



Conservation Resource Alliance

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Platte River & Burnt Mill Bridge

October 2009 through August 2010

The Platte River is a State designated Blue Ribbon Trout Stream, and includes 90.5 miles of stream and tributaries. The *Platte River Watershed Management Plan* (Benzie Conservation District, 2002) identifies sediments, nutrients, temperature and altered hydrology as top concerns, and highlights the importance of restoring headwaters areas and the native brook trout habitats and populations. The Burnt Mill Road Crossing on the Platte River mainstem (site #PR-8) is a severe site that contributed sediment to the stream and altered the natural stream channel. This site is in the headwaters of the Platte River and thus affects 85 miles of river downstream. The culvert at the site was too small and short to sufficiently handle the flow of the Platte. As a result, the embankments were eroding and slumping into the stream and pool formation was a problem at the outlet. These conditions were exacerbated by intense recreational use. People built a rock dam completely across the river at the artificial pool that widened the river, and trampled the embankments in order to get to the river. The altered channel warmed water temperatures and caused trees on the streambanks to collapse into the stream further impeding flows. CRA worked with partners to construct a beautiful timber bridge over the Platte River, reminiscent of the natural character of the wooded area and former mill and railroad site at Burnt Mill. Additional woody debris work will be completed downstream.

Project Cost: \$328,062.36

Contributors:

- EPA Targeted Watershed Initiative w/ Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
- MDNRE Platte River Watershed Grant
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- NRCS - Conservation Innovation Grant w/ Little Traverse Bay Bands
- Benzie County Road Commission
- River Care Program - the Oleson Foundation & George Fund

Location:

Section 4, Inland Twp.
Benzie County, MI



Best Management Practices:

- Replace 91' long x 7.9' x 5.6' pipe arch culvert with a timber bridge 54' span & 28' long, 13.3' rise. Increased waterway opening from 37 sq.ft. to 532 sq.ft.
- Pavement & diversion outlets
- Rock placement & revegetation

Project Benefits:

- Reconnect 40 miles of upper Platte River.
- Restore fish passage & aquatic organism passage.
- Restore natural movement of woody debris & sediment upstream & downstream of site.
- Ensure safe roadway for vehicle traffic.
- Reduce road maintenance needs
- Halt annual input of up to 150 tons of sediment from roadbed

Partners involved:

Conservation Resource Alliance, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Benzie County Road Commission, Michigan Department of Natural Resources & the Environment, Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Platte River Watershed Council, Benzie Conservation District, McDowell Construction.

Platte River and Burnt Mill Bridge Photos
“Before” - outlet



“After” - outlet



“Before” – runoff caused washouts along the road shoulders... “after” – spillways will help control & direct runoff.



“Before” – the roadbed was in poor shape...

“after” – pavement will help direct runoff & prevent roadbed erosion.

