

Collaborations

Department of Natural Resources Newsletter

Region 3 Spring 2017



Black River offers great fishing opportunities and more

The Black River in the northeastern Lower Peninsula is a hub for some of the best natural resource-based recreational opportunities – including fishing – in the state. The river is an economic generator for local communities and contributes to the region's quality of life.

The Black River, which flows through Cheboygan, Otsego, Montmorency and Presque Isle counties, is known statewide for its brook trout as well as its wild lake sturgeon populations in the lower reaches. The Black River mainstem, East Branch and Canada Creek tributaries make up the prime brook trout waters. Stocking of trout is unneeded since natural reproduction is strong in the system.

Various reaches of the river offer different fishing opportunities, with some reaches being very conducive to dry fly fishing, while other areas are better for baiting and spinning for trout.

“Northern Michigan has less development and so, overall, the watersheds are better protected,” said Tim Cwalinski, Michigan Department of Natural Resources fisheries management biologist. “The forests tend to absorb the water after heavy snow melt or rains, meaning the groundwater is recharged, which eventually recharges the wetlands along the rivers and the rivers themselves.”

The Black River watershed flows primarily through very forested regions, both in public land and forested private land. Some of the watershed flows through large, private ranches which also help to protect the river against shoreline development. The forested areas are made up primarily of white cedar, spruce and fir mixtures.

In addition to fishing, the river also boasts recreational opportunities such as kayaking, canoeing and paddling. For more information about the river, visit <http://www.upperblack.org>.

*The Michigan Department of Natural Resources will foster a culture of **collaboration** by public engagement and relationship building with counties and stakeholders. Cultivating broad-based partnerships that focus regionally and act collaboratively will reinforce conservation goals, increase quality recreational opportunities and build a stronger regional base of sustainable natural resource economies in Michigan for current residents and future generations.*

Your DNR connections

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Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars go to local communities

| County | Amount |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Alcona | \$ 390,400 |
| Alpena | \$ 5,827,066 |
| Cheboygan | \$24,163,400 |
| Crawford | \$ 8,706,796 |
| Iosco | \$ 4,560,300 |
| Montmorency | \$ 841,478 |
| Ogemaw | \$ 1,274,000 |
| Oscoda | \$ 134,800 |
| Otsego | \$17,792,160 |
| Presque Isle | \$ 5,789,700 |
| Roscommon | \$10,649,300 |
| TOTAL | \$80,129,400 |

Grant totals 1976-2015.

* Includes grants to the DNR for acquisition/ development in those counties.