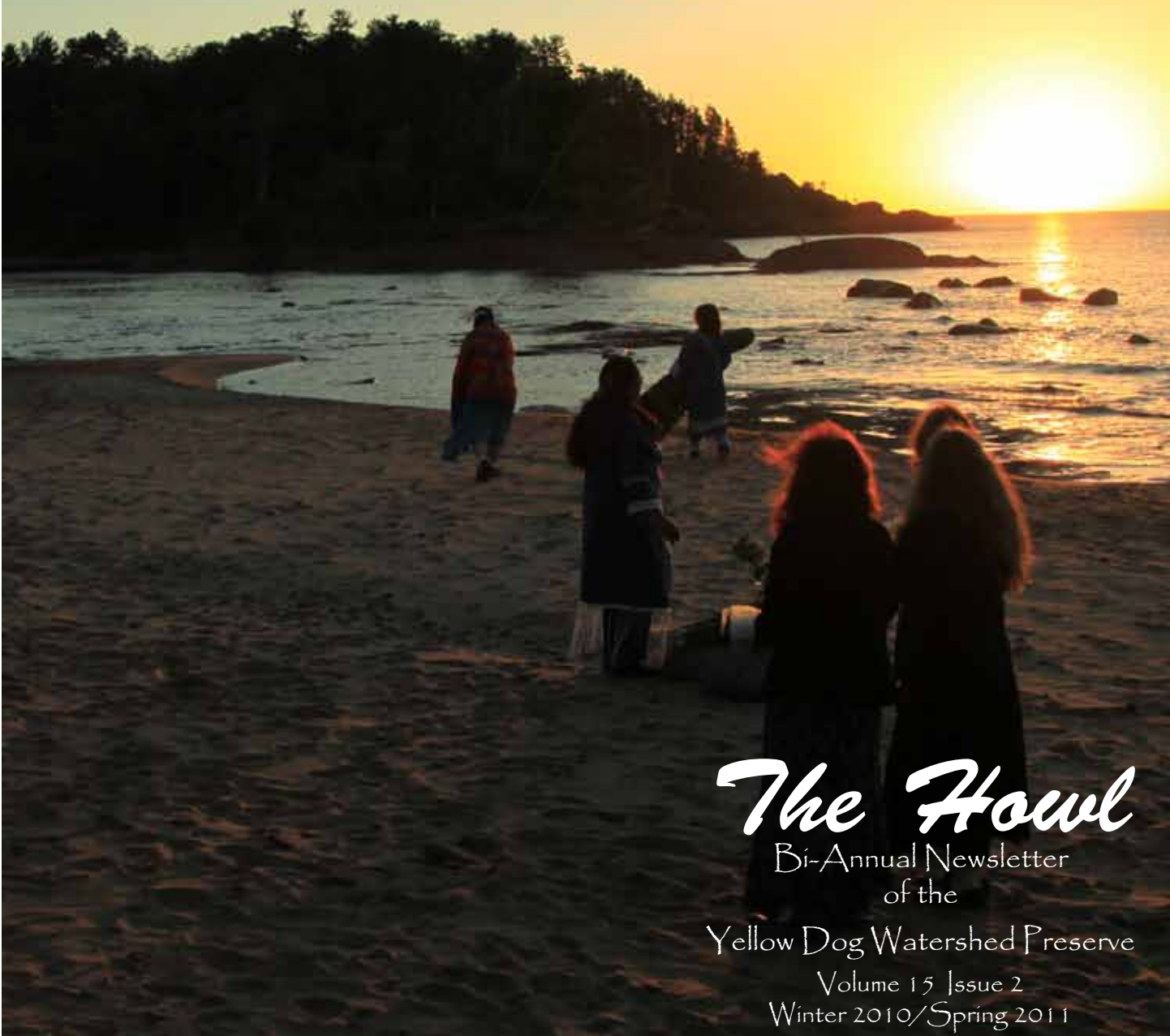




Yellow Dog  
Watershed Preserve



# *The Howl*

Bi-Annual Newsletter  
of the

Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve

Volume 15 Issue 2

Winter 2010/Spring 2011

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

As many of you know, the Yellow Dog River and Salmon-Trout River watersheds have seen pressures from development unmatched since the lumbering days. The potential for a mining project has become somewhat of a reality to those of us living in the watershed. It has certainly taken a toll on our environment and our community and has promised to change the face of the wilds of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. This issue of our newsletter will update you on what has happened and where we are going from here. We received a generous grant from Western Mining Action Network/Indigenous Environmental Network to provide our members and beyond with a full color glimpse of the watershed as it is right now. Chauncey Moran, our **Riverkeeper**, has always documented activity in the watershed but his aerial images are unsurpassed in quality and content. This newsletter will serve as a medium for bringing you to the watershed from the chair in which you are sitting, to fly you over what is happening, and to give you a new view of the work that our group does. We would not be able to bring this newsletter to you within out the help of WMAN/IEN.

*-Lorin Lardie*

### ~ A Memorial to Francis Farwell II by Cynthia Pryor ~

Frank Farwell, Sr. was a man who loved this place. Frank Sr.'s love of place was evidenced in his love of hunting and fishing and by the time he, his wife Jean and their children spent at the Huron Mountain Club. He and Jean passed on their love of place to their children, which is a great legacy and one worth emulating. Frank and his family were always supportive of the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve, Inc. Frank, along with his immediate and extended family, showed their support in the giving of land to our organization in 1999 in Jean's memory after her death. The 160 acres of land, river and wetlands was called the Jean Farwell Wilderness Area and encompassed the Yellow Dog River as it wound its way to Lake Independence. In 2002, our organization was able to use this contribution of land to obtain an additional 160 acres via a U.S. Fish and Wildlife grant. This land is on the Yellow Dog Plains and is the headwaters of the Salmon Trout River. This land is also 1.3 miles from the Kennecott Eagle Mine site and is the basis for our 'standing' in our legal struggles. Frank Farwell, during his last stay at the Huron Mountain Club this summer, took the time to meet with me. His eyes were full of light and knowledge of the world - both this one and the one to come, and he offered me advice about the Kennecott issue and our organization's future role. His smile was one of reassurance and strength. He gave me much that day which I cherish now in his memory. Thank you, Frank. Thank you for your wisdom, seeing eyes and facile brain. Our organization owes much of who we are to you and your family -- and we appreciate it.

Francis C. Farwell II died at the age of 88 in Lake Forest, Illinois. He was buried and laid to rest on December 11, 2010 by his children and grandchildren

### Matching Donation Challenge 2010 A Success!

Over the summer, we were blessed with having the opportunity to do a Matching Donation Challenge. From June to August, we aimed to raise \$2500 to match a private donation from Patrick and Lynn deFreitas. The donations we received went above and beyond our goal and we ended up with over \$4800 directed to the Matching Donation Challenge. In return, the deFreitas family gave YDWP \$5000 to match the donations we received throughout the summer. A huge thanks to Patrick and Lynn deFreitas, as well as Jo Foley who donated the most and won a sailing trip with Superior Odyssey, and of course, everyone who donated to this challenge!



With Grandson, Cody



Skiing at the Huron Mountain Club



## Brave New Watershed

There is much happening out there right now in the watershed. As this article's title suggests, sometimes it feels like a futuristic dystopia for those of us who have always imagined it as a wilderness untouched. While these photos are not the beautiful landscapes that we all love to see, it is our world and it is what we have to work with.

The top right photo illustrates the work that transpired over the summer to bury electric cable from the existing line to the mine site. Permits to do this were deemed unnecessary by our Michigan Department of Natural Resources, except for extending it a short distance from the AAA road to the facilities. Citizen outcry was large.

Below that is an aerial photo of a newly constructed gravel pit to service the mine. Several of these have been popping up in the watershed, many of them permitted only after our group draws attention to their illegal presence. Since gravel and sand mining falls under the law of Part 91, operations are not required to do anything other than fill out a form and pay a small fee.



Pictured above is a severe case of sedimentation. During a heavy rain event this September, tons of sand washed into the Yellow Dog River from a poorly maintained road/stream crossing that was being heavily used by trucks hauling fill to the mine site. Our group met with officials to remedy the situation but it is still not remediated. We continue to seek funding and assistance to fix this. There are numerous sites like this in the watershed and over time, excess sediment can cover substrate used for spawning by trout and decrease dissolved oxygen.

The following two pages show an aerial photograph taken November 9, 2010 by Chauncey Moran of YDWP. It is meant to provide to readers a full understanding of the scale, complexity, and proximity of the Eagle Project. It is the most up to date image we have of the construction that is taking place. Thanks to the aerial photos we have, we are able to monitor activity within the mine site that could not take place from the ground.



Eagle M

Lake Su

Huron Moutains

Treated Wastewater Infiltration System

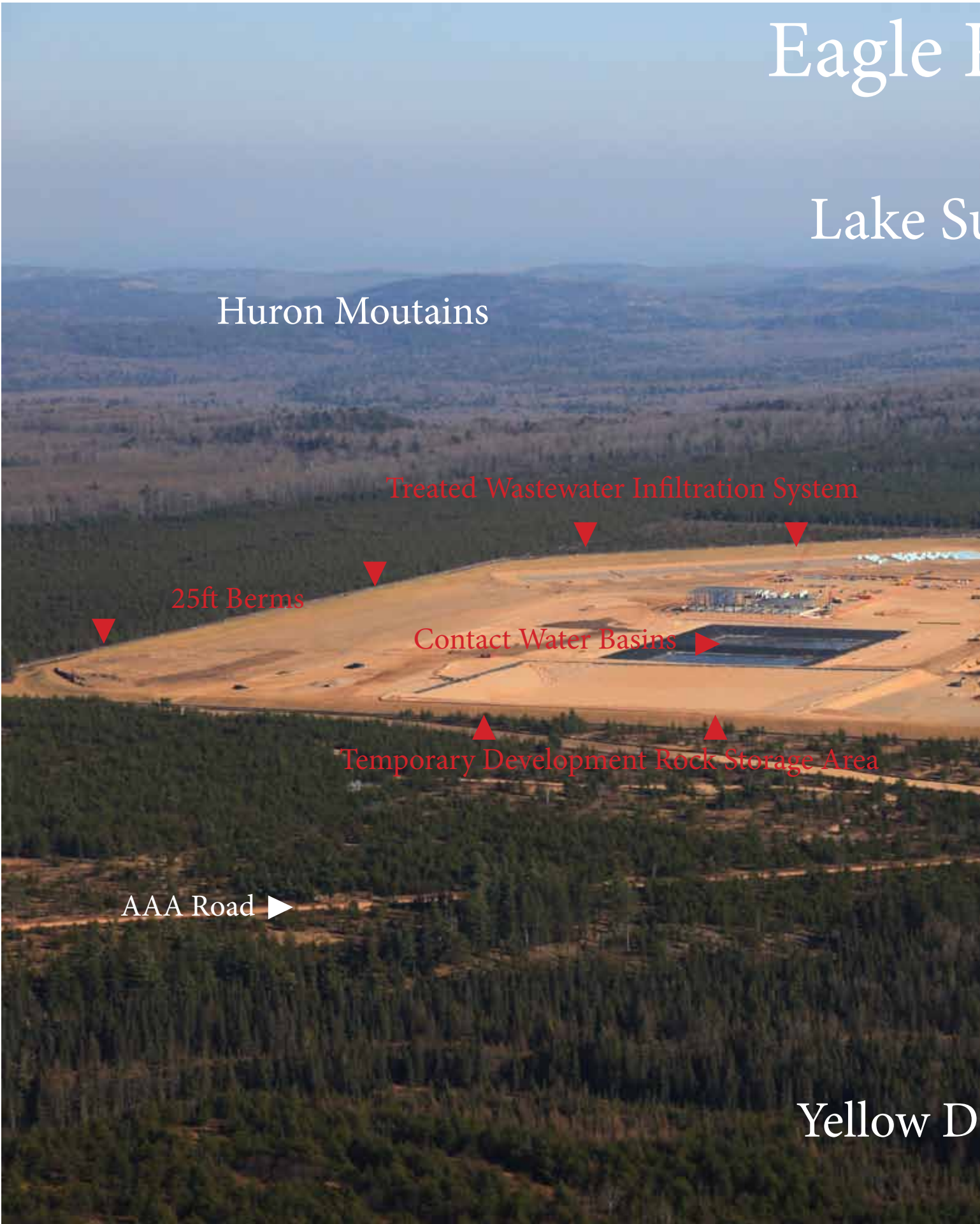
25ft Berms

Contact Water Basins

Temporary Development Rock Storage Area

AAA Road

Yellow D



Project

Superior



◀ Eagle Rock  
Proposed Portal

Main Entrance  
Guard Shack ▶

▶ Salmon-Trout River

og Plains



No matter what happens, YDWP will go on doing what we do best, caring for the watershed. YDWP has been there since day 1 and will be there when all is said and done. This is thanks to the incredible personal dedication of everyone in and outside of our group. We will continue to keep that spirit alive. Here is a glimpse at our recent activities.



### Advocacy

This place is so rural that having a strong voice is crucial. We speak for the well being of our watershed and those who dwell in it. We continually attend meetings with townships, government officials, and commissions to remedy areas of concern and to report violations. Our concerns were heard at a Michigan Environmental Council meeting about lack of environmental law enforcement, as well as the Marquette County Road Commission about additional road building planned in the watershed. We pass this information on to our constituents by having a frequently updated website, email listserv, and Facebook page. And when it is time for action, we are there leading the way, such as hosting part of the Protect the Earth gathering on the plains this summer.



### Education/Outreach

We have been busy teaching others what we have here. Over the summer, we took children to the river at the Huron Mountain Club to learn more about water quality and life in the stream. We also received a grant from Nickelodean to work with Powell Township School and their Green School program. Some messages are new, like talking about climate change under our Freshwater Future Climate grant, and some messages stay the same, like the importance of enjoying the watershed through the hikes and skis we lead. Whatever the event, they are always fun and informative, such as the Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival we hosted this November.



### Water Quality Protection

And of course, without water, there is no life. Protecting the integrity of all water is essential to our group's focus. Just as we have for the past 8 years, we finished our field season of water monitoring in November. With the generous donation of the Walklet family, we are now able to take that information and put it into a mapping system for speedy analysis. This will help pinpoint the who, what, where if there are water quality issues in the future. And since water is not just a local resource, we continue to tie into the regional and national network through our membership to the Waterkeeper Alliance. This year, the conference will be held in Chicago and showcase Great Lakes issues, including our work.



### Land Preservation

A founding strategy of watershed protection for our group has and will continue to be the preservation of lands. Over the years, we have set aside 372 acres for permanent protection. This summer, we spent time researching and investigating new lands that have high preservation value. In addition, we worked with a youth crew controlling severe erosion on the Pinnacle Falls trail. We installed water bars, filled gullies, and diverted the trail in areas in need of restoration. We also installed an educational sign at the trailhead explaining how important reducing erosion is for land protection.



# Lend Your Helping Hand

*The only way these areas will stay protected is through you. Everyone has their role to play, you just need to figure out what yours is.*

**Volunteer!** We have ample opportunities for you to put your skills to work. Whether it is doing a little graphic design work to helping around the office for one day, it all helps and we so appreciate our volunteers! Hundreds of hours have gone into protecting our watershed. Here is a list of those who volunteered their time this year. Check our website for opportunities.

Lynn Emerick  
Mike Nekosha  
Carrie Whittaker  
John Anderson  
Nancy Moran

Tyrinsylis Valinlore  
Chris Lawler  
Rochelle Dale  
Steve Garske  
Megan McDonald

Lauren Murphy  
Anjila Holland  
Daniel Graham  
Sean Soucy  
Mindy Otto

Cory Howes  
Kristen Carlson  
Todd Poirer  
Josh Brown  
Mike Irolla

**Donate!** Without your financial support, our mission would be difficult to accomplish. Non-profits rely heavily on donor contributions so please send a donation if you can. Here is a list of donors since our last newsletter.

Bill/Marilyn Durand  
Jo Foley  
Greg Cleary  
Lon/Lynn Emerick  
Francis Farwell  
Frank/Laura Farwell  
Thomas /Mary Saphner  
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Michael/Denise Parks  
Tommy/Zosie Iacopetti  
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Art/Paula Saari  
Sue Raker  
Brian Bennett  
Susan Puncochar

Bill Argall  
Hilary Bush  
Laura Nagle  
Bruce McGowan  
Hail Spillane  
Peter Adams  
Martha Bush/Ken Bakker  
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Terrence/Frances O'neill  
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Ellen Peter  
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Jim/Sue Knoll  
Todd/Michelle Stephens  
John/Ron Bullock  
David/Lynn Lamkin  
Bruce Monroe  
John/Jean Lyons  
Barbara VanSyckle  
Christopher/Linda Edgar  
Eeva/Robert Miller  
Joyce Keskitalo  
Chris Stahl  
Laurel Hammond  
Karen/Rob Schmitt  
Keith/Vada Kepler

Daniel Rydholm  
Kathleen Heideman  
Gene Thompson  
Tom Scannell  
Geraldyn Sullivan  
Robert/Carolyn Myers  
Corwith Hamill  
William/Anne Manierre  
Mark Mitchell  
Wayne Thorpe  
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Sarah Daniels  
Barbara Michaels  
Mark Stevens/Dan Hardie  
Ben/Dorothy Mukkala  
Mark Halonen  
Stefanie Lawler  
Barbara/Richard Boss  
Linda Dionne  
Tom Lakenen  
Clyde/Maggie Moran  
Yvonne/Rick Pollick

**Stay Up to Date!** There are many ways to stay informed about issues our watershed faces. Here are a few ways to keep up: 1) Sign up for our email listserv by emailing us at [ydwp@yellowdogwatershed.org](mailto:ydwp@yellowdogwatershed.org), 2) Check our website frequently. We use our site as a way to get new information to our supporters. Visit at [www.yellowdog-watershed.org](http://www.yellowdog-watershed.org), 3) Become a Facebook friend. We post news and links to information and events on our page.

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#### **Staff**

Emily Whittaker, Executive Director  
Cynthia Pryor, Sulfide Mining Campaign  
Wendy Johnson, Preserve Coordinator

*Our mission since 1995 has been to protect and preserve the Yellow Dog River and its watershed for the benefit of present and future generations.*



Waterfalls on National Wild and Scenic Yellow Dog River in McCormick Wilderness Area

### **Up Coming Events**

- Winter Bird Survey: February 5, 2011, 9:30 am, YDWP office in Big Bay. We will be going out and surveying several habitats in the watershed to see who is brave enough to stand the winter here! Call our office to RSVP.
- Winter Back Country Ski Fundraiser: February 12, 2011, 10am, meet in Big Bay to carpool. We will take you on an uncharted jaunt through some high and low terrain, then provide a delicious meal at a warm cabin in the woods. Call to RSVP. Space limited. Donations appreciated.
- Benefit Concert featuring Legacy's Act: March 25, 2011, 7:30pm, Landmark Inn. Come relax and rock out with us to celebrate all the good work we ALL have done.