Congratulations Ecofootprint Grant recipients

Ecofootprint is a two-year, $500,000 grant program created in 2023 by Enbridge in partnership with Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc., to support environment restoration and improvement projects along the Line 5 Segment Relocation Project in northern Wisconsin across Ashland, Bayfield, and Iron counties as well as the Bad River Band and Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Last year, during the first round of funding, $150,000 was granted to the Bayfield County Barrens Project and the Cranberry River Fish Passage Project. Today we're pleased to announce the second round of grants totaling $350,000.

Lake Superior Watershed Project

Sponsored by the Bayfield County Forestry Department, Ecofootprint funds will be used to develop stream crossing survey protocols, survey stream crossings on Bayfield County Forest lands and develop a priority list for repair. This project will reduce sediment entering the Lake Superior Basin and create better quality habitat for wildlife.

Tyler Forks Stream Crossing Project

Sponsored by Iron County Land and Water Conservation Department, this project will rebuild a failing culvert over a class II brook trout stream, creating lasting habitat and reducing sediment entering the Bay. This is one of the last and the largest stream crossing projects in the Town of Anderson. With Ecofootprint's help, this shovel-ready project is set to be completed by September of this year!

The Mackey Wetland Enhancement Project

This Bayfield County Land and Water Conservation Department project will rebuild ponds on private forest land being choked by cattails and reed canary grass. The property owner has agreed to use the site as a demonstration area for local students and participate in spring waterfowl surveys. Multiple other small wetland complexes nearby, and the Fish Creek sloughs, will enhance habitat and breeding for migratory waterfowl and native shorebirds and slow the flow of runoff into South Fish Creek and Chequamegon Bay.

The Iron River Community Forest

This Landmark Conservancy project will use Ecofootprint funds to help secure this 860-acre parcel in perpetuity for public use. Once secured, the property will be owned by Bayfield County and become a County Forest. Protection of the property brings assurances by both Landmark and the property owners that the forest will be properly maintained and managed, wildlife habitat protected, and the public will continue to have access to this pristine property.

Grant recipients from 2023 include:

Northwestern Sands Barren Restoration, Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Department in collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) are using Ecofootprint funds to create and maintain pine-oak barrens.

Cranberry River Fish Passage Project, a vision of the Bayfield County Land and Water Conservation Department in collaboration with the Town of Clover and WDNR. This project will add 5.5 miles of spawning grounds for native brook trout to the Cranberry River system through the replacement of a failing culvert that is preventing trout from swimming upstream.

Enbridge is partnering with Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc., (RC&D) to administer the Ecofootprint Grant Program. Lumberjack RC&D is a ten-county, conservation nonprofit in northeastern Wisconsin which, through its own community conservation grant program, has distributed more than $1.2 million to over 100 conservation projects in the past 20 years.

Ecofootprint grant awards were selected from among applicants by a panel of ecology, conservation and philanthropy experts.

Learn more:

- enbridge.com/ecofootprintgrant
- lumberjackRCD.org

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