

Overcoming Barriers: Working with Partners to Meet Varying Objectives

**River Management Symposium
October 22-25, 2018**

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Wild & Scenic Rivers

5 Managed by the HMNFs:

- Au Sable National Scenic River
- Bear Creek National Scenic River
- Manistee National Recreation River
- Pere Marquette National Scenic River
- Pine National Scenic River



- In 1978, the Pere Marquette River was designated a Michigan Natural River and a National Wild and Scenic River
- The conservation of Michigan Natural Rivers and their outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values is important to the heritage, tourism, outdoor recreation, and long-term economic development of Michigan.
- Zoning regulations restricting development adjacent to the river protect environmental and aesthetic values



On publicly owned land, minimum restricted cutting strips apply on each side of the mainstream and designated tributaries where no or very limited vegetation management can occur:

- 150 ft min= Au Sable and Pere Marquette,
- 175 ft min. = Pine and Upper Manistee



- Where WSR designation and Natural Rivers overlaps, there are many more benefits.
- Examples: Signage, docks and commercial use



Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

- WSR Act is meant to protect free-flowing rivers and their Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):
 - Scenic
 - Geological
 - Historical
 - Cultural, or
 - Fish and Wildlife
- Projects must ensure the outstandingly remarkable values for which the river was designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act are maintained.



Manistee Wild and Scenic River, Public Access Improvement



Example: Manistee River Weir

- Balancing ORVs (fisheries, fish habitat, recreation)



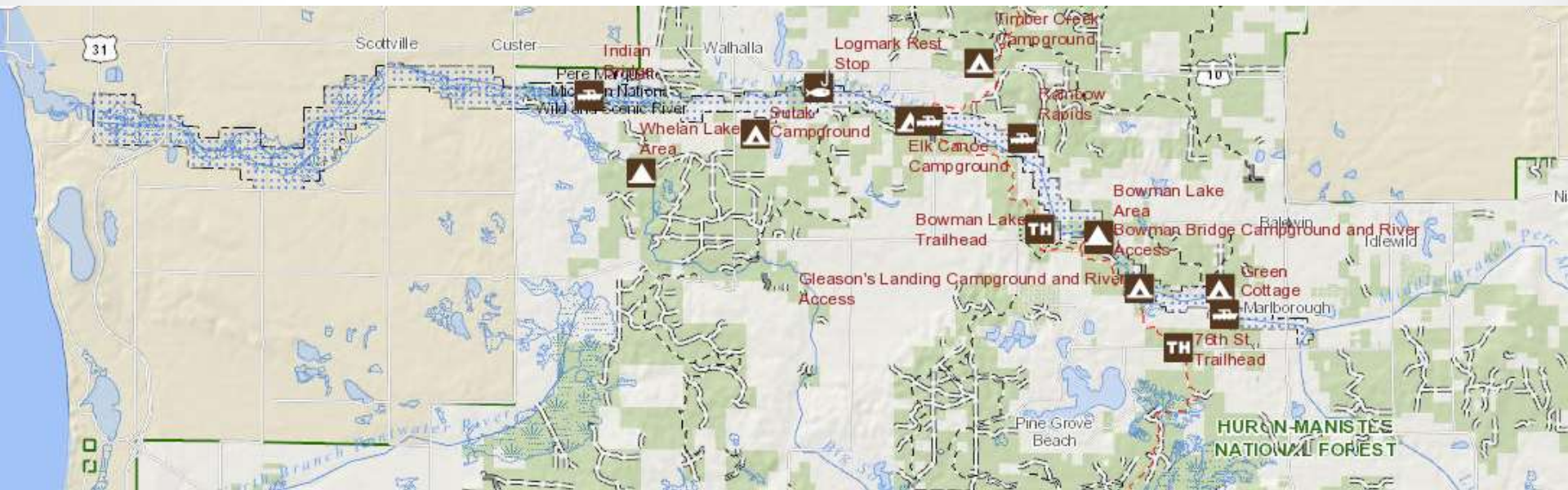
Challenges – Internal

- Other programs may not understand the requirements of a Section 7
- Awareness of the need for a Section 7
- Disregard for the importance of it (e.g. workload, perceived as holding back or slowing down projects). “We” have to be advocates for the resource and facilitate getting the Sec. 7 through the RO to meet deadlines (authorized officer).



Challenges – External

- Awareness of the need for a Section 7
- Timing
- Conflict Between Partners: Fishing vs. Erosion Fight



Successes

- Custer Weir – removal of lamprey barrier and building an accessible fishing pier.



Photo Credit: Conservation Resource Alliance

Successes

- MDOT – M-55 Rebuild Across the Manistee River (began conversations in 2017, construction not until 2021). MDOT has helped us educate the township about it when they wanted to do recreation improvements (boat launch).
- USACE Sea Lamprey Weir
- LRBOI Seasonal Fish Weir (Sturgeon Streamside Rearing Program Evaluation)



Value of Partnerships

