Rifle River Watershed Project

Abigail Ertel
Huron Pines
March 16, 2012

Watershed Restoration Philosophy
• Plan
• Inventory
• Prioritize
• Resource Advisors
• Holistic Watershed Approach

Huron Pines
• Nonprofit, 501(c)(3)
• Organized in 1973 to serve the 11-counties of Northeast Michigan
• 9 full-time staff
• 2-4 person Restoration Crew
• River Restoration
• Land Stewardship
• Watershed Management Planning
• Huron Pines AmeriCorps
• Fostering Strong Partnerships
  • Increasing conservation capacity

Rifle River Watershed Overview
• Ogemaw and Arenac Counties
• Drains 396 mi²
• Free Flowing
• High Quality
• Varied Land use
• Varied Fishery
• High Recreational Value
• Natural Rivers Designation
• High Degree of Local Support

Huron Pines
6,700 Square Miles
4,288,154 Acres
5,005 River Miles
172,800 Lake Acres
467 Shoreline Miles

6,700 Square Miles
4,288,154 Acres
5,005 River Miles
172,800 Lake Acres
467 Shoreline Miles
Rifle River Watershed Project
Development

- Building on Existing Body of Work
- Watershed Wide Approach
- Community Connection
- Existing Support

Rifle River Watershed Project
Details

- GLRI (USEPA) – $382,000
- 2010 – 2013
- Watershed Management Plan
- Active Restoration
- Stewardship and Outreach

Rifle River Watershed Project
Diverse Support

- Agencies
- Private Foundations
- TU
- Conservation Organizations
- Watershed Committee
- Local Volunteers
- Local Businesses
- City Governments
- Landowners

Rifle River Watershed Project
2011 Highlights

- Conservation Priorities Map
- Comprehensive Inventory
- Outreach
- Volunteer recruitment
- Start of On-the-Ground Projects
- Leveraging of Additional Funds
Rifle River Watershed Project

2011 Highlights

Rifle River Watershed Project

Next Steps

Rifle River Watershed Project

Coming in 2012

- Restoration Projects
- West Branch Stormwater
- Watershed Management Plan
- Volunteer Led Monitoring
- Continued Outreach
Rifle River Watershed Project Timeline

2011
- Watershed outreach, resource inventory, developing partnerships, secure additional funding

2012
- On-the-ground habitat restoration projects, West Branch Stormwater, continued outreach efforts

2013
- Watershed Management Plan updated, zoning ordinance review, conservation easements, farm BMPs, Rifle Phase II

Rifle River Watershed Project Overall Goal

- Sustainable Protection
- Long Lasting
- Locally Driven
- Continued Quality of Rifle River
- Improved Health of Saginaw Bay

Rifle River Watershed Project Opportunities

- March 20 - RRWRC and RWTC
- June 28 and July 12 - Watershed Management Plan Survey and Meetings
- August 18 - Volunteer Day
- August 21 - Conservation Workshop, Arenac County
- Anytime! - Site Visits

Abigail Ertel
Huron Pines
501 Norway Street
Grayling, MI 49738
989.344.0753 x 14
abby@huronpines.org
www.huronpines.org
