

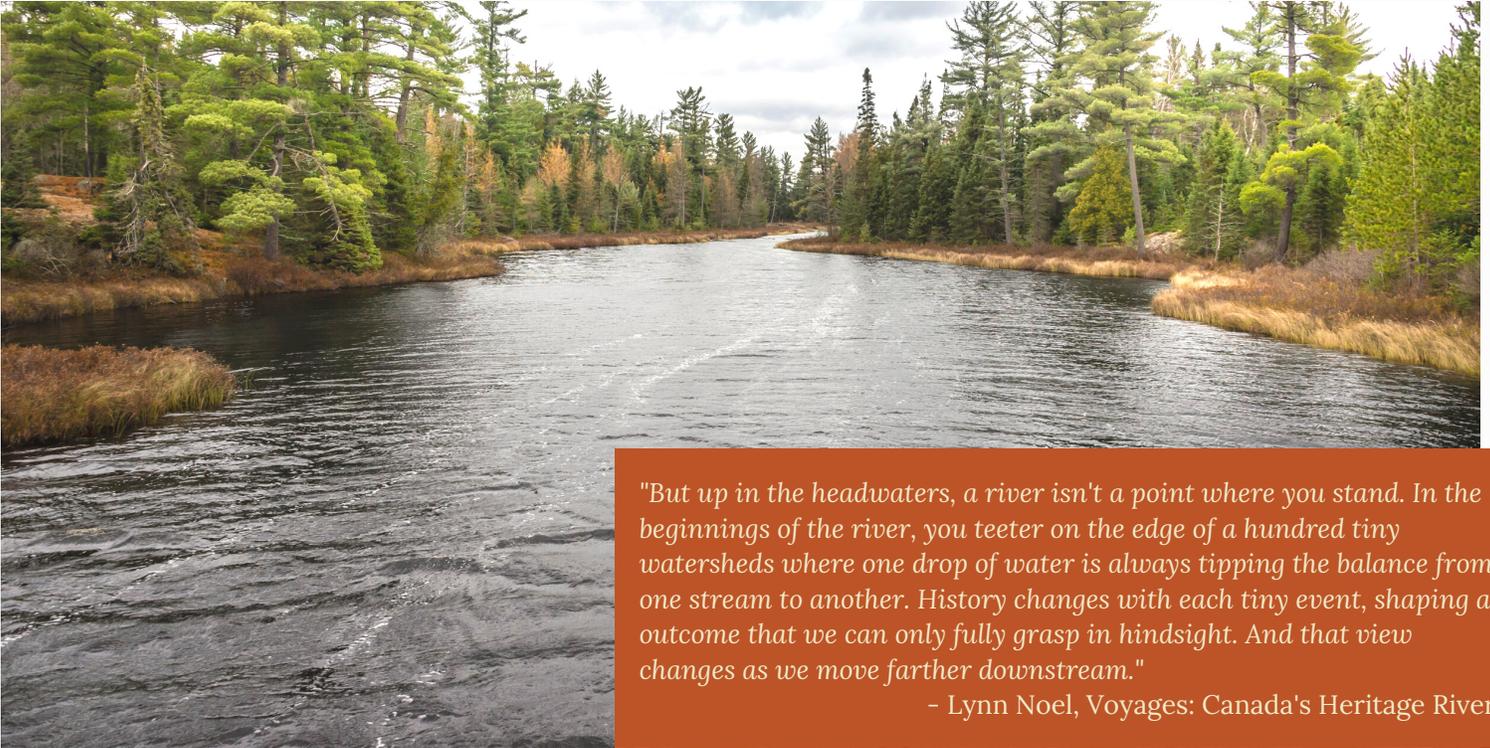


FALL/WINTER 2019-2020



CONNECTIONS

U.P. Land Conservancy



"But up in the headwaters, a river isn't a point where you stand. In the beginnings of the river, you teeter on the edge of a hundred tiny watersheds where one drop of water is always tipping the balance from one stream to another. History changes with each tiny event, shaping an outcome that we can only fully grasp in hindsight. And that view changes as we move farther downstream."

- Lynn Noel, Voyages: Canada's Heritage Rivers

WE LIVE AT THE HEADWATERS

The photo above captures the precise moment that Indian Lake, a 100-acre wilderness lake in UPLC's Indian Lake Watershed Preserve, tips over the edge and becomes the Peshekee River - a waterway relied on by thousands for recreation and clean drinking water while it flows into Lake Michigan. The Preserve, which expanded by 154 acres in 2019, now protects nearly 90% of the watershed for Indian Lake and totals 1,318 acres of wilderness protected forever.

You and I are in a unique moment in the history of our community in the UP - our planetary and national communities, too. The 'tiny events' you and I create here and now must be made with everyone downstream in mind. Michigan's Upper Peninsula touches nearly 20% of the earth's freshwater; the whole world is downstream from us. It is up to you and I to protect our healthy forests for the clean air we all breathe, and to restore the wetlands we need to purify the fresh water we drink and swim in. Thank you for joining UPLC as we enter the next 20 years of working together at the headwaters of our time to protect the land we all depend on for life tomorrow.



I NEED THE TREES

From Jean McClean, Vice President of the Board



"There is strength here, on the water or the shore, walking in the woods or sitting on a rocky overlook..."

**JEAN
MCCLEAN,
UPLC VICE
PRESIDENT**

I could mention how sparsely settled our U.P. is, or cite the science that talks about the importance of trees in controlling the impact of climate change or the need to preserve the ecology/geology of the area, but there's another aspect that often gets ignored, and that is the need that we humans have for wild places and wide open spaces. I grew up in the UP and spent time enjoying the wild beauty of the area. Even as a child and teen I found myself drawn to the 'big lake'. The lake is my first choice of a place to escape to, but the rivers and woods are a close second. I know I'm not the only one, many people who live here feel the same way. Probably the best way to start a day is to grab a mug of coffee, hop in a kayak, paddle out .and just sit and watch the day begin.

Or, at the end of the day, walk along a beach heading west and watch the sun disappear. There is strength here, on the water or the shore, walking in the woods or sitting on a rocky overlook. I have also found peace and serenity, refreshment—after time taking in the vastness and beauty of the world, I am able to go back and face the craziness of town with all its people and pavement. One can breath more deeply outdoors and the air is pure and clean, the water sparkling and crystal clear. As humans, we need the restoring qualities of our great north country for our spirits, as much (perhaps more?) than we need to preserve our land for all the 'practical' reasons.

You can protect land forever.

Do you want your passion for protecting land in the Upper Peninsula to continue after you are gone? If you are interested in remembering the Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy in your legacy planning, we would be happy to provide you with sample language or discuss other ways we can meet your philanthropic goals together.

Have you already made sure that you'll be protecting land forever? Please let us know so that we can thank you while you're still here!

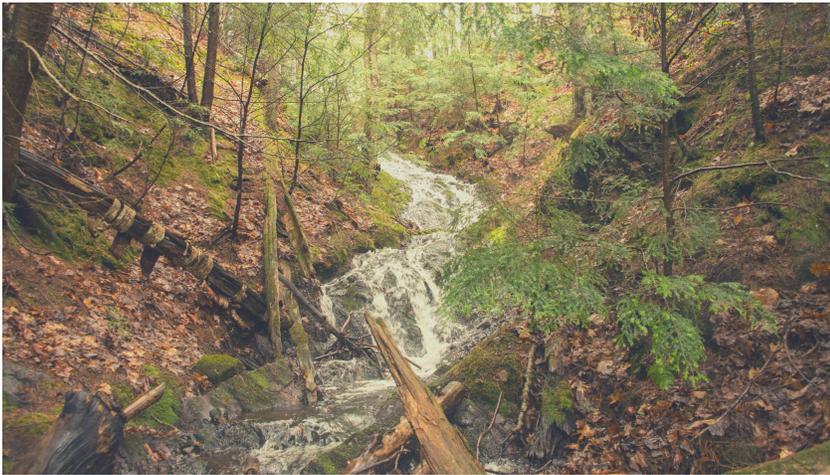




YOU ARE THE HERO OF THE FOREST

From Andrea Denham, Executive Director

I'll get right to it: We've already been granted nearly 1/3 of the cost of the land to create the dead River Community Forest, and now we've got 1.5 years to raise just \$220,000 in order to save 185.5 acres along the Dead River, on the edge of Marquette's ever-expanding 41 corridor. Now, we need your help to raise the funds to purchase the land and open it to the public! While it seems a daunting price, remember that we have more than 20 partnering organizations with us - and, we've got YOU, you're the real reason this dream will become a reality. You are the hero.



The Dead River Community Forest is a new type of nature preserve - the individuals and families touched by this land will have direct say in what happens and will have the chance to be deeply involved in management actions in the Forest. This Community Forest is UPLC's way of "being at the headwaters" for the current and future residents of and visitors to the UP. We are stepping into an area of need for our community by protecting the clean waters of our Great Lake, creating recreation opportunities for everyone, and providing hands-on educational experiences to those who step foot in the Forest. As we watch land ownership flip, demographics shift and our climate change at an extraordinary pace, what could be more important than ensuring that these healthy woods will always be available, always accessible, and that the management of the land will respond to community needs instead of private company profits? So, how can you be the hero? It's easy: donate today, join the steering committee, tell your friends and family... and save land!

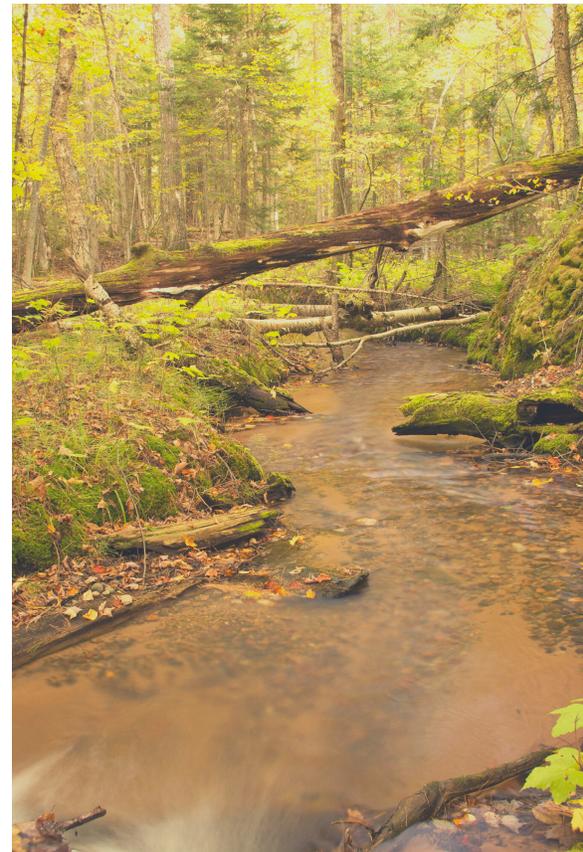
"Anything else you're interested in is not going to happen if you can't breathe the air and drink the water.

Don't sit this one out.

Do something.

You are by accident of fate alive at an absolutely critical moment in the history of our planet."

DR. CARL SAGAN





U.P. Land Conservancy
148 West Hewitt Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855



MEET BRIAN LIESCH, LANDS PROGRAM MANAGER

Hydrologist, Park Ranger and Cheesehead, Brian fell in love with the Lake Superior Region at a young age and his passion for protecting the Upper Peninsula was reinforced while working at Isle Royale National Park. When not exploring the Upper Peninsula with UPLC, he can be found mountain biking, rock climbing, whitewater kayaking and collecting cool rocks along the way. Brian joined the UPLC in late August 2019 after working as a Hydrologist with the Payette National Forest in Idaho. He now oversees all land project acquisitions as well as the stewardship and management of our 65 protected properties!

UPLC had a major staff restructuring in 2019 - As we've more than doubled the amount of land protected over Chris Burnett's 5 years here, more staff were needed to spread out the workload. Last year, Andrea Denham moved into the Executive Director role and in 2019 hired Adina Daar as an Administrative Manager. As Chris retired this summer, we now welcome Brian to round out the team in the newly created role of Lands Program Manager.

YEP, IT'S A NEW NEWSLETTER FORMAT!
Great! But where is the...list of upcoming events? ...protected lands breakdown by acre, land type, etc?...donation acknowledgements page? ...opportunities for volunteer involvement or creative giving?

Keep an eye on your mailbox and inbox for new, additional communications from UPLC this year!