



1. Before - sand and gravel repeatedly washed down the approaches. 2. During construction. 3. Spillways handle runoff and filter out sediment. 4. After - pavement is the only effective solution.

Betsie River & King Road Improvement

October 2010

The Betsie River is a State Designated Natural River and is known regionally for its steelhead and salmon fisheries. With its headwaters starting in Green Lake, the Betsie meanders through Grand Traverse, Manistee, and Benzie Counties where it then flows into Lake Michigan.

There are 106 road/stream crossings inventoried in the watershed with 64 of them recommended for repair or replacement, a costly endeavor. Site #B-20 is where King Road crosses the Betsie mainstem. This site was ranked severe for its steep, sandy road approaches that eroded during rain and snowmelt events, washing tons of sand over the bridge deck and into the river. Site #B-20 is located on the upper third of the river; thus with the Betsie being 52 miles long, the sediment from King Road impacted over 30 miles of the river downstream. By partnering together, funding was secured to enable the Benzie County Road Commission to pave and curb the approaches, and install spillways to channel runoff away from the stream, to nearby land.

PROJECT COST: \$90,068

LOCATION: N 44.542343 W 85.942526

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:

- 1,700 feet of pavement & curbing
- 6 spillways complete with rock riprap
- Guardrail

PROJECT BENEFITS:

- **Halt annual input of up to 12 tons of sediment from the road into the river**
- Ensure safe roadway for vehicle traffic
- Reduce road maintenance

PARTNERS:

- Environmental Protection Agency
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
- Benzie County Road Commission
- CRA River Care Program – The Oleson Foundation, Serra Family Foundation
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Betsie River Watershed Restoration Committee
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

