

BOARDMAN RIVER NATURAL RIVER PLAN

GRAND TRAVERSE AND KALKASKA COUNTIES

FEBRUARY 1976

Revised December 22, 1975



DNR  **FISHERIES DIVISION**

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
Revised March 12, 2002

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface

The Study Area.....	1
A. General Description	1
B. Physiography and Soils.....	1
C. Stream Characteristics.....	2
D. Vegetation.....	4
E. Climate.....	4
F. Ownership.....	6
G. Accessibility	6
Existing Uses and Recreational Opportunities.....	7
A. Land Use.....	7
B. Private Recreation Facilities.....	7
C. Public Recreation Facilities	7
D. Fishing	8
E. Wildlife Observation and Hunting.....	9
F. Canoeing and Boating.....	9
G. Historic and Archaeological Sites.....	9
Preliminary Natural River Plan.....	10
A. Goal	10
B. Objective	10
C. Proposed Designation.....	10
D. Natural River District	11
E. Water Quality	12
F. Land Development.....	12
1. Building Setbacks.....	12
2. Subdivisions	12
3. Industrial and Commercial Structures and Uses	12
4. Septic Tank Systems.....	12
5. Land Fills or Earth Removal	13
6. Stream Alteration.....	13
7. Utilities.....	13
8. Signs	14
9. Canoe Landings	14
G. Land Use.....	14
1. Managed Vegetative Strip	14
2. Minerals.....	15
3. Litter Control.....	15
4. Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control.....	15
H. River or River Related Activities.....	16
1. Boating and Canoeing.....	16
2. Campgrounds and Picnic Areas	16
3. Fishing, Hunting and Related Wildlife Activity	16

I.	Access and Motorized Travel.....	17
1.	Public Access.....	17
2.	Motorized Travel.....	17
J.	Administration.....	18
	APPENDIX A--PART 305 – NATURAL RIVERS PA 451 OF 1994.....	20
	APPENDIX B--RELATED LAWS.....	24

PREFACE

The shores of Traverse Bay and the Leelanau shores of Lake Michigan, the area's remote rural quality, many high quality rivers and lakes, clean air and varied forest cover combine to be a major attraction for those in southern Michigan and bordering states to the south who seek quiet, natural beauty.

The Boardman River is a particularly outstanding feature of this region. Its main tributaries begin some 38 miles east of Traverse City, then run westerly through many miles of forested lands until the mainstream turns northward some nine miles south of Traverse City. The river discharges into Grand Traverse Bay at Traverse City. The river, once important to lumbering operations and local electric power supply, now attracts recreational use and housing.

The Boardman has excellent populations of brook and brown trout and provides countless hours of recreation for seasonal homeowners and tourists. In addition, canoeing, hunting, bird watching and just relaxing in a quiet, natural atmosphere attract many people to the area.

Vacation and retirement home developments continue to occur at a rapid rate in the Boardman River watershed and the Traverse City environs. As the demand for quality recreation and homesites increases, the natural beauty and wild character of the area could be destroyed by unregulated land use. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the Traverse Bay Regional Planning Commission, has studied the Boardman River and its many tributaries, and is recommending that it be included in the state Natural River Program with portions classified as a country-scenic river and portions as a wild-scenic river under authority of Part 305, P.A. 451 of 1994.

This report (1) provides a physical description of the river and surrounding lands; (2) reviews values of the river and factors affecting its future nature and use; and (3) provides a plan for the protection of the river's natural qualities and to guide its future use. The plan is the result of joint efforts of the Boardman River Management Plan Committee, Boardman River Advisory Council, Traverse Bay Regional Planning Commission and the Department of Natural Resources.