



Michigan Association of Conservation Districts

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"Your Land, Your Water, Your Michigan"

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MARQUETTE CONSERVATION DISTRICT HONORED WITH NATIONAL AWARD

MARQUETTE, MI – Bernie Huetter and Renee Leow, of the Marquette Conservation District, were honored on April 17 as recipients of a national award for natural resource conservation partnerships. The Marquette Conservation District is one seventeen partners in Project BURN-UP (Biomass Utilization and Restoration Network for the Upper Peninsula), a local partnership whose purpose is to stimulate the development of a sustainable woody biomass industry in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Project BURN-UP has received the Two Chiefs' Award from the US Forest Service and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Two Chiefs' Partnership Awards recognize outstanding partnerships in forest conservation work among Conservation Districts, State Foresters, the Forest Service, and NRCS.

Presentation of the Two Chiefs' Award plaques to the various partners in Project BURN-UP took place during the Project BURN-UP Steering Committee meeting on Friday, April 17, at Uprfront & Co. in Marquette.

Project BURN-UP is a partnership involving several federal, state and local agencies, as well as private partners and non-profit entities. The lead sponsoring organization is the Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development Council (UP RC&D).

The overall purpose of the BURN-UP Project is to stimulate the development of a sustainable woody biomass industry in Michigan's Upper Peninsula via a dual approach. One approach is by promoting increased use of wood as a fuel for a wide variety of applications because of its many economic and environmental advantages over non-renewable fossil fuels. The other approach is by providing information about the environmental risks of excessive or poorly located biomass harvesting.

For further information contact the Marquette County Conservation District at 226-2461 ext 129 or visit the BURN-UP project website at www.uprc&d.org.

Marquette Conservation District is a member of the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD). MACD is a non-profit organization that represents the interests of Michigan Conservation Districts and works to strengthen Districts through leadership, information and representation at the state level. Michigan's 79 Conservation Districts are the local providers of natural resource management services that help our citizens conserve their lands and our environment for a cleaner, healthier, economically stronger Michigan.

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Caption for photo: Don Howlett, far left, of the Hiawatha National Forest, and NRCS State Conservationist Garry Lee, far right, present Bernie Huetter and Renee Leow of the Marquette Conservation District with a plaque in recognition of receiving the Two Chiefs' Award, a national award recognizing outstanding partnerships in forest conservation work.

