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## Woodcock Creek & Burnt Mill Road Improvement Project Platte River Watershed August 2014 to September 2015

The Platte River is a State designated Blue Ribbon Trout Stream that flows into Lake Michigan in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. The watershed includes 90.5 miles of stream and tributaries. The *Platte River Watershed Management Plan* 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. Woodcock Creek is a tributary to the Platte River that connects Upper Woodcock Lake and Lower Woodcock Lake, and has pockets of gravel beds and woody debris providing habitat and scape cover for trout and other aquatic life.

The Platte River Watershed has over 100 road/stream crossings and site #PLT-A-6 is where Burnt Mill Road crosses Woodcock Creek. With the replacement of the aging, undersized 3.5' diameter boiler plate culvert project partners designed and completed the installation of a 16' x 16' single span timber bridge. The new bridge accommodates the natural stream channel and allows the natural movement of substrate, fish and wildlife. Paved approaches, curbing and spillways were incorporated to channel road runoff away from the stream.

**Project Cost: \$174,000**  
**In-kind Match: \$16,000**

### Contributors:

- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation-Sustain Our great Lakes Program
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service & Grand Traverse Band – Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Benzie County Road Commission

### Partners involved:

Conservation Resource Alliance, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians, Benzie County Road Commission, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Fisheries Division, Prein & Newhof Engineering, AJ's Excavating, Krenn Bridge Company.

### Location:

Almira Twp.,  
Section 28,  
Benzie County, MI  
N 44.70702°  
W -85.88361°



### Best Management Practices:

- Single span timber bridge 16' wide by 16' long was installed to replace a 3.5' dia, 22' long culvert
- Fieldstone placement for slope stabilization (30 sq. yds)
- Grading & re-vegetation of disturbed areas
- Pavement 450', curbing, & 3 spillways constructed
- Guardrail for vehicle safety

### Project Benefits:

- Restore natural movement of woody debris and sediment upstream & downstream
- Halt up to 4 tons of sediment into stream from roadbed
- Reduced flooding potential & annual road maintenance
- Reconnect Upper & Lower Woodcock Lakes for migratory fish & other aquatic life
- Ensure safe roadway for vehicle traffic



## Site Photos

Before – The low point was at the stream where water pooled and drained into Woodcock Creek.



Before- an old boiler plate culvert with pieces of concrete and fill on top of it comprised the inadequate crossing.





A timber bridge now fully spans the stream channel allowing movement of all aquatic species during all life stages and all stream flows.



Paved approaches and spillways control runoff and route it into nearby upland areas, away from the stream.





Woodcock Creek is well forested and untouched, with a host of wildlife inhabiting its corridor.

