

Great Lakes Environmental Center (GLEC) is a prime contractor for US EPA's multi-year National Aquatic Resource survey designed to assess the condition of U.S. rivers, streams, lakes, and reservoir freshwater resources.

During the 2008 sampling season, GLEC researchers led the nationwide effort to survey approximately 300 rivers and streams in the Central and Eastern U.S. and provide guidance to state and contractor crews surveying other state sites. In 2007 GLEC oversaw the survey of 909 target and 200 reference lakes while GLEC field crews visited 130 lakes in 10 states. Along with field survey support, GLEC provides US EPA with support in logistics, testing laboratory management, public outreach and field crew training.

Sample locations are randomly selected using a statistical survey designed to represent the population of rivers and streams of this particular ecological region. For the 2009 sampling season four sites on National Forest System lands have been identified and GLEC has requested permission to access the sites. The sites are located in Lake, Newaygo and Oceana Counties.

A four person crew from Great Lakes Environmental Center wishes to conduct water quality sampling of a wadeable stream on four sites located in the Manistee National Forest this summer. These four sites include MI 008 located on the Little Manistee River (sampling August 3), MI 025 located on the Pere Marquette River (sampling August 4), MI 003 located on Cedar Creek (sampling August 5), and MI 012 located on the South Branch White River (sampling August 6).

This work is being conducted on behalf United States Environmental Protection Agency, in cooperation with State Agencies, to measure the environmental health of wadeable streams across the United States.

Crews will be taking water samples, sediment samples, electro fishing, and doing a vegetation analysis. A computer was used to randomly select these streams. A total of 1,800 river and stream sampling sites were selected for sampling in 2008 and 2009.

Water quality chemistry, aquatic life, fish assemblage and habitat will be evaluated at each site. The findings of the study are not intended for enforcement or regulatory purposes. The findings will be used to report to Congress the status of national water quality.

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