

# **Investigation of the Aquatic Communities of the Salmon Trout River, Yellow Dog River, and Cedar Creek in Marquette County, Michigan, 2014.**

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**List of Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Symbols**

AEM	Advanced Ecological Management LLC
$\bar{x}$	Average
CC	Cedar Creek
CAS No.	Chemical abstract service number
°C	Degrees Celsius
EQL	Estimated quantification limit
ft	Feet
e.g.	For example
gpm	Gallons per minute
GLEAS	Great Lakes and Environmental Assessment Section
KME	King & MacGregor Environmental
pH	Measure of acidity or alkalinity of a solution
MDEQ	Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
MNFI	Michigan Natural Features Inventory
µS/cm	MicroSiemens per centimeter
mg O <sub>2</sub> /L	Milligrams of oxygen per liter of water
mg/kg	Milligrams per kilogram
ml	Milliliters
MDL	Minimum detection limit
N	North
n.a.	Not applicable
n.m.	Not measured
n.s.	Not sampled
P-51	Procedure Number 51
R	Range
<i>n</i>	Sample size
Sec	Section
<i>s</i>	Standard deviation
STRE	Salmon Trout River East Branch
STRM	Salmon Trout River Main Branch
T	Township
W	West
WCR	Wetland and Coastal Resources
YDR	Yellow Dog River

## 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Eagle Project is located in northern Marquette County, Michigan as shown on Figure 1-1. Previous aquatic surveys have been conducted in the area, some within several of the same stations as these surveys. These surveys are similar in scope to the 2006 aquatic survey (AEM, 2007) and are consistent with most of the stations sampled in the 2008 aquatic surveys (AEM, 2009). Where applicable, aquatic surveys at each station included fish, macroinvertebrate, and habitat community ratings according to the metrics outlined in the Great Lakes and Environmental Assessment Section (GLEAS) Procedure Number 51 (P-51), a survey protocol for wadable streams and rivers.

Fish were collected from ten locations including stations within the Salmon Trout River, tributaries in the East Branch of the Salmon Trout River, the Yellow Dog River, and Cedar Creek. Station locations are shown on Figure 1-2. Station locations have remained consistent since 2011 when Stations 4 and 8 were relocated because of high water from beaver dams.

The aquatic systems that were investigated for these surveys are predominantly functioning as coldwater trout streams. Because most of the fish communities of the Salmon Trout River, its tributaries, and the Yellow Dog River were comprised of trout greater than 1% of the fish community composition, the P-51 fish community scores were determined from the macroinvertebrate community ratings for those streams. The macroinvertebrate communities within the Salmon Trout River have been scored by AEM as excellent or acceptable communities. Consistent with previous surveys conducted by AEM, the total number of macroinvertebrates collected from each station has varied annually. However, in most stations, the macroinvertebrate community rating was consistent with previous sampling efforts conducted by AEM, Wetland and Coastal Resources (WCR), and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ; AEM, 2013; AEM, 2012a and b; AEM, 2009; AEM, 2008a; AEM, 2007; WCR, 2005; MDEQ/Premo et al., 2005, 2006).

The aquatic habitat was rated as excellent or good by AEM. The 2014 aquatic habitat scores were consistent with previous evaluations that were conducted by AEM, except for Station 9, which changed from a rating of excellent in 2013 to a rating of good in 2014 (AEM, 2013; AEM, 2012a and b; AEM, 2009; AEM, 2008a and b). A summary of P-51 macroinvertebrate and aquatic habitat scores appears on Table 1-1.

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

In December 2007, Eagle Mine was granted a set of permits from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to mine ore from an ore body located on the Yellow Dog Plains near the Main Branch of the Salmon Trout River (Figure 1-2). As part of a pre-mining environmental baseline, aquatic community investigations were conducted within the Salmon Trout River and its tributaries, the Yellow Dog River, and Cedar Creek (KME, 2005; WCR, 2005; MDEQ/Premo et al., 2005, 2006; AEM, 2007; AEM 2008a and b; AEM, 2009). This 2014 aquatic community survey represents the fourth annual aquatic survey that has been conducted by AEM on behalf of Eagle Mine since operations commenced in 2011. This 2014 aquatic survey is intended to satisfy mine permit requirements (Permit Condition L-40).

## 3.0 STUDY AREA

The principle area investigated for this study included portions of the Salmon Trout River and its tributaries, the Yellow Dog River, and Cedar Creek (Figure 1-2). These systems are all coldwater streams that flow through relatively undeveloped watersheds that are predominantly forested. The ore body and mine site are located near the headwaters of the Salmon Trout River Main Branch, which flows in a northeastern direction (Figure 1-2). The Salmon Trout River is characterized by a variety of habitat types in the vicinity of the stream segments investigated and includes slow-flowing segments with a silt substrate that have been heavily influenced by beaver activity (e.g., Stations 6 and 7), and high-gradient segments flowing through forested and hilly terrain with beaver dams intermittent (e.g., Stations 1 and 8).

The Yellow Dog River flows to the west along the southern boundary of the Yellow Dog Plains (Figure 1-2). Cedar Creek flows to the north and is not located within the same watershed as the Eagle mining project. Cedar Creek serves as a reference stream for the Eagle Project.

## 4.0 METHODS

The 2014 aquatic survey was conducted according to the MDEQ's Surface Water Quality Division *Procedure #51 Survey Protocols for Wadable Rivers* (P-51; MDEQ, 2008). Ten stream segments (stations) were sampled in the summer of 2014 using the P-51 survey protocol (Figure 1-2).

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These sample stations are situated in the same sample locations, or close to the sample locations that were surveyed by AEM in 2013, 2012, 2011 and 2008. The 2014 aquatic survey follows protocol established in the Wetland and Coastal Resources survey of 2004, (WCR, 2005) in that fish collection data are summarized and P-51 scores are provided for macroinvertebrates and habitat quality.

#### **4.1 Fish Collection**

Survey stations were blocked at the upstream and downstream extents using seines that measured 4 feet by 50 feet, with a 0.19-inch mesh size. When adequate habitat conditions permitted, a multi-pass removal technique was used to evaluate fish abundance throughout each station (Van Deventer and Platts, 1983). A backpack electroshocker was used in narrow (approximately  $\leq 10$  feet), or difficult-to-access stations (e.g., areas with abundant woody debris). A barge-mounted electroshocker was used to sample stations that were deep (approximately 2 to 3 feet), wide (approximately  $> 10$  feet), and where woody debris was sparse enough to permit the passage of the barge unit. Three consecutive passes were conducted, each in an upstream direction. The duration of electroshocking was recorded for each pass and stunned fish were placed in a live-well for identification and enumeration. Following the third pass and subsequent fish identification, fish were released within the station.

As part of the enumeration process, the number of each species present was recorded. One representative of each species that was not identifiable in the field was placed in a voucher jar containing 10% formalin for later identification. Each voucher jar was labeled according to the sample location and date. Fish were identified to species using various taxonomic references (Bailey et al., 2003; Coon, 2001; Becker, 1983). The Michigan County Element List (MNFI, 2014) was also reviewed to determine if any threatened, endangered, or special concern aquatic species occurred within the Salmon Trout River and its tributaries, the Yellow Dog River, or Cedar Creek.

#### **4.2 Macroinvertebrates**

Sampling of aquatic macroinvertebrates, including mussels and crayfish (Decapoda), was conducted according to the P-51 protocol. Upon completion of fish sampling, macroinvertebrates were collected within each station using D-framed kick-nets (Merritt et al., 1996). Stations were sampled for 45 minutes using two kick-nets (total sample time = 1.5 hours) and samples were collected in all habitat types within each station to

characterize the macroinvertebrate community. Collected specimens were stored in 250 ml plastic wide-mouth jars containing 70% ethanol, and were identified using various taxonomic references (Merritt et al., 2008; Bright, 2014; McCafferty, 1998; Cummings and Mayer, 1992; Peckarsky et al., 1990; Pennak, 1990).

The macroinvertebrate data were analyzed according to nine metrics identified in the P-51 methodology. The sum of the macroinvertebrate scores can range from –9 to +9; and are graded as excellent, acceptable, or poor according to the summation of the metric scores.

#### 4.3 Stream Habitat Evaluation

Riparian and in-stream habitats were qualitatively described for each station during the aquatic survey. A description of stream morphology included run/riffle/pool/shallow pool configurations, substrate, substrate embeddedness, in-stream cover, vegetation, flow stability, and bank stability. Stream habitat was rated as excellent, good, marginal, or poor based on P-51 scores interpreted from 10 habitat metrics. Habitat was rated according to the following P-51 habitat scores (MDEQ, 2008):

Habitat characterization	Total Point Score
1. Excellent	> 154
2. Good	105 – 154
3. Marginal	56 – 104
4. Poor	< 56

Habitat conditions, water quality, and stream dimensions were documented during the aquatic survey. Photographs were taken at each station to illustrate the conditions during the sampling period (Exhibit C). Water temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and conductivity were measured as part of the stream habitat evaluation. These water quality parameters were measured using a Yellow Springs Instrument Professional Plus water quality meter.

Wetted stream width was measured at the lower, middle, and upper extent of each sample station. Depth was measured in the center, and at 20% and 80% of each stream width cross section. Stream flow was measured with a Marsh-McBirney Flo-Mate 2000®.



## 5.0 RESULTS

A total of ten stations were surveyed during June 2014, including one station in the Yellow Dog River, one station in Cedar Creek, five stations in the Main Branch of the Salmon Trout River, and three stations in tributaries of the East Branch of the Salmon Trout River (Table 5-1 and Figure 1-2). Aquatic community sampling was conducted for all stations except for Station 4 and Station 10 from 5 June 2014 through 13 June 2014. Station 5 in the Yellow Dog River and Station 6 in the Salmon Trout River were sampled on 5 June 2014, Stations 9 and 10 in the Salmon Trout River were sampled on 10 June 2014, Stations 2, 3 and 8 in the Salmon Trout River were sampled on 11 June 2014, and Stations 1 and 7 in the Salmon Trout River were sampled on 12 June 2014. Station 4 in Cedar Creek was surveyed on 13 June 2014.

### 5.1 Fish

A total of 1,365 fish were collected from all stations with 93% of the total being captured in Station 6 (Table 5-2). Among all stations, a total of six species of fish were observed during the aquatic survey (Table 5-2). Northern redbelly dace (*Phoxinus eos*), brook sticklebacks (*Culaea inconstans*), and brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) were the most frequently collected species among all stations.

No Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) listed threatened or endangered fish species were identified in the stations investigated in the Salmon Trout River and its tributaries, Yellow Dog River, or Cedar Creek in Marquette County, Michigan (MNFI, 2014).

#### 5.1.1 Salmon Trout River Tributaries: Stations 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10

Northern redbelly dace, brook sticklebacks, and brook trout were the most frequently observed species among all eight stations within the Salmon Trout River system (Table 5-2). Brook trout were the only species collected in Stations 1, 8 and 10 during June 2014.

A total of six brook trout were collected from Station 1 during 2014 (Table 5-2). Two more fish were collected from Station 1 during 2014 compared to the 2013 survey.

A total of 22 fish, including three brook trout, 19 northern redbelly dace were collected from Stations 2 and 3. One less brook trout was collected from Station 2 and 3 in 2014

than was collected in 2013. Fish community composition has remained consistent with previous surveys.

In Station 6, a total of 1,266 fish were collected in 2014 and northern redbelly dace was the most abundant species (Table 5-2). The 2014 total catch from Station 6 was greater than the 2013 total catch of 954 fish, and the relative abundance of each species was consistent between 2013 and 2014. Station 6 fish size has been characterized by small fish that typically have been three inches or less in length.

Consistent with previous surveys, habitat conditions from beaver activity in Station 7 made it difficult to adequately block the station. Therefore, only a single-pass removal was conducted within this station. The fish community of Station 7 remained consistent with previous surveys, and was comprised of six northern redbelly dace and a two brook sticklebacks (Table 5-2).

Five brook trout were collected from Station 8 during 2014 compared to a total of three that were collected during 2013 (Table 5-2). Station 9 continues to exhibit annual variation in catch where a total of eight brook trout were collected in 2014 compared to a total of 22 that were collected during 2013.

The total number of fish collected from Station 10 in 2014 was five brook trout (Table 5-2). The total number of fish collected in 2013 was four fish, including two northern redbelly dace and two brook trout.

#### **5.1.2 Yellow Dog River: Station 5**

Station 5 is located in the Yellow Dog River and a total of 19 fish were collected during June 2014. The Station 5 fish community was comprised of three species, including 10 brook trout, six blacknose dace (*Rhinichthys atratulus*), and three mottled sculpin (*Cottus bairdii*). A total of 15 brook trout and two longnose dace (*Rhinichthys cataractae*) were collected in the 2013 aquatic survey of Station 5.

#### **5.1.3 Cedar Creek: Station 4**

Station 4 is located in Cedar Creek outside of the project area drainage basin. The 2014 survey was conducted in the same location (immediately downstream of the road crossing) as the 2011-2013 surveys to maintain consistency with recent surveys. In

addition, because of a channel braiding that occurred throughout much of the station, adequate blocking with nets was not possible. Therefore, a single pass removal was conducted in Station 4.

The total number of brook trout collected from Station 4 has varied annually since 2011. A total of 25 brook trout were collected from Station 4 in 2014 (Table 5-2) compared to a total of 19 that were collected in 2013, 10 that were collected in 2012, and 44 that were collected in 2011. The fewer brook trout collected in 2012 were related to a malfunctioning of the electroshocking gear.

## **5.2 Macroinvertebrates**

A total of 1,974 macroinvertebrates were collected from all ten stations that were investigated in 2014, which was 154 fewer specimens than the total number collected in 2013 (total number collected = 2,128). Because of beaver dams in the vicinity of Station 6 and Station 7, the P-51 macroinvertebrate metrics evaluation protocol was not applied in these locations.

### **5.2.1 Salmon Trout River: Stations 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10**

A total of 1,630 macroinvertebrates representing 52 taxa identified to the Family level were observed collectively from Stations 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 in the Salmon Trout River and its tributaries during 2014. The greatest numbers of macroinvertebrates were collected from Station 1 and the fewest number of macroinvertebrates were collected from Station 7 (Table 5-3).

A total of 303 macroinvertebrates were collected in Station 1 compared to 2013 where a total of 168 macroinvertebrates were collected in the same station. Ephemeropterans (mayflies), trichopterans (caddisflies), and Dipterans (flies) were the most frequently collected macroinvertebrates in Station 1 (Table 5-3).

A total of 276 macroinvertebrates were collected from Station 2 with flies, mayflies and caddisflies being the most frequently collected macroinvertebrates in this station. A total of 222 macroinvertebrates were collected from Station 3 with caddisflies, flies, and mayflies being the most frequently collected macroinvertebrates (Table 5-3).

A total of 260 macroinvertebrates were collected from Station 6, where amphipods (scuds), caddisflies, and Odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) were the most frequently collected macroinvertebrates (Table 5-3). A total of 84 macroinvertebrates were collected from Station 7 in 2014 compared to a total of 158 macroinvertebrates in 2013. The annual variation in macroinvertebrate abundance in Station 7 is consistent with previous surveys, such as was observed in 2012 where a total of 105 macroinvertebrates were collected from Station 7. The macroinvertebrate community of Station 7 is similar to Station 6 where scuds were the most frequently collected organisms and Odonates were also frequently observed when compared to other stations (Table 5-3).

A total of 225 macroinvertebrates were collected from Station 8, 124 macroinvertebrates were collected from Station 9, and 136 macroinvertebrates were collected from Station 10 (Table 5-3). Among Stations 8, 9, and 10 caddisflies, mayflies, and flies were frequently collected. Dragonflies and damselflies were also abundant within Station 10.

Where possible, macroinvertebrate collection data have been evaluated in accordance with the metrics outlined in P-51. Table 5-4 summarizes the values and scores for the nine metrics for each station. P-51 station ratings for the Salmon Trout River have typically ranged from Acceptable to Excellent among years sampled by AEM. Stations 1, 8, 9, and 10 were rated as “Excellent”, and Stations 2 and 3 were rated as “Acceptable” in 2014.

### **5.2.2 Yellow Dog River: Station 5**

A total of 83 macroinvertebrates representing 17 taxa identified to the Family level were collected in Station 5 from the Yellow Dog River (Table 5-3). Caddisflies and Odonates were the most frequently collected macroinvertebrates. Although the 2014 abundance of macroinvertebrates was approximately half of the total number of macroinvertebrates observed in 2013 (total number collected = 158), the annual variation in total number of macroinvertebrates is consistent with previous surveys, such as 2011 where a total of 82 macroinvertebrates were collected from Station 5. The macroinvertebrate community of Station 5 was rated as “Acceptable” in 2014 (Table 5-4).

### 5.2.3 Cedar Creek: Station 4

A total of 261 macroinvertebrates representing 27 taxa identified to the Family level were collected from Cedar Creek in Station 4 during 2014 (Table 5-3). Caddisflies, and mayflies were the most frequently collected macroinvertebrates. The macroinvertebrate community of Station 4 was rated as “Excellent” in 2014 (Table 5-4).

## 5.3 Stream Habitat

Stream habitat has remained consistent since 2011 when beaver activity affected several stations and required the relocation of two stations to conduct the survey. The habitat conditions for all stations surveyed are described below.

### 5.3.1 Salmon Trout River: Stations 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10

Station 1 is located in a narrow valley with relatively steep slopes rising more than 100 feet to the Yellow Dog Plains. Station 1 was 120 feet in length with an average width of 8.3 feet ( $s = 1.5$  feet,  $n = 3$ ), and average depth of 0.3 feet ( $s = 0.1$  feet,  $n = 9$ , Table 5-5). Stream flow was measured at the downstream extent of Station 1 and discharge was estimated at 1,200 gallons per minute (gpm, Table 5-5).

The streambanks of Station 1 appeared consistent with conditions observed in previous surveys, and were vegetated with herbaceous and woody vegetation (Photographs C-1 and C-2). The streambed was characterized by a relatively steep gradient and the substrate was comprised of a variety of particles including sand, gravel, cobble, and boulders (Photographs C-1 and C-2). Woody debris was frequently observed throughout the station and appeared consistent with conditions observed in 2013.

Station 2 is located south of Triple A Road and Station 3 is located north of Triple A Road (Figure 1-2 and Table 5-1). Station 2 was 100 feet in length and Station 3 was 200 feet in length. Average width of Station 2 was 6.3 feet ( $n = 3$ ;  $s = 1.3$  feet), and average width of Station 3 was 8.1 feet ( $n = 3$ ;  $s = 1.1$  feet, Table 5-5). Average depth in Station 2 was 0.9 feet ( $n = 9$ ;  $s = 0.5$  feet), and average depth in Station 3 was 0.4 feet ( $n = 9$ ;  $s = 0.2$  feet). Stream flow for Stations 2 and 3 was measured at the downstream extent of Station 3, and discharge was estimated at 734 gpm in 2014 (Table 5-5).

Station 2 was surrounded by an abundance of speckled alder (*Alnus rugosa*) and bluejoint grass (*Calamagrostis canadensis*, Photographs C-3 to C-4). Habitat conditions

of Station 2 were consistent with 2013 observations. Evidence of beaver activity was present with the upstream extent of Station 2 and two partially constructed dams were present within the stream channel. Silt and organic matter appeared to be more abundant within the upstream extent of Station 2.

The streambank vegetation within Station 3 appeared similar to conditions observed in 2013. The vegetation within Station 3 was predominantly speckled alder with an understory of bluejoint grass and sedge (*Carex* sp., Photographs C-5 to C-6). Watercress (*Nasturtium* sp.) was present within portions of the stream channel of Station 3.

Station 6 is located in the vicinity of the ore body (Figure 1-2). Station 6 is 300 feet in length and was influenced by beaver dams that were located downstream and upstream of the station. The average width of Station 6 was 15.8 feet ( $n = 3$ ;  $s = 4.4$  feet) and the average depth was 2.0 feet ( $n = 9$ ;  $s = 0.2$  feet, Table 5-5), which was 0.6 feet shallower than the average depth in 2013. Stream flow was measured at the middle extent of Station 6 and discharge was estimated at 78 gpm (Table 5-5). The 2013 discharge measurement was estimated at 831 gpm. The reduction in discharge estimates from 2013 to 2014 may have been a result of less water flowing through the system in 2014 and a combination of windy conditions that were observed at the time of stream flow measurements, which may have temporarily slowed water flow through the station.

The streambanks in Station 6 appeared similar to conditions observed in 2013, and were characterized by tussock sedge (*Carex stricta*), iris (*Iris* sp.), rush (*Juncus* sp.), willows (*Salix* sp.) and speckled alder (Photographs C-7 to C-8). Much of the aquatic vegetation seen during the summer sampling event was growing on organic matter that appeared to function as a floating mat of vegetation. The substrate of Station 6 was predominantly comprised of organic matter and fine sediments, such as silt and clay. Woody debris was present throughout the stream channel.

Station 7 is located near the headwaters of the Salmon Trout River and is influenced by beaver dams throughout the vicinity. Station 7 is 100 feet in length and a beaver dam is located at the upstream extent of this station. The average width of Station 7 was 6.0 feet ( $n = 3$ ;  $s = 1.4$  feet) and the average depth was 1.2 feet ( $n = 9$ ;  $s = 0.2$  feet, Table 5-

5). Stream flow was not measured in Station 7 because of channel braiding due to beaver activity.

The streambanks of Station 7 were vegetated with speckled alder, tussock sedge, rush, and iris (Photographs C-9 and C-10), and appeared similar to conditions observed in 2013. The substrate was comprised of organic matter and silt. Woody debris was abundant throughout this station.

Because of high water from a beaver dam that was constructed in 2008, Station 8 was relocated in 2011 from approximately 50 feet southwest of Northwestern Road to approximately 75 feet northeast of Northwestern Road, and extending downstream (northeast) for 135 feet (Figure 1-2, Table 5-1). The average width of Station 8 was 9.0 feet ( $n = 3$ ;  $s = 1.0$  feet) and the average depth was 0.6 feet ( $n = 9$ ;  $s = 0.2$  feet, Table 5-5). Stream flow was measured at the middle extent of Station 8 and discharge was estimated at 1,577 gpm (Table 5-5).

The stream channel of Station 8 was largely shaded by a dense canopy of speckled alder with an abundance of sedge growing along the streambank (Photographs C-11 and C-12). Small woody debris and undercut banks were present throughout the station, and the stream substrate was predominantly comprised of sand and small gravel.

Station 9 is located immediately southwest of Northwestern Road and is approximately 85 feet in length (Figure 1-2). The average width of Station 9 was 8.3 feet ( $n = 3$ ;  $s = 0.3$  feet) and average depth was 0.9 feet ( $n = 9$ ;  $s = 0.6$  feet, Table 5-5). Stream flow was measured at the downstream extent of Station 9 and discharge was estimated at 1,233 gpm (Table 5-5).

Many of the small pools within Station 9 appeared to have filled in with sand since the 2013 aquatic survey. Riparian habitat appeared consistent with the 2013 survey where the understory of Station 9 was predominately sedge, while speckled alder covered much of the stream channel and contributed to in-stream cover (Photographs C-13 to C-14). The substrate throughout the station was predominantly comprised of sand and silt.

Station 10 is located immediately southwest of Northwestern Road and is approximately 100 feet in length (Figure 1-2). Average width of Station 10 was 5.2 feet ( $n = 3$ ;  $s = 1.1$  feet) and average depth was 0.4 feet ( $n = 9$ ;  $s = 0.2$  feet, Table 5-5). Stream flow was measured at the downstream extent of Station 10 and discharge was estimated at 200 gpm (Table 5-5).

The streambanks within Station 10 were vegetated with large deciduous trees, speckled alder, and other herbaceous vegetation (Photographs C-15 and C-16), and appeared similar to conditions observed in 2013. Woody debris and undercut banks provided in-stream cover throughout this station. The substrate was predominantly comprised of sand, silt and some gravel; although cobble and large boulders were also present.

### **5.3.2 Yellow Dog River: Station 5**

Station 5 is located immediately west of an unnamed road that crosses the Yellow Dog River in a north-south orientation and links to Triple A Road approximately 1.5 miles north of the river (Figure 1-2). The station is 300 feet in length, with an average width of 25.1 feet ( $n = 3$ ;  $s = 4.5$  feet) and average depth of 2.0 feet ( $n = 9$ ;  $s = 0.9$  feet, Table 5-5). The 2014 stream flow was measured at the downstream extent of Station 5 and discharge was estimated at 9,337 gpm (Table 5-5).

Streambanks appeared consistent with the 2013 survey and were vegetated with a dense covering of speckled alder, which contributed to in-stream cover and woody debris within the channel (Photographs C-17 to C-18). The substrate was predominantly comprised of sand and silt.

### **5.3.3 Cedar Creek: Station 4**

The downstream extent of Station 4 was relocated from approximately 117 feet upstream (south) of Northwestern Road to approximately 300 feet downstream (north) of Northwestern Road in 2011 because of high water from beaver dams (Figure 1-2). Station 4 was 300 feet in length, with an average width of 23.6 feet ( $n = 3$ ;  $s = 2.1$  feet) and average depth of 1.1 feet ( $n = 9$ ;  $s = 0.4$  feet, Table 5-5). Stream flow was measured at the upstream extent of Station 4 and discharge was estimated at 5,084 gpm (Table 5-5).



The riparian vegetation throughout much of the relocated Station 4 was mature northern white cedars (*Thuja occidentalis*), and white pines (*Pinus strobus*). Speckled alder was also present along the stream channel in the upstream and downstream extents of the station (Photographs C-19 and C-20). The river channel was braided throughout the middle portion of the station, with frequent undercut banks, large woody debris and variety of substrate, including sand, gravel, cobble and boulders contributing to habitat complexity.

#### **5.3.4 P-51 Habitat Scores**

Stations sampled during 2014 were rated as “Good” or “Excellent” habitat quality (Table 5-6). Station 9 habitat changed from an “Excellent” rating in previous years to a “Good” rating in 2014. The 2014 P-51 habitat ratings for all other stations were consistent with previous surveys conducted by AEM (AEM, 2013, 2012a and b; AEM, 2008a; AEM, 2007).

#### **5.4 Water Quality**

Water temperature ranged from 9.8°C in Station 4 to 19.3°C in Station 2 during 2014 (Table 5-7). Dissolved oxygen was lowest in Station 7 at 5.7 mg/L and was highest in Station 9 at 10.8 mg/L in. Average pH ranged from 6.8 in Station 5 to 8.2 in Station 8. Conductivity was low in all stations, ranging from 39 microSiemens per cm (µS/cm) in Station 7 to 101 µS/cm in Station 10 (Table 5-7).

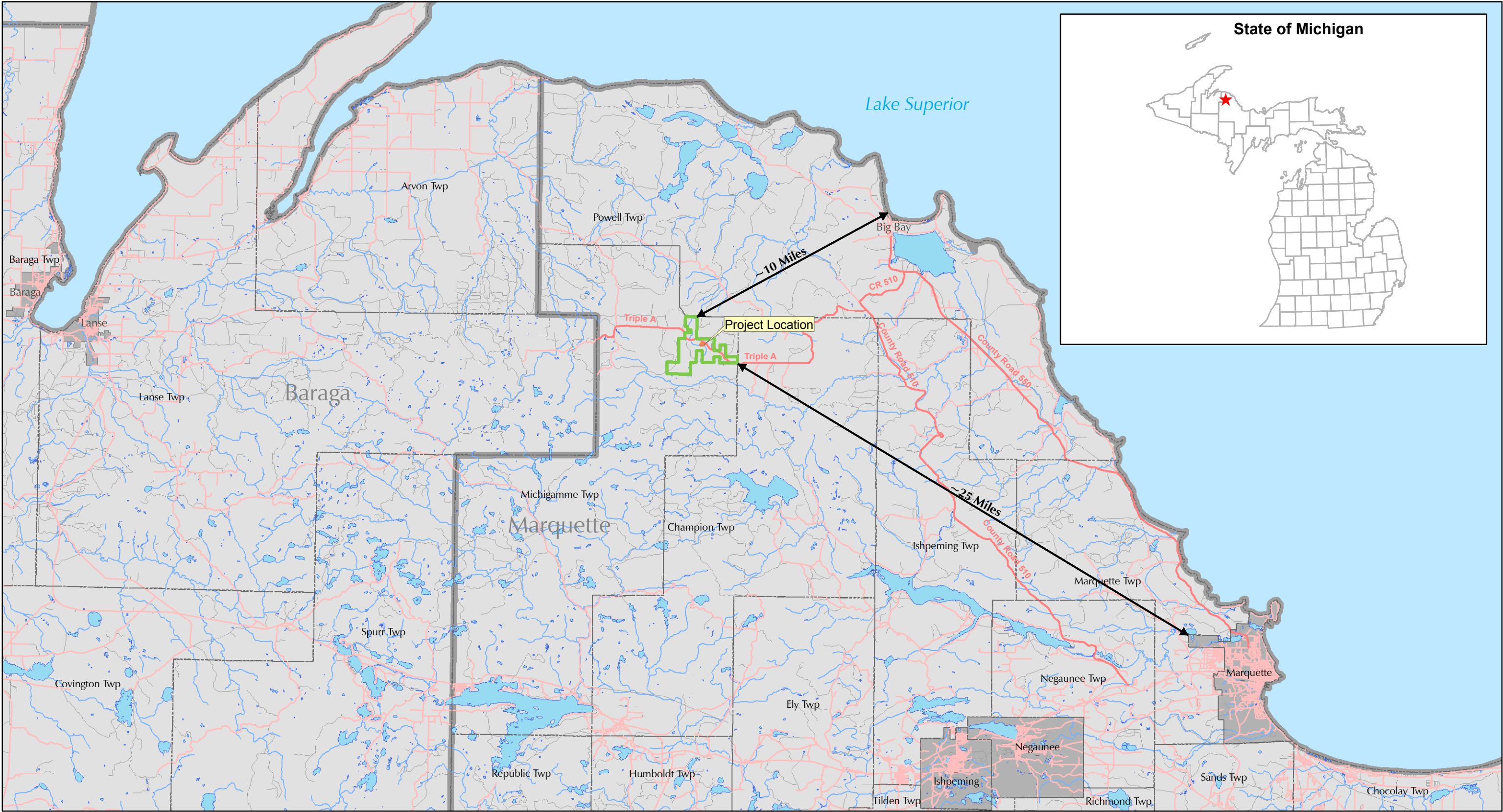
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**EXHIBIT A**  
**REPORT FIGURES**

**Figure 1-1. Eagle Mine General Site Location.**



**NOTES**

- 1. Surface property boundary as of November 18, 2004 supplied by Kennecott via Golder & Associates Inc., August, 2005.
- 2. Horizontal datum based on NAD 83/94.  
Horizontal coordinates based on UTM Zone 16.
- 3. All base information downloaded from Michigan Center of Geographic Information (<http://www.michigan.gov/cgi>).
- 4. Site Location - Project Site within Sections 11 & 12, T50N, R29W, Town of Michigamme, Marquette County, Michigan.

**LEGEND**

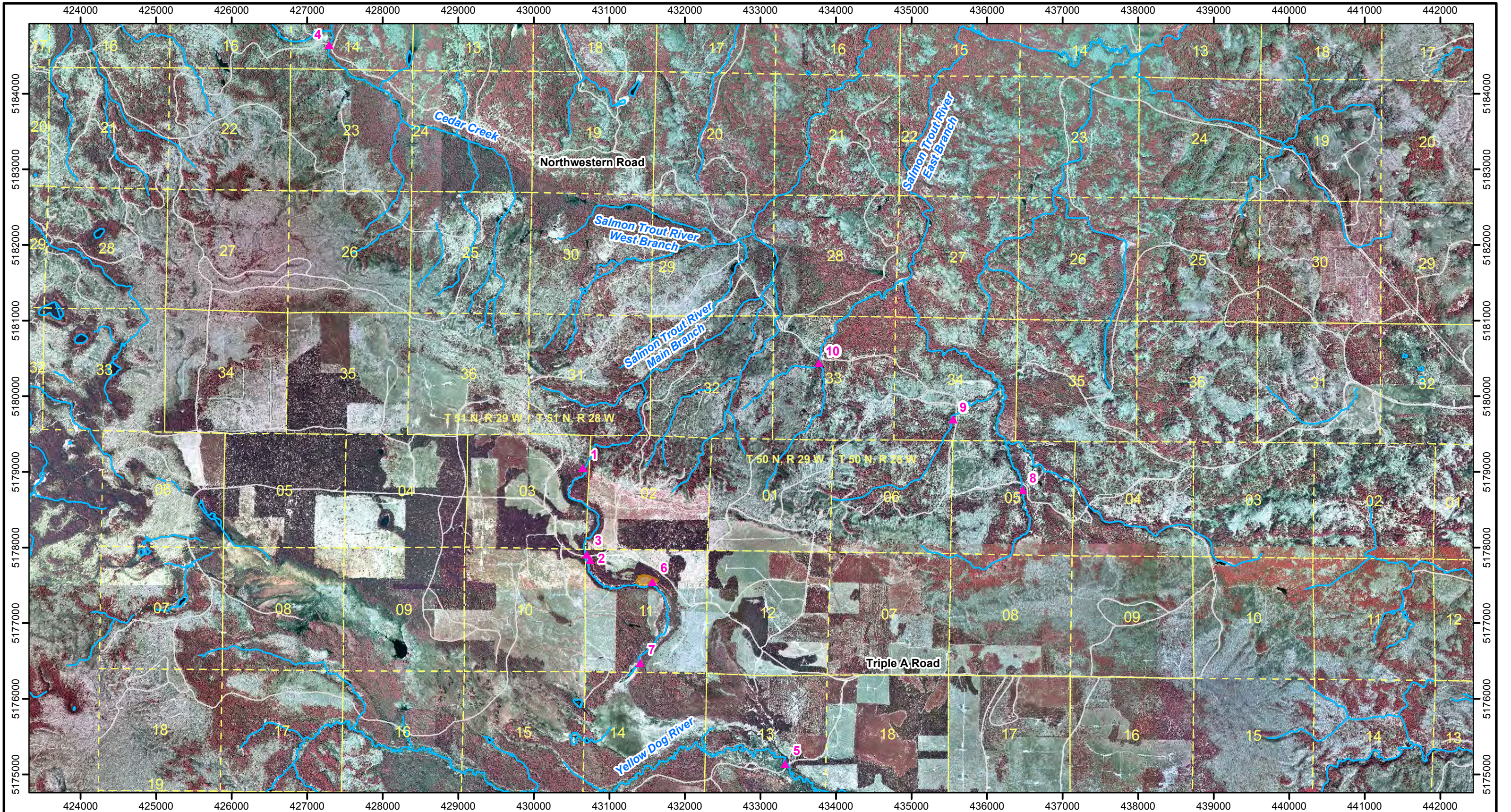
- Counties
- Minor Civil Divisions
- Kennecott Surface Ownership
- Lakes and Rivers
- Highways
- Major Roads
- Minor Roads



Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC				Eagle Mine	
REVISED	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION	FIGURE 1-1 PROJECT LOCATION	
CHECKED BY:		DM	DATE: NOV. '08	Scale:  Miles	Date: NOVEMBER 2008
APPROVED BY:		RDW	DATE: NOV. '08		
APPROVED BY:			DATE:	Prepared by: DAT	Scope: 04W018

**Figure 1-2. Ore Body and Sample Station Locations.**





**NOTES**

1. Surface Property Boundary, Ore Body, and Orthophotography supplied by Kennecott via Golder Associates Inc., August, 2005.

2. Horizontal datum based on NAD 83/94.  
Horizontal coordinates based on UTM Zone 16.

3. Site Location - Project Site within Sections 11 & 12, T50N, R29W, Town of Michigamme, Marquette County, Michigan.

**LEGEND**

6 ▲ Aquatic Sampling Location and Number

— River

■ Ore Body



**ADVANCED ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT**

**Foth**  
Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC

Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC			
REVISED	DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION
CHECKED BY: DM		DATE: NOV. '08	
APPROVED BY: RDW		DATE: NOV. '08	
APPROVED BY:		DATE:	

**Eagle Mine**

**FIGURE 1-2**  
**Eagle Project**  
**Aquatic Sampling Locations**

Scale: 0 600 1,200 Meters

DATE: NOVEMBER 2008

Prepared by: DAT

Scope: 04W018



**EXHIBIT B**  
**REPORT TABLES**

**Table 1-1. Summary of the Procedure 51 Macroinvertebrate and Aquatic Habitat Scores for All Stations, 2014.**

<b>System Station Number</b>	<b>STRM 1</b>	<b>STRM 2</b>	<b>STRM 3</b>	<b>CC 4</b>	<b>YDR 5</b>	<b>STRM 6</b>	<b>STRM 7</b>	<b>STRE 8</b>	<b>STRE 9</b>	<b>STRE 10</b>
Fish Score	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Macroinvertebrate Score	Excellent	Acceptable	Acceptable	Excellent	Acceptable	n.a.	n.a.	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Stream Habitat Score	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Good	n.a.	n.a.	Excellent	Good	Excellent

**STRM – Salmon Trout River Main Branch****STRE – Salmon Trout River East Branch****CC – Cedar Creek****YDR – Yellow Dog River****n.a. – Not applicable**

**Table 5-1. Sample Station Location Description.**

<b>Station Number</b>	<b>Stream Name</b>	<b>Latitude/Longitude NAD 1983</b>	<b>Township/Range/ Section</b>	<b>Location Description</b>
1	Salmon Trout River Main Branch	N 46.76130 W 87.90807	Michigamme Twp. T50N, R29W, Sec 3	Approximately 5,220 feet S of AAA Road and continuing S 120 feet.
2	Salmon Trout River Main Branch	N 46.75059 W 87.90720	Michigamme Twp. T50N, R29W, Sec. 11	Upstream extent located immediately S of AAA Road and continuing upstream 100 feet.
3	Salmon Trout River Main Branch	N 46.75148 W 87.90736	Michigamme Twp. T50N, R29W, Sec. 11	Downstream extent located immediately N of AAA Road and continuing downstream 200 feet.
4	Cedar Creek	N 46.81066 W 87.95323	Powell Twp. T51N, R29W, Sec. 14	Downstream extent located 300 feet N of Northwestern Road and continuing upstream to road crossing.
5	Yellow Dog River	N 46.72694 W 87.87268	Michigamme Twp. T50N, R29W, Sec. 13	Downstream extent located immediately upstream of unnamed road and continuing upstream 300 feet.
6	Salmon Trout River Main Branch	N 46.74793 W 89.89584	Michigamme Twp. T50N, R29W, Sec. 11	Downstream extent located approximately 4,600 feet upstream of AAA Road and continuing upstream 300 feet.
7	Salmon Trout River Main Branch	N 46.73808 W 87.89810	Michigamme Twp. T50N, R29W, Sec. 11	Near headwaters and N 100 feet.
8	Tributary to the East Branch of the Salmon Trout River	N 46.760113 W 87.83224	Champion Twp. T50N, R28W, Sec. 5	Upstream extent located 75 feet NE of Northwestern Road and continuing NE for 135 feet.
9	Tributary to the East Branch of the Salmon Trout River	N 46.76862 W 87.84377	Powell Twp. T51N, R28W, Sec. 34	Downstream extent located immediately SW of Northwestern Road and continuing SW for 85 feet.
10	Tributary to the East Branch of the Salmon Trout River	N 46.77471 W 87.86767	Powell Twp. T51N, R29W, Sec. 33	Downstream extent located immediately SW of Northwestern Road and continuing SW for 100 feet.

**Table 5-2. 2014 Summer Fish Collection Data – Stations 1-10.**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Station Number									
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Cottus bairdii</i>	Mottled sculpin				3						
<i>Culaea inconstans</i>	Brook stickleback						73	2			
<i>Margariscus margarita</i>	Pearl dace						1				
<i>Phoxinus eos</i>	Northern redbelly dace		17	2			1,192	6		1	
<i>Rhinichthys atratulus</i>	Blacknose dace					6					
<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>	Brook trout	6	2	1	25	10			5	8	5
<b>Total Number</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1,266</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>

Stations 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 - Salmon Trout River Main Branch

Stations 8, 9 and 10 - Salmon Trout River East Branch

Station 4 - Cedar Creek

Station 5 - Yellow Dog River

**Table 5-3. 2014 Macroinvertebrate Community – Stations 1-10.**

<b>TAXA</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>ANNELIDA (segmented worms)</b>										
Hirudinea (leeches)	2			3	1	5				
Oligochaeta (worms)								1		
<b>ARTHROPODA</b>										
Amphipoda (scuds)		5		1	2	86	46	1		
<b>Insecta</b>										
Ephemeroptera (mayflies)										
Ameletidae				10					3	
Baetiscidae					1					
Baetidae	18	6	2	30		2		51	10	1
Caenidae						7	5			
Ephemerellidae	100		7	37				8	26	3
Ephemeridae		2		1	3					1
Heptageniidae	13	3	5	5	5			15	1	2
Leptophlebiidae	10	45	18	9				36		19
<b>Odonata</b>										
Anisoptera (dragonflies)										
Aeshnidae		2	1		3	5	2			10
Cordulegastridae	8	2	1	6	3			6		11
Corduliidae					3	10	2			
Gomphidae					9					
Libellulidae						19	5			
Zygoptera (damselflies)										
Calopterygidae		1	2							3
Coenagrionidae						7				
<b>Plecoptera (stoneflies)</b>										
Chloroperlidae	1			1						
Leuctridae		1								
Nemouridae		5		1					2	1
Perlodidae	3	1	1	3				5	6	4
Pteronarcyidae	3							1		
<b>Hemiptera (true bugs)</b>										
Belostomatidae						1				
Corixidae						12	4			
Gerridae	2	4	7	2		1	1	5	4	3
Notonectidae		1				1				
<b>Megaloptera</b>										
Sialidae (alder flies)				1	6			1		2

**Stations 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 - Salmon Trout River Main Branch****Stations 8, 9, 10 - Salmon Trout River East Branch****Station 4 - Cedar Creek****Station 5 - Yellow Dog River**

**Table 5-3 (Continued). 2014 Macroinvertebrate Community – Stations 1-10.**

<b>TAXA</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
Trichoptera (caddisflies)										
Brachycentridae	2		1	2				6	1	
Glossosomatidae	6	16	9	2				3	5	22
Hydropsychidae	3	10	31	72				26	2	12
Lepidostomatidae	20	13		10	1			25		3
Limnephilidae	3	3	12	3	31	79		1	9	
Philopotamidae	9		10	33				7		8
Phryganeidae						1				
Polycentropodidae	1	1								
Rhyacophilidae	4							2		
Uenoidae	65		32	6				10	25	17
Coleoptera (beetles)										
Dytiscidae (total)		1		5				3		1
Halipilidae (adults)						2	2			
Hydrophilidae (total)							1			
Elmidae								2		
Gyrinidae			1			1				
Diptera (flies)										
Athericidae	3			7	1					2
Chironomidae	18	12	15	4	11	12	8	6	25	6
Culicidae						1	1			
Ephydriidae									1	
Ptychopteridae							1			
Simuliidae	6	138	65	4	1			1	2	
Tabanidae	1			2	1			1		
Tipulidae	1	3		1				2	2	5
MOLLUSCA										
Gastropoda (snails)										
Physidae	1	1	2			3				
Planorbidae						5	3			
Pisidiidae					1					
Sphaeriidae (clams)							3			

**Total** **303** **276** **222** **261** **83** **260** **84** **225** **124** **136**

**Stations 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 - Salmon Trout River Main Branch**

**Stations 8, 9, 10 - Salmon Trout River East Branch**

**Station 4 - Cedar Creek**

**Station 5 - Yellow Dog River**

**Table 5-4. 2014 Macroinvertebrate Scores and Community Ratings – Stations 1-10.**

Metric	1		2		3		4		5	
	Value	Score	Value	Score	Value	Score	Value	Score	Value	Score
Total Number of Taxa	25	1	23	1	18	0	27	0	17	0
Number of Mayfly Taxa	4	1	4	1	4	1	6	1	3	0
Number of Caddisfly Taxa	9	1	5	0	6	1	7	1	2	-1
Number of Stonefly Taxa	3	1	3	1	1	0	3	1	0	-1
Percent Mayfly Comp.	46.53	1	20.29	0	14.41	0	35.25	1	10.84	0
Percent Caddisfly Comp.	37.29	1	15.58	0	42.79	1	49.04	1	38.55	1
Percent Dominant Taxon	33.00	-1	50.00	-1	29.28	-1	27.59	-1	37.35	-1
Percent Isopod, Snail, Leech	0.99	1	0.36	1	0.90	1	1.15	1	1.20	1
Percent Surf. Air Breathers	0.66	1	2.17	1	3.15	1	2.68	1	0.00	1
<b>Total Score</b>		7		4		4		6		0
<b>Community Rating</b>	<b>Excellent</b>		<b>Acceptable</b>		<b>Acceptable</b>		<b>Excellent</b>		<b>Acceptable</b>	

Metric	6		7		8		9		10	
	Value	Score	Value	Score	Value	Score	Value	Score	Value	Score
Total Number of Taxa	20	0	14	0	25	1	16	0	21	1
Number of Mayfly Taxa	2	-1	1	-1	4	1	4	1	5	1
Number of Caddisfly Taxa	2	-1	0	-1	8	1	5	0	5	0
Number of Stonefly Taxa	0	-1	0	-1	2	1	2	1	2	1
Percent Mayfly Comp.	3.46	0	5.95	0	48.89	1	32.26	1	19.12	0
Percent Caddisfly Comp.	30.77	1	0.00	-1	35.56	1	33.87	1	45.59	1
Percent Dominant Taxon	33.08	-1	54.76	-1	22.67	0	20.97	0	16.18	1
Percent Isopod, Snail, Leech	5.00	0	3.57	1	0.00	1	0.00	1	0.00	1
Percent Surf. Air Breathers	7.31	0	11.90	0	3.56	1	3.23	1	2.94	1
<b>Total Score</b>		-3		-4		8		6		7
<b>Community Rating</b>	<b>n.a.</b>		<b>n.a.</b>		<b>Excellent</b>		<b>Excellent</b>		<b>Excellent</b>	

Stations 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 - Salmon Trout River Main Branch

Stations 8, 9, 10 - Salmon Trout River East Branch

Station 4 - Cedar Creek

Station 5 - Yellow Dog River

n.a. – Not applicable

**Table 5-5. 2014 Summer Physical Stream Dimensions – Stations 1-10.**

Station	Length (ft)	Wetted width (ft)		Depth (ft)		Discharge (gpm)
		Average*	s	Average	s	
1	120	8.3 (3)	1.5	0.3 (9)	0.1	1,200
2	100	6.3 (3)	1.3	0.9 (9)	0.5	734
3	200	8.1 (3)	1.1	0.4 (9)	0.2	734
4	300	23.6 (3)	2.1	1.1 (9)	0.4	5,084
5	300	25.1 (3)	4.5	2.0 (9)	0.9	9,337
6	300	15.8 (3)	4.4	2.0 (9)	0.2	78
7	100	6.0 (3)	1.4	1.2 (9)	0.2	n.m.
8	135	9.0 (3)	1.0	0.6 (9)	0.2	1,577
9	85	8.3 (3)	0.3	0.9 (9)	0.6	1,233
10	100	5.2 (3)	1.1	0.4 (9)	0.2	200

Stations 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 - Salmon Trout River Main Branch

Stations 8, 9, 10 - Salmon Trout River East Branch

Station 4 - Cedar Creek

Station 5 - Yellow Dog River

\*sample size is indicated within ()

s = standard deviation

gpm = Gallons per minute

n.m. = Not measured



**Table 5-6. 2014 Procedure 51 Habitat Evaluation Scores – Stations 1-10.**

Habitat Metric	Sample Station									
	1 riffle/run	2 glide/pool	3 riffle/run	4 riffle/run	5 glide/pool	6 n.a.	7 n.a.	8 riffle/run	9 glide/pool	10 riffle/run
<b>Substrate and In-stream Cover</b>										
Epifaunal Substrate/Avail. Cover	19	13	18	18	10	-	-	15	12	18
Embeddedness	19		14	12		-	-	18		15
Pool Substrate Characterization		13			10	-	-		11	
Velocity Depth Regime	15		14	14		-	-	15		10
Pool Variability		10			14	-	-		13	
Sediment Deposition	15	12	15	14	14	-	-	17	11	17
<b>Channel Morphology</b>										
Maintained Flow Volume	9	9	9	9	9	-	-	9	10	7
Flashiness	9	7	8	9	7	-	-	9	8	7
Channel Alteration	20	16	18	19	20	-	-	20	15	15
Frequency of Riffles/Bends	19		15	15		-	-	12		17
Channel Sinuosity		12			14	-	-		14	
<b>Riparian and Bank Structure</b>										
Bank Stability (L)	9	9	9	9	7	-	-	9	10	10
Bank Stability (R)	9	9	9	9	7	-	-	9	10	10
Vegetative Protection (L)	10	10	10	10	10	-	-	10	10	10
Vegetative Protection (R)	10	10	10	10	10	-	-	10	10	10
Riparian Veg. Zone Width (L)	10	10	10	10	10	-	-	10	10	10
Riparian Veg. Zone Width (R)	10	10	10	10	10	-	-	10	10	10
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>Habitat Rating</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>

Stations 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 - Salmon Trout River Main Branch

Stations 8, 9, 10 - Salmon Trout River East Branch

Station 4 - Cedar Creek

Station 5 - Yellow Dog River

n.a. – Not applicable

**Table 5-7. 2014 Average Water Quality Parameters – Stations 1-10.**

Station Number	Date	Time	Water Temperature (°C)	Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	Percent Dissolved Oxygen	pH	Conductivity (µS/cm)
1	6/12/2014	10:43	12.5 (0.0)	8.7 (0.2)	86.9 (2.3)	8.1 (0.4)	56 (0.2)
2	6/11/2014	13:28	19.3 (0.3)	7.8 (0.1)	83.9 (0.2)	7.5 (0.0)	55 (0.4)
3	6/11/2014	13:14	18.7 (0.1)	7.8 (0.0)	85.7 (0.4)	7.4 (0.0)	53 (0.3)
4	6/13/2014	10:04	9.8 (0.0)	9.6 (0.1)	85.7 (1.6)	8.1 (0.2)	97 (0.2)
5	6/05/2014	16:48	17.9 (0.0)	7.4 (0.1)	77.7 (0.6)	6.8 (0.1)	45 (0.1)
6	6/05/2014	14:52	16.5 (1.0)	6.2 (1.7)	64.1 (18.8)	6.9 (0.1)	52 (1.2)
7	6/12/2014	13:13	16.3 (0.0)	5.7 (3.1)	43.7 (4.1)	7.2 (0.4)	39 (0.5)
8	6/11/2014	09:41	10.2 (0.2)	9.6 (0.1)	86.6 (1.0)	8.2 (0.0)	82 (0.3)
9	6/10/2014	16:48	10.7 (0.3)	10.8 (0.1)	97.2 (0.3)	8.1 (0.0)	86 (0.3)
10	6/10/2014	14:34	13.6 (0.1)	9.1 (0.3)	88.6 (2.0)	7.7 (0.0)	101 (0.5)

Stations 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 - Salmon Trout River Main Branch

Stations 8, 9, 10 - Salmon Trout River East Branch

Station 4 - Cedar Creek

Station 5 - Yellow Dog River

°C = Degrees Celsius

mg/L = Milligrams per liter

µS/cm = MicroSiemens per centimeter

standard deviation is indicated within ()

**EXHIBIT C**  
**STATION PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Photograph C-1. Station 1 - Downstream Extent View South, June, 2014.**



**Photograph C-2. Station 1 - Upstream Extent View North, June, 2014.**





**Photograph C-3. Station 2 – Downstream Extent View South, June, 2014.**



**Photograph C-4. Station 2 – Upstream Extent View Northwest, June, 2014.**





**Photograph C-5. Station 3 – Downstream Extent View South, June, 2014.**



**Photograph C-6. Station 3 –Upstream Extent View North, June, 2014.**





**Photograph C-7. Station 6 – Downstream Extent View South, June, 2014.**



**Photograph C-8. Station 6 – Upstream Extent View Southwest, June, 2014.**





**Photograph C-9. Station 7 – Downstream Extent View Southwest, June, 2014.**



**Photograph C-10. Station 7 – Upstream Extent View North, June, 2014.**





**Photograph C-11. Station 8 – Downstream Extent View Southwest, June, 2014.**



**Photograph C-12. Station 8 – Upstream Extent View North, June, 2014.**





**Photograph C-13. Station 9 – Downstream Extent View South, June, 2014.**



**Photograph C-14. Station 9 – Upstream Extent View North, June, 2014.**





**Photograph C-15. Station 10 – Downstream Extent View Southwest, June, 2014.**



**Photograph C-16. Station 10 – Upstream Extent View Northeast, June, 2014.**





**Photograph C-17. Station 5 – Downstream Extent View West, June, 2014.**



**Photograph C-18. Station 5 – Upstream Extent View Southeast, June, 2014.**





**Photograph C-19. Station 4 – Downstream Extent View South, June, 2014.**



**Photograph C-20. Station 4 – Upstream Extent View North, June, 2014.**