



# LOWER PENINSULA, MICHIGAN MI DNR Big Wild Forestry Project

STANDARD: AMERICAN CARBON REGISTRY

**9**  
Rare species

**2+**  
Trout species

**1M**  
Metric tons CO2

The Michigan DNR Big Wild Project lies in the heart of elk country in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula. The 100,000-acre expanse is also home to other wildlife including black bear, white-tailed deer, wild turkey, American marten and various songbirds. The area was named "the Big Wild" by conservation leader P.S. Lovejoy, who recognized its significance and was concerned about increased use and development. The variety of the landscape includes clear lakes and streams, rugged forests, thick swamps, and rolling hills

Timber management has long been a part of the DNR's management of the land. Carbon credits from this project are generated based on progressively increasing forest growth, rather than increasing harvest levels as would be allowable under the management plan and state law. Carbon revenues from the project will go toward general missions for the MI DNR Forest Development Fund including reforestation, stocking and cultivation efforts, as well as into the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and to State Game and Fish fund areas.

Nine rare species have been identified in the project area, including the bald eagle and the secretive locust. Streams in the Big Wild provide excellent habitat for healthy populations of trout including native brook trout and brown trout. Recreation includes equestrian and hiking trails and motorized vehicles are allowed in a portion of the property. Other uses include hunting, fishing, and harvesting of berries, mushrooms, and nuts (non-commercially). It is the goal for all recreational uses that they maintain the "wild" nature of the property with minimal impact.

## Sustainable Development Impacts



The project area is located in the Cheboygan River watershed which is a critical area for groundwater recharge. Its forests naturally filter and purify the water for downstream residents.



Increased population growth around the area has placed pressure on its natural resources. The project will reduce emissions by an estimated 1 million metric tons of CO2 over its first 10 years.



Like nowhere else in the area, the Big Wild Project provides valuable habitat for the many species that live there including grouse, bobcat, woodcock, elk, and beaver.

## Location

