

The Beauty of Learning  
By  
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The Yellow Dog River is located in the pristine Northwestern area of Marquette County, Michigan. As part of an Academic Service Learning Project (ASL) our Freshman Composition class had the privilege to see the Yellow Dog River, and experience its breathtaking view. Along with other issues the articles and projects completed by our class will help raise awareness about the necessity of wilderness preservation. Also, our partnership with the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve allows our class to write for a broader audience and learn about the writing process. It gives us the opportunity to write about real-life problem we face in our communities.



We drove through the rain on a muddy, puddle filled windy road to the location designated by Emily Whittaker, the Executive Director of the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve. When we could drive no longer, we hiked through the woods to the first waterfall. The rocks were slippery, but the view was spectacular. The air was brisk, and smelled of crisp fall leaves. Even though the rain brought a gloomy atmosphere, we continued to hike through the woods to another set of falls, just as beautiful as the first. The river is virtually untouched with only a few cabins sporadically located throughout the woods on the way to the river itself. Although we were all cold and wet from the rain, we all took in the beauty, each of us reacting in our own way.



During our outing, we also learned about the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve and what they are doing to preserve more of the land so that future generations are able to experience the same natural beauty that we were. The Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve was created in 1995 by a group of locals concerned about logging and the division of properties. They work together to educate people about the importance of preservation and then work to set aside parcels of land in order to preserve cultural, ecological, and recreational settings. The basic goal of the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve is to preserve for future generations. So far they have been able to fundraise enough money to protect 412 acres.

Currently, the Yellow Dog River is cleaner than EPA drinking water standards, but that status may be threatened by commercial logging, mining, development, and overuse.

After visiting the Yellow Dog River, we feel we all have a greater appreciation for the wilderness and the people who are trying to preserve it. It is truly astonishing to see something so bare and untouched in such a chaotic world.

The following articles and projects are those of our peers. Some focus on wilderness preservation in general while others focus on The Yellow Dog River specifically. While each article tackles a different angle of wilderness preservation we all agreed that the Yellow Dog River is a special place, one that allows us to get

in touch with nature. It reminds us to stop and look around at the beauty which surrounds us. Often we take for granted the little things such as the falls of a river or the beauty of the leaves falling. By maintaining this land we can always find our way back to the things that matter.  
Photos courtesy of Chelsea Nottle