



# Michigamme Highlands Conservation Easement Project

*Marquette, Baraga, & Iron County, MI*



## FAST FACTS

**Program:** Forest Legacy Program (FLP)

**Total Private Forestland Protected by  
Conservation Easement:** Approx. 73,000 acres

**Status:** Grant Funding Requested

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In partnership with Lyme Great Lakes Timberlands, the DNR is seeking to protect a large working forest landscape in the Upper Peninsula through the acquisition of a permanent working forest conservation easement. At approximately 73,000 acres, the Michigamme Highlands project encompasses arguably some of the most important natural geography in the Great Lakes including vast forests, remote lakes, trout streams, Michigan's highest natural point of elevation, moose-inhabited swamps, and the most climate resilient landscape in Michigan. The project includes:

- Permanent working forest conservation easement that ensures long-term sustainable forest management and sustained economic benefit in a rural area including an estimated annual economic impact to the three counties of approximately \$4 million from sustainable forest management activities and many jobs in the regional forest products industry. The lands will remain in private ownership and maintain local tax revenue.
- Full non-motorized recreational access and limited motorized recreational access include hunting, fishing, kayaking, biking, skiing, snowmobiling, and hiking to support the UP's vibrant tourism industry.
- Protection of wildlife habitat for a variety of game and non-game species such as moose, white-tailed deer (including over 4,800 acres of winter deeryard), black bear, pine marten, fisher, ruffed grouse, migrating song birds, eagles, hawks, and owls.
- Protection of and permanent public access to Mt. Arvon, Michigan's highest natural elevation.
- Protection and access to 37 miles of rivers, 220 miles of perennial streams, 96 lakes and ponds and over 13,600 acres of wetlands. Fish species include coaster brook trout, brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, northern pike, largemouth and smallmouth bass, Coho salmon, and pink salmon.
- A buffer to Craig Lake State Park and the federal McCormick Wilderness area, along with extension of the Wild & Scenic River protections on the Yellow Dog River for an additional 1.8 miles.
- The property must remain one large parcel of land and cannot be split or developed.

## SUPPORTING PARTIES

- Senator Debbie Stabenow
- Ottawa National Forest
- Keweenaw Bay Indian Community
- North Country Trail Association
- Trout Unlimited
- Michigan United Conservation Clubs
- Michigan Forest Association
- The Trust for Public Land
- US Fish & Wildlife Service

