



*Photo Courtesy of The Nature Conservancy*

# Landscape-scale Approach to Management

A long-term partnership implementing landscape level action

In 1992, a group composed of state and federal government agencies, a non-governmental organization and several industrial landholders formed to coordinate management efforts in the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan, calling themselves the Eastern Upper Peninsula Partnership for Ecosystem Management (EUPPEM). Members of the group represent organizations that manage two-thirds of the area served, over 3.9 million acres. The group's mission is to facilitate complementary management of public and private lands for all appropriate uses, using an ecological approach to sustain and enhance representative ecosystems, globally significant landscapes, and threatened and endangered species.

## **The Work of the EUPPEM**

The group's activity has ranged from very active to somewhat dormant, depending on issues, threats and opportunities over the years. The group works together informally, stressing communication, understanding and cooperation, rather than formal procedures and protocol. Meetings are held periodically (from two to four times a year) to discuss matters of mutual interest and concern and to work towards cooperative approaches for management of the member's respective forestry and public land holdings. The work of the group varies depending on need. While several of the larger private timber owners have changed, recent meetings and progress continues.

**“The multidisciplinary nature of the group provides learning and identifying common ground on many fronts.”**

As of 2016, EUPPEM members include staff from:

Seney National Wildlife Refuge  
Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore  
Hiawatha National Forest  
Department of Natural Resources (Forest and Wildlife)  
Hancock Forest – TIMO  
The Forestland Group - TIMO  
The Nature Conservancy  
Soo Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Past projects include:

- A USDA-Forest Service National Hierarchy of Ecological Units – Land Type Association (LTA) level classification system. This project led to more coordinated and effective planning and implementation of ecosystem management within each LTA and also led to other projects on LTA's with the Hiawatha National Forest.
- Specific landowner outreach in the Two-Hearted, including stakeholder meetings – This led to a large deal that protected over 43,000 acres in the watershed. See Specific Story on the UP Big Deal.
- Specific landowner management recommendations within the Two Hearted. This included recommendations of management for Neotropical migrants and retention of balsam fir and hemlock in the upper canopy.
- Field demonstration sites for forestry and fire in red pine at Seney National Wildlife Refuge and DNR Muskrat Lakes ownership. See Specific Stories on each of these subjects.

### **What Is Currently in Front of the EUPPEM**

The current set of partners are addressing the following:

Threat Management

- Beech bark disease issues including regeneration and replanting.
- Climate change mitigation and disease issues.
- Fire management, Community Wildfire Protection Plans and Wildfire plans.

Efficiencies

- A collaborative approach to Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification and improved spatial mapping of protected lands.
- Exploration of efficient timber operation and stewardship contracting.
- Exploration of maintaining or increasing markets (especially value added) in the Upper Peninsula.
- Lowland conifer management

Collaborative Approaches

- Better assessments of research and monitoring, needs, gaps and what is currently being collected.

As a collective, the group agrees that the most important “product” has been group discussion sessions or forums for the express purpose of addressing matters pertaining to some aspect of ecosystem management. Sometimes, the meetings serve as a time for airing of issues and brainstorming. At other times, the meetings involve deciding what information is important to the group and breaking down information into workable tasks and assignments.

Through repeated contact, the group understands the same vocabulary and can now communicate more effectively on matters of mutual importance and concern. The environment is non-threatening and positive. The forums are conducive learning environments, and the group members find that there is much to be learned from each other.

The multidisciplinary nature of the group provides learning and identifies common ground on many fronts: between theory and practice; between public sector and private industry; between preservation and industrial management; and between natural processes and human intervention and manipulations.

### **More Information**

America's Private Forests: Status and Stewardship. 2001. *American's Private Forests: Status and Stewardship*. Pacific Forest Trust. 270 pp.

Beyer, D.E., Homan, L., and Ewert, D. N. 1997. Ecosystem management in the eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan: A case history. *Landscape and Urban Planning*. 38 199-211.