

**MANISTEE NATIONAL RECREATIONAL RIVER
AND
BEAR CREEK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVER
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

This management plan describes how the selected Alternatives, (Alternative G for the Manistee River and Alternative E for Bear Creek), as described in the Decision Notice and in the Environmental Assessment (EA), will be implemented on National Forest System lands in the Manistee National Recreational and the Bear Creek National Scenic river corridors. This management plan is accompanied by the Environmental Assessment, which provides information on the planning process, planning area, rationale behind Alternatives G and E and their development, and their effects on physical, social and economic resources in the river corridors. The map of the designated river corridor boundaries is located on page 31 of this plan.

The plan has 5 sections:

1. **Background** on the direction in relevant Acts and plans,
2. **Administration**, the management roles and responsibilities of the US Forest Service and other agencies and land owners who will be partners in river management,
3. The **Desired Future Conditions** of the Manistee River and Bear Creek corridors,
4. General **management goals**, or long-term visions

The management plan is directed primarily to the Forest Service, but also provides guidelines for the State of Michigan; Manistee county; the riparian residents; visitors to the river and others who care about the future of the Manistee River and Bear Creek. The goals of this plan can be better achieved if all these people and agencies work together.

BACKGROUND

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 1968, requires preparation of a comprehensive management plan for each federally designated river. The plan must address resource protection, development of lands and facilities, user capacities, and other management practices necessary to achieve purposes of the Act. In addition, the plan must coordinate with resource management plans for adjacent National Forest System lands, and with state and local government, and interested publics.

This management plan is guided by the Wild and Scenic River Act (as amended in 1992), and follows the direction set forth in the Huron-Manistee National Forests' Land and Resource Management Plan (1986), the Settlement Agreement (1988), and the Manistee National Recreational River and Bear Creek National Scenic River Environmental Assessment (1995).

By designating the Manistee River as a National Recreational River and Bear Creek as a National Scenic River in 1992, Congress determined that each river has significant or unique resource values, and should be managed in a free-flowing state, with their water and resources protected. The environmental analysis process provided information to decide how best to fulfill the intent of the above direction, Factors considered included the character of the river corridors and riverine resources, potential threats to those resources and values, cost and administrative feasibility, public prefer-

ences, long-term effects on the resources, and other important issues and variables that define the social, physical, and managerial character of the lower Manistee River and lower Bear Creek.

The objectives of the river management plan are to describe the desired future condition of each designated river, provide direction to help protect and enhance the important resource values, and provide specific standards which will guide implementation of the plan. Management actions are designed to resolve or mitigate the major issues identified in the EA.

ADMINISTRATION

This plan addresses management of National Forest lands within the designated boundaries of the Manistee National Recreational River and Bear Creek National Scenic River (page 33). There are 26 miles of river within the designated Manistee River corridor and 6.5 miles of river within the designated Bear Creek corridor.

The USDA Forest Service, under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture, is responsible for the administration of the Manistee National Recreational River and Bear Creek National Scenic River. The local official responsible for administration is the Huron-Manistee Forest Supervisor. Forest Service personnel will enforce Federal laws and the Code of Federal Regulations within the river corridors.

The State of Michigan has jurisdiction over, and is responsible for the management of the river surface of all navigable rivers in Michigan, including the Manistee River and Bear Creek. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is currently studying the entire length of the Manistee River and all tributaries for potential future designation as a State Natural River, under the authority of the State Natural River Act (1970). The objectives of that Act are to preserve and enhance a broad range of values inherent in the state's rivers and their tributaries. If the Manistee River is designated, the State of Michigan, in partnership with local units of government, would be responsible for protection of the river and a 400 foot riparian zone either side of the river on all lands in the designated portion, through administration of State zoning rules and local zoning ordinances, and public agency compliance with provisions of the comprehensive management plan developed as part of the designation process.

Local units of government may chose to establish Natural River Districts in a local zoning ordinance. If they do so, the local unit of government would have Natural River zoning authority on private lands in their jurisdiction. If they chose not to establish a Natural River District, State Natural River zoning rules would apply in those areas.

The State also has the responsibility for the enforcement of state laws and regulations in the river zone, such as the Marine Safety Act, fishing and hunting regulations, water quality protection and water use. To establish coordinated, consistent management within the river corridors, a Memorandum of Understanding will be established between the Huron-Manistee National Forests and the State of Michigan.

Local counties and townships also have the authority to establish zoning in the river corridor.

MANAGEMENT GOALS/DIRECTION

To guide plan development, broad goals pertaining to both implementing the Wild and Scenic River Act and addressing specific issues on the Manistee River and Bear Creek were developed:

- Maintain and protect the values for which the rivers were included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system, including the outstanding values of recreation, fisheries, wildlife and scenery, free-flowing character, and water quality,
- Preserve the rivers and immediate environment,
- Provide opportunities for access to and enjoyment of public lands in the river corridors.

Maintain the integrated ecological functions of the rivers, their tributaries, wetlands and riparian areas.

- Provide for plant and animal community diversity and maintain healthy, functioning ecosystems, as the foundation to sustaining long-term productivity. Preserve habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial species inhabiting the Manistee River and Bear Creek corridors.
- Reduce conflicts among recreationists.

Balance social, biological and physical values and uses of the river corridor.

- Recognize and respond to the socio-economic effects of management strategies. Recognize the varied needs of the public to be partners and to participate in managing the river corridors through awareness, interaction, and communication.
- Emphasize user education and information. Establish new regulations only when other methods (e.g. personal contacts, information and education) are not effective, and ensure that any regulations established are enforceable.
- Develop a management strategy that is reasonable, cost-effective and implementable.
- Develop and maintain a working relationship among riparian residents, local and state governments, private and commercial users, interested resource groups, and the Forest Service to help achieve the above goals in the Manistee National Recreational River and Bear Creek National Scenic River corridors.

**DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION
MANISTEE NATIONAL RECREATIONAL RIVER
AND
BEAR CREEK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVER**

Introduction

The Desired Future Condition statement provides general long-term management goals for the Manistee National Recreational River and Bear Creek National Scenic River and describes a vision of the future river corridors. This section, for ease of review, is divided into 6 resource categories. However, the future condition of each of these resources or uses is closely integrated with the others.

MANISTEE NATIONAL RECREATIONAL RIVER

Recreation

The Manistee National Recreational River corridor is managed for a variety of recreation opportunities. Both private and public developed recreation facilities are maintained to meet the needs of the public and enhance the quality recreational experience enjoyed by those visiting the area. River access sites are improved to resolve visual and resource degradation concerns.

While river recreation use levels continue to rise, the quality of the recreation experience is maintained. Opportunities to conduct wildlife viewing increase. Wildlife viewing areas and interpretive signing are developed to increase visitor awareness and promote a conservation ethic. Information is disseminated to the public which encourages protection of river values and land use ethics.

All outfitter and guides that use National Forest facilities operate under special use permit. New permit applications are evaluated to ensure river values are protected.

Access/Transportation

The forest road system is maintained to facilitate year-round access to the developed recreation sites. Selected roads to dispersed sites are not maintained. Road maintenance and construction activities improve access for recreation uses while protecting the river's values. County and state road maintenance and construction work is monitored to ensure river values are protected. Trails are maintained and enhanced.

Visual Quality

The Manistee River corridor remains well known for its beautiful riverine scenery. Visitors enjoy a wide variety of landscapes and ecosystems as they travel along the river.

Recreation and residential developments blend in with the surrounding scenery and are mostly screened from the river. Riparian vegetation is maintained at recreation and residential developments, screening these from the river to maintain a natural appearing river corridor. Riparian vegetation also preserves important upland and aquatic wildlife habitat and protects water quality. Management activities, such as signing, recreation facilities, and timber harvesting, are subordinate to the

river's natural appearance. Eroded areas creating unacceptable environmental impacts are rehabilitated, while others are left untreated, allowing visitors to see the natural dynamics of riverine ecology.

River and Corridor Ecosystem

The Manistee River is within a proposed old growth corridor with an objective to achieve mature forest characteristics. This landscape, with its canopy of red and white pines and backwater bayous create the unique character of the river. The variety of native upland and riparian vegetation communities support significant biological diversity in the river corridor. Vegetation is managed to enhance scenic, wildlife, old growth, and recreation values. Timber stands are not managed for timber production.

Wildlife communities dependent on mature forest landscapes will remain at abundant levels. Natural disturbance provides habitat for early successional species, and those that require unique habitats. Populations of game and non-game species are at healthy levels, balancing ecological and recreational needs.

Excellent water quality in the Manistee River is an important component of a healthy aquatic, cold water ecosystem, and maximizes other resource values (such as fisheries and recreation). Sand bedload in the river system is reduced by minimizing sediment inputs through improved design and modification of all stream crossings (including culverts, bridges, and pipeline/utility lines), recreational access sites, the preservation of vegetative riparian zones, and the stabilization of critical eroding stream banks. Aquatic habitat is protected by preserving cover in the form of overhanging banks and large woody debris in the river channel. Healthy riparian vegetation enhances the water quality. In general, the water quality of the Manistee River exceeds the standards set by the Michigan State Water Resources Commission.

The Manistee River supports a superior steelhead, chinook and coho salmon fishery. These fisheries are based both on natural reproduction and supplemental stocking programs. Very good populations of resident brown trout, small mouth bass, and walleye are also present. Lake sturgeon and river herring utilize the river for spawning. A reduced sand bedload results in increased aquatic invertebrate production, and additional gravel spawning areas and pool habitat. Structural cover is also abundant due to the presence of large woody debris.

Stream bank restoration measures blend in with the surrounding landscape and are essentially invisible to the untrained eye. The Manistee River is in a state of dynamic equilibrium due to natural erosional and depositional processes. Natural changes in the stream channel occur, resulting in eroding streambanks which provide habitat for those species dependent on such disturbance.

Endangered, threatened, and sensitive species, and unique features are protected and monitored. Quality habitat is provided for these species.

Historic and Cultural Resources

The Manistee River corridor has been surveyed for cultural resources, which have been evaluated and, if determined to be significant, are preserved. Opportunities are provided to visitors to learn more about the historic uses of the area. Interpretive signs are located at several access points and along major trail routes which discuss the logging era and the role the Manistee River had in the development of this portion of western Michigan.

Log jams and other remnants of the lumbering era are preserved and interpreted in historic tour brochures. Information is disseminated to visitors emphasizing the importance of preserving these artifacts and features for future generations.

Plants, animals, and culturally important areas are located within the river corridor, providing an element of cultural continuity to local communities. Traditional use locations continue to be managed for their values and religious importance. The Manistee River is culturally important to local communities, contributing to their sense of pride and ownership of the river.

Land Ownership

Private holdings that adversely affect the river values are acquired on a willing seller, willing buyer basis. Private developments seen from the river are minimal. Partnerships exist between the private land owners, the Forest Service and State of Michigan to accomplish protection of the river attributes while respecting each partner's rights and responsibilities. Where conflicts occur, the ownership boundaries are delineated to minimize trespass.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS BEAR CREEK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVER

Recreation

The Bear Creek National Scenic River corridor is managed for semiprimitive non-motorized activities.. The river access site at Coates Highway and the Bear Creek River Access Site are maintained to meet the needs of the public and enhance the quality recreation experience enjoyed by those visiting the area. The Bear Creek corridor remains undeveloped and there are few noticeable signs of human activity. Recreation use levels remain relatively low and opportunities to experience solitude are common. Watercraft passage remains a challenge for boaters. Angling is a popular recreation activity.

No outfitter and guides are authorized to operate on National Forest lands in the corridor.

Access/Transportation

The forest road system is maintained primarily for seasonal access. Selected roads to dispersed sites are not maintained. Road maintenance is limited with the primary objective of providing safe access to dispersed sites. County and state road maintenance and construction is monitored to ensure river values are protected.

Visual Quality

The Bear Creek corridor remains well known for its beautiful riverine scenery. There are few sights and sounds of human activity. Visitors enjoy a wide variety of landscape zones as they travel along the river.

There are few recreational and residential developments visible from the river. Healthy riparian vegetation is maintained along the entire corridor. Riparian vegetation also preserves important upland and aquatic wildlife habitat and protects water quality. Management activities are subordinate

to the river's natural appearance. In general, eroded areas are left untreated, allowing visitors to see the natural dynamics of riverine ecology,

River and Corridor Ecosystem

Bear Creek is within a proposed old growth corridor with an objective to achieve mature forest characteristics. This landscape, with its canopy of red and white pines and backwater bayous create the unique river character. The variety of native upland and riparian vegetation communities support significant biological diversity in the river corridor. Vegetation is managed to enhance scenic, wildlife, old growth, and recreational values. Timber stands are not managed for timber production.

Wildlife communities dependent on mature forest landscapes will remain at abundant levels. Natural disturbance provides habitat for early successional species, and those that require unique habitats. Populations of game and non-game species are at healthy levels, balancing ecological and recreational needs.

Excellent water quality in Bear Creek is an important component of a healthy aquatic, cold water ecosystem, and maximizes other resource values (such as fisheries and recreation). Sand bedload in the river system is reduced by minimizing sediment inputs at recreation access sites through preservation of vegetative riparian zones. Aquatic habitat is protected by preserving cover in the form of overhanging banks and large woody debris in the river channel. Healthy riparian vegetation enhances the water quality. In general, the water quality of Bear Creek exceeds the standards set by the Michigan State Water Resources Commission.

Bear Creek is in a state of dynamic equilibrium due to natural erosional and depositional processes. Natural changes in the stream channel occur, resulting in eroding streambanks which provide habitat for those species dependent on such disturbance.

Endangered, threatened, and sensitive species, and unique features are protected and monitored. Quality habitat is provided for these species.

Historic and Cultural Resources

The Bear Creek Scenic corridor has been surveyed for cultural resources, which have been evaluated and, if determined to be significant, are preserved. Log jams and other remnants of the lumbering era are preserved. Information is disseminated off-site to visitors emphasizing the importance of preserving these artifacts and features for future generations.

Plants, animals, and culturally important areas are located within the river corridor, providing an element of cultural continuity to local communities. Traditional use locations continue to be managed for their values and religious importance. Bear Creek is culturally important to local communities, contributing to their sense of pride and ownership of the river.

Land Ownership

Private holdings that adversely affect the river values are acquired on a willing seller, willing buyer basis. Private developments seen from the river are minimal. Partnerships exist between the private land owners, the Forest Service and State of Michigan to accomplish protection of the river attributes while respecting each partner's rights and responsibilities.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

The Standards and Guidelines state the bounds or constraints within which all practices will be carried out in achieving the planned goals and objectives for Management Area 8.1 and the Manistee National Recreational River and the Bear Creek National Scenic River. All Forest-wide standard and guides apply to the management areas, unless specifically exempted or modified by the following direction.

The intent of the Standards and Guidelines is to help the river managers stay within the constraints established by law and the management plan goals and objectives, as well as to provide environmental safeguards for management activities. Specific project proposals will be developed following National Environmental Policy Act procedures, within the bounds of the standards and guidelines. These apply to National Forest System lands or actions that take place on other ownerships to facilitate the implementation of the management plan.

The Standards and Guidelines are organized following the Forest Service resource area code designations, to assist in referencing the Forest Plan and the Forest Service Handbook and Manual system. The Standards and Guidelines for the Manistee River are discussed first, followed by those for Bear Creek.

MANISTEE NATIONAL RECREATIONAL RIVER

1600 INFORMATION SERVICES

Information services will address three needs; directional, behavioral, and interpretive/educational. They will inform river users about the general character of the river, the laws and regulations and opportunities that pertain to recreation activities in the corridor, and about specific natural or cultural values or features. Information will be provided through a variety of means, including signs, brochures, and personal contact.

Signs

Minimize "sign pollution" by keeping the number of signs to the minimum necessary for effective law enforcement, direction and education.

Informational

- a. The primary Forest Service access sites will have a sign board/bulletin board to display important information to visitors. In general, all non-regulatory information will be placed on **one** sign board/bulletin board at the landings. Additional information needed in sign form should be located in the landing parking areas, or generally out of sight of the river channel.

Types of information to include on the sign board are:

Visitor use guidelines, low impact behavior, responsible use of alcohol, and outdoor ethics.

A map of the designated recreational river corridor identifying public lands, recreation facilities/sites, landmarks on the river, and primary roads and trails.

Information and education to heighten awareness about river corridor's plant and animal communities which are sensitive to human disturbance.

- b. All informational signing within the river corridor will be uniform in color and design following direction in the Forest Service Sign Handbook. The total number of signs in the corridor, especially those visible from the river, should be minimized, Sign size should also be kept a minimum, giving consideration to the viewing distance and whether intended to be viewed from moving vehicles. Design should be coordinated with the Forest Landscape Architect,
 - c. No reflective surfaces, tape, lettering or symbols should be used on informational signs unless critical for visibility from moving vehicles.
2. Regulatory
- a. Regulatory signing will be kept to a minimum. In general, at the primary river access sites, regulatory information will be posted on **one** sign board (consider combining with informational sign board either as an attached panel or all on single panel). Additional regulatory information may be posted in the parking areas or at the entrance of trails from parking area to landing sites. The type of regulatory information could include information on the Marine Safety Act and "pack-it-in, pack-it-out" litter control policy.
 - b. Existing roads, not open to public motor vehicle traffic, shall be signed for non-motorized travel.
 - c. Signs identifying the designated river corridor boundary shall be posted only where the corridor coincides or crosses a primary road or trail.

Brochures

1. A brochure will be developed for the designated portion of the river corridor. The brochure should include the following information:
 - A map that identifies public lands, recreation facilities and access sites, landmarks and primary roads and trails.
 - Recreation opportunities available in the river corridor.
 - Brief description of the values for which the river was designated a National Recreational River, reasons for protection, and how users can protect these values.
 - Inform visitors about regulations pertaining to commercial operators and camping regulations.
 - A statement on outdoor ethics, respecting private property rights and responsible use of alcohol.

2. A brochure or pamphlet will be developed which provides information on prehistoric and historic uses of *the* river corridor (consider developing one brochure that covers this topic on the Pine River, Manistee River, and Bear Creek).

Personal Contact

1. There shall be regular contacts between Forest Service representatives (Forest Service personnel or volunteers) and visitors in the river corridor. Emphasis will be from April through October, with the focus of contacts at the river landings and camping areas. The objectives of these contacts are to monitor recreation use and impacts, and to inform and educate visitors about regulations, low impact behaviors and special features of interest in the river corridor.
2. The District Ranger and District representatives shall develop and maintain working relationships with riparian residents, commercial operators, local and state agencies, and user groups to assure support and participation in successful river management.

1900 VEGETATIVE MANAGEMENT

Vegetation management will enhance and promote the appearance and structure of an old growth forest condition within the river corridor or enhance important components of the ecosystem (e.g. sensitive species habitat), particularly along the river and its immediate environment. Canopies should be deep and multi-layered and there should be an abundance of snags and downed logs.

Timber Harvest

1. Outside of the seen area from the river, vegetation may be managed to enhance old growth characteristics and the quality of wildlife habitat for forest interior species. The primary vegetation type that would receive treatment are red pine plantations. Forest-wide old growth standards and guidelines will be followed for all vegetative management activities.
2. Exceptions to promoting natural succession and old growth characteristics are listed below.
 - a. Action needed to correct impacts or to salvage material resulting from a catastrophic natural or human-caused disaster.
 - b. Planting to help control erosion and to screen structures and developments visible from the river.
 - c. Sustaining the natural integrity of vegetative communities in the river corridor by prescribed burning or removal of encroaching vegetation.
 - d. Actions to maintain habitat for endangered, threatened or sensitive species.

Fuelwood

1. Cutting or collection of firewood is not permitted for commercial or private home use.
2. Incidental collection of downed woody material for use at campsites is permitted, however the District Ranger should seek opportunities to have firewood provided by a commercial operator.

Forest Health

1. Natural processes of a maturing forest, including moderate die-off and decay of stands from insect and disease, should be allowed to occur. An exception would be site specific control of Gypsy Moth, through approved techniques. Control activities shall be at the request of the District Ranger, and should be limited to high value recreation sites in the corridor (e.g. Udell Rollway Campground) and buffer zones for private tracts.

2300 RECREATION

Recreation Opportunities

1. A Roaded Natural recreation setting shall be maintained on National Forest system lands.
2. Motorized recreation travel shall be restricted to existing open public access routes (forest, county or state roads). No additional trails or roads shall be developed for the purpose of motorized recreation (e.g. 4WD vehicle routes, snowmobile routes, ATV or motorcycle routes).
3. Camping on public lands will be permitted at Udell Rollways Campground, Rainbow Bend River Access Site, Blacksmith Bayou, Sawdust Hole and dispersed areas outside of the 200 riparian zone along the Manistee River. Camping shall not be permitted at developed recreation sites not listed above.
4. A program will be established to monitor recreation use patterns, impacts, and visitor preferences. Conduct a survey of recreation use in the corridor within the first five years of plan implementation. The study should focus on use from April through October, but should also have several sampling days during the winter. The study shall be designed to collect, at a minimum, the following information:
 - use patterns (activity participation, timing and frequency, location, etc..)
 - visitor characteristics (origin, group type and size, first-time visitor, etc..)
 - visitor perceptions (desired experience, preference for management actions, conflicts or problems, motives for visiting the Manistee River, etc...)
5. Watercraft use will be monitored in the river corridor beginning March, 1996, with the objective of determining an optimum carrying capacity on the Manistee River. The types of monitoring will include the amount, type (motorized vs. non-motorized), season of use, and location of watercraft use. The objective of the watercraft monitoring is to evaluate and mitigate potential impacts to sensitive species or river values.
6. Dispersed recreation in the corridor (recreation that does not occur at developed sites) shall be monitored to evaluate potential social, biological and physical impacts, and appropriate corrective actions taken if unacceptable impacts are identified.

Recreation Development

The Forest Service will provide and maintain recreation facilities appropriate for the Recreation Opportunity Setting.

1. Recreation facilities shall be designed and maintained to provide a roaded natural experience.
2. A Design Narrative, following the direction in FSH 2309.13, should be developed prior to the construction or reconstruction of any recreation site or facility. The Design Narrative will provide the objectives of the site and general design concept.
3. Trash receptacles shall not normally be provided at Forest Service recreation sites. Visitors will be required to pack out all their trash under the 'pack-it-in, pack-it-out' policy.
4. New recreation developments shall not be established within 1/4 mile of identified bald eagle nests, or in areas that will affect other sensitive plant or wildlife habitat components.
5. Expansion of existing recreation sites on National Forest system lands will be limited and will be supported by environmental analysis addressing the need, impacts and effects.
6. There shall be no additional development of public river access points, beyond those existing at the time of plan implementation, on National Forest system lands in the Manistee River corridor for launching watercraft.
7. There shall be no additional development of public 'developed' campgrounds in the river corridor. Information should be available for visitors on developed camping opportunities in the area, including private and state facilities. Visitors should rely on the private sector for most of the local camping opportunities.

Trails

1. Development of new system trails should meet Forest Service standards for the intended trail use. Design and layout should be an interdisciplinary process.
2. A Design Narrative, following the direction in FSH 2309.13, should be developed prior to the construction of any new trail. The Design Narrative will provide objectives of the trail and general design concept. Factors to consider in the design narrative are the purpose of the trail (intended users, seasons of use, experience to be provided), the difficulty/accessibility level, relationships with other trails in the corridor, necessary structures (e.g. foot bridges or boardwalks in wet areas), sensitive resources along the route, and potential partners or cooperators.
3. The North Country National Scenic Trail will be managed and maintained in accordance with Forest-wide standards and guidelines.
4. Where feasible, trails should be designed for a range of non-motorized users, not single uses.
5. Trail construction should involve only the amount of clearing as is necessary for safe passage for trail users. Trail layout should minimize necessity for clearing large 'old growth' trees or any unique vegetation (e.g. cedar groves). Trees that pose a hazard to trail users should be cut, or portions of the tree removed, but as much of the tree as practical should *be* left standing in order to provide additional snags for wildlife habitat. Leave downed wood on site for wildlife habitat.
6. User-developed trails which cause unacceptable resource or social impacts shall either be closed and fully rehabilitated, relocated to a less sensitive location or hardened. Evaluation of the best corrective measures should consider the traditional uses of the trails, the relative

importance of the trail as an access route to unique attractions in the corridor, potential impacts to local residents, and significance of the resource impacts. In general, user-developed trails determined to be causing unacceptable impacts should be closed and rehabilitated. Those user-developed trails that provide important access to the river or recreation attractions should be reconstructed to meet Forest Service standards.

2360 HERITAGE RESOURCES

The goal of managing heritage resources is to protect and preserve cultural resource properties and values within the Manistee River corridor.

Historic and Prehistoric Resources

1. Conduct site specific surveys for all proposed ground-disturbing projects within the Manistee River corridor. Survey intensity shall follow established Forest guidelines.
2. Complete Determinations of Effect and National Register evaluations and/or nominations for all cultural resource sites identified and recorded within proposed project areas.

Cultural Values

1. Preserve elements of the river corridor contributing to local social and cultural values,
2. Maintain relationships with the Little River Band of Odawa and Grand Traverse Ottawa to ensure recognition and maintenance of treaty rights and preservation of culturally significant plant and animal species and landscape characteristics.

Interpretation

Provide interpretation of cultural resources within the Manistee River corridor. Interpretation should be provided at developed recreation sites and/or the High Bridge site (refer to brochure discussed in **1600 Information Services**).

2. No specific location information (except the location of High Bridge and Buckley Rollway) will be included in any developed interpretive material without full SHPO and Advisory Council for Historic Preservation concurrence.

2380 VISUAL MANAGEMENT

Visual Quality Objectives

Management actions on National Forest system lands, such as vegetation management, development of recreation facilities, or construction of erosion control structures, must meet the Visual Quality Objective of Partial Retention.

Developments

1. Structures shall be
 - a. located so that they are as unobtrusive as possible,
 - b. screened with native vegetation (with an emphasis on large, long-lived tree species - e.g. white pine) to make them less evident when viewed from the river,
 - c. designed to blend in with natural surroundings, and
 - d. constructed of 'natural' appearing materials (e.g. encourage use of wood and rock on visible surfaces, v.s. concrete or metal). Use of non-native materials is acceptable if adequately masked or screened by native materials or vegetation.
2. Signs
 - a. Consider creating and installing a specific sign to identify the Manistee River corridor, with a unique color/design and logo (different from standard Forest Service area designation/location signs). This unique sign design will help recognize the shared stewardship of the corridor (e.g. to be posted on State land at Tippy Dam).
 - b. see **1600 Information Services** for other direction on signs.

2500 WATERSHED AND SOILS MANAGEMENT

The Forest will continue to coordinate with the Northwest Michigan Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. and other local conservation agencies to assess and prevent future impacts to the water quality of the Manistee River. Consumers Power, the MDNR, and local governmental agencies will be consulted on any proposed construction or stabilization activities within 500 feet of the Manistee River or tributaries within the corridor.

Water Quality

1. Collect water quality data every 5 years, beginning in the year 2000, to compare to established baseline conditions. Broad spectrum of chemical, physical, and biological parameters shall be collected and compared to historic baseline data (Manistee and Pine Rivers Watershed Reports II, March 1989). Since annual data was collected for numerous years it is felt that periodic sampling on a 5 year schedule is adequate to protect the water quality of the Manistee River.
2. Stream water quality data will be used to determine a Forest Stream Water Quality Index. A five (5) percent decline in this index would be considered significant (see Water Quality Index - Manistee and Pine Rivers Watershed Report II, March 1989).
3. Where watershed improvement projects are undertaken, only natural materials will be used (native fieldstone, logs, whole trees, root wads and native plants). Improvement actions will occur on erosion sites/banks that are primarily caused by continuing human use (e.g. pedestrian traffic). Emphasis will be placed on minimizing visual impacts of erosion control activities

and on using regionally native riparian species for 'naturalizing" sites. Effectiveness of methods for preventing further erosion will be regularly monitored.

Soils

1. Sedimentation into the Manistee River or tributaries, or impacts to soils from existing human uses, shall be reduced either through information and education methods, structural or vegetative stabilization, or enforced closures. Where possible, the least restrictive methods should be implemented first and monitored for effectiveness. Further restrictions or stabilization methods may be phased in if necessary.
2. Any Forest Roads or segments of roads identified as causing unacceptable resource impacts will be evaluated for reconstruction or closure. No roads have currently been identified for closure. Any future proposed closures will be coordinated with the MDNR and potential impacts will be analyzed through the National Environmental Policy Act process and public involvement. In addition, proposed closures would be posted one year in advance so that the public is made aware of the future management actions.
3. Continue to coordinate with the Manistee County road commission and soil conservation agencies to eliminate erosion and other resource impacts from county road crossings/roads in the corridor.

2600 WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND RIPARIAN RESOURCES

The State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), has the primary responsibility for the management of fish and wildlife populations, while the Forest Service has the primary responsibility for management of habitat on National Forest system lands. All riparian and aquatic habitat management activities will be coordinated with the Michigan DNR.

Wildlife Habitat Management

1. Management activities will contribute to the support of viable populations of native wildlife species found in the planning area.
2. Protect and enhance special habitat components within or adjacent to the corridor such as wintering habitat areas, wetlands and seeps, raptor nests, large woody debris, cavity nesting habitat, and exposed sand banks.
3. Provide information on the wildlife habitat and values associated with the corridor for visitors.
4. Prescribed burning should be considered to enhance wildlife habitat and ecosystem functions within areas that have natural fire history.

Fisheries Habitat Management

1. Riparian Management
 - a. Riparian vegetation shall be managed for late seral stage (old growth) to ensure the long-term input of woody material (large woody debris) to adjacent aquatic ecosystems.

- b. Instream woody debris shall be left undisturbed unless it constitutes a navigational hazard (if watercraft cannot go over, under, or around woody debris, it constitutes a navigational hazard and may be cut only to the extent necessary to get through).
- c. The Forest Service, as principal riparian owner, shall work with primary river users to assess potential navigational hazards and determine clearing needs.
- d. In general, the maximum watercraft clearing widths for navigational hazards shall not exceed eight feet.

2. Streambank Stabilization

Evaluation of sites proposed for erosion control along the banks of the Manistee River should consider the natural dynamics and lateral movement of the river channel

- a. Stabilization shall be limited to existing "severe" and "moderate" eroding sand banks which are contributing significantly to sand bedload levels of the Manistee River. Future (long-term) stabilization efforts will focus only on eroding streambanks directly attributable to human activities or where physical structures are threatened.
- b. Efforts shall be in a downstream direction, taking a "worst-first" and "upstream-first" approach (in terms of erosion class severity ranking).
- c. Erosion control techniques shall, to the extent practicable, maintain or enhance free-flowing characteristics of the river. Cumulative amount of stabilization over time shall not exceed 5% of the total shoreline length within the designated National Recreational corridor
- d. Emphasis shall be placed on maintaining the scenic quality of the Manistee River, with treatments blending in with the surrounding landscape, becoming essentially invisible to the untrained eye over time (within 5 years). A bio-engineering approach which combines traditional structural techniques with native vegetation plantings shall be employed. These include, but are not limited to: riprap, whole-tree revetments, and vegetative plantings.
- e. "Hard" techniques such as riprap shall be generally limited to those sites which have suitable existing access for equipment. Only native fieldstone shall be used for riprap and whole-tree revetments shall be limited to coniferous tree species. Large woody debris such as whole trees or root wads shall be incorporated into riprap designs wherever possible to maintain natural scenic profiles and enhance instream fish cover.
- f. Consideration shall be given to the habitat needs of other riparian dependent species such as wood turtles and bank swallows. Certain eroding streambanks (i.e. clay banks, some sandy banks with southerly exposures) which provide good nesting habitat will be left untreated or treated less intensively.
- g. Consideration will also be given to the protection of archeological resources in project selection and design.
- h. Stabilization structures shall be periodically maintained to prevent such structures from becoming visually obtrusive or safety hazards. Existing structures which have fallen into

a state of disrepair will be either rehabilitated or removed. Both removal or repair shall be done in a manner which maintains the scenic character of the river and does not contribute to future streambank erosion.

2670 THREATENED, ENDANGERED AND SENSITIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS

The goal of endangered, threatened and sensitive species management is to identify, monitor, protect, and enhance these species and associated habitat components within the corridor. These activities are required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), the Forest Service Manual (2670), and the Forest Plan.

1. Inventory, protect, and enhance sensitive species and their habitat. Survey high probability habitat areas for occurrence of plant species, listed in Appendix C, within 3 years of plan implementation. Survey all site-specific project sites for occurrences.
2. Emphasize information, education, and enforcement of regulations designed to protect endangered, threatened or sensitive species. Coordinate with visitors, commercial users, landowners, partners, and other resource agencies.
3. Follow recommendations in the Biological Assessment of the Manistee River Environmental Assessment (1995) or US Fish and Wildlife Service opinion.
4. Prevent the introduction of plant and animal species that may have adverse affects on river values.
5. Protect sensitive species that may be preyed upon by raccoons, skunks and opossums by limiting human generated refuse and encouraging opportunities to enhance legal population control of these predators.

2700 SPECIAL USES

Permits

1. Special use permits are required for organized recreation events that utilize National Forest lands or facilities within the river corridor.
 - a. Permits shall not be issued for motorized events within the corridor.
 - b. Permits for other events shall be allowed only after considering social and environmental effects and limited to those that are compatible with the management objectives of the river.
2. Special use permits for developments within the river corridor shall not be issued except as needed for access and utility services to other ownerships within the river corridor.
 - a. Roads shall be kept out of sight of the river.
 - b. Utility lines shall be buried and not permitted to cross over the river, except on existing bridges.

3. Special use permits shall be required for all commercial activities on National Forest system lands in the river corridor. Permits will be administered in accordance with Forest Service policy.
 - a. Issuance of permits for commercial activities should be based on demonstrated need for the service or activity.
 - b. Impacts from all operations shall be minimized through stipulations in the operations and maintenance plans, and annually reviewed for effectiveness.
 - c. Permits shall not be issued for commercial activities that are inconsistent with the management goals for the Manistee River corridor.
 - d. Commercially outfitted and guided activities on National Forests lands shall be regulated through issuance of special use permits. The number of outfitters and guides authorized to operate on the Manistee River shall be limited to 10% over 1994 levels: 55 fishing guides (55 watercraft) and 5 liveries (58 watercraft). Outfitters and guides shall be assigned priority use based on 1994 use levels. Additional use will *be* allocated as Temporary Service Days for a period of three years. After three years, this use may be converted to priority use if monitoring has not identified any unacceptable impacts are occurring to the Manistee River values. This decision will be at the sole discretion of the authorized officer.

In addition, an outfitter or guide not showing demonstrated use on the Manistee River for 3 consecutive years will have the river removed from their Huron-Manistee National Forest permit.

4. Rights-of-way for public roads and major utility lines.
 - a. Additional rights-of-way for transmission lines, pipelines, public roads, etc.. shall generally not be granted within Manistee National Recreational River corridor. Exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis.
 - b. Replacement of existing roads or utility lines may be allowed at the current level of development within existing corridors, as long as the scenic, recreation or other unique river values are not adversely affected. Upgrading of existing facilities may only be considered if an environmental analysis demonstrates that these river values are preserved or enhanced.

2800 MINERALS

There shall be no surface occupancy permitted in the designated river corridor.

5100 FIRE MANAGEMENT

Wildfire Suppression

1. Wildfire suppression within the river corridor will follow the same guidelines as suppression on adjacent lands, except additional efforts should be made for prompt rehabilitation of all control

activity generated disturbances. The Incident Commander and Line Officer shall review the need for a Burned Area Rehabilitation Plan, regardless of fire size.

2. Depending on severity of potential fire conditions, there should be an increase in patrols during April and May, as well as an effort made to increase public awareness of fire risk.

5300 LAW ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement of laws and regulations is important for effective river plan implementation.

1. Maintain agency law enforcement presence in the river corridor during high use periods. Uniformed law enforcement personnel shall make frequent contact with recreationists and commercial operators.
2. The Forest Service shall maintain cooperative agreements with the Manistee County Sheriff's Department to provide:
 - a. patrols within the river corridor during periods of heavy use to keep peace and to enforce State and local laws within the river corridor, and;
 - b. assistance and support for Forest Service personnel in the enforcement of Federal regulations.
3. Forest Supervisor orders shall be established and enforced under 36 CFR 261.58 (e) that prohibit camping on National Forest lands within 200 feet of the Manistee River.

5400 LAND OWNERSHIP

Land Acquisition

1. Lands in the river corridor, particularly those with frontage on the river or with important habitat for threatened or endangered species, shall be acquired on a willing-buyer, willing-seller basis as the opportunities occur.

Land Exchange

1. National Forest system lands within the river corridor shall generally not be exchanged. Exceptions may be considered on an individual basis upon completion of an environmental analysis.

Private Land Management

1. Private property rights are not affected by the National Recreational River designation.
2. The Forest Service shall work cooperatively with other land owners in the river corridor to meet the objectives of the National Recreational River as well as objectives of the landowners.

3. The Forest Service shall continue to coordinate with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and other conservation organizations to help provide information and technical advice for landowners on how to minimize impacts to National Recreational River objectives.

7700 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Forest System Roads

1. No new permanent Forest System roads shall be developed in the river corridor.
2. Temporary forest roads, roads constructed for short-term use and not intended to be part of the Forest's transportation system may be developed for emergency and for resource protection and management purposes.
 - a. layout and design of temporary roads should consider protection of scenic, recreational and other river values, and prevention of future illegal vehicle use.
 - b. Temporary roads should be rehabilitated as soon as feasible upon termination of administrative need,

Bridges

1. New bridge crossings over the main channel of the Manistee River or primary tributaries in the designated corridor shall not be permitted, *except* for the proposed future US 31 crossing between Manistee Lake and Blacker Airport.
2. Replacement of existing bridges shall be permitted only if an environmental analysis and Section 7 analysis (under direction of the Wild and Scenic River Act, 1968) determine a net benefit to the values and objectives of the National Recreational River corridor. Reconstruction generally should not be to a higher design level than the existing structure (e.g. a double lane bridge should not be replaced with a 4-lane bridge).

Roads Under Other Jurisdictions

1. The Forest Service shall coordinate with the counties, state and owners of private access roads to eliminate resource (sedimentation into the river or tributaries) or social impacts and to assure long-term protection and enhancement of river values.

BEAR CREEK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVER

1600 INFORMATION SERVICES

Information services will address three needs; informational, regulatory, and interpretive/educational. They will inform river users about the general character of the river, the laws and regulations and opportunities that pertain to recreation activities in the corridor, and about specific natural or cultural values or features. Information will be provided through a variety of means, including signs, brochures, and personal contact.

Signs

Minimize "sign pollution" by keeping the number of signs to the minimum necessary for effective law enforcement, direction and education.

1. Informational

- a. Bear Creek River Access Site will have a sign board/bulletin board to display important information to visitors. All non-regulatory information will be placed on **one** sign board/bulletin board at the site.

Types of information to include on the sign board are:

- Visitor use guidelines, low impact behavior, and outdoor ethics.
- A map of the Scenic River corridor identifying public lands, recreation facilities/sites, landmarks on the river, and primary roads and trails.
- Information/education to heighten awareness about river corridor's plant and animal communities which are sensitive to human disturbance.

- b. Informational signing within the river corridor will be minimal.
- c. No reflective surfaces, tape, lettering or symbols should be used on informational signs unless critical for visibility from moving vehicles.

2. Regulatory

- a. Regulatory signing will be kept to a minimum. In general, regulatory information will only be posted on **one** sign board (consider combining with informational sign board either as an attached panel or all on single panel) at Bear Creek River Access Site,

The type of regulatory information should include:

- Information on the Marine Safety Act.
- Restrictions on recreation activities, such as motorized uses.
- "Pack-it-in, pack-it-out" litter control policy.

- b. Existing roads, not open to public motor vehicle traffic, shall be signed for non-motorized travel.

- c. Signs identifying the designated river corridor boundary shall be posted only where the corridor coincides or crosses primary roads.

Brochures

A brochure will be developed, for off-site distribution, on the designated portion of the river corridor. The brochure will provide the following information:

- A map that identifies public lands, river access sites, and primary roads.
- Recreation opportunities available in the river corridor.
- Brief description of the values for which the river was designated a National Scenic River, reasons for protection, and how users can protect these values.
- Inform visitors about regulations pertaining to watercraft use, camping, and motorized use regulations.
- A statement on outdoor ethics, respecting private property rights and low impact behavior/activities.

2. A brochure or pamphlet will be developed which provides information on prehistoric and historic uses of the river corridor (consider developing one brochure that covers this topic on the Pine River, Manistee River, and Bear Creek).

Personal Contact

1. Contacts between Forest Service representatives (Forest Service personnel or volunteers) and visitors in the river corridor will be mostly at the Bear Creek river access site. Emphasis will be from April through October, with the focus of contacts at the river landing during popular launch times. The objectives of these contacts are to monitor recreation use and impacts, and to inform and educate visitors about regulations, low impact behaviors, and special features of interest in the river corridor.
2. The District Ranger and District representatives shall develop and maintain working relationships with riparian residents, commercial operators, local and state agencies, and user groups to assure support and participation in successful river management.

1900 VEGETATIVE MANAGEMENT

Vegetation management will enhance and promote the appearance and structure of an old growth forest condition within the river corridor or enhance important components of the ecosystem (e.g. sensitive species habitat), particularly along the river and its immediate environment. Canopies should be deep and multi-layered and there should be an abundance of snags and downed logs.

Timber Harvest

1. Outside of the seen area from the river, vegetation may be managed to enhance old growth characteristics and the quality of wildlife habitat for forest interior species. The primary vegeta-

tion type that would receive treatment are red pine plantations. Forest-wide old growth standards and guidelines will be followed for all vegetative management activities.

2. Exceptions to promoting natural succession and old growth characteristics are listed below.
 - a. Action needed to correct impacts or to salvage material resulting from a catastrophic natural or human-caused disaster.
 - b. Planting to help control erosion and to screen structures and developments visible from the river.
 - c. Sustaining the natural integrity of the vegetative communities in the river corridor by prescribed burning or removal of encroaching vegetation.
 - d. Actions to maintain habitat for endangered, threatened or sensitive species.

Fuelwood

1. Cutting or collection of firewood is not permitted for commercial or private home use.
2. Incidental collection of downed woody material for use at campsites is permitted, however the District Ranger should seek opportunities to have firewood provided by a commercial operator.

Forest Health

1. Natural processes of a maturing forest, including moderate die-off and decay of stands from insect and disease, will be allowed to occur.

2300 RECREATION

Recreation Opportunities

1. A semiprimitive, non-motorized recreation setting shall be maintained on National Forest system lands.
2. Motorized recreation travel shall be restricted to existing open public access routes (forest, county or state roads). No additional trails or roads shall be developed for the purpose of motorized recreation (e.g. 4WD vehicle routes, snowmobile routes, ATV or motorcycle routes).
3. Dispersed camping shall be prohibited within 200 feet of the Bear Creek.
4. A program will be established to monitor recreation use patterns, impacts, and visitor preferences. Conduct a survey of recreation use in the corridor within the first ten years of plan implementation. The study should focus on use during April through October, but should also have several sampling days during the winter, spring, and fall season. The study shall be designed to collect, at a minimum, the following information:

- use patterns (activity participation, timing and frequency, location, etc..)
 - visitor characteristics (origin, group type and size, first-time visitor, etc..)
 - visitor perceptions (desired experience, preference for management actions, conflicts or problems, motives for visiting Bear Creek, etc...)
5. Watercraft use will be monitored, primarily at the Bear Creek Access Site. Monitoring will include the amount, type, and season of use. The objective of the watercraft monitoring is to evaluate and mitigate potential impacts to sensitive species or river values.
 6. Dispersed recreation in the corridor (recreation that does not occur at developed sites) shall be monitored to evaluate potential social, biological and physical impacts, and appropriate corrective actions taken if unacceptable impacts are identified.

Recreation Development

The Forest Service will maintain recreation facilities appropriate for the Recreation Opportunity setting. No new recreation developments or facilities are proposed within the river corridor.

Trails

1. Currently, there are no trails proposed for development.
2. User-developed trails which cause unacceptable resource or social impacts shall either be closed and fully rehabilitated, relocated to a less sensitive location or hardened. Evaluation of the best corrective measures should consider the traditional uses of the trails, the relative importance of the trail as an access route to unique attractions in the corridor, potential impacts to local residents, and significance of the resource impacts. In general, user-developed trails determined to be causing unacceptable impacts should be closed and rehabilitated. Those user-developed trails that provide important access to the river or recreation attractions may be reconstructed to meet Forest Service standards if compatible with long-term management goals for *the* river corridor.

2360 HERITAGE RESOURCES

The goal of managing heritage resources is to protect and preserve cultural resource properties and values within the Bear Creek corridor.

Historic and Prehistoric Resources

1. Conduct site specific surveys for all proposed ground-disturbing projects within the Bear Creek corridor. Survey intensity shall follow established Forest guidelines.
2. Complete Determinations of Effect and National Register evaluations and/or nominations for all cultural resource sites identified and recorded within proposed project areas.

Cultural Values

1. Preserve elements of the river corridor contributing to local social and cultural values. Reassess social and cultural values of the river corridor once every ten years.

2. Maintain relationships with the Little River Band of Odawa and Grand Traverse Ottawa to ensure recognition and maintenance of treaty rights and preservation of culturally significant plant and animal species and landscape characteristics.

Interpretation

1. Provide off-site interpretation of cultural resources within the Bear Creek corridor. (refer to brochure discussed in **1600 Information Services**),
2. No specific location information will be included in any developed interpretive material without full SHPO and Advisory Council for Historic Preservation concurrence.

2380 VISUAL MANAGEMENT

Visual Quality Objectives

Management actions on National Forest system lands, such as vegetation management, development of recreation facilities, or construction of erosion control structures, must meet the Visual Quality Objective of Retention.

Developments

No structures are proposed.

1. Signs
 - a. Consider creating and installing a specific sign to identify the Bear Creek corridor, with a unique color/design and logo (different from standard Forest Service area designation/location signs).
 - b. see **1600 Information Services** for other direction on signs.

2500 WATERSHED AND SOILS MANAGEMENT

The Forest will continue to coordinate with the Northwest Michigan Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. and other local conservation agencies to assess and prevent future impacts to the water quality of Bear Creek. Consumer's Power, the MDNR Land and Water Management Division, and local governmental agencies will be consulted on any proposed construction or stabilization activities within 500 feet of the Bear Creek or tributaries within the corridor.

Water Quality

1. Collect water quality data every 5 years, beginning in the year 2000, to compare to established baseline conditions. Broad spectrum of chemical, physical, and biological parameters shall be collected and compared to historic baseline data (Manistee and Pine Rivers Watershed Reports II, March 1989). Since annual data was collected for numerous years it is felt that periodic sampling on a 5 year schedule is adequate to protect the water quality of Bear Creek.

2. Stream water quality data will be used to determine a Forest Stream Water Quality Index. A five (5) percent decline in this index would be considered significant (see Water Quality Index - Manistee and Pine Rivers Watershed Report II, March 1989).
3. Where watershed improvement projects are undertaken, only natural materials will be used (native fieldstone, logs, whole trees, root wads and native plants). Improvement actions will occur on erosion sites/banks that are primarily caused by continuing human use (e.g. pedestrian traffic, climbing sand banks). Emphasis will be placed on minimizing visual impacts of erosion control activities and on using regionally native riparian species for "naturalizing" sites. Effectiveness of methods for preventing further erosion will be regularly monitored.

Soils

1. Sedimentation into Bear Creek or tributaries, or impacts to soils from existing human uses, shall be reduced either through information and education methods, structural or vegetative stabilization, or enforced closures. Where possible, the least restrictive methods should be implemented first and monitored for effectiveness. Further restrictions or stabilization methods may be phased in if necessary.
2. Any Forest Roads or segments of roads identified as causing unacceptable resource impacts will be evaluated for reconstruction or closure. No roads have currently been identified for closure. Any future proposed closures will be coordinated with the MDNR and potential impacts from closure will be analyzed through the National Environmental Policy Act process and public involvement. In addition, proposed closures would be posted one year in advance so that the public is made aware of the future management actions.
3. Continue to coordinate with the Manistee County road commission and soil conservation agencies to eliminate erosion and other resource impacts from county road crossings/roads in the corridor.

2600 WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND RIPARIAN RESOURCES

The State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), has the primary responsibility for the management of fish and wildlife populations, while the Forest Service has the primary responsibility for management of habitat on National Forest system lands. All riparian and aquatic habitat management activities will be coordinated with the Michigan DNR.

Wildlife Habitat Management

1. Management activities will contribute to the support of viable populations of native wildlife species found in the planning area.
2. Protect and enhance special habitat components within or adjacent to the corridor such as wintering habitat areas, wetlands and seeps, raptor nests, large woody debris, cavity nesting habitat, and exposed sand banks.
3. Provide information on the wildlife habitat and values associated with the corridor for visitors.
4. Prescribed burning should be considered to enhance wildlife habitat and ecosystem functions within areas that have natural fire history.

Fisheries Habitat Management

1. Riparian Management

- a. Riparian vegetation shall be managed for late seral stage (old growth) to ensure the long-term input of woody material (large woody debris) to adjacent aquatic ecosystems.
- b. Instream woody debris shall be left undisturbed unless it constitutes a navigational hazard (if watercraft cannot go over, under, or around woody debris, it constitutes a navigational hazard and may be cut only to the extent necessary to get through).
- c. The Forest Service, as principal riparian owner, shall work with primary river users to assess potential navigational hazards and determine clearing needs.
- d. In general, the maximum watercraft clearing widths for navigational hazards shall not exceed four feet.

2. Streambank Stabilization

No stabilization activities are proposed in the designated segment of Bear Creek.

3. Lamprey Barriers

Proposed barriers should meet the Visual Quality Objective of retention, and be designed to have minimal or no effect on the outstanding values or free-flow character. A section 7 analysis, as directed under the Wild and Scenic River Act, 1968, will be required for completion of the environmental analysis of the proposal.

2670 THREATENED, ENDANGERED AND SENSITIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS

The goal of endangered, threatened and sensitive species management is to identify, monitor, protect, and enhance these species and associated ecosystem components within the corridor. These activities are required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), the Forest Service Manual (2670), and the Forest Plan.

1. Inventory, protect, and enhance sensitive species and their habitat. Survey high probability habitat areas for occurrence of plant species, listed in Appendix C, within 10 years of plan implementation. Survey all site-specific project sites for occurrences.
2. Emphasize information, education, and enforcement of regulations designed to protect endangered, threatened or sensitive species. Coordinate with visitors, commercial users, land-owners, partners, and other resource agencies.
3. Follow recommendations in the Biological Assessment of the Bear Creek Environmental Assessment (1995) or US Fish and Wildlife Service opinion.
4. Prevent the introduction of plant and animal species that may have adverse affects on river values.

5. Protect sensitive species that may be preyed upon by raccoons, skunks and opossums by limiting human generated refuse and encouraging opportunities to enhance legal population control of these predators.

2700 SPECIAL USES

Permits

1. No special use permits will be issued for recreation activities within the Bear Creek corridor on National Forest lands.
2. Special use permits for developments within the river corridor shall not be issued except as needed for access and utility services to other ownerships within the river corridor.
 - a. Roads shall be kept out of sight of the river.
 - b. Utility lines shall be buried and not permitted to cross over the river, except on existing bridges.
3. Rights-of-way for public roads and major utility lines.
 - a. Additional rights-of-way for transmission lines, pipelines, public roads, etc.. shall generally not be granted within Bear *Creek* National Scenic River corridor. Exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis.
 - b. Replacement of existing roads or utility lines may be allowed at the current level of development within existing corridors, as long as the scenic, recreational or other unique river values are not adversely affected. Upgrading of existing facilities may only be considered if an environmental analysis demonstrates that these river values are preserved or enhanced.

2800 MINERALS

There shall be no surface occupancy permitted in the designated river corridor.

5100 FIRE MANAGEMENT

Wildfire Suppression

1. Wildfire suppression within the river corridor will follow the same guidelines as suppression on adjacent lands, except additional efforts should be made for prompt rehabilitation of all control activity generated disturbances. The Incident Commander *and* Line Officer shall review the need for a Burned Area Rehabilitation Plan, regardless of fire size.
2. Depending on severity of potential fire conditions, there should be an increase in patrols during April and May, as well as an effort made to increase public awareness of fire risk.

5300 LAW ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement of laws and regulations is critical for effective river plan implementation. Adequate enforcement has been a primary concern for recreationists, riparian residents, and Forest Service administrators.

1. Maintain minimal agency law enforcement presence in the river corridor.
2. The Forest Service shall maintain cooperative agreements with the Manistee County Sheriff's Department to provide:
 - a. Patrols in the area.
 - b. Assistance and support for Forest Service personnel in the enforcement of Federal regulations.
3. Forest Supervisor orders shall be established and enforced under 36 CFR 261.58 (e) that prohibit camping on National Forest lands within 200 feet of Bear Creek.

5400 LAND OWNERSHIP

Land Acquisition

1. Lands in the river corridor, particularly those with frontage on the river or with important habitat for threatened or endangered species, shall be acquired on a willing-buyer, willing-seller basis as the opportunities occur.

Land Exchange

1. National Forest system lands within the river corridor shall generally not be exchanged. Exceptions may be considered on an individual basis upon completion of an environmental analysis.

Private Land Management

1. Private property rights are not affected by the National Scenic River designation.
2. The Forest Service shall work cooperatively with other land owners in the river corridor to meet the objectives of the National Scenic River as well as objectives of the landowners.
3. The Forest Service shall continue to coordinate with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and other conservation organizations to help provide information and technical advice for landowners on how to minimize impacts to National Scenic River objectives.

7700 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Forest System Roads

1. No new permanent Forest System roads shall be developed in the river corridor.
2. Temporary forest roads, roads constructed for short-term use and not intended to be part of the Forest's transportation system may be developed for emergency and for resource protection and management purposes.
 - a. layout and design of temporary roads should consider protection of scenic, recreational and other river values, and prevention of future illegal vehicle use.
 - b. Temporary roads should be rehabilitated as soon as feasible upon termination of administrative need.

Bridges

1. New bridge crossings over the main channel of Bear Creek or primary tributaries in the designated corridor shall not be permitted.
2. Replacement of existing bridges shall be permitted only if an environmental analysis and Section 7 analysis (under direction of the Wild and Scenic River Act, 1968) determine a net benefit to the values and objectives of the National Scenic River corridor. Reconstruction should not be to a higher design level than the existing structure (e.g. a double lane bridge should not be replaced with a 4-lane bridge).

Roads Under Other Jurisdictions

1. The Forest Service shall coordinate with the counties, state and owners of private access roads to eliminate resource (sedimentation into the river or tributaries) or social impacts and to assure long-term protection and enhancement of river values.