

The first steelhead returning from Lake Michigan were caught in the spring of 1972. With the completion of a fish ladder on the dam on the Grand River in Grand Rapids and the demolition of the Childsdale Dam, anadromous fish runs are expected to increase.

C. Camping, Canoeing, Picnicking and Other Activities

Camping and picnicking facilities are limited along the Rogue. There are no state campgrounds, but there is one privately owned campground at Sparta and one planned near the confluence of the Rogue and Grand Rivers. Picnickers are able to use any of the publicly owned land along the river, but no improved picnic sites with tables, toilet facilities and fireplaces are provided.

From Pine Island Drive downstream the river is attractive to canoeists. Scattered development characterizes the lower part of the river, but it does not detract too much from the scenic aspects. Some rocky riffles and fast moving pools give the novice canoeist some challenge.

Hikers, trailbikers and ATV users are also competing for land use along the river. ATV's have caused some environmental damage to river banks and surrounding swampland. Hikers are also able to use the Rogue River State Game Area. There are also several marked snowmobile trails in the game area.

FUTURE USE AND POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

The Rogue River experienced a big increase in angler numbers following the 1968 chemical reclamation and subsequent restocking with trout. It is estimated that angler usage increased from 20 to 80 anglers per mile per year. When the fisheries management objectives are completed, the Rogue will provide even more trout for the angler. They will be healthier, faster growing, and more accessible to the fisherman. With an improved fishery it is estimated angler numbers will increase to between 120 and 150 anglers per mile per year. If this projected increase in angler numbers does occur, it will necessitate more public access sites and might also increase the demand for camping areas. Because of the large amount of land in private holdings these needs might be met by privately owned and operated campgrounds.

Development along the river in the form of home building is increasing. The populations in Plainfield, Sparta, Tyrone and Algoma Townships as shown by the 1970 census data and the projected 1990 populations for these townships is given below:* (The City of Rockford is located in three townships so is listed separately.)

TOWNSHIP POPULATION	1970 CENSUS	1990 PROJECTED
Plainfield	16,935	29,500

Algoma	3,088	6,500
Sparta	6,466	7,660
Tyrone	2,638	4,150
Rockford	<u>2,428</u>	<u>3,800</u>
TOTAL	31,555	51,500

Unregulated housing development along the river could easily destroy its present beauty and natural characteristics. Fortunately, the townships in Kent County through which the Rogue flows are presently zoned. Although they have no "greenbelt zoning" the fact that they have all retained the same attorney should make development of common Natural River zoning ordinance amendments feasible.

It is possible that industrial, municipal and agricultural diversions of surface water could also increase. Presently four industries use approximately 416 million gallons of surface water per year; municipalities draw about 138 million gallons per year; and it is possible that irrigation of such things as golf courses could increase.

LAWS AND PROGRAMS REINFORCING OBJECTIVES OF THE NATURAL RIVERS PROGRAM

A number of Michigan laws now authorize Department of Natural Resources' programs or activities for partial protection of rivers. Officials administering the Natural Rivers Program for the protection of the Rogue should utilize these statutes in implementing the plan objectives for the river and its tributaries (see appendix).

The proposed Department of Natural Resources' program to establish rules for river use on heavily used streams may also be directed toward protecting natural rivers, particularly those rivers where recreational use is or may be expected to be quite heavy. The rules have been designed to protect the river resources and recreational experiences that are characteristic of a particular stream.

*Projected populations are not available for villages other than Rockford.

ROGUE RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN

A. Proposed Designation

The 42-mile long Rogue River is a designated trout stream providing quality trout fishing close to Michigan's second largest metropolitan area. Approximately 90 miles of cold water tributaries contribute the clear fresh water and spawning areas necessary to maintain a natural fishery. Its relatively undeveloped borders offer seclusion to the angler, canoeist or hiker. The upper four miles in Kent County flow through the Rogue River State Game Area. Because of their unique