



YELLOW DOG
Watershed Preserve

YELLOW DOG WATERSHED PRESERVE, INC

SINCE 1995

Preserving and protecting the Yellow Dog Watershed in its most natural state, for now, and for the benefit of future generations.

*Our water
Our legacy
Our future*

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Salmon Trout Volunteer Stream Monitoring Project #: VSM2012-04

Grantee: Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve

Project Fact Sheet

Project Name

Salmon Trout Volunteer Stream
Monitoring Project #: VSM2012-04

Amount of Grant

\$7,465.50

Matching Funds

\$7,617.87

Project Duration

June 2012 – June 2014

Applicant name, address, phone and contact information

Mindy Otto

Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve, P.O. Box 5, Big Bay, MI 49808

(906) 345-9223

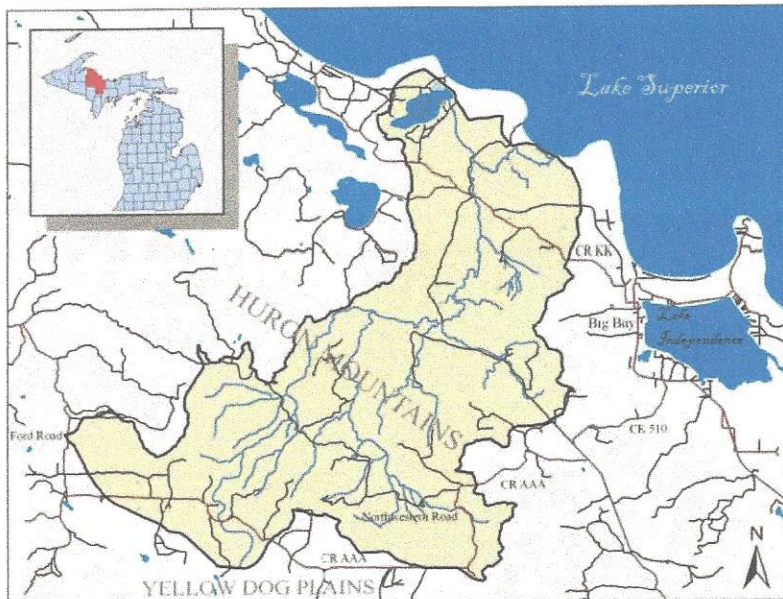
mindy@yellowdogwatershed.org



Figure 1 Volunteers measuring stream width and depth. In photo: Steve Caird, Christy Budnick, and Xavier Donajkowski, May 2014. Photo by Jeremiah Eagle Eye.

Project Location

Marquette County



Salmon Trout River Watershed Map from the Superior Watershed Partnership Salmon Trout Watershed Management Plan.

Project Partners

NMU Wildlife Society
Powell Township School
Big Bay Outfitters
Pamela McClelland
Huron Mountain Club

Project Summary and Goals

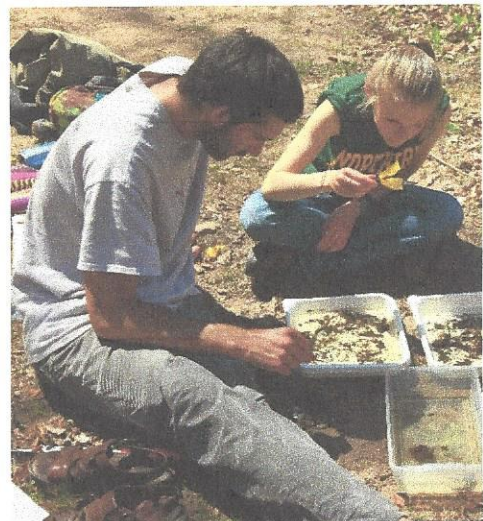
Since 2012, Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve (YDWP) staff and volunteers have conducted regular monitoring of the Salmon Trout River with a grant from the Great Lakes Commission through Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps). We have built the foundation for a lasting program and plan to continue. The initial goals established for the Salmon Trout Volunteer Stream Monitoring Project (STVSMP) included: developing awareness and volunteerism, training participants in monitoring, collecting water quality data on the Salmon Trout River, making results available to interested parties, grant implementation, and assessing the project.

Project Accomplishments

We have followed our goals and accomplished almost all of the tasks outlined in our work plan. Our staff and volunteers did run into difficulties mostly due to factors outside of our control, such as: severe weather events, road blockages, landowner issues, and dangerous high water. YDWP is accomplishing a lot with very little human resources, and we have established the foundation to continue this program indefinitely. Specific accomplishments include: recruiting nearly 60 volunteers, educating the community, providing additional training for 5 volunteer leaders, collecting, analyzing and publishing results.

Monitoring Activities

Our project consists of eight sites on the Salmon Trout River that are monitored twice each year. Each site is 300 feet long and monitored following MiCorps protocol with a crew of 2-4 trained volunteers. All sites must be monitored in a two-week period every season. We monitor macroinvertebrate habitat and populations at each site. The macroinvertebrates are sorted into categories, such as: Sensitive, Somewhat-Sensitive, and Tolerant. The sample size we collect in each category helps us determine a Total Stream Quality Score. These scores are recorded in a database for each site to monitor changes and significant trends over many seasons.



*Figure 2 Adam Magnuson (left) and Xavier Donajkowski (right) sorting macroinvertebrates.
Photo by Jeremiah Eagle Eye.*

Significant Measurable Results

The Total Stream Quality Scores for the Salmon Trout River and tributaries have remained constantly "Good" or "Excellent" for the past two years. Only one tributary, the Clear Creek, has fluctuated around "Fair" water quality. We will continue our ongoing analysis for more long-term trend analysis.