

INTRODUCTION

The Pine River system is a resource of national significance. The river and its adjoining lands are highly valued for the abundant and diverse fishery, scenic beauty, many miles of floatable waters, excellent game and non-game wildlife populations, camping, hiking and other recreational opportunities, historical significance and outstanding opportunities for private residential development. Because of these characteristics, the river system is experiencing increasing pressures from recreational users and development interests that threaten to forever alter the natural character of the river.

Under provisions of Natural Rivers Part 305 of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is authorized to establish a system of designated "Natural Rivers" to provide for the protection and reasonable use of our finest river systems. To help protect the values of the Pine River system, it is recommended that the Pine River and many of its tributaries be designated as Natural Rivers under provisions of Part 305. All stream segments are recommended for designation in the "Wild-Scenic" classification. A "Wild-Scenic" River is defined as having 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 corridor.

The Department of Natural Resources has developed this management plan for the Pine River system as part of the designation process. This report provides a description of the physical characteristics of the river and its adjoining lands, cultural features of the river system and factors affecting its future nature and use.

The report also outlines a plan for the protection of the Pine River system. Through implementation of local and State zoning ordinances and rules based on the plan, along with proper management of public lands and programs, the Pine River Natural River Plan will serve as a basis for preserving and enhancing the rivers' values for water conservation, their free-flowing condition and their fish, wildlife, boating, scenic, aesthetic, historic and recreational values and uses.