

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Natural River Act (Part 305, P.A. 451 of 1994) authorizes the Natural Resources Commission to establish a system of "natural rivers" in the state to provide for their preservation, protection and enhancement. Section 30502 of the Natural River Act states, in part, that: "The commission, in the interest of the people of the state and future generations, may designate a river or portion thereof, as a natural river area for the purpose of preserving and enhancing its values for water conservation, its free flowing condition and its fish, wildlife, boating, aesthetic, flood plain, ecologic, historic and recreational values and uses".

Support for including the Au Sable River under the Natural River Act comes from a variety of organizations and interests.

This report: (1) provides a physical description of the river and its watershed as a whole; (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.

It is recommended that the mainstream of the Au Sable River and selected tributaries be designated as a "wild-scenic" river under authority of Natural Rivers, Part 305, P.A. 451 of 1994 is of a wild character with wild or forested borders, in close proximity to human development. The wild aspect may be relatively broad or confined to a narrow ribbon.



LEFT - MAINSTREAM AT  
MC MASTER'S BRIDGE  
BELOW - JUNE BRANCH AT  
GEORGE BRADY CANYON

