



Michigan Highlights



A Big Deal in the U.P. Six years in the making, the Northern Great Lakes Forest Project was completed in 2010 and protects 247,806 acres of working forest lands in the lake and stream-rich Upper Peninsula of Michigan. This conservation easement guarantees the protection of some of the area's most pristine lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, forests, and critical habitat, while supporting tourism, recreation, and timber industry jobs. With over \$27 million in funding (Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and U.S. Forest Service Legacy Program) and several partners (The Nature Conservancy, The Forestland Group, LLC., and other Michigan-based foundations), the conservation easement includes the protection of:

- Lakes: 69 natural lakes over 10 acres in size; 505 lakes and ponds less than 10 acres in size
- Rivers: 166 miles of trout streams and 286 miles of rivers/tributaries
- 2,484 total acres of waterbodies
- 7,226 acres of emergent wetlands

This project also ensures permanent public access for fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, and other recreational non-motorized uses, with snowmobiling and off-road vehicle riding allowed on access corridors historically used for that purpose. The easement keeps the land open to sustainable forestry activities, while prohibiting other forms of industry or development.

Back to the Classroom The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership (MNSP) launched its Certified Natural Shoreline Professional Training and Certification Program for waterfront contractors. The program trains and certifies professionals who work on inland lake shorelines in the areas of natural shoreline technologies and bioengineered erosion control. In 2010, 56 contractors from across Michigan attended the program; 44 were certified. Additional trainings for this program are scheduled for 2011. The MNSP website, www.mishorelinepartnership.org, includes a list of certified contractors, program partners, and information for homeowners.



Diverse Partners, Common Interest The recently formed Michigan Inland Lakes Partnership (MILP) brought together a diverse group of state and local agencies, native American Nations, outreach institutions, NGO's, businesses, industries and citizens to promote collaboration to advance the stewardship of Michigan's inland lakes. MILP hosted two public open forums to gather input on the most pressing needs for the state's inland lakes and launched a website (<http://michiganlakes.msue.msu.edu>) that serves as a starting point for citizens and professionals interested in inland lakes stewardship, including information on lake ecology, water law, management options, invasive species, shoreline and habitat protection, leadership and conflict resolution skill development, and much more.

