

Why Oppose Sulfide Mining on the Yellow Dog Plains?

By Cynthia Prior, with Additions From UPEC



Joyce Koskenmaki

UPPER PENINSULA ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION

U.P. Environment

On the Yellow Dog Plains in northern Marquette County, at the headwaters of a wild river called the Salmon Trout, a mining exploration company is exploring sulfide ore bodies looking for nickel, copper, zinc and other base minerals. Kennecott Exploration, a subsidiary of Rio Tinto – one of the largest mining companies in the world, is in phase four of a five phase mining exploration process. Based on the findings of this “Eagle Prospect,” Kennecott will determine whether mining operations are profitable and in 2004 will announce their intent to continue or halt the sulfide mining process.

According to members of the Eagle Alliance, a coalition formed of concerned citizens and environmental organizations, including UPEC, the main objections to this project include: 1) the sulfide mining process itself; 2) the particular location of this mine which includes environmentally significant habitat for the endangered Native Coaster Brook Trout; 3) the massive amount of water that will be pulled from local aquifers and affect area watersheds; and 4) the destruction of the wilderness and decrease in property values resulting from the mine infrastructure of roads, railways and buildings.

Mining in the Upper Peninsula is looked at with an affectionate historical perspective. We have the pasty, that great Cornish pie that was stuffed in the pockets of miners as they went down in the shafts. We have an iron industry that has provided the country with iron to make steel for wars and the building of a nation. This industry has provided thousands of jobs from one generation to the next. We have mining museums and tours of old mining shafts, gold mines, copper mines, silver mines --- but we have never had a sulfide mine.



Sulfide mining is very different from the historical iron and copper mining of the

(Continued on page 8)

UPEC Launches Two New Funds!

By Jon Saari



At its September meeting, the UPEC Board approved the initial funding and final language for two non-endowed designated funds. The funds represent a deepened commitment to environmental education and to land acquisition activities in the

Upper Peninsula. **Environmental Ed. Fund:**

The Environmental Education Fund is designed to provide small grants each year to educator-promoted environmental projects within K-12 schools (public or private) in the Upper Peninsula. The initial funding level

is \$1,000, and it is hoped this amount will be augmented by fund-raising and through member contributions directly into this fund. Karen Bacula, Board member and science educator from Marquette, has played a key role in helping set up this fund. “With cut-backs in state and local funding for schools,” she said,

(Continued on page 3)

Inside this issue:

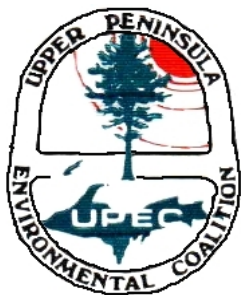
UPEC & Legislative Contact Information	2
UPEC Contributes to Bete Grise South	3
Audubon Opposes Mourning Dove Hunting in Michigan	5
UPEC Contributes to Gratiot River North	7
Keweenaw Land Management Plan	9
Environmental Ed Grant Application	10
UPEC Membership Form	11

UPEC Action...

- UPEC Creates Land Acquisition & Protection Fund, Makes Donations of \$1,000.
- UPEC Launches Environmental Education Mini-Grant Program for K-12 Schools
- UPEC Responds to Pictured Rocks Plan & Sylvania Wilderness Lawsuit

Newsletter Editor: Suzanne Van Dam

About UPEC...



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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Econo Foods Receipts Pay Off!

By Friederike Greuer

We are happy to report that UPEC members' collection of Econo Foods receipts resulted in a donation of \$375 to the UPEC Environmental Education Fund. **Thank you everyone who participated and made this possible!**



The reimbursement donation from the receipts alone is enough to help fund a field trip or to provide hands-on educational experiences for school children...so keep those receipts coming! They do pay off.

Please Send Us Your Receipts!



Send a Letter to Your Legislators

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Rep. Tom Casperson: (517) 373-0156

Rep. Stephen Adamini: (517) 373-0498

Rep. Richard Brown: (888) 663-4031

Wondering if your membership is current? Your expiration date is written on your mailing label on the front cover of this newsletter!

UPEC Launches Two New Funds

Continued



(Continued from page 1)
“this UPEC fund can play a modest role in supporting the projects of U.P. science teachers.”

Even small amounts can make the difference between ‘go’ and ‘no go’ when you are on a shoestring budget.”

Application forms and a fund description can be found on-line at the UPEC website www.upenvironment.org.

Grant requests will be due by January 9, 2004. The UPEC Board will review the requests and make grant decisions at its January meeting, with notification to follow in February.

The grant activity may take place anytime between February 1 and January 31 of the following year.

Land Acquisition & Protection

The Land Acquisition and Protection Fund is designed to underwrite one

or more grants each year towards protecting ecologically valuable lands within the Upper Peninsula. The initial funding level is \$2,000, which, like the Environmental Education Fund can be augmented by fundraising and/or member contributions. The Board anticipates that most grant requests will originate with regionally-based land conservancies; the grants may be directed towards the outright purchase of land or towards the purchase of development and/or mineral rights.

As the timing of land acquisition and

“Even small amounts can make the difference between ‘go’ and ‘no go’ when you are on a shoestring budget.” Karen Bacula, Science Teacher

protection opportunities is unpredictable, the Board will receive and assess grant requests at each of its quarterly meetings (January, April, September, and November). Requests can be made at any time, and application forms are available on the UPEC website.

The idea for this fund was stimulated by Dana Richter, President of Copper Country Audubon, who urged UPEC to support their bid to purchase 80 additional acres at the site of the Lake Bailey Wildlife Sanctuary near Eagle Harbor. (See the Summer 2003 newsletter). The \$1,000 donation voted at the May Board meeting was the first such donation towards an outright land purchase in the U.P. With this new fund it will not be the last!

Please note the new check-off boxes on page 12 of the newsletter, where the new designated funds are listed. Members may contribute to either or both funds, and these donations will be spent only for these express purposes.

For more information, see the enabling language printed on the UPEC website, www.upenvironment.org.

UPEC Contributes to Bete Grise South Purchase

By Anita Campbell & Jeff Knoop



Ed Note: At the September board meeting, UPEC decided to launch our new Land Acquisition & Protection Fund with donations to two very worthy causes: Bete

Grise South and the Gratiot River North, both in the Keweenaw Peninsula.

Anita Campbell, a long-time UPEC member, approached us on behalf of a group of concerned residents in the Bete Grise area called the “Friends of Bete Grise South” to see if we would help The Nature Conservancy’s fund-raising efforts to preserve and manage this unique wetland system.

Saving Bete Grise South

The striking dune and swale wetland system, beginning on the south shore of Lac La Belle and extending south along the shores of Lake Superior towards Point Isabelle is collectively referred to as Bete Grise South. Identified by The Nature Conservancy, the Michigan DNR and the DEQ as the single most important estuarine Great Lakes Marsh remaining in the Upper Great Lakes, the area is deserving of long term protection.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has recently entered into a purchase agreement with International Paper Company to acquire 1,103 acres including over 1,000 acres of significant wetland and nearly 1.5 miles of premier Lake Superior Shoreline. This means that the property is

locked up for a period of one year and cannot be sold to any other party. The final price was approximately \$1,500,000 and required a down-payment of \$100,000. The goal was to raise the \$100,000 down-payment; to date, contributions of \$30,000 have been received from over ninety donors. UPEC made a generous donation of \$500. Additional funding sources (public and private) are currently being pursued.

There is still time to help! Contributions are tax deductible and may be directed to: Jeff Knoop, The Nature Conservancy, 125 W. Washington St., Marquette, MI 49855.

By Anita Campbell & Jeff Knoop

Paradise Found: The U.P.'s Trap Hills

By Eric Hansen



Ed. Note: UPEC has teamed up with Northwoods Wilderness Recovery and several other groups to form the Trap Hills Conservation Alliance,

which is actively working within the current Forest Plan Revision process for the Ottawa National Forest. The Alliance is concerned about the long-term protection of this vast and ecologically significant area, and will advocate that much of the Trap Hills become a federally-designated wilderness.

In our daily exposure to the forests and vistas in the U.P., however, we can take for granted the wilderness around us. Sometimes it takes the fresh insight of an out-of-towner to remind us just how special these north woods are. Writer and activist Eric Hansen offers us such a reminder.

Imagine a ridge-top hike with some of the finest views in the Upper Midwest, sweeping vistas stretching forty miles and more. Now, imagine taking in such grandeur, or a sunset, from one of dozens of mossy rock balconies so quiet the lichen doesn't even show scuffmarks from boots.

Welcome to the Trap Hills, one of the hidden gems of the Upper Peninsula. This craggy ridgeline is so little known that you won't find descriptions in guidebooks and postcards don't trumpet its charms. Scan the internet though and clues emerge: rare plant surveys, a wilderness group championing the Trap Hills, and cliff top photos taken by members of the local North Country Trail Association chapter.

Picture a ridge and vistas that might remind you of the Escarpment Trail in Michigan's Porcupine Mountains or Minnesota's Oberg Mountain on the Superior Hiking Trail. Thing is, to equal the Trap Hills I saw last October, you would have to make those other ridges a humongous

20 miles long, scatter viewpoints all through their length, and make the large parking lots at the trailheads disappear. You'd also have to remove all the hikers because I walked for 4 days in the Traps without seeing another's footprint, let alone another hiker.

Halfway through a 28-mile traverse of this remote ridgeline, I paused on a high ledge, looked west, and spotted a massive rock face in the distance—one I'd watched the sunrise from the day before. By this point in the hike, I was used to broad views from a parade of high overlooks; this one seemed to transcend the visual, gathering the best moments of the trip into one glorious panorama. Lake Superior, a full eighth of Earth's fresh water,

As my trip wound down, I couldn't help wondering if the route I had just hiked, and the views, would still be so enchanting in ten years.

glistened a perfect blue to the north, beside the broad shoulders of the Porkies. Long sight lines stretched southwest, past Lake Gogebic to Wolf Mountain, while golden aspen lined the streams on the valley floor below. To the south, the endless forests of the UP, amber and bronze in the hardwoods, green in the pines, swept to the horizon.

Most of all, I saw a place of magnetic quietness, that would draw me back for more. I passed a dozen overlooks I'd gladly spend the night on, each a private veranda with perfect sunrise and sunset views. As my trip wound down, I couldn't help wondering if the route I had just hiked, and the views, would still be so enchanting in ten years.

The Trap Hills: Big, Beautiful & Threatened

Despite the Trap Hills' stunning panoramas, and the presence of rare and endangered flora and fauna, its future is far from assured. Most of this area is part of the Ottawa National Forest, and, in the recent past, the forest service has proposed timber sales (logging) in the Trap

Hills. The Trap Hills deserve a heightened protective status, one that would end any discussion of logging in any form.

What You Can Do:

Get a sneak preview. Check out Trap Hills photos at <http://www.northcountrytrail.org/pwf/photos.htm>

Come and visit. Walk the trail. Take in the views and ramble through the open, older forest. Find your own personal vision quest ledge. Become a passionate defender of this inspiring landscape. The North Country Trail in the Trap Hills offers both short and long hikes, memorable whether you have an hour or a week. The website of the local trail chapter, <http://www.northcountrytrail.org/pwf/>, has all the information you'll need including maps, recommended hikes, and phenology.

Spread the word. The Trap Hills are an incredible place to visit, and well worth preserving.

Support ongoing efforts to protect the Trap Hills ecosystem. Northwoods Wilderness Recovery has championed the Trap Hills cause for years. Click on their website, www.northwoodswild.org, for a complete history as well as information on rare species present in the Traps.

Outdoors writer Eric Hansen (hansene@execpc.com) highlighted the Trap Hills in the May 2002 issue of Backpacker Magazine. His recently released guidebook, Hiking Wisconsin, is the result of 800 miles of hiking research.



UPEC Members Volunteer for Trail Clean-Up Day

By Suzanne Van Dam



Marjory Johnston, Doug Welker, Jon Saari, & Dave Allen take a break from trail work!

On Saturday, October 4th, a group of UPEC members and assorted family members did some much-needed lopping, sawing and re-routing of pathways on

UPEC's adopted section of the North Country National Scenic Trail south of Alston. The four-mile trail segment runs just north of Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness.

Doug Welker, an experienced trail-blazer who is active in UPEC and the Peter Wolfe Chapter of the North Country Trail Association, led the festivities and prevented us from going too far astray. We hiked through old hemlock groves, ventured onto moss covered rocks to cross streams, and got a quick tour of some of the prized white pines that the logging companies managed to overlook

years ago. Many thanks to everyone who shared their time, energy and muscles to improve this section of the trail!

We'll be back in future years for more trail maintenance and reroutes, so don't despair if you missed this year's event. Doug would like to see UPEC involved in more hands on, in-the-woods service to the environment, so don't be surprised if there are a variety of outdoor volunteer options in the future!



Unfair Game: Audubon Opposes Listing of Mourning Doves

By Dana Richter



Ed. Note: Dana Richter, a UPEC Member and the President of the Copper Country Audubon Society, wrote this editorial opposing new

legislation that would legalize the hunting of mourning doves in Michigan. It appeared in the *Daily Mining Gazette* on November 8th, 2003.

The Michigan Audubon Society is opposed to listing the mourning dove as a game bird in Michigan for several reasons:

1) Probably the most important reason is that many similar sized birds will be shot by mistake, such as robins, flickers, sparrow hawks, etc., all of which will be present during a hunting season. Many of these birds share the same habitat and have similar behaviors, such as perching on lines and feeding on the ground.

2) One of the largest groups lobbying for dove hunting is the ammunition manufac-

turers. Do we really need another game bird if it is going to be principally used for target practice? Greater consideration needs to be given to the killing of animals instead of economics or profits.

3) Mourning Doves have been designated as songbirds since 1905; they cause no harm to agricultural crops; their call is soothing and loved by many; they play a role in the ecosystem by feeding on weed seeds and insects.

4) Mourning Doves do not have enough meat to be a substantial food source; many will likely not be cleaned and will go to waste. Their live weight is approximately that of a chipmunk.

5) Michigan has a long history of both bird protection and game management. Michigan Audubon is one of the oldest Audubon Clubs in the country, clearly demonstrating the importance of bird watching to Michigan citizens. There are a lot more bird watchers, bird feeders and bird lovers in the state than there are bird hunters.

Personally, I am not opposed to the hunting of valid game birds, but being a bird watcher and a member of Copper Country

Audubon, for the reasons above there are significant problems with the hunting of Mourning Doves.

Let Your Views Be Known!

The bill to hunt doves has passed the House. Disappointingly, Rep. Rich Brown voted for it, and it may be voted on by the Senate at any time. The bill is currently in the Appropriations Committee, as \$350,000 is requested to support the educational component of this bill (to teach the public to distinguish between the dove and other birds).

It is **very important** that our state Senator, Mike Prusi, hears from us on this issue!

Call Today!

State Senator Mike Prusi:
(517) 373-7840



Pictured Rocks Management Plan: UPEC Responds

By Bill Malmsten



Ed. Note: UPEC's Vice President, Bill Malmsten, submitted this letter, excerpted below, to Karen Gustin, Superintendent of the National Parks Service at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, to articulate our position about the Park's proposed new management plan.

Many of our members enjoy visiting Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and participating in various activities such as hiking, backpacking, canoeing, kayaking and other quiet activities generally focused on the enjoyment of the natural splendor of Pictured Rocks. We favor the maximum protection for these quiet recreational activities as well as for the ecologically valuable resources of the park. Although Alternative E provides the most long-term protection for the natural systems of Pictured Rocks, we recognize that Alternative D (Preferred Alternative), the National Park Service preferred alternative, is a compromise between competing interests, and as such we believe that it is acceptable with the following qualifications:

Wilderness Designation:

We strongly favor the protection of Beaver Lake and the Beaver basin area with Wilderness designation as provided for in the Preferred Alternative, and in particular, we favor the removal of motorized watercraft from Beaver Lake and Little Beaver Lake.

The opportunity to enjoy the solitude of quiet natural areas in Upper Michigan is

rapidly diminishing. Our lake and river shorelines and forestlands are rapidly being developed for residential and vacation homes. Many areas that were previously available for public enjoyment are being closed off. Though there are many lakes in the U.P., very few are protected from the disturbance of motorized watercraft. Removal of motorized watercraft from Beaver and Little Beaver Lakes would greatly enhance the experience of paddlers and those who hike the shores of those lakes. There are many other lakes nearby for use by those who prefer motorized watercraft.

About the only places where one can enjoy the solitude and quiet natural splendor of an Upper Michigan forest is in our few federal and state parks and wilderness

The opportunity to enjoy the solitude of quiet natural areas in the U.P. is rapidly diminishing. Our lake and river shorelines and forestlands are rapidly being developed for residential and vacation homes. Although there are many lakes in Upper Michigan, very few of them are protected from the disturbance of motorized watercraft.

areas. We recommend including the Beaver Basin as one of these protected areas.

Chapel Area:

We understand the tremendous popularity of the hiking trails to Lake Superior on either side of Chapel Lake, and the consequent rationale for including this area in the Casual Recreation Management Prescription, but we are concerned that insufficient protection is being provided this spectacular area. The appropriate level of protection for this area seems to lie between the Casual Recreation and the Primitive Management Prescription.

We agree with the inclusion of the Chapel Beach area north of the Lake Shore Trail in the Primitive Management Prescription. The Primitive Management Prescription calls for a visitor experience that provides a sense of remoteness and immersion in nature and that tolerance for noise and visual intrusions would be low.

The intense use of large motorized watercraft at Chapel Beach conflicts with the

enjoyment of the area by those who have hiked or paddled into the area.

Chapel Beach is sufficiently protected by Grand Portal point so that under some wind conditions large motorized watercraft can and do pull up to the beach or anchor close to the shore allowing their passengers to disembark. We believe that the beaching and anchoring of motorboats near the shore should be prohibited at Chapel Beach. The non-motorized zone from the wilderness area should be extended west to Grand Portal Point.

Tour Boats:

We agree with the plan to reduce tour boat public address system noise, but the sound system modifications should be required rather than recommended. What if the tour boat operator's response to your recommendation is that sound system modifications are too expensive so he cannot afford to modify his boats? How long are we to wait before the noise coming from the tour boats is stopped?

The greatest conflict between those who enjoy the peace and solitude of Pictured Rocks and the tour boat operations occurs at the beaches, and at Chapel Beach in particular. We request that the tour boats be kept further from the beaches to reduce this conflict.

Proposed Drive-in Campground:

Construction of a new campground will significantly impair a natural asset of the park. Although the beech, birch, and maple forest where the campground is proposed is relatively immature, as the trees reach a more impressive size this forest could become a significant attraction at Pictured Rocks. Mature hardwood forests are becoming increasingly scarce in Upper Michigan. Construction of this campground conflicts with the mandate that the park be maintained unimpaired for future generations.



UPEC Contributes to Gratiot River North Purchase

By Jane & John Griffith



Photo Courtesy of NWC

Ed. Note: The second contribution UPEC made from our Land Acquisition & Protection Fund was a donation of

\$500 to the North Woods Conservancy to help secure the Gratiot River North located in the Keweenaw Peninsula.

The Gratiot River North (GRN) contains 495 acres including miles of hiking and biking trails and 4,988 feet of Lake Superior agate-rich cobble shoreline.

Gratiot River North was purchased in March 2003 with a \$1.7 million loan, ending a decade-long legal battle and precluding up to 22 homes on the parcel and a bridge across the mouth of the Gratiot River. The North Woods Conservancy is

servicing the interest on the loan and, in partnership with other local entities, is seeking grants to pay off the loan.

If funding is not obtained by March 2006, all or part of Gratiot River North will be sold to retire the debt.

Your support is crucial! To make a donation, or to gather more information, contact:

The North Woods Conservancy
PO Box 124
Calumet, Michigan 49913
(906) 337 - 0782
Email: info@northwoodsconservancy.org

Directions and maps are available at www.northwoodsconservancy.org



How To Get There!

GRN is open to the public during daylight hours every day of the year. Entry to GRN is free. Fires, camping, and motorized vehicles are prohibited. Access to GRN is via a trail-head parking area and trail easement at the terminus of Tanskanen Road off Five Mile Point Road and South Farmer's Block Road, or from the Gratiot River County Park.

Sylvania Law Suit Settled, Wilderness Association Seeks Intervention

By Bill Malmsten



A lawsuit pertaining to motorized use in the Sylvania Wilderness has been settled in favor of wilderness protection. Two years after the case was filed, the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled against wilderness opponents who sought to exclude Crooked Lake from the Sylvania Wilderness area in a lawsuit referred to as Stupak-Thrall III. Since Crooked Lake extends into the heart of the wilderness, the exclusion of Crooked Lake from the Sylvania Wilderness area would have had a profoundly adverse affect on wilderness values.

Under this ruling, the use of snowmobiles on the frozen surface of Crooked Lake will continue to be prohibited. Unfortunately, a previous ruling by the District Court in Stupak-Thrall II continues to allow motorboat use on Crooked Lake without restriction on horsepower or speed. Now that proceedings on Stupak-Thrall III are complete, settlement negotiations or the appeals process on Stupak-Thrall II will again begin to move forward. Stupak-Thrall II had been held in abeyance by the court until Stupak-Thrall III was settled, because if the plaintiffs had succeeded in this case, Crooked Lake would have been removed from the wilderness, rendering the issues in Stupak-Thrall II irrelevant.

UPEC has twice attempted to intervene in this case, but has been denied intervener status by the district court primarily on the basis that the federal government is representing our interests in this case. Considering our history of disagreement with the Forest Service, we do not believe that we can rely on them to represent our interests. The government could negotiate an unfavorable settlement, or could simply decide to let the District Court ruling stand without appeal. If we are granted intervener status, however, we may be able to participate in the settlement negotiations, and if an acceptable settlement cannot be reached, we would be able to file an appeal on our own. On November 17, 2003, the Wilderness Association, made up of UPEC, The Wilderness Society, Wilderness Watch, and Crooked Lake property owner Tom Church, filed a request for intervener status before the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. We will keep you informed on the court's response to our request.



Why Oppose Sulfide Mining on the Yellow Dog Plains?



(Continued from page 1)

U.P. in that sulfide mining involves extracting metal from oxide-based ores.

All mining has an impact on the environment, but the impact of the U.P. oxide mines is contained in the footprint of the mine itself. A sulfide mine pollutes – every time. As the sulfide ore is extracted from the earth, it must be immediately contained in lined ponds. For as air and water come in contact with this sulfide ore, there is an immediate chemical reaction that creates sulfuric acid or Acid Mine Drainage. Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) is the common term for highly acidic water that leaches from mines and mine waste piles and often acidifies the streams it flows into. If this toxic acid is allowed to leach into the ground, the groundwater becomes contaminated and flows into our rivers, lakes and streams. The effect is immediate and deadly.

If built, this mine will sit within 100 feet of the Salmon Trout River, which provides habitat for the last native Coaster Brook Trout on the south shore of Lake Superior. The ore body Kennecott wishes to extract sits directly under the headwaters of this wild little river. If the sulfide mine is allowed to be built, life on the Yellow Dog Plains will change forever. A mine needs power, railways, milling plants, water treatment plants, paved roads and lots and lots of water. This mine sits on one of the most significant aquifers in the Midwest. This aquifer feeds at least nine major watersheds including the Yellow Dog, Salmon Trout, Huron, Cedar, Mulligan and the Dead River. All of these rivers and streams run into our largest, cleanest freshwater sea – Lake Superior.

There will be millions of gallons of water pulled from the mine (called de-watering) as the mine is built. This water must be treated and discharged back into the environment – somewhere. The Salmon Trout is very small at this point – you can jump across it as it leaves the headwater’s marsh and ponds of the Yellow Dog Swamp. Where will Kennecott get all the water they need and where will they put the millions of gallons that have been

If Acid Mine Drainage is allowed to leach into the ground, the groundwater becomes contaminated and flows into our rivers, lakes and streams. The effect is immediate and deadly.

treated and need to be released? These are just a few of the concerns facing the citizens who love the Yellow Dog Plains for the great out-of-doors experiences and wildlife that can be found there.

Currently, Kennecott owns 462,000 acres of mineral rights in that area – fully ¼ of all the mineral rights available in Marquette County. Their plans are swift: get in, pull the ore and get out in 7 to 10 years. Kennecott offer 100 jobs as the carrot.

Kennecott is drilling in another nearby watershed, which is also part of the same wild area of the Yellow Dog Plains. Kennecott owns mineral rights underneath the McCormick Wilderness, a nearly untouched area given to the Federal Government in the 1950’s. What will be left to the people of the State of Michigan of this previously wild land? Paved roads, power, an abandoned railway, abandoned mining buildings and a mine that could keep on creating sulfuric acid forever –and no more open lands for hunting, fishing and other recreational pursuits.

Other mines that Kennecott has closed are releasing heavy metals and AMD and will require water quality monitoring plans for 40 years or more. Mines that Kennecott has in operation are some of the most polluting in North

America – not because Kennecott is necessarily an irresponsible mining company – but because sulfide mines pollute, *always*. There is no technology available today that can deal with this most destructive of mines.

Cynthia Pryor is the executive director of the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve and a leader of the Eagle Alliance, a non-profit organization formed of concerned citizens and groups opposing sulfide mining on the Yellow Dog Plains and in the State of Michigan.



Raising the Bar on Sulfide Mining

Kennecott will mine if it is economic to do so. The Eagle Alliance’s strategy is to raise Kennecott’s cost perception by demanding stringent attention to the details of opening, operating, and closing a mine.

No permits are required for development drilling if the first rock encountered is pre-cambrian. We want to change part 625 of Michigan’s Mineral Well Regulation to address this policy. An Underground mine does not have to get a closure permit in order to open a mine—we want to change that too, including permits in Michigan’s Mine Reclamation Regulations part 631.

But most importantly, we want a sulfide mine moratorium like Wisconsin’s, banning sulfide mining in Michigan until there is solid evidence that it can be done without environmental harm. This has not been done yet, but the Eagle Alliance, along with an attorney for the NWF, have been working to get legislation introduced.

By Dave Allen

Keweenaw Tip Purchased: Now What?

By Charles Eshbach

Over the past two years, much of the tip of the Keweenaw has been preserved for future generations, a historic accomplishment. Purchased by The Nature Conservancy using a \$12.5 million grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the people of Michigan now have access to almost six miles of wild Lake Superior shoreline, three inland glacial lakes, five miles of the Montreal River and 6,275 acres of woods and varied terrain.

The citizens of the Keweenaw are still absorbing the impact of this landmark deal. Faced with shrinking public access due to private purchases of corporate lands, citizens started seeking

ways to acquire and insure future public access. Land swaps of state land for the Keweenaw's special areas were explored and rejected. The Nature Conservancy legitimized the situation by placing their first staff person in the Keweenaw. This gave the local "Public Access Keweenaw" effort credibility and focused the need. The Nature Conservancy's willingness to broker the deal, to give the MNR Trust Fund time to process and approve such a purchase was the turning point.

On September 10, 2003, one hundred people gathered atop Brockway Mountain to celebrate the final transfer of property from The Nature Conservancy to the State of Michigan. As I watched the celebration, my mind jumped ahead with questions of what will this mean to the future visitors and residents of the Keweenaw.

Acquisition of this land was done with the future in mind. Areas suited for wilderness activity, spectacular scenery, sandy beaches, inland lakes and the rugged Lake Superior shore were targeted for their recreational potential. The growth of our tourism-based economy depends on how we design and develop this public resource. Recreational planners have told us how to design our business community to serve the visitor coming to enjoy our magnificent natural attractions. Now we have to develop those attractions by first of all protecting and preserving them while providing safe access and control.

As a part of the Copper Country State Forest, the design and development of the Keweenaw Tip purchase will fall to the Baraga District office of the DNR. The staff of foresters, a biologist and a new recreational specialist will have the assistance of a special citizens advisory group being formed by Keweenaw County officials and the DNR. This task force will represent the community with members from gov-

ernment, business, environmentalists and sportsmen. Don Keith, Eagle Harbor's county commissioner, defined the mission when he said, "The DNR will need lots of public input and we can help them set priorities which will encourage growth of our tourism economy and give residents freedom and access."

Future generations will thank us if we do this initial planning correctly. This is the beginning of a real stewardship plan which will protect and enhance one of the last great places in Michigan.

Charles Eshbach has worked for the past 39 years as a conservationist/forester, to protect unique habitat in the Keweenaw. He has been active in the development and protection of the Estivant Pines Wilderness Sanctuary, which is one of the main attractions in Copper Harbor, and another 16 special nature sanctuaries in the Keweenaw. As the field representative for the Michigan Nature Association, Charles has worked with 50 nature sanctuaries in the Upper Peninsula.

Ed. Note: UPEC Board Member Friederike Greuer will serve on the Keweenaw Citizen's Advisory Committee to represent UPEC's land management priorities. She is interested in seeking input from other UPEC members. Thank you, Friederike, for volunteering for this much-needed position!



What YOU Can Do About Sulfide Mining!

Opposing a multi-national corporation with deep pockets can be a daunting task. Effective grassroots opposition requires informed activists, passionate about their cause. If you are concerned, join the Eagle Alliance, attend local meetings, and let your legislators know you want the laws changed in favor of environmental protection.

For More Information:

The Eagle Alliance

1) www.ydeaglescry.com

Acid Mine Drainage

1) <http://amd.osmre.gov/>

2) http://www.miningwatch.org/embc/publications/amd_water.htm

3) <http://www.science.uwaterloo.ca/research/ggr/>

MineWasteGeochemistry/
AcidMineDrainage.html

Coaster Brook Trout

1) [Http://news.mpr.org/features/200205/06_mainstreet_rivers-m/Hemphill.shtml](http://news.mpr.org/features/200205/06_mainstreet_rivers-m/Hemphill.shtml)

2) [Http://www.wildthingsfws.org/RoadTrips/Ashland/ashland_04.htm](http://www.wildthingsfws.org/RoadTrips/Ashland/ashland_04.htm)



UPEC ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANT APPLICATION!



Answers to FAQ About UPEC's Environmental Education Grants:

WHO? K-12 educators in Upper Peninsula schools, public or private, who desire to create or further enhance an environmental education program or ongoing activity in their school.

WHY ? To provide financial assistance in creating an environmental education program or ongoing project or to provide assistance to an already existing program that is in need of support to further enhance the program/project.

WHAT ? Grant may not be used for salaries, but all other expenses (for example, transportation, meals, supplies, honoraria) are acceptable.

HOW MUCH ? Depending on the quality of the applications as evaluated by the UPEC board, several monetary awards of up to \$500 each will be made during a 12 month period beginning in February, 2004.

WHEN? Grant applications are due January 9, 2004. Grant decisions will be announced in February, 2004.

Grant recipients will be required to present a final report that includes an accounting of funds expended and outcomes achieved to UPEC upon completion of program. Progress reports will be edited and published in the UPEC newsletter.

HOW DO I APPLY?

This application may be downloaded at the UPEC website: www.upenvironment.org and then e-mailed to us at:

svandam@chartermi.net or excerpted from this newsletter and sent in via regular mail:

UPEC

P.O. Box 673

Houghton, MI 49931

Please make applications brief, answering the following questions and attaching additional information as needed.

Date of Application _____

Name of Applicant/Contact person _____

Organization/School _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip code _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____

e-mail address _____

Project Name _____

First Time or Existing Program? _____

Length of program's existence _____

Number of students involved _____

Number of adults involved _____

Rational for Program/Project _____

(Attach a detailed description -1 page maximum.)

Time frame for project (i.e. one day program, 6 month ongoing, etc.)

Expected date(s) of project _____

Total Budget for Program/Project _____

(Attach a breakdown of anticipated or known costs.)

Other funding sources _____

(If an existing program, attach list previous of funding

sources in the last 3 years, including in-kind contributions.)

If these other sources are not available, are there alternative opportunities for funding? If so, please describe. _____

Does this program provide for community outreach and education?

How _____



Yes! I Want to Help UPEC Make a Difference!

Name: _____
E-mail: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____

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)
- _____ Other

UPEC appreciates your generous and timely response!

I'm already a Member! Here is an additional contribution for:
(Please check one)

- _____ UPEC Land Acquisition/Protection Fund
- _____ UPEC Environmental Education Fund.
- _____ 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

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

Wondering if your membership is current? Your expiration date is written on your mailing label on the front cover of this newsletter!

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

Next Issue: Hiking Guidebook of Michigan Eric Hansen

Ed Note: Here is a sneak preview of what will be coming in our next issue. Eric Hansen, activist, writer, and experienced backpacker will provide us with answers to the following questions....

If we were on a multi-month quest for the best natural ambiance in the UP where would we go? Which hikes would take us to the UP's most memorable vistas, waterfalls, wildlife, forests and shorelines?

Fueled by clues from Doug Welker, and other notable wanderers, I've spent months poking around the far corners of the UP looking for answers. The results of that fieldwork, my nominations for the 50 best hikes in the UP, will be available in the spring of 2005 in the form of a guidebook titled "Hiking Michigan's Upper Peninsula." The 50 routes that made the final cut are a diverse lot, and rightly so.

The UP book's format will be similar to my 2002 book, "Hiking Wisconsin." Eight hundred miles of hiking research went into the Wisconsin book. Both guidebooks are part of the Falcon Guide Series:
(www.falcon.com)

Ed Note: Eric Hansen is the author of the Trap Hills article on pg. 4 of this newsletter. UPEC and others with the UP hiking bug are eagerly looking forward to



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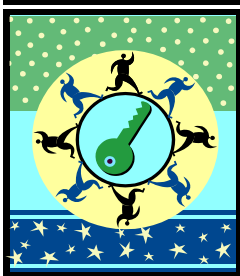
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Email: svandam@chartermi.net
www.upenvironment.org

*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.*

Join Us for the Next UPEC Board Meeting!
Saturday, January 11th from 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Ford Forestry Center, Alberta

UPEC Seeks New Board Members & Liaisons



UPEC is currently seeking to fill several vacancies on our board of directors. We meet quarterly and communicate via e-mail between regular meetings, so the time investment is reasonable, even for busy activists.

As a coalition of individuals and organizations, we specifically are looking for members who would be willing to serve as liaisons to environmental groups including Great Lakes United and the Lake Superior Alliance.

Our down-state members may be particularly helpful in serving as a liaison with the Michigan Environmental Council, as most of their meetings are in Lansing, and therefore difficult for us to attend.

Additionally, since we seek to represent the entire U.P., members from the Escanaba and Ontonagon areas are also encouraged to serve and keep us abreast of local environmental issues, as we have no one currently representing those regions on our board.

If you are interested in becoming a UPEC board member or in nominating someone, please drop us a

line explaining your interests and background, and give a reference who is familiar with your experience.

For more information, call our President, Jon Saari: (906) 228-4656 or e-mail him at: jsaari@nmu.edu.

