

UMD wins environmental award

The St. Louis River Alliance recently awarded the Weber Stream Restoration Initiative at the University of Minnesota Duluth's Natural Resources Research Institute with a stewardship award.

The award was given for the initiative's efforts to enhance habitat and biodiversity in Lake Superior tributary streams by protecting and restoring watersheds along the North Shore.

Weber Initiative coordinator and NRRI scientist Dan Breneman accepted the award as one of several other awardees of the alliance which seeks to restore and protect the lower St. Louis River and its estuary.

The initiative began in 2005 with a financial gift to the institute to fund activities that would improve the water quality of Lake Superior tributary streams.

It is guided by the principle that protection and restoration of the North Shore streams will only be successful if both the root

causes of damage as well as the symptoms of disturbance are addressed. A stream consortium has been developed that engages a variety of professional resource managers, scientists and the public in cross-disciplinary communication about ongoing projects in the watersheds.

The Institute's mission is to foster the economic development of Minnesota's natural resources in an environmentally sound manner to promote private sector employment.

