

STATE SENATOR • MICHAEL PRUSI • 38TH DISTRICT

Prusi Press Release

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Senator Prusi Announces Almost \$3 Million in Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grants for Upper Peninsula

Monies to fund recreation and land acquisition projects

LANSING—State Senator Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming) today commended Governor Granholm's approval of \$2,992,300 in Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grants for projects stretching across the Upper Peninsula in Alger, Chippewa, Delta, Gogebic, Houghton, Keweenaw, Luce, Marquette, Ontonagon, and Schoolcraft Counties. Combined with local and other matching funds, the eight projects total approximately \$3.4 million dollars.

The fifth phase of the acquisition of a working forest conservation easement, which allows continued timber harvesting and preserves public access, on approximately 248,000 acres in the U.P. was the top ranked project this year, receiving a \$1.1 million MNRTF grant. The forest spans Alger, Chippewa, Gogebic, Houghton, Luce, Marquette, Ontonagon, and Schoolcraft Counties (the former Kamehameha Schools land). The entire U.P. will also benefit from \$875,000 for purchasing high-priority winter deer habitat in the Upper Peninsula and northern Lower Peninsula.

“As a former miner, an active outdoorsman, and a public official charged with serving all residents of the 38th District I appreciate the balance the trust fund provides between our natural resources and industrial commerce,” said Sen. Prusi. “For every dollar contributed to our local economies through usage of natural resources, a percentage is going right back into protecting those resources.”

Other Upper Peninsula MNRTF grant projects include:

- **Alger County:** \$210,500 for expansion of the Tourist Park Campground on Lake Superior in Munising. The project includes creating additional campsites with water, sewer, and electrical services, a footbridge and pavilion/restroom/shower building.
- **Delta County:** \$178,300 for renovation of the Upper Peninsula Pocket Park, including renovation of the existing building and the development of a welcome center, display areas, an interactive classroom, accessible bathrooms, and facility upgrades.
- **Keweenaw County:** \$47,100 for enhancing public access to Hunter's Point in Grant Township. Development includes access to Lake Superior with parking, boardwalk, viewing platform, toilet building, and information kiosk.
- **Marquette County:** \$261,600 for the development of the Iron Industry Museum Interpretive Trail System, a two-mile non-motorized interpretive trail system along the Carp River that will include scenic and historical overlooks and informational kiosks.

- **Ontonagon County:** \$87,000 for the acquisition of two acres of Ontonagon riverfront property for the development of a recreational boating facility and public fishing access in the Village of Ontonagon, and \$232,800 for improvements to Ontonagon Township park on Lake Superior to include development of a new restroom/shower building, pedestrian bridge and trails, campsite expansion, electrical upgrades, interpretive signage, and hiking trails.

“These trust fund grants help our local businesses while continually improving the natural resources that drive recreation and tourism,” Sen. Prusi said.

The Michigan Constitution requires that the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board recommend projects to be funded from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. These awards are part of 61 recreation and land acquisition projects totaling more than \$36 million.

The MNRTF is supported by annual revenues from the development of State-owned mineral resources, including oil and gas, and provides financial assistance to local governments and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to purchase land or rights in land for public recreation or protection of land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty. It also assists in the appropriate development of land for public outdoor recreation.

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Sen. Prusi serves on the Senate Finance, Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs, Judiciary, and Energy Policy & Public Utilities Committees. He represents the 38th Senate District, which includes all Upper Peninsula counties west of Luce County.