

Baker Road & Middle Branch Timber Bridge Project Pere Marquette River Watershed

October 2009



Conservation
Resource Alliance

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The Pere Marquette River is a state designated Natural River, a federally designated Wild and Scenic River, and a Blue Ribbon Trout Stream. Several branches make up the headwaters of the Pere Marquette; the Middle Branch is the most ecologically valuable, has the coldest water and the most ideal instream habitat. These tributaries provide critical spawning and escape cover for fish, travel corridors for wildlife, and instream habitat for aquatic insects.

Baker Road Bridge, site #L-45, was an old bridge on the Middle Branch that failed and was closed in 2008. Large pieces of concrete from the bridge decking had fallen into the stream and the support beams were rusting through. The failure of this bridge prohibited fish passage. Through this project partners designed and completed the bridge deck replacement and approach work including grading, paving and curbing 950 lineal feet of steep roadway in order to channel runoff away from the stream.

- **Project Cost: \$99,525**
- **Contributors:**
- **US Forest Service
Fish Passage Program
\$70,000**
- **Lake County Road
Commission \$17,068**
- **Chase Township
\$10,000**
- **CRA's River Care
Program \$2,457**

Location
ChaseTwp. Section 8
Lake County, MI
N43.883838 degrees
W85.651754 degrees



Best Management Practices:

- Timber deck installation incl. support beams & guardrail
- Fieldstone placement
- Pave & curb approaches (950 lineal feet)
- 4 diversion outlets
- Grading and revegetation
- Removal of broken structure instream

Project Benefits:

- Natural movement of woody debris, substrate, fish & aquatic insects
- Reduce sedimentation of stream from erosion of steep road approaches into the Middle Branch.

Partners involved:

Pere Marquette River Restoration Committee including the following partners - Conservation Resource Alliance, US Forest Service, Lake County Road Commission, Chase Township, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Fisheries Division, & Pere Marquette Watershed Council.

Baker Road Middle Branch Timber Bridge Photos – Site #L-45

Bridge deck – before



Bridge deck – after



Approaches – before



Approaches - after

