

CRA RC&D Area Plan Update

1. Default Section

PURPOSE: These survey results will be considered during development of Conservation Resource Alliance's (CRA) Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area Plan 2010-2015 Update that is a requirement of the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The purpose of this survey is to ask the public to provide information that will be used by CRA to continue to improve community service and program delivery. The Area Plan Update will be submitted to USDA-NRCS during 2010.

BACKGROUND: Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) was formed in 1968 as Michigan's first Resource Conservation and Development Area Council under a program authorized by the U. S. Congress and implemented through the USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). In those days, CRA was called the Northwest Michigan RC&D Area Council. Over the years CRA morphed into the strong non-profit organization that it is today by continuing to build its relationships with all partners who help CRA place conservation on the ground. The USDA-NRCS Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) program is included in these relationships. CRA's work benefits the water quality; fish and wildlife habitat; and the general economy of Northwest Lower Michigan.

NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN: For purposes of this survey, the location of "Northwest Lower Michigan" is the geographic area of Michigan's lower peninsula north of the Oceana, Newaygo, and Mecosta County lines extending to the tip of Emmet County and all the counties west of I-75 to the Lake Michigan Shoreline. It includes 13 counties.

TIME: The survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is looking for broad public input. Thank you for your time and valuable assistance.

1. Have you ever been to Northwest Lower Michigan?

YES

NO

2. Are you a full-time resident of Michigan?

YES

NO

3. Are you a seasonal resident of Northwest Lower Michigan?

YES

NO

4. If you answered yes to either question number 2 or 3, please give the name of the county(ies) you live in:

Primary county of residence

Secondary county of residence

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5. If you answered no to question number 2, in which State or Country is your full time residence located?

6. In a typical year, how much time do you spend in Northwest Lower Michigan?

- one week or less
- more than one week but less than one month
- one to three months
- three to six months
- six to nine months
- nine to twelve months

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2. Brand Recognition

This purpose of this page is to determine if the general public recognizes the names of conservation organizations and government programs.

1. Please indicate all of the following organizations or programs that were known to you prior to taking this survey.

	YES	NO
USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
USDA-Forest Service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
US Environmental Protection Agency	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
US Fish and Wildlife Service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National Association of RC&D Councils	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Michigan Association of RC&D Councils	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Michigan Association of Conservation Districts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Michigan United Conservation Clubs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Michigan Department of Natural Resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Michigan Land Use Institute	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Grand Traverse Land Conservancy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
River Care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leelanau Conservancy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National Association of Native Waterfowl	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Land Trust Alliance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conservation Resource Alliance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Tip of the Mitt Watershed
Council



Wild Link



Wildlife Habitat Incentive
Program (WHIP)



Partners for Wildlife



Ducks Unlimited



Trout Unlimited



Environmental Quality Incentive
Program (EQIP)



American Farmland Trust



Wetland Reserve Program
(WRP)

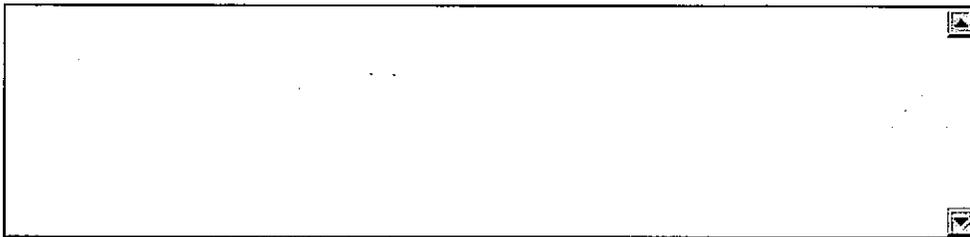


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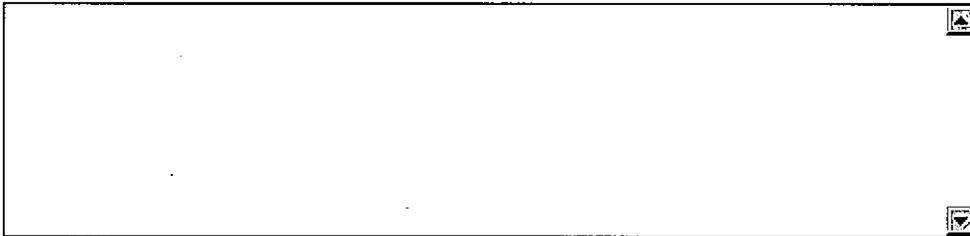
3. Natural Resource Concerns

The purpose of this page is to give respondents the opportunity to present their perception of natural resource concerns or issues of Northwest Lower Michigan and to provide an opportunity for suggestions about how to correct these issues. This will help USDA-NRCS and CRA determine if their work continues to address the needs of its service area.

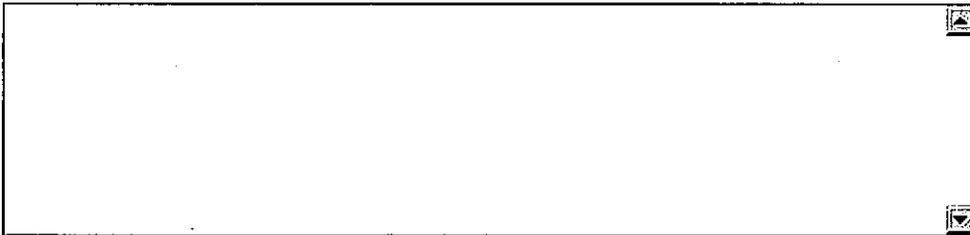
1. In your opinion, what are the greatest natural resource concerns (or biggest problems) that faces Northwest Lower Michigan?

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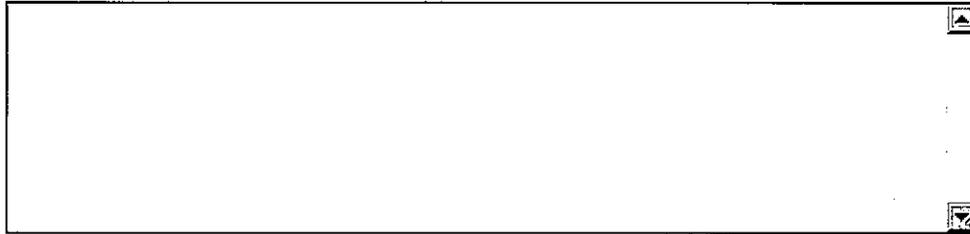
2. In your opinion, what are the best solutions for the problems you gave in the previous question?

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3. What do you enjoy most about Northwest Lower Michigan?

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4. What do you enjoy least about Northwest Lower Michigan?



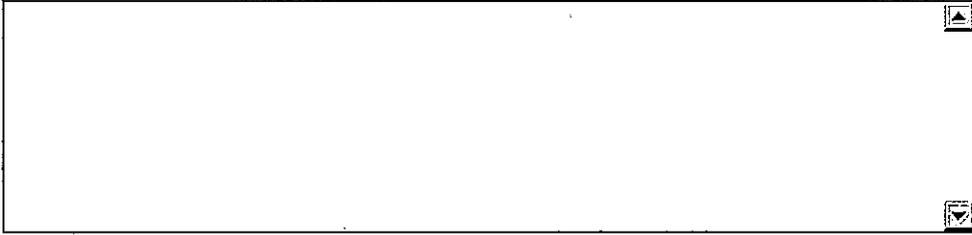
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5. Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) works to improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat under a program called River Care. The waters listed below are all located in CRA's 13-county service area on the Northwest Lower Peninsula of Michigan. Please rate your perception of the need for restoration effort in the following water bodies and their tributaries.

	very much needed.	some work is needed.	no work is needed.	I do not know.
Grand Traverse Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lake Michigan Shoreline	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carp River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maple River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bear River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boyne River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lake Charlevoix	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jordan River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chain of Lakes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lake Leelanau	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Long Lake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boardman River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Platte River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Betsie River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manistee River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pine River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Little Manistee River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bear Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Big sable River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pere Marquette River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Baldwin River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments				

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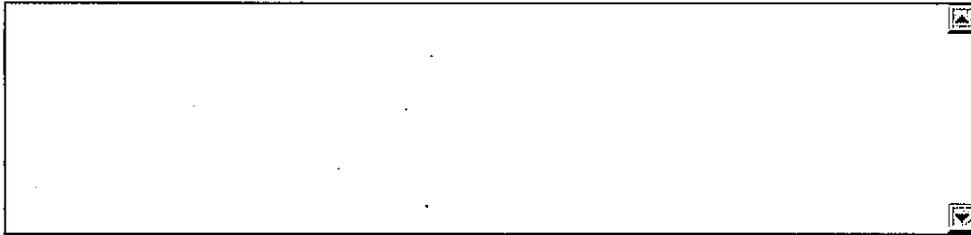
6. Conservation Resource Alliance works with many partners to improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat under a program called River Care. Please rate the importance of the following work activities.

	is most important.	is kind of important.	is not needed.	I do not know.
Repairing stream bank erosion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Controlling sediment from unpaved roadways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replacing under-sized culverts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Repairing broken/crushed culverts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Re-vegetating stream banks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Removing small dams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improving public access to water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Removing exotic plant species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conducting Water Temperature Studies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conducting Water Quality Studies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adding fish habitat structures to waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Installing and cleaning sand traps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conducting fish population studies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Infrastructure improvements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

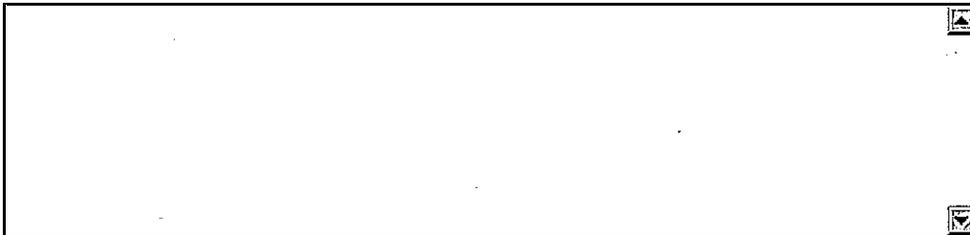
Comments:

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7. Do you know of a specific problem on a Northwest Lower Michigan waterway or any other water-related work that needs to be accomplished? If so, please briefly describe the problem and give the location of the problem.



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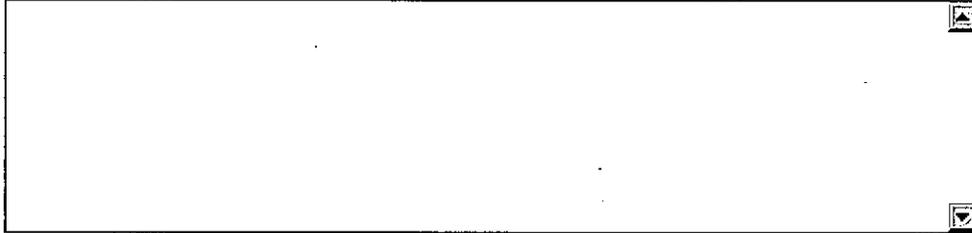
8. In addition to River Care, Conservation Resource Alliance works to maintain and improve wildlife habitat under a program called Wild Link. Participation in Wild Link is voluntary for property owners located within several target corridors. Many of the Wild Link target corridors are adjacent to the rivers of Northwest Lower Michigan. Please rate the importance of following work activities.

	is very important.	is kind of important.	is not needed.	I do not know.
Writing Land Management Plans for landowners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planting trees and shrubs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Removing exotic plant species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Constructing brush piles or other types of wildlife cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conducting controlled burns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planting native plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Restoring historic wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing introductions to resource agency personnel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

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9. Can you suggest other wildlife habitat work that is needed on private or public land in Northwest Lower Michigan?



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4. Relationships and Partnerships

On-the-ground work in Northwest Lower Michigan is made possible by many organizations and individuals working together. The purpose of this section is to determine if the public understands these relationships and/or knows they exist.

1. Conservation Resource Alliance works to form and strengthen partnerships with others who work to improve or maintain the quality of the Natural Resources of Northwest Lower Michigan. Please tell us how you perceive the value of these relationships.

	is very important.	is nice, but not crucial.	is not needed.	I do not know.
Relationship with Private Foundations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship with USDA Forest Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship with USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship with USDA Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship with US Fish and Wildlife Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship with US Environmental Protection Agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship with Tribes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship with Michigan Dept. Natural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship with Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship with Individual Donors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship with Watershed Management Committees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship with Conservation Districts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship with Resource Conservation & Development Councils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relationship with County Road	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Commissions

Relationship with County

Commissioners

Relationship with Township

Officials

Relationship with Print Media

Relationship with Radio/TV
Media

Relationship with Land

Conservancies

Relationship with Trout

Unlimited Chapters

Relationship with Michigan

United Conservation Clubs

Relationship with Michigan

Association of RC&D Councils

Relationship with National

Association of RC&D Councils

Relationship with Universities

Relationship with Local Schools

Relationship with Local
Businesses

Relationship with Chambers of
Commerce

Comments:

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2. Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) works to maintain and improve partnerships. Do you know of a partner that CRA should be working with? If so, who and why?



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5. Community Services and Economic Development

The preservation and restoration of natural resources in Northwest Lower Michigan provides jobs for individuals and services to communities. This section is intended to gage the level of public recognition of the value of this work.

1. Conservation Resource Alliance provides a number of services to Northwest Lower Michigan communities. Please indicate which ones you know about and give your perception of the community benefit of these services to the area and your reason.

	I know CRA offers this service	Community Benefit of this service is
Project-specific fundraising	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Grant management	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job creation	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job retention	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Project development	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Public meeting facilitation	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Public media events	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Youth events	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Education & training opportunities	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Volunteer work parties	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Project management	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Natural resources surveys	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Helping other organizations meet their missions	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Project promotional activities	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Comments:

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2. Can you think of a community service that Conservation Resource Alliance is not currently providing and that is not being met by some other organization?

YES

NO

If you answered YES, what other community service is needed?

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3. Some of the following natural resource issues may not have been primary focus areas for Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) in recent years. Please let us know if you feel CRA should consider adding any of these issues to our workload in addition to our current River Care and Wild Link work. Please rate each item as very important to consider (#1) to CRA should NOT consider (#4) as potential program expansion areas.

	CRA should expand into this arena as quickly as possible.	CRA should cautiously explore various options for entering this arena.	CRA should not consider working on this issue because it is not consistent with CRA's mission.	CRA should not consider working on this because the issue is not important.
Home Energy Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farm Energy Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alternative Transportation Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alternative Energy Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air Quality Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate Change Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increase Evaluation of Past Projects	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Large Dam Removals or Restorations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Withdrawal Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive Plant Species Control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exotic Aquatic Species Control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

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4. Can you think of any other Natural Resource Concern or issue that you feel Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) should address? If so, please briefly describe the concern or issue and how you think CRA can help.

5. Do you know of any population group that lives in Northwest Lower Michigan that should be receiving more help from Conservation Resource Alliance?

YES

NO

If yes, please identify this group and what help is needed:

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6. A Draft version of Conservation Resource Alliance's Updated Area Plan for 2010-2015 should be ready for review by DECEMBER 31, 2009. Are you interested in reviewing this document and providing constructive criticism?

YES

NO

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7. If you answered YES to serving as a volunteer Area Plan Reviewer:

OPTION 1: You can put your contact information below.

OPTION 2: You can send your name, address, phone number and e-mail address in an e-mail with "AREA PLAN REVIEWER" in the subject line to kathleen.ryan@mi.usda.gov.

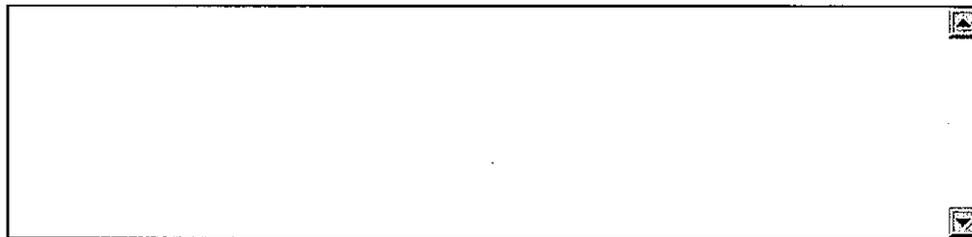
OPTION 3: You can mail your contact information to:

Ms. Kathleen M. Ryan

Area RC&D Coordinator

USDA-NRCS

508 Norway Street, Grayling, MI 49738



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