

Michigan Trout Unlimited Fact Sheet

Project Name: Monitoring in the Au Sable, Kalamazoo, Rogue, and Pilgrim Watersheds

Amount of Grant and Matching Funds: Grant - \$17,418 Match - \$18,831.50

Project Duration: May 2010 to May 2012

Applicant:

Michigan Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 442

Dewitt, MI 48820

616-460-0477

Kristin Thomas Aquatic Ecologist

Project Location: Au Sable – Crawford County, Kalamazoo – Allegan, Barry, Calhoun, and Kalamazoo Counties , Rogue – Kent Country, Pilgrim – Houghton County.

Project Partners: Trout Unlimited (national organization), Mason-Griffith Founders Trout Unlimited, Kalamazoo Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited, Schrems West Michigan Trout Unlimited, Copper Country Trout Unlimited, Michigan State University Kellogg Biological Station, The City of Rockford, Algoma Township, Superior Watershed Partnership, and Western Michigan University Dr. Steve Kohler.

Project Summary

The goals of this project were to begin to collect baseline data on select coldwater streams in each watershed, to engage volunteers in conducting this sampling, and to create a sustainable monitoring program in each watershed that will track the health of each stream. Both negative and positive impacts will be portrayed in the long-term datasets, reflecting effects of agriculture, CAFO's, development, and stream improvement projects.

Project Accomplishments

We have successfully begun to build long-term macroinvertebrate datasets for each stream monitored. In addition, monitoring activities have been set up so that each watershed has a group of highly trained volunteers who are capable of "running" a monitoring event. In fact, each watershed except the Rogue River has had at least one volunteer lead monitoring event. This project has been successful in collecting baseline data within each watershed of interest, but more importantly it is set up for long-term sustainability so we can create datasets that track stream health over time.

Monitoring Activities

Monitoring was conducted at 2 sites on the Au Sable River, 5 sites on the Kalamazoo River, 5 sites on the Rogue River, and 8 sites on the Pilgrim River. Sampling events were held in each watershed during the fall of 2010, the spring of 2011, and the fall of 2011. Spring 2012 sampling has also been completed in all watersheds except the Pilgrim River, which is scheduled to be sampled on June 2, 2012.

Significant Measureable Results

- A total of 20 sites in 4 watersheds were monitored through this project
- 64 unique monitoring events were conducted on the 20 sites
- A total of 95 volunteers spent 863 hours monitoring macroinvertebrates
- 65 volunteers spent 170 hours attending Stream Leader Training and project updates
- 5 separate training or update events were held to educate volunteers



Volunteers from Kalamazoo Valley Trout Unlimited sort macroinvertebrates stream side.



A Schrems West Michigan Trout Unlimited volunteer samples macroinvertebrates in Rum



Schrems West Michigan Trout Unlimited volunteers identify Rogue River macroinvertebrates



A volunteer uses a microscope to identify Rogue River macroinvertebrates