



## The Next Phase Of The Rogue River Watershed Project

Nichol Stout

The Grand Valley State University Annis Water Resources Institute (AWRI) is currently working on two implementation projects in the Rogue River Watershed. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the United States Environmental Protection Agency support these projects through funds from Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act and the Clean Michigan Initiative. These two implementation projects, an Information & Education Program and Physical Improvements project, were a result of a two-year planning phase for the Rogue River Watershed. During the planning phase a Rogue River Watershed Management Plan, a Rogue River Watershed Project Atlas, and other educational tools were produced.

To develop the management plan and map atlas, critical areas (parts of the watershed that are contributing a majority of pollutants and have the most significant impacts on the waterbody) were identified. Through this analysis, sediment and temperature were identified as known pollutants to the Rogue River Watershed. The Rogue River Watershed Physical Improvements project plans to control the source of these pollutants by repairing three road stream crossings, stabilizing 575 feet of stream bank, and restoring riparian vegetation along sections of the Rogue River. Through partnerships with the Kent County Road Commission, the Newaygo County Road Commission, and the West Michigan Trout Unlimited, this project will protect the coldwater and warmwater fisheries from degradation.



Rogue River

The Rogue River Watershed Information & Education Program complements the Physical Improvements project by promoting activities that will increase the involvement of the community in watershed protection activities through awareness, education, and action. The Grand Valley Metro Council, the Land Conservancy of West Michigan, the West Michigan Environmental Action Council, and the West Michigan Trout Unlimited will assist the AWRI in hosting targeted workshops, organizing Stewardship Monitoring Days, conducting a watershed fair, and many other educational activities. With this program the AWRI anticipates an increase in volunteer monitoring, the creation of vegetative buffers, reduced fertilizer usage, improved septic system maintenance, and more appropriate land use throughout the watershed.

If you would like more information about these projects please contact Project Manager Nichol Stout by email [stoutn@gvsu.edu](mailto:stoutn@gvsu.edu) or telephone at (616) 895-3092. Check out the project web page at [www.gvsu.edu/wri/isc/rogue/index.htm](http://www.gvsu.edu/wri/isc/rogue/index.htm).

The Land Conservancy of West Michigan has published a new brochure for landowners interested in permanently protecting their natural lands. **"Using Conservation Easements to Preserve the Land You Love: A Landowner's Guide"** describes how conservation easements work, potential tax benefits for landowners, costs of creating an easement and the kind of land that qualifies. It is available for free from the Land Conservancy by calling 451-9476 or by making an email request: [lcwm@naturenearby.org](mailto:lcwm@naturenearby.org). The brochure was made possible by the generous support of the Frey Foundation.



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