



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Ontonagon River, Michigan

Great Lakes Tributary Model Program (Section 516e, WRDA 96)

Project Location: The Ontonagon River watershed includes 1384 square miles of land in portions of five counties in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula and Northern Wisconsin.

Project Description: The Ontonagon River drains through a federally-maintained deep-draft navigation channel before discharging to Lake Superior. The watershed is dominated by forests, with a large portion of the watershed within the Ottawa National Forest. Population density within the watershed is very low with an average of approximately 10 people per square mile.

Project Benefits: The primary source of sediment that deposits in the federal navigation channel at the Ontonagon River outlet is mass wasting and river bank erosion. Sediment deposition is significant and dredging is conducted on the channel annually. A modern sediment budget and historic sediment yield were calculated to determine the natural sediment load to Lake Superior. To address downstream management of sediment, a sediment transport model of the lower 2.5 miles of the Ontonagon River was developed. The sediment transport model may be used to identify impacts associated with harbor modifications, or determine sedimentation rates based on various dredging management scenarios. In addition, the model may be used to analyze proposed sediment trap efficiencies, as well as determine impacts to dredging requirements if there is a change in the watershed hydrology as a result of reservoir management or climate change.

Status: A detailed scoping report was approved in January 2010. Project was completed in August, 2010.

Schedule:

Milestone	Date
Complete scoping report	Jan 2010
Complete model development	Aug 2010
Training workshop	Aug 2010

Project Costs:

Estimated Project Costs	
Federal – E&W	\$157,921
Federal – GLRI	\$0
Total	\$157,921

Project Partners: USFS, Ontonagon River Watershed Council, Ontonagon County Road Commission, Ontonagon Soil Conservation District, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (Fisheries).

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