



1. Old culvert fill constantly eroded and washed into the Platte. 2. Bridges are ideal for mainstem crossings, allowing the river to flow freely under the road.

Platte River & Burnt Mill Timber Bridge

October 2009 through August 2010

The Platte River is recognized as one of Michigan's Blue Ribbon Trout Streams, and certain reaches are home to steelhead, salmon, brook and brown trout. The Platte River springs from Lake Ann, and then flows into and out of 3 other lakes (Bronson, Platte and Loon Lakes) before emptying into Lake Michigan in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

There are 98 road/stream crossings inventoried in the watershed. Site #1-10 is where Burnt Mill Road crosses the Platte River mainstem; this site ranked severe for its undersized culvert and steep, raw embankments that regularly washed into the stream. These conditions were exacerbated by intense recreational use, where folks trampled the banks in order to get to the stream and built a rock dam to form a huge swimming hole. The site is in the headwaters of the Platte River and thus impacted over 15 miles of river downstream to Platte Lake.

Funding was secured to build a beautiful timber bridge over the Platte River, reminiscent of the natural character of the surrounding woods and the history of the site. There used to be a sawmill where shingles were produced at the Burnt Mill crossing, along with a nearby railroad grade that connected to the town of Honor, and a marl mining operation upstream on a connecting creek.

PROJECT COST: \$328,000

LOCATION: N 44.685193 W 85.888624

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:

- Replace pipe arch (5'7" x 7'11", 91' long) with 3 span 54' wide timber bridge
- Increased waterway opening from 37 to 532 square feet
- Pavement & 3 spillways
- Rock placement & revegetation

PROJECT BENEFITS:

- **Reconnect 2 miles of the upper Platte River**
- Restore fish passage
- Restore natural movement of woody debris, substrate, & aquatic insects
- **Halt annual input of up to 8 tons of sediment from the road into the river**
- Provide natural stream bottom under road & stop pool formation
- 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's River Care Program
–The Oleson Foundation, George Fund
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Platte River Watershed Council
- Benzie Conservation District
- McDowell Construction
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Krenn Bridge Company