



**Upper Black River Council - River Crew Progress Report -December 12, 2017  
Completion of Northern Blue Lakes Permit No. WRP006532 and  
Year-end Report**

As 2017 comes to a successful close, we are pleased to provide you with the final River Crew Progress Report for 2017. Since our July report, we are happy to report that the entire Northern Blue Lakes (NBL) permit reach has been completed! Ken Reed and crew finished the final 93 structures remaining after the July report, bringing the total for the NBL permit to 146 structures installed over an estimated 7,529 feet of stream on the main stem Upper Black. This, in addition to completing the final 57 structures on the main stem Upper Black and 2,560± of streambank attributable to the remaining "Hardwood Creek" portion of the previous permit (Springs-Hardwood Creek) this year. When combined, 10,089± feet of streambank was enhanced in 2017. Additionally, Ken and crew also installed 56 structures on Canada Creek as it flows through Canada Creek Ranch, enhancing at least another 0.25 mile of streambank there.

I think we'd all agree that the amount of work and habitat enhancement on this, the only river in lower Michigan exclusively managed for its naturally reproducing brook trout fishery, was nothing short of remarkable. It couldn't have happened without the support of our many project partners. In particular, we'd like to thank US Fish & Wildlife Service for their decades of support through their Partners for Fish & Wildlife program. In addition, our grateful thanks to Huron Pines for sharing their Saving Our Great Lakes grant funding with us, along with Headwaters TU Chapter, Michigan Fly Fishing Club, the Sheldon Foundation, Canada Creek Ranch, Montmorency County Conservation Club, our donors, NEMCOG and our UBRC Board of Directors for their continued investment in this important conservation work. Our thanks also extend to MDNR Senior Fisheries Biologist, Tim Cwalinski, for his professional and personal investment of his time and expertise, to Nico Tucker of NEMCOG for his extraordinary ability to craft permit applications that are things of beauty, and to Richard Bruot for always being available when he's needed somewhere on the river.

Finally, our awe and thanks extend to Ken Reed and his crew for the astonishing amount of work completed on the river. Well done, all!

To view photos of all of the structures installed this year, I've attached the following GoogleDrive file hyperlink:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NJo4mZ4eklrngq1ILKrKMyAvv7s3f6c?usp=sharing>

What follows are a sampling of some of the final structures installed as a part of the Northern Blue Lakes (NBL) permit (Before on the left, After on the right).

**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**

**Northern Blue Lakes (NBL) Waypoint 1**  
**N45°08.837' / W84°20.458'**  
**NBL - 01.01**



**NBL - 01.02**



**NBL - 01.05**



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**NBL Waypoint 2 - N45°08.843'/ W84°20.368'**  
**NBL - 02.01**



**NBL Waypoint 3 - N45°08.873'/ W84°20.368'**  
**NBL-03.05**



**NBL Waypoint 4 - N45°08.892'/W84°20.298'**  
**NBL-04.06**



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**NBL Waypoint 10 - N45°08.952'/W84°20.121'**  
**NBL-10.01**



This wood turtle really enjoyed this structure and was seen there while the crew worked.



**NBL Waypoint 12 - N45°08.886'/ W84°10.880'**  
**NBL12.04**



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**NBL Waypoint 9 - N45°08.988/W84°20.121'**  
**NBL 9.05**



**NBL Waypoint 13 - N45°08.883'/W84°19.828'**  
**NBL13.01**



**NBL Waypoint 15 - N45°08.949/W84°19.780**  
**NBL15.03**



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**NBL Waypoint 17 - N45°08.976'/W84°19.611'**  
**NBL17.05**



**NBL Waypoint 18 - N45°08.998'/W84°19.616'**  
**NBL 18.02**



**NBL Waypoint 19 - N45°09.011'/W84°19.536'**  
**NBL 19.02**



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**NBL Waypoint 22 - N45°09.104'/W84°19.482'**  
**NBL 22.02**

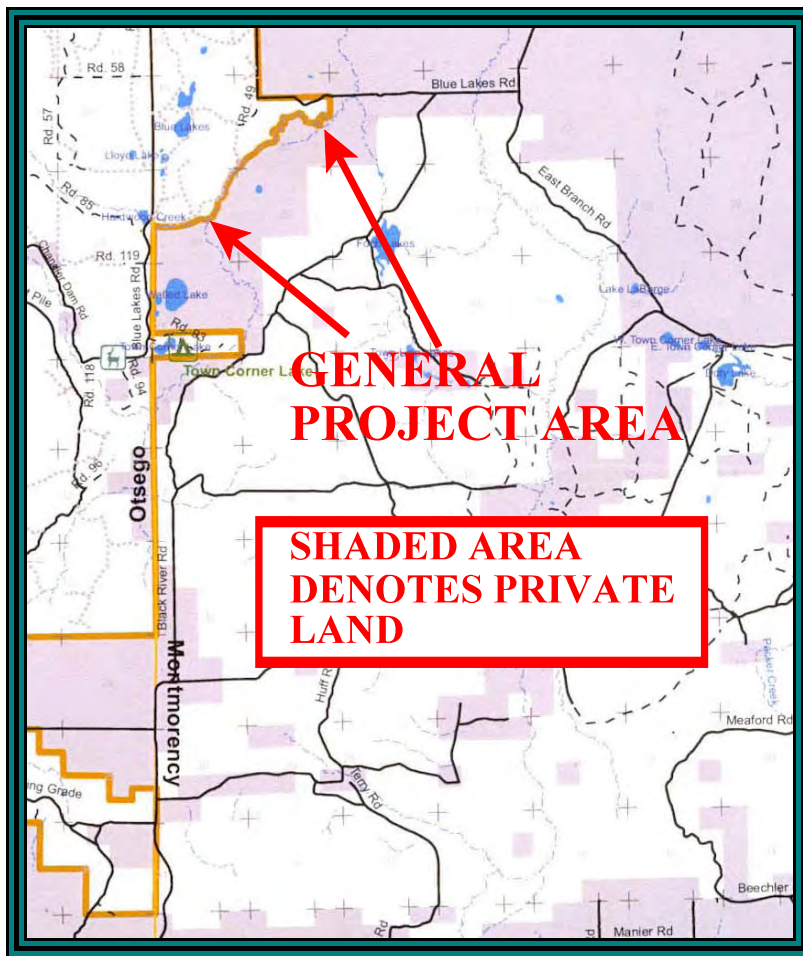


**NBL Waypoint 23 - N45°09.126'/84°19.455'**  
**NBL 23.07**



**Blandings Turtle found nestled into one of the structures in Waypoint 14**

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## Montmorency County, MI

Eastern limits of the Pigeon River Country State Forest (PRCSF)

