decision-making process begs the question, of course, of who will be included in the process and how. The case can be made that, since we are dealing with the U.P., the 'who' should include an opportunity for every U.P. resident to provide input into the decision-making process.

The U.P., however, hosts many visitors from outside the region throughout the year. Most of them come here because of the beautiful natural environment and many would probably say that they have a stake in what happens in the U.P. Just as the case can be made that tropical rainforests are everyone's business because of global implications of rainforest destruction, environmental degradation of the Great Lakes, loss of unique natural habitats, and unfettered development of natural areas in the U.P. has implications that go beyond the U.P. and concern a larger population than even that of the State of Michigan.

How should input be provided? Agencies solicit information in different ways. The U.S. Forest Service, when revising a forest management plan, encourages citizens to provide input by telephone, mail, or the Internet. The Nature Conservancy (TNC), through its Last Great Places initiative, has developed a set of characteristics that must be met for a place to satisfy the standard for protection, e.g. unique flora or

fauna or unusual natural features. Experts in a variety of fields provided and continue to provide input into selecting the characteristics that must be met and into determining which areas qualify.

Protected Areas: Which Areas Qualify & How Much Should We Protect?

Protected natural areas are one indicator of sustainability. As natural areas disappear because of land conversion resulting from increasing population pressure, the remaining natural areas are becoming more and more valuable. For example, natural areas maintain proper functioning of the ecosystem, provide habitat for species that contribute to our biological diversity, and also offer outdoor recreation opportunities.

At the same time, natural areas are threatened by development pressure

tional, terms. Only recently have attempts been made to counterbalance dollar and job figures of development interests with dollar and job figures of the nature preservation interests. Studies have shown that natural areas are highly valued by people for a variety of reasons, e.g. bird watching, hiking, nature photography, nature observation and study, and that communities benefit from natural areas and the outdoor enthusiasts they attract. Natural areas perform important ecological and hydrological functions which, when no longer available, would cost communities large amounts of money to find substitutes for, e.g. flood control and soil erosion prevention.



In the past, development interests often had the upper hand when it came to deciding whether a parcel of land should be developed because a strong case could be made about the advantages of a new shopping center or a new residential area.

because more people demand more space to live and increasing amenities. Because people value land in its undeveloped as well as in its developed state, choices have to be made about how much land to set aside for each purpose.

In the past, development interests often had the upper hand when it came to deciding whether a parcel of land should be developed because a strong case could be made about the advantages of a new shopping center or a new residential area. Ecological, environmental and other concerns of why an area should be left in its natural state carried less weight because development interests that were expressed in the number of dollars they would add to the community through taxes and jobs were set against the value of land in its undeveloped state that could only be expressed in intangible, often emo-

Natural area protection comes at a price, however. When an area is protected from residential construction or alternative development, pressure on unprotected natural areas will increase. When fewer areas are available for development amenities that we are used to consuming, these amenities will become more expensive. For example, building sites and lumber prices will increase in price because of logging restrictions; commercial properties will also increase in price making all products we buy more expensive. These costs will be born disproportionately, hitting low-income households relatively harder than higher-income households.

Many natural areas exist and are therefore candidates for protection because the land had little or no value to people in the past. The U.P., because of its long snowy winters, short growing season, and poor soil was only sparsely settled. Large tracts of land came under management by the state and federal government. While federal and state

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forests would not be considered protected areas per se, some areas have been placed under legally

binding management restrictions.

A number of land trusts or land conservancies own land in the U.P. in order to protect them from commercial development. These organizations have also recently become very active in trying to convince private land-owners to negotiate conservation easements on their land while retaining ownership of the property. The restrictions placed on these lands will vary depending on the specific contract that the land owner signs with the conservancy or land trust. Conservancies and land trusts are also increasingly signing conservation easements on lands they own to increase the level of long-term protection for their properties. Easement restrictions are passed on to future land owners because they are registered with the local government and become part of the title of the land thus binding future land owners.

Protected Areas in the U.P.

The remainder of the article presents protected areas of various types in the U.P. Not included are State Parks and Natural and Scenic Rivers.

Private Ownership:

The Huron Mountain Club owns 22,000 acres. The Board of Directors recommends areas to be preserved. The Hiawatha Sportsmen's Club, and Mead WestWaco are also private landowners with substantial landholdings in the U.P.

Conservancies. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has as its mission to "preserve plants, animals, and nature communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to sur-

vive" (TNC 1999). TNC owns 12,739 acres of land in the U.P. in the form of nature preserves. The preserves are managed to protect native species and natural communities. Most of the preserves are open to the public for passive recreation such as "hiking, bird watching, nature study and photography." Use of motorized vehicles, off-road vehicles, and bicycles is not allowed. Pets are also banned. Smoking, camping, and fires are prohibited. Horses are allowed on specially designated trails and groups larger than 15 people need special permission to access the sites. Some of the more fragile natural areas owned by TNC may be accessed for educational or research purposes only (TNC 2002).

Only recently have attempts been made to counterbalance dollar and job figures of development interests with dollar and job figures of nature preservation interests.

The Nature Conservancy negotiates conservation easements with private landowners. TNC currently holds 3,291 acres in conservation easements in the U.P. Some easements allow some timber to be cut on the property (1,974 acres). Under a conservation easement a land owner cedes certain development rights to the property. This becomes legally binding on the owner and heirs in perpetuity. The owner retains legal title to the land but will be restricted in usage of the land. The specific restrictions may vary from case to case based on the specific contract that lays out the restrictions. Conservation easements typically pertain to preservation of "wildlife habitat, open space, agricultural land, or the historic features of a building or site..." (TNC 1999).

The Nature Conservancy also works with the State of Michigan on land conservation. For example, lands acquired by TNC for protection have been turned over to the State.

Apart from The Nature Conservancy there are other conservation organizations with land holdings in the U.P. The Little Traverse Conservancy has preserves that total over 2000 acres in the U.P. The Gratiot Lake Conservancy holds about 300 acres in the Gratiot Lake watershed for permanent protection. The North Woods Conservancy protects over 1000 acres of land in the greater Gratiot River area. The Keeweenaw Land Trust holds 30 acres in the Paavola Wetlands Preserve and 200 acres in the Six Mile Creek Preserve but also works with land owners to establish conservation easements. The Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy owns over 200 acres of land and is also holder of conservation easements on other private land.

The Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve, Inc. has three preserves in the U.P., Headwaters of the Salmon Trout (160 acres), Jean Farwell Wilderness Area (160 acres) and 12 acres in Ishpeming Township. It will be closing on another 40 acres in Champion Township. The Yellow Dog grants public access but does not allow motorized transportation on their properties. The organization is looking to permanently ensure protection of their properties through conservation easements held by other conservation organizations.

Les Cheneaux Foundation preserves natural areas and open space in and around the Les Cheneaux Islands in the U.P. Currently the Foundation owns 150 acres where they allow passive use only and prohibit hunting. In the past the Foundation transferred lands to the Little Traverse Conservancy for protection.

The Michigan Karst Conservancy owns one preserve in the U.P., the Fiborn Karst Preserve (480 acres), which it manages for the protection of karst features. The Conservancy allows public access.

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The Michigan Audubon Society owns 5 preserves in the U.P.: Lake Bailey Sanctuary (325 acres), Brockway Mountain Sanctuary (394 acres), Riverbank Sanctuary (23 acres), Gillette Sleeper Lake Sanctuary (240 acres), and Whitefish Point Bird Observatory (2.7 acres).

Federal Ownership:

National Forests. There are two National Forests in the U.P., the Hiawatha National Forest (880,000 acres) and the Ottawa National Forest (983,965 acres). The Hiawatha is not contiguous but consists of a western and an eastern region.

National Forests contain areas with special protections, **Wilderness Areas.** Wilderness designation was codified into law by the 1964 Wilderness Act. According to this Act, Wilderness Areas are areas “where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”

Management of these areas will preserve the natural conditions of the land with basically unnoticeable human effects to provide primitive recreation opportunities. Wilderness areas may also preserve “ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value” (USFS web).

Within the Hiawatha National Forest six areas are designated Wilderness Areas, the Rock River Canyon (4,640 acres), Big Island Lake (5,500 acres), Mackinac (12,230 acres), Horseshoe Bay (3,790 acres), Round Island (378 acres), and Delirium (11,870 acres). In the Ottawa National Forest there are three areas set aside as Wilderness areas, the Sylvania Wilderness (18,327 acres), the McCormick Wilderness



(16,580 acres) and the Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness (14,139 acres) (USFS, Schulz, web).

Research Natural Areas are defined as land areas that are classified as “containing natural plant communities that have not been modified by man and are protected and studied to obtain more information about the ecosystem” (USFS 1986, glossary 13) The Hiawatha National Forest contains three Research Natural Areas (RNA), Dukes (250 acres), Grand Island (53 acres), and Horseshoe Bay (1200 acres). There are also several candidate Research Natural Areas amounting to about 10,000 acres. The Ottawa National Forest has one Research Natural Area in the McCormick Wilderness of 3675 acres. Two candidate RNAs have been identified at this time, one in the Sylvania Wilderness of 2,740 acres and one in the Sturgeon Gorge Wilderness of 281 acres.

National Wildlife Refuges. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service manages the 95,212 acre Seney National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge includes 25,150 acres of wilderness. The Refuge is open to the public and provides multiple outdoor recreation opportunities. The main purpose of the Refuge is to provide habitat for migratory bird species as well as resident wildlife, to protect endangered and threatened species and foster biodiversity. Four additional refuges in the U.P. are managed by the Seney Refuge, the Harbor Island National Wildlife Refuge (695 acres), the Huron Islands National Wildlife Refuge (147 acres), Whitefish Point National Wildlife Refuge (33 acres), and the Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge (245 acres). (USFWS web)

State Ownership: The State of Michigan is also a land owner in the U.P. Apart from State Parks, it owns and manages three State Forests in the U.P., Copper Country State Forest (450,000

acres), Escanaba River State Forest (420,400 acres), and Lake Superior State Forest (1,010,000 acres). There



are few areas in the U.P. that have not been shaped by human activities. The State of Michigan tries to preserve “native landscapes, ecosystems, natural communities or scenic qualities” by designating them as natural areas. To become legally-dedicated State Natural Areas, there must be evidence of the areas containing “ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, scenic, or natural history value.”

Legally Dedicated are: Bois Blanc Island (Natural Area, also TNC Natural Areas Registry: 2048 acres), Laughing Whitefish Falls (Natural Area: 360 acres), Little Brevort Lake (Natural Area: 542 acres), Porcupine Mountains (Wilderness Area, National Natural Landmark: 40,808 acres), Presque Isle River Scenic Site (Natural Area, National Natural Landmark: 1,465 acres), Union Springs Scenic Site (Natural Area: 160 acres), Wagner Falls Scenic Site (Natural Area: 23 acres).

Proposed for Legal Dedication: Crow River Mouth (also TNC Natural Areas Registry, State of Michigan Forest Plan: 520 acres), High Island (also TNC Natural Areas Registry: 3,495 acres), Hog Island (2,075 acres), Little Presque Isle (also State Forest Management Plan: Natural area: 430 acres, Wilderness area: 8.6 acres), Maxton Plains (also TNC Natural Areas Registry 2,017 acres), Rocking Chair Lakes (also State Forest Management Plan: 240 acres), Seiner's Point (also TNC Natural Areas Registry: 2,502 acres), Tahquamenon Natural Area (also dedications by Natural Resources Commission Resolution (1954): 17,878 acres)

(Continued on page 10)

Sustainability & Protected Areas In the U.P.



(Continued from page 9)

Other: Deer Park (TNC Natural Areas Registry: 60 acres) McMahon Lake Strangmoor (TNC Natural Areas Registry: 1,770 acres), Shakey Lakes (State Forest Management Plan: 1,520 acres)

The highest level of protection at the state level is afforded by legal dedication under the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act. The Act prohibits removal or other alteration of vegetation (with certain exceptions), exploration or extraction of minerals, commercial enterprise, utility or permanent road, use of mechanical transport (except for emergencies), and use of motorized equipment, except with MDNR approval. Administrative protection for natural areas may be provided through management plans which can be modified through planning changes. Protection for natural areas that were dedi-

cated by the Natural Resources Commission prior to 1972 is provided through departmental policies which can be modified through policy changes. Cooperative agreements may protect natural areas. TNC Natural Areas Registry sites are agreements between TNC and MDNR; National Natural Landmarks make agreements between the National Park Service and public or private landowners. Cooperative agreements can only be modified with notification of the parties involved.

Dickinson County: Fumee Lake Natural Area (2030 acres) was formed when property was purchased to use and preserve as a natural area. It is used for educational and non-motorized recreational purposes.

Northern Michigan University: Northern Michigan University owns several off-campus properties that are currently managed for educational, research, and recreational (mostly Longyear Tract) purposes. Longyear Tract (160 acres),

Shiras Tract (205 acres), Triangle Tract (32 acres). Final decisions on usage of the university properties are made by the administration of Northern Michigan University upon recommendations by the Master Planning Committee.

IUCN Classification of Protected Areas
The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) developed a classification system for protected areas based on the degree of restriction of human impact and type of protection it grants. The IUCN distinguishes six types of protected areas. These categories and the specific U.P. lands that fall under each heading will be included in our next newsletter!

Sources for this article are posted on our website: www.upenvironment.org

Karin Steffins is a new UPEC board member and a professor of Economics at Northern Michigan University.

Seney Centennial Celebration!



Seney National Wildlife Refuge is a 95,212 acre federal facility established in 1935 to provide habitat for migratory birds and resident

wildlife. Currently, it is home to over 200 species of birds and a variety of mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish, and invertebrates. Each year, nearly 100,000 visitors enjoy wildlife-oriented activities in the rich habitats of the Refuge, including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, guided interpretive programs, and environmental education programs provided for local schoolchildren and teachers.

The Importance of Vision: Seney is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System that started nearly a century ago when President Theodore Roosevelt set aside Pelican Island, on Florida's east coast, as a refuge for birds. Today, the

National Wildlife Refuge System encompasses nearly 100 million acres with more than 530 refuges and wetland management districts across the country.

On Saturday, May 24th, the Refuge will hold a special Centennial Celebration to mark the 100th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The day will feature music, special tours, talks, and a time capsule ceremony. The Staff at Seney invite all who love the Refuge, all who have been part of its past and those who want to be part of its future to join them for this special day.

Seney staff would also like to honor people who have contributed their time and talents to the Refuge over the years at a recognition banquet the evening of the event.

If you or someone you know is a part of

the Refuge family, contact the Refuge!

Marianne Kronk, Interpretive Specialist:
Phone: 906-586-9851, ext. 16
email: marianne_kronk@fws.gov

Celebrating a Century of Conservation at Seney: May 24!

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 11 am | Slideshow and Book signing by Elizabeth Losey |
| 11:30 | CCC Stories and Songs |
| 12 pm | Slideshow of Walsh Creek Restoration Project Area |
| 12:30 | Tour to Walsh Creek Restoration Project Area |
| 12:45 | CCC Stories and Songs |
| 1:30 | Slideshow and Book signing by Elizabeth Losey |
| 2:00 | Time Capsule Ceremony |
| 3:00 | Loons and Air Quality - Like the Canary in the Coal Mine |

Candidates for UPEC Board Members & Officers 2003-2005



Please use the enclosed ballot to vote for these candidates.

David E. Allen; Marquette; Areas of interest include: forest issues; Lake Superior issues; natural areas protection. Served on UPEC board since 1999. BSIE, Berkeley, 1960, Masters of Engineering Administration, U of Utah, 1972, Masters of Business Administration, U of Utah, 1973, PhD, Quantitative Methods, U of Utah, 1980. He has been on the faculty of NMU's College of Business since 1986.

Karen Bacula; Marquette; Interests - Lake Superior, Environmental Education; B.S., Zoology, NMU; Science teacher with Marquette Area Public Schools; Served on UPEC board since 1999. She will actively pursue establishing a grant program through UPEC to help support efforts in environmental education.

Friederike Greuer; Houghton; areas of interest: Environmental Education, Wildlife Rehabilitation; B.S. in Biology and Liberal Arts with a teaching certificate for secondary education, Michigan Tech; has served on the UPEC Board since 1999.

Sandra Harting; Toivola; areas of interest: protection of natural areas, sustainable communities and economies, persistent contaminants in the environment; B.S. biology/chemistry, PhD. Michigan Technological University; President of AWAKE and member of the Lake Superior Alliance Steering Committee; has served on the UPEC board since 1994.

Connie Julien; Chassell; areas of interest: forestry, Lake Superior, water Quality; quality of the UP environment; BS and MS Chemistry, MS Business Administration, all from Michigan Tech; first served on the UPEC Board mid to late 1980's; employment background: Chemist, Research Office Manager; Was a member of FOLK Steering Committee for years, and the editor of the FOLK newsletter.

William Malmsten; Ishpeming; areas of interest: protection of natural areas; B.S. biology/conservation - Northern Michigan University; has served on the UPEC board since 1981.

Marcel Potvin; Bark River; areas of interest: wolf biology, sustainable development, quiet and wild areas; B.S. applied ecology/environmental science and M.S. Forestry Michigan Technological University; currently making

maple syrup and doing contract wildlife tracking.

Jon Saari, Marquette; areas of interest -- forest planning and silviculture, ecological history, wetlands, mining reclamation; BA, Yale, MA, PhD, Harvard; employed as a historian at Northern Michigan University since 1971; joined the UPEC board in the late 1970s.

Karin Steffens; Born in Germany, Karin studied at Michigan State University in the 1990s, earning an M.A. in Economics and a PhD in Agricultural Economics. Since 1999 she has been an Assistant Professor of Economics at NMU. Karin has had a home-base in the U.P. since 1988; she married an "original yooper" and is an avid hiker and horseback rider.

Doug Welker; Alston; areas of interest: protection of natural areas, forestry, non-motorized recreation, education; BS and PhD in Geology, Assoc. Degree in Solar Heating and Cooling Tech., Mich. Secondary Teaching Certificate in Math and Physical Science; has served on the UPEC board since 1987.



Elizabeth Losey, Former Seney Wildlife Biologist



Elizabeth Losey has completed her book *Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Its Story* which she will present at a slide-show and book-signing session at 1:30 p.m. on May 24th.

The book tells the story of the Refuge from its creation in 1935, through the present, using first hand accounts and highlighting projects, research and monitoring on the Refuge.

Brimming with wildlife photography by Rick Baetson, Rick Denomme, Ted

and Jean Reuther, as well as Ms. Losey, the book will be a colorful addition to your library. The book will be on sale at the Visitor's Center beginning May 15th.

photo caption: Ms. Losey has first hand knowledge of the Refuge from her work there as a biologist.

Earth Saving Tips from Earth Share: Take a Spring Fling - Use Your Bike!



Now that the days are getting longer and the temperature more congenial, why not dust off your bicycle and consider the two-wheel way to get to work or go visiting?

Not only will biking help get you back in shape for spring and summer, but it'll help get the environment back in shape, too. You can travel hundreds of miles by bicycle on no more than a thimbleful of oil.

And because you do not burn any kind of fuel but your own, bicycling creates no air pollution. Here are some tips to get you cycling:

Bike to work.

If not every day, start with 1 or 2 days a week.

Encourage others to bike with you.

Contact a local environmental organization, civic association or bicycling club and volunteer to work with them to organize a special day to encourage people to bike to work. Then recruit several other local groups to help support the event and recruit participants.

Use your bike for shopping, visiting and errands.

Make bicycling the standard, environmentally efficient way you get from one place to another. Add a carrier rack or baskets to your bike to make it easier to transport your briefcase or groceries.

Believe It or Not!

If you biked to work rather than drove, you could save 407 gallons of gasoline each year - half the amount burned annually by a typical American car. Apart from walking (and distance permitting),

there is no more energy efficient way to get to work than by bike. More than half of all commuting trips are 5 miles or less in length, a distance that could easily be covered by bicycle.

For more tips or to find out how your workplace can help the earth, visit the "Get Involved" section of Earthshare's website, or call (800) 875-3863.

Earth Share, a federation of America's leading non-profit environmental and conservation charities, promotes environmental education and charitable giving in employee workplace campaigns.



Birding By the Bay, Field Trips



The Alger Chamber of Commerce, together with Hiawatha National Forest, Seney National Wildlife Refuge and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore announce the first annual "Birding By the Bay" bird watching festival. The week-end event, slated for May 30, 31 and June 1, will celebrate International Migratory Bird Day by offering birding and nature recreation field trips, speakers and other events for bird lovers of all ages.

The Festival includes numerous field trip destinations, booths and mini-workshops, evening speakers (including "Dr. Avian Guano," a.k.a. Denny Olson, and area birder Scot Stewart), and an evening banquet.

Birding field trips will venture across the central Upper Peninsula, exploring terrain and habitats including Lake Superior's cliffs and beaches, northern hardwood forests, mixed conifer forests, grasslands, and various inland wetland settings. Species of special interest include Kirtland's and other warblers, peregrine falcon, piping plover, sharptail grouse, and others.

When registering, birding enthusiasts may choose among field trips that combine their birding passion with recreation opportunities such as Lake Superior sea kayaking, mountain biking Grand Island Na-

tional Recreation Area, lighthouse looking, hiking Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, and touring Seney National Wildlife Refuge.

Sponsors of the event include Alger Chamber of Commerce, Hiawatha National Forest, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Hiawatha Interpretive Association, Seney Natural History Association, Birders of the Central Upper Peninsula, and Eastern National.

For registration information, contact Munising Chamber of Commerce
Phone: (906-387-2138)

Online, visit: www.midwest.fws.gov/seney/imbd





Yes! I Want to Help UPEC Make a Difference!

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

When available electronically, I would like to receive UPEC information via:
 _____ regular mail _____ e-mail

I would like to support the goals of UPEC by enclosing a contribution for:

(Please check one)

- ☐ Regular Membership (\$20)
☐ Supporting Membership (\$50)
☐ Student/Low-Income (\$15)
☐ I'm already a Member! Here is an additional contribution .
☐ Contribute to the UPEC Endowment Fund.*

* (If you make your check out to the Marquette Community Foundation (MCF) and put UPEC FUND on the memo line, you can take a 50% tax

credit on your Michigan state income tax (up to \$200 for individuals, \$400 for couples). OR, you can make a contribution directly to UPEC. As a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization, dues and contributions are tax deductible.

Mail all contributions to:
UPEC

Box #673

Houghton MI 49931

E-mail us for more information at:

svandam@chartermi.net

Earth Share of Michigan



Earth Share
 OF MICHIGAN

Earth Share of Michigan allows working people to donate to environmental organizations through workplace giving campaigns.

Each year Earth Share provides UPEC with critically-needed funding for environmental education, and program operation.

If you would like to help us earn more funding for UPEC, consider letting your employer know you want the Earth Share

of Michigan giving option at your workplace and give to the annual payroll deduction plan.

For more information, please call:
 1 (800) 386-3326 or view the website at:
www.earthsharemichigan.org

UPEC Sponsors Environmental Education Grants

UPEC board members have been discussing a variety of ways to energize our organization and delve into new areas of environmental activism. Building on the idea that today's youth are tomorrow's activists, many board members are interested in expanding our outreach to youth through environmental education. After some discussion we have decided to begin implementing a mini-grant program to help fund local environmental education programming.

Since UPEC is more of a coalition of environmental groups than a direct service provider, and since there are already many excellent programs in the central and western U.P., it was generally believed that offering mini-grants to other educators would be our most effective

approach. By providing grant money to schools, non-profits, and other educators, we hope to help K-12 students become involved in environmental programs they might not otherwise be able to afford.

The first recipient of this grant will be a group of middle and high school students from Marquette who will be attending the 5th Biennial Lake Superior Youth Symposium in Ashland.

Two years ago, 20 students from Bothwell Middle School, accompanied by UPEC board member and teacher Karen Bacula, attended the symposium held at Michigan Tech. Approximately 10 of these students will be returning as leaders for the new group of 8th graders attending this year. Student representatives from

this group will speak at a future UPEC meeting to share their experiences.

More information about UPEC's new grant program will be available later this year.





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www.upenvironment.org

*Protecting and maintaining the unique
environmental qualities of the Upper Peninsula of
Michigan by educating the public and acting as a
watchdog to industry and government.*

UPEC Elections & Annual Meeting!



UPEC is going Hog
Wild! Join us on May
3rd at the Ameurasia

Restaurant in downtown Houghton
for our annual meeting, elections, dinner,
and a slide-show presentation!

2:30 p.m. Board Meeting

We will discuss the proposed State of the U.P. Report, as well as the establishment of a K-12 environmental education fund. We will also be holding elections later in the evening, so be sure to mail in or bring your ballot! A ballot and descriptions of board candidates are included in this newsletter. Our President, Jon Saari will give a brief annual report of accomplishments to date.

6:00 p.m. Buffet Dinner

Please join us for a buffet dinner at the Ameurasia restaurant in downtown

Houghton. The cost is \$15.50 per person, including tip. The meal features prime rib; there will be vegetarian entrees as well.

7:30 Presentation: The Boar Wars

As the exotic game farms in the U.P. increase, so do worries about the potential havoc these escaped animals will wreak. Wildlife biologists and nearby property owners alike are concerned about property damage, genetic contamination, unusual predation, and other disruptions to the natural environment.

Rob Aho, a Wildlife Biologist of the Michigan DNR, will give us an overview of current laws regarding the containment of non-native species such as wild boar, deer and elk, and lead a discussion about the ramifications of animal escapes from fenced

wildlife facilities.

Aho has extensive education and experience in wildlife management in the U.P. He grew up in Iron Mountain, earned a B.S. in Biological Sciences (1974) from Michigan Tech and an M.S. in Wildlife (1978) from the University of Minnesota. He researched moose on Isle Royale while at both universities. During 1977-85 he worked as a wildlife research biologist at the Michigan DNR's Rose Lake Wildlife Research Station. Since 1985 he has been a wildlife habitat biologist at the Baraga Operations Service Center, covering Gogebic, Ontonagon, Houghton, Baraga, and Keweenaw counties.

For More Information Contact:

Suzanne Van Dam
Phone: 906-483-4729
E-mail: svandam@chartermi.net