

NEWS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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Streambank Stabilization and Floodplain Restoration in the Pere Marquette Watershed

TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN, October 31, 2023 - Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) is pleased to announce the start of a streambank stabilization and floodplain restoration project on the Pere Marquette River adjacent to the Marquette Rail LLC Railroad. The streambank site is steep and sandy, and this outside bend has been steadily eroding towards the railroad right-of-way for well over 10 years while the inside bend continues to build up. Stabilizing the site now will prevent further erosion and preserve the streambank that is remaining. Stabilization practices include placing 500 cubic yards of fieldstone along 240 linear feet of streambank that borders the railroad right-of-way embankment, lowering the elevation of the floodplain bench on the inside bend and using that material on the opposite bank to create a 1.5:1 slope, installing logs and rootwads into the streambank for habitat and flow deflection, and restoration measures of plantings, seed and topsoil. Please know that the project is located on private land; trespassing on this land and public use of the adjacent railroad right-of-way is prohibited. Recreationists are asked to please not paddle through this area (from M-37 State access site to USFS Green Cottage access site) during November 1 – December 31, 2023 for safety reasons as heavy equipment will be in and adjacent to the Pere Marquette River at the streambank and railroad site.

The options analysis, design and permitting phase of the project totaled \$81,070 and was funded by the Pere Marquette Watershed Council, Pere Marquette Trout Unlimited, FlyFishers International, Lake County Community Foundation and individual River Care donors. For the construction and monitoring phase of the project, \$528,000 has been secured by Conservation Resource Alliance and includes funding from the following entities and programs: Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and Bureau of Indian Affairs Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Fund, Great Lakes Fishery Trust, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Habitat Program, Marquette Rail LLC, US Fish & Wildlife Service Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Program, Lake County Community Foundation, and FlyFishers International and individual donors. Other project partners include US Forest Service, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, AECOM, Knoop Excavating Services, and the Flint Rainbow Club. The project is also supported in part by the River Care Program that includes grants from the following foundations: Walters Family, Brookby, Serra Family, DTE, Andrew R. and Janet F. Miller, The George Fund, and the Packaging Corporation of America.

CRA, based in Traverse City, is a private, non-profit organization leading watershed management projects throughout a 15-county region in northwest Michigan. CRA launched the River Care Program in 1998 and the Wild Roots Program in 2018 to carry out the mission of coordinating the sensible stewardship of our region's land and streams. For more information or how you can get involved, contact the Conservation Resource Alliance at (231) 946-6817, via e-mail at info@rivercare.org, or visit CRA's website at www.rivercare.org.

CRA drone photo of the railroad embankment from December 2022.

