



Upper Black River Council 2022 Council and River Work Annual Report December 19, 2022

With the help of its many partners, donors and volunteers, the Upper Black River Council (UBRC) is pleased to provide this update on the activities for the 2022 calendar year. Needless to say, none of what follows could be accomplished without the help of all of you.

Our year of activities began in April with the Spring meeting held at the Canada Creek Ranch House. It was well attended and our plans for the coming crew work season were discussed with full reports provided by our project partners.

The in-stream work was again conducted by Ken Reed Contracting, Inc., who began the season addressing a variety of items for our partner, Canada Creek Ranch. As water levels declined and conditions became more favorable, Ken resumed the final year of work on the project permit reach which begins at Sparr Road in eastern Otsego County and extended to the Tyrolean Hills area about 3.5 miles downstream (see maps included - Permit No. WRP017532).

This season, Ken and his crew completed their fourth year of work on this permit which included the development of nearly 1,000 in-stream structures. Additionally, their work season included stabilization of materials which had come loose during times of early season high-water which were situationally impeding flow and potentially causing streambank erosion.

As in past years, volunteers from the UBRC, Headwaters Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and many others helped to continue the stewardship of this treasured cold-water resource. None of these efforts, however, could be conducted without the leadership of the MDNR's Tim Cwalinski, who we're proud to, again, congratulate Tim for his new position as Northern Lake Huron Management Unit Supervisor. Additionally, it's worth noting that the UBRC as we now know it, could not exist without the untiring support of Heather Rawlings of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Other early season activities included the placement of water temperature monitoring devices throughout the system. These are "launched" by the DNR and installed and removed by volunteers. These data are recorded by the devices on the hour and are downloaded for analysis at the end of each season. The Excel file for these results can be retrieved by clicking [here](#).



Example of 2021 Crew Work - taken 8/22

This year's contract work again resulted in the completion of over 200 structures over a nearly 0.8 mile reach of river. As has been typical of this permit, limited access made work especially challenging. A complete exhibit of the 2022 before and after work crew photos are available [here](#) and [here](#).

Under the leadership of Gary Isaman, summer volunteer work included Headwaters T.U. chapter's help with the approved removal of an abandoned beaver dam on the East Branch of the Black River. Although now under State of Michigan (public ownership), this was located on a reach of the river formerly owned by Bud Slingerlend, the original Chairman of the Upper Black River Restoration Committee, now known as the Upper Black River Council.



Before Dam Removal



After Dam Removal

Our Fall meeting was held on September 16, 2022, and was again held at the Canada Creek Ranch House. With over 20 in attendance, the season's activities were discussed and plans for 2023 were also reviewed. The discussions included the UBRC's plans for conducting a drone aerial video survey with the assistance of Datema Media in Gaylord. The objective is to identify any adverse conditions which may have emerged during the year and making plans for corrective measures.

With the help of Lance Cottrell, Luke Datema conducted the drone survey during late October and early December. We hope to have edited versions of the video available for sharing by mid-January, 2023. Please check our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page for links to the content when available.

As has been the case since the inception of the Upper Black River Council and its predecessor the Upper Black River Restoration Committee, all of the funds raised go back into this resource or its advancement. All administration and program management is conducted by volunteers who receive no compensation. We mention this because there have been times when we have been unable to respond to new initiatives proposed for the UBRC as quickly as we would have liked.

The mission of the UBRC is to restore and maintain the outstanding water resources and natural brook trout fishery of the Upper Black River Watershed

We again extend our thanks to project partners which include the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Huron Pines, Headwaters Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Michigan Fly Fishing Club, Montmorency County Conservation Club, The Sheldon Foundation, Canada Creek Ranch, our donors, NEMCOG and our UBRC Board of Directors.

Between the time of this writing and the Spring meeting, we remain available for any questions or comments.

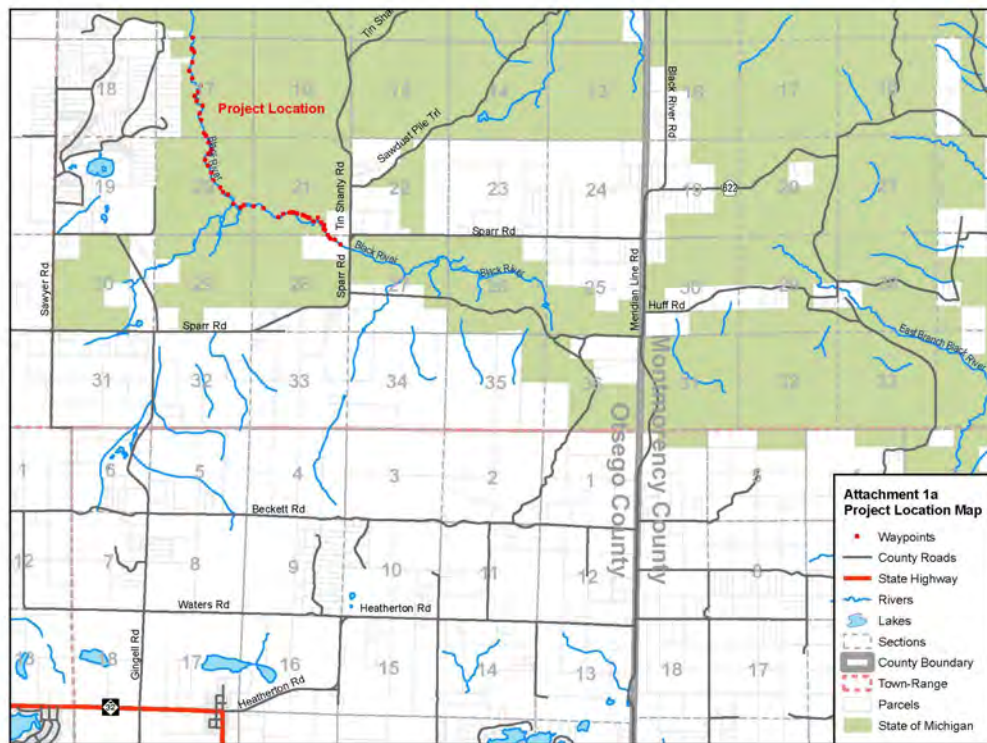
Sincerely,

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BLACK RIVER PERMIT PROJECT LOCATION MAP



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AERIAL VIEW OF 2021 IN-STREAM PROJECT LIMITS

(from N45° 4.479'/84°27.603'W to 45° 5.067'N'/ 84° 27.714'W)



SAMPLE IN-STREAM STRUCTURES - BEFORE & AFTER

(Additional Photos Available [here](#) and [here](#))



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SAMPLE IN-STREAM STRUCTURES - BEFORE & AFTER



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SAMPLE IN-STREAM STRUCTURES - BEFORE & AFTER (Continued)



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SAMPLE IN-STREAM STRUCTURES - BEFORE & AFTER (Continued)



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