



**Conservation
Resource Alliance**

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Platte River & Reynolds Road Bridge

2012

The Platte River is a State designated Blue Ribbon Trout Stream, and includes 90.5 miles of stream and tributaries. The Reynolds Road crossing on the Platte River mainstem (site #PLT-A4) was a severe site where the 4' diameter culvert was exceptionally undersized. As a result, the road 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, and steep, curved road approaches with limited visibility on a well traveled road. 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. Now, a timber bridge fully spans the river and a realigned roadway provides safer conditions for drivers.

Project Cost: \$592,711 incl.match

Contributors:

- Environmental Protection Agency - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians
- Natural Resources Conservation Service – Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- US Fish & Wildlife Service – Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Restoration Act and Fish Passage Program
- Benzie County Road Commission
- River Care Program - The Oleson Foundation

Location:

Section 26, Almira Twp.
Benzie County, MI
N44.70689
W85.86164



Best Management Practices:

- Replace 4' diameter, 98' long corrugated steel culvert with a 66' long, 34' wide, 3 span timber bridge set on 48 piles driven over 20' deep into ground
- 500' guardrail
- Installation of 7 spillways & 2 downspouts to route runoff
- Realignment, grading, paving & curbing of 1,200' of road approaches
- Rock placement & revegetation

Project Benefits:

- Reconnect 1 mile of upper Platte River, Lake Ann and other connecting lakes
- Restore fish passage and aquatic organism passage
- Restore natural movement of woody debris & substrate
- Provide natural stream bottom under roadway
- Ensure safe road approaches for vehicle traffic
- Reduce road maintenance needs
- Halt annual input of approximately 10.6 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 Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, KPM Engineering, Platte River Watershed Council, Benzie Conservation District, and Team Elmers

Platte River and Reynolds Bridge Photos

Inlet – “Before”



Looking upstream –
Impounded water widened the channel



Outlet – “before” pool formation at the outlet was exacerbated by recreational use



During construction





Pile driving & deck setting - the bridge was set on 48 piles driven over 20' into the ground



Rock protects abutments from scouring & 1,200' of approach work improves safety & channels road runoff

