



**Upper Black River Council Final Report for 2019 River Work Season  
New Saunders Dam (SD) & Tyrolean Hills (TH) Permit No. WRP017532  
December 20, 2019**

The Upper Black River Council (UBRC) is pleased to provide you with a final report for the 2019 river work season on the Upper Black River. Our 2019 project permit reach begins at Sparr Road in eastern Otsego County and wraps up farther north at the Tyrolean Hills area about 3.5 miles downstream (see maps included). In the middle of the permit area is the site of the former Saunder's Dam (removed a few years ago) near where Saunder's Creek flows into the Main Branch Black River.

As we awaited the new permit's approval, Ken Reed Contracting and his crew began their work as soon as the spring run-off settled down. They inspected the 282 in-stream enhancement structures installed in 2018 when the 1.875 mile Tin Shanty Bridge permit reach was completed. Maintenance on those requiring tidying up took place, after which they headed over to UBRC partner, Canada Creek Ranch (CCR), to finish up the permit reach there. While on CCR, Ken and crew successfully installed 63 in-stream habitat structures, completing CCR's 5-year permit! Ken also took some time to take care of a number of stream and fish passage issues throughout the watershed, including a big blockage on the Main Branch Black, making our brookies, anglers, paddlers and adjacent property owners very happy.

The CCR permit completion timed out well with the long-awaited news that our new permit application had been approved by the folks in the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). It's worth noting that the EGLE permit reviewer was, again, one of the UBRC's former river crew members, Brian Marshall.

This new permit reach flows entirely through state of Michigan-owned land and creates more access challenges for Ken and crew. They began with the easterly half of the permit which has limited gradient change, lots of tag alder and a lengthy stretch of blow-downs suspended over the river than required opening up. Photos of a portion of the blow-down stretch are on the following page, along with a sampling of photos of the 75 structures completed on the permit in 2019. **All** of the before and after photos may be viewed via the GoogleDrive link below, along with maps of the project area and the full permit document:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GbTywnookB8DxYmnI9L2V42gePmdhJja?usp=sharing>

Additionally, the link below leads to a Google Earth map which includes project waypoints and sample photos of the in-stream habitat work completed in the 2019 work season. In order to view this project waypoint map with photos, Google Earth is required. This link will lead you to a file download which will allow you to access the file. Just click on the waypoint "pins" to view a sample photo.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tGPFDP-nE\\_FvkC1ZoioLYV\\_yxlfSW8xI/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tGPFDP-nE_FvkC1ZoioLYV_yxlfSW8xI/view?usp=sharing)

**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**

**Ken Reed, opening up a pathway through the blow-down section of the new permit area**



We are most grateful to those who, time and again, invest in preserving and enhancing the only river in the lower peninsula specifically managed for its naturally reproducing brook trout fishery. We extend our thanks to this most generous list of project partners: 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 Shelden Foundation, Canada Creek Ranch, our donors, NEMCOG and our UBRC Board of Directors. Additional kudos are extended to Ken Reed and crew for their dedication to this beautiful river system, to MDNR Fisheries Biologist, Tim Cwalinski for his guidance and counsel, to Nico Tucker, our incomparable permit application drafter to Heather Rawlings of USFWS for her advocacy on behalf of the Upper Black, to the EGLE's Brian Marshall for his assistance on our permit applications, to Paul Rose for developing the KMZ maps, to Richard Bruot for always making himself available and to Gary Isaman, Jim Kurbel and the rest of the great members of Headwaters TU for always stepping up and into this cold, cold river.

All the best to this special watershed and those who care for it!

Sincerely,

*CMR*

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**Waypoint 2**  
**SD-02-03**  
**N45°03'19"/W84°25'57"**  
**Structure for sediment management and juvenile cover**



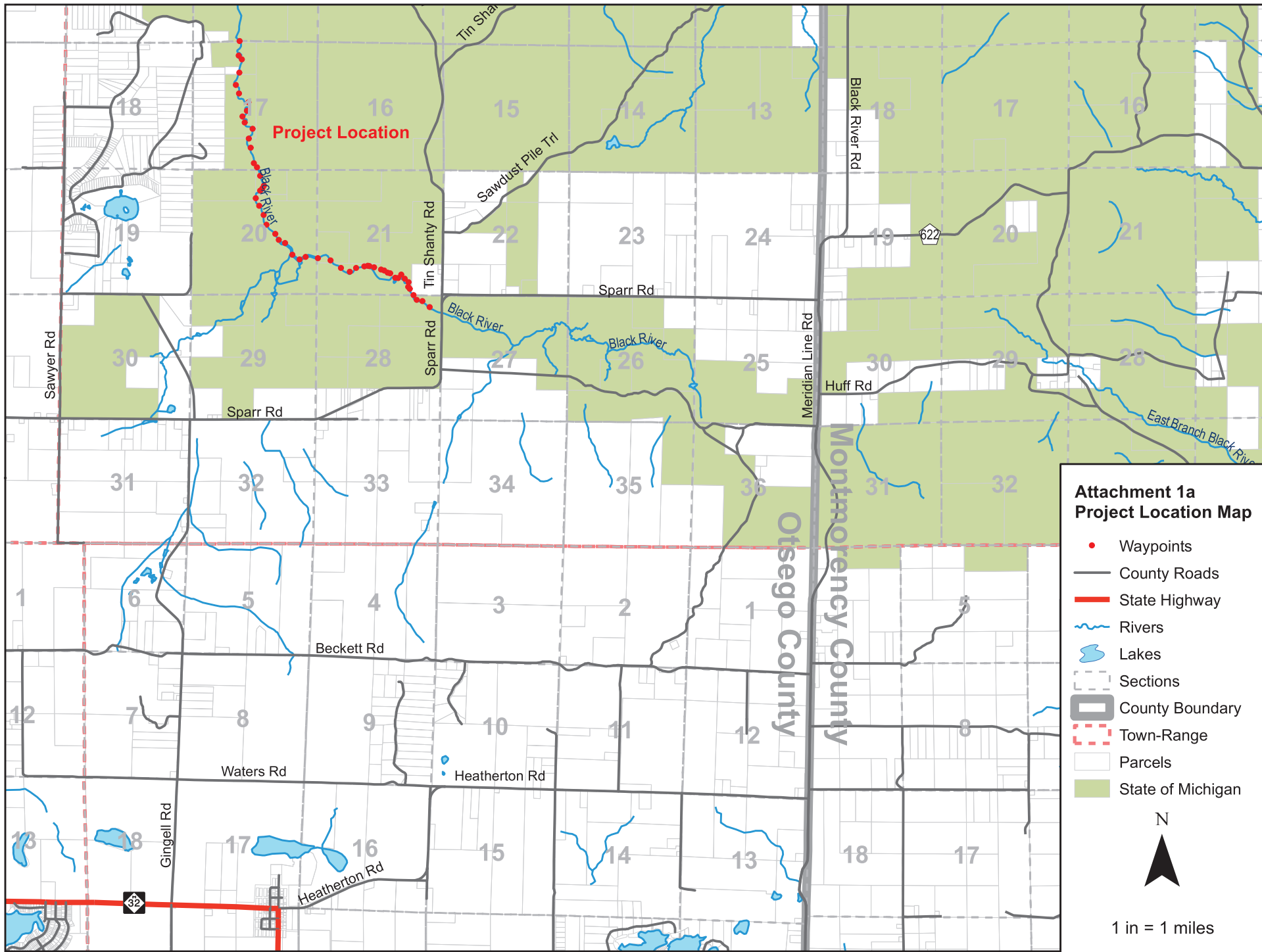
**Waypoint 13**  
**SD-13-04**  
**M45°03'30"/W84°26'17'**  
**Braiding. Rearrange, anchor wood so no longer restricting flow. Sediment mgmt, cover**

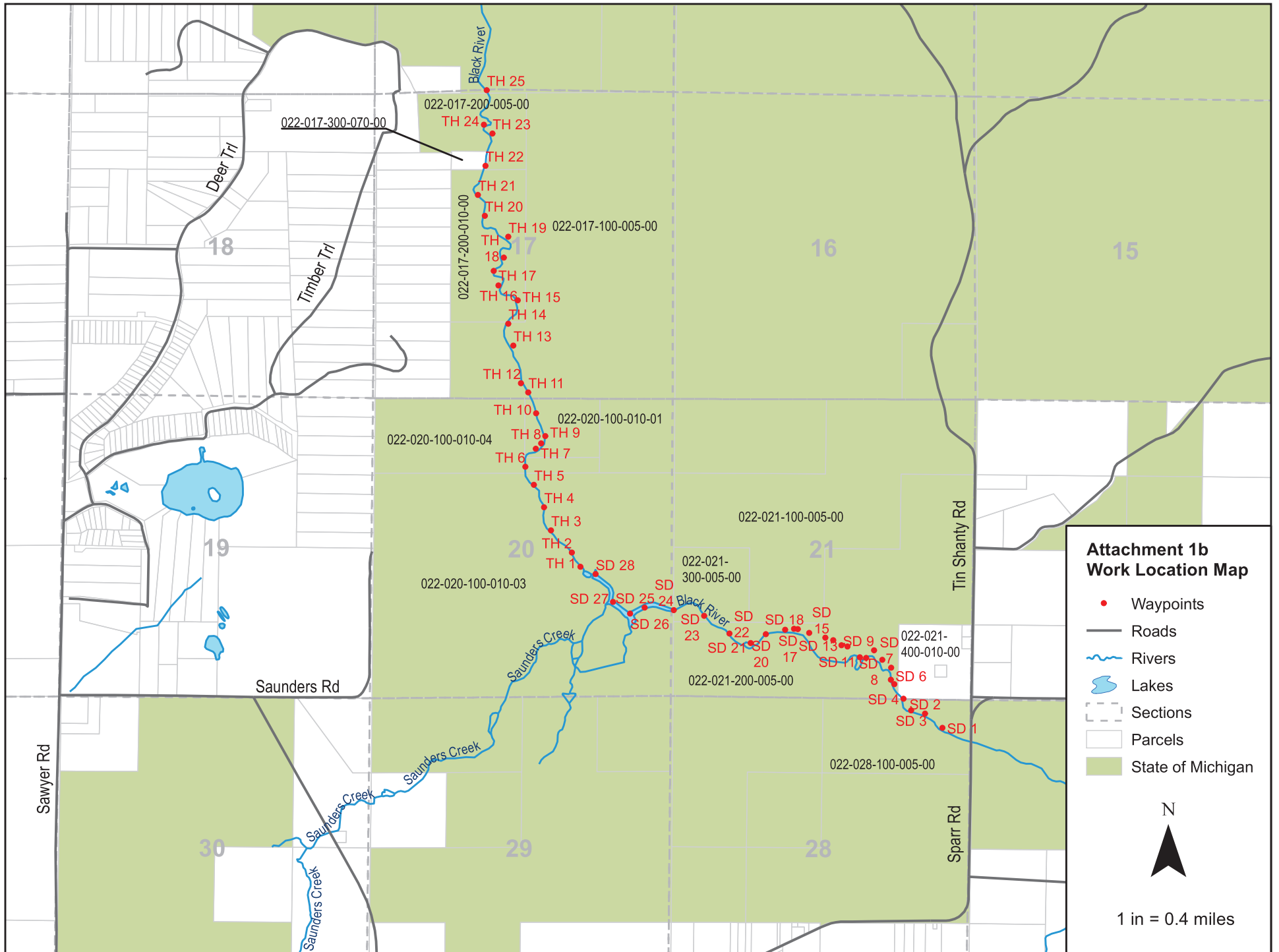


**Waypoint 18**  
**SD-18-01**  
**N45°03'33"/W84°26'29"**  
**Many river braids and blockages; structure for sediment management and juvenile cover**



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**Attachment 1b  
Work Location Map**

- Waypoints
- Roads
- ~ Rivers
- ~ Lakes
- - - Sections
- Parcels
- State of Michigan



1 in = 0.4 miles