River Care – Restoring Connectivity and Habitat in the Upper Great Lakes

Project Outcomes

- First 2 years of a 6-year project to restore connectivity in 600 miles of Great Lakes streams, ensuring future healthy populations of native fish & wildlife
- Complete up to 25 dam removals, road crossing improvements, in-stream and wildlife corridor habitat projects on the Betsie, Platte, Jordan, Boyne, Manistee, Boardman, Rifle, Two Hearted, and other rivers
- Continued stream monitoring program focused in Betsie, Platte, and Jordan watersheds under leadership of Grand Traverse Band Natural Resource staff
- Ensure resource availability for future generations of subsistence fishers, hunters, and gatherers

Haze Road crossing on a tributary to the Betsie River impedes fish passage. The crossing will be replaced by a large elliptical culvert, allowing natural flow and upstream fish passage..

Grants and Matching Funds

- $750,000 from GLFWRA program
- $375,000 from Fish Passage and Great Lakes Fish Habitat Partnership programs
- Great Lake Restoration Initiative
- CRA, Huron Pines, The Nature Conservancy and community partners will provide over $1 million in non-federal match, plus additional $6 million in federal funding
- Protected conservation lands provide added value

Project Area -18 Watersheds in northern MI, including much of the 1836 Treaty-ceded territory

Boardman River (Ottawa River) tributaries crossed by the GLC Railroad and Cass Rd. in Grand Traverse County; bottomless structures will be designed to facilitate fish passage.

Project Partners

- Conservation Resource Alliance
- Huron-Pines
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
- The Nature Conservancy
- Michigan DNR and DEQ
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Conservation Districts
- County Road Commissions
- Municipalities
- Engineering Firms and Contractors
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Land Conservancies and Private Landowners

One of 12 dams to be removed from the 1,700 acre **Flowing Well property** in the headwaters area of the Manistee River. This multi-phased project will benefit aquatic and terrestrial species and re-establish the ecology function in the critical headwaters of one of Michigan's most prominent rivers.

Monitoring will include surveys, biological sampling, and electrofishing.