

PINE NATIONAL SCENIC RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN

This management plan describes how the Preferred Alternative (Alternative E) in the Environmental Assessment will be implemented on National Forest System lands in the Pine National Scenic River corridor. This management plan is accompanied by the Environmental Assessment, which provides information on the planning process, planning area, rationale behind Alternative E and its development, and its effects on physical, social and economic resources in the river corridor. The Environmental Assessment also contains a map having the designated river corridor boundaries (Figure II-1).

The plan has 7 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 Condition** of the Pine River corridor,
4. General **management goals**, or long-term visions
5. **Management standards and guides** for reaching the Desired Future Condition,
6. **Monitoring Plan**, effects and activities to be measured over time to determine if the plan is achieving the objective of moving the conditions of the Pine River corridor toward the Desired Future Condition.
7. **Implementation Schedule**, planned sequence of projects and activities that implement the management plan.

The management plan is directed primarily to the Forest Service, but also provides guidelines for the State of Michigan; Wexford, Manistee and Lake counties; the riparian residents; visitors to the river and others who care about the future of the Pine River. 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 Pine National Scenic River Environmental Assessment (1995).

By designating the Pine River as a National Scenic River in 1992, Congress determined that the river has significant or unique resource values, and should be managed in a free-flowing state, with its 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 corridor and riverine resources, potential threats to those resources and values, cost and administrative feasibility, public preferences, long-term effects on the resources, and other important issues and variables that define the social, physical, and managerial character of the lower Pine River.

The objectives of the river management plan are to describe the desired future condition of the 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 Environmental Assessment.

ADMINISTRATION

This plan addresses management of National Forest lands within the designated boundaries of the Pine National Scenic River (Figure 2, *Pine National Scenic River Environmental Assessment*). There are 26 miles of river within the designated corridor and an additional 2.5 miles of river in the adjacent Management Area (also designated as 8.1). Management direction of this lower portion of the Pine River, below the terminus of the designated corridor, is also contained in this plan.

The USDA Forest Service under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture, is responsible for the administration of the Pine 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 corridor.

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 Pine River. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is currently studying the entire length of the Pine 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 Pine 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 corridor, 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 Pine River were developed:

- Maintain and protect the values for which the river was included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system, including the outstanding values of recreation and scenery, free-flowing character, and water quality,
- Preserve the river and immediate environment,
- Provide opportunities for access to and enjoyment of public lands in the river corridor.
- Maintain the integrated ecological functions of the river, its 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 Pine River corridor.
- Reduce conflicts among recreationists, and between recreationists and riparian residents.
- 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 corridor 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 Pine National Scenic River corridor.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

Introduction

The Desired Future Condition statement provides general long-term management goals for the Pine National Scenic River and describes a vision of the future Pine River corridor. 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.

Recreation

Visitors to the Pine River Corridor continue to enjoy a variety of recreation experiences in natural appearing settings. Visitors may encounter both non-motorized and motorized recreation on land within the Pine River corridor (such as hiking, mountain biking, hunting, and auto touring) while only non-motorized recreation is encountered in the river channel. High quality commercial services are available for recreation activities, particularly for boating and fishing.

Watercraft use, particularly canoeing, is an important recreation activity on the Pine River. The river character provides watercraft users with a moderate challenge in practicing boating and water safety skills and a high degree of interaction with the natural environment. Watercraft traffic on the river and motorized vehicle traffic at the landings on weekends and holidays are maintained at a level where the visitors' experience is not significantly diminished. Boating use declines considerably on weekdays, providing quality opportunities to view wildlife and experience solitude.

Fishing on the Pine River is another popular recreation activity. The Pine River is considered a "blue ribbon" trout fishery and many anglers take advantage of the early morning and evening hours and weekdays to fish with some degree of solitude.

Limited overnight camping is allowed at designated sites outside of developed campgrounds, providing an opportunity for a rustic riverside camping experience. Other recreation activities such as hunting and trapping, developed area camping, picnicking, hiking, watching wildlife, and socializing are commonly enjoyed by visitors to the Pine River. Recreation use from late fall to late spring is low, providing opportunities for people to enjoy the river corridor with few other encounters.

Recreation facility developments are limited to those necessary for protecting the river resources while providing some comfort and convenience for visitors at access points and rest stops. A rest stop for watercraft users is located along the river between Peterson Bridge and Low Bridge, helping to reduce trespass on private lands and the problem of human waste along the shorelines in undeveloped areas.

Certain activities (such as watercraft use, off road vehicle riding, and camping), and commercial uses are limited or controlled to avoid resource degradation and minimize user conflicts, and to maintain high quality recreation experiences and the scenic beauty of the Pine River. Enforced controls prohibiting alcohol use at recreation sites and along the river have eliminated depreciative behaviors associated with drinking. Education and information services play an important role in controlling visitor behavior.

Transportation/ Access System

County and National Forest roads are maintained to protect the river corridor resources and to provide vehicle access to watercraft launch sites, angler access sites, river crossings, and privately owned tracts. Travel routes in the corridor in excess to those needs have been closed and restored to help reduce resource impacts from vehicle traffic.

Non-motorized trails have been developed to improve opportunities for bank fishing, hiking and viewing scenery, and are designed to minimize resource impacts and conflicts between these users and private landowners.

The rest stop is not accessible to the public by motor vehicle, but has gated administrative access for maintenance and enforcement activities.

Visual Quality

The Pine River corridor is well known for its outstanding riverine scenery. Travelers along the corridor enjoy views of a narrow, winding river with a variety of colors, forms and textures from the diverse vegetation, the steep banks and unique clay formations. The primary forest type is a mixture of conifers and hardwoods, with full crowns, bark color and patterns that resemble old growth. Viewers continue to see natural erosion processes as the dynamic mechanics of the Pine River progress. Opportunities to view wildlife have increased as habitat conditions are enhanced. The relatively few, scattered recreational and residential developments blend in with the natural scenery and are mostly screened from the view of recreationists on the river. Management activities, including signing, are subordinate to the character of the natural landscape.

Corridor Ecosystem

This section addresses the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in the Pine River corridor, including plants and animals and the land and water base that support them.

The composition of vegetation in the corridor is a mosaic of successional stages from early to mature, due to natural dynamics of the river system, natural disturbances (e.g., pest and disease, fire, erosion, etc.) or management activities that mimic natural disturbances. These management activities are designed to maintain or improve biological diversity, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and visual quality. Vegetation provides critical fish and wildlife habitat and enhances the visual quality of the corridor. The primary forest cover is a mixture of conifers and hardwoods, such as white pine, hemlock, cedar, maple and ash.

Mature forest characteristics provide quality habitat for a variety of species, including those that prefer old growth characteristics as well as early successional characteristics, such as riparian areas and zones of higher natural disturbance. Populations of game species are at levels which balance ecological and recreational needs. Several rare or unique species, such as bald eagle, marten or black bear, find quality habitat. The river corridor is an important link between large old growth areas within the Manistee River watershed. This connection maintains genetic diversity of plants and animals by acting as a travel corridor.

Excellent water quality in the Pine River is an important component of the riparian ecosystems. In general, water quality exceeds the standards set by the Michigan State Water Resources Commis-

sion. The Pine River supports excellent habitat for resident trout. Sand bedload has been reduced, resulting in increased aquatic invertebrate production, more gravel spawning areas and pools, and greater habitat diversity to support all components of the aquatic ecosystem. Structural cover, from woody debris, enhances the aquatic habitat.

Restoration measures used to reduce sand bedload blend in with the natural landscape and are essentially invisible to the untrained eye over the long-term. The Pine River is in a state of dynamic equilibrium with continuing 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.

Historic and Cultural Resources

Areas of prehistoric and historic values along the Pine River corridor are protected from natural degradation and impacts caused by recreational or management activities. To minimize signing, there is limited on-site interpretation of the historic features in the river corridor, except at existing developed recreation facilities. The Pine River retains a high level of cultural significance for local residents. Individuals, groups, and communities maintain long traditions and strong ties to the river and its setting.

Land Ownership

Private holdings that adversely affect (or potentially affect) the river values are acquired on a willing seller, willing buyer basis. National Forest system lands in the corridor are consolidated when opportunities arise, and conversions from public to private ownership are limited. Most private developments are not visible from the river. Partnerships exist between the private land owners and the Forest Service to accomplish protection of the river attributes while respecting each partners' rights and responsibilities. The private ownership boundaries are delineated, where necessary, to minimize trespass problems.

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, Pine National Scenic River and lower Management Area. 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.

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.

1. Informational

- a. The four primary Forest Service access sites and the MDNR site at Lincoln Bridge will have a sign board/bulletin board to display important information to visitors. If possible, all non-regulatory information should 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, 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.
- Description of river character to help boaters assess skill needs.

- b. Watercraft access, camp sites and the rest area will be identified with signs visible from the river channel both upstream of the facility and at the site. Signs posted upstream should include average float time to site.
- c. 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.
- d. No reflective surfaces, tape, lettering or symbols should be used on informational signs unless critical for visibility from moving vehicles.
- e. Signs identifying private property boundaries should be limited to narrow markers (i.e. carsonite posts with stick on symbols and letters).

2. Regulatory

- a. Regulatory signing should be kept to a minimum. At the five primary river access sites, regulatory information should be posted on one sign board if possible (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 should include:

- Information on the Marine Safety Act.
 - Restrictions on recreation activities, such as motorized uses.
 - Voluntary boating hours
 - "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 travelway (i.e. road or trail)

Brochures

1. Develop a brochure for the designated portion of the river corridor and lower Management Area. The brochure should provide 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 Scenic River, why it needs protection, and what users can do to help protect these values.
 - Inform visitors about regulations pertaining to watercraft use, camping and motorized use restrictions, discourage alcohol use, and voluntary "courtesy" hours.
 - Description of the river character so that boaters can determine skill level recommended to navigate a segment.
 - A statement on outdoor ethics, respecting private property rights and low impact behavior/activities
2. Develop a brochure or pamphlet that 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 (either Forest Service personnel or volunteers) and visitors in the river corridor. Emphasis will be from late May through early September, with the focus of contacts at the river landings during popular launch times, and at campsites in late afternoon or early evening. 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 should 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 and in the Grouse Management Area, vegetation may be managed to regenerate forest stands and enhance the quality of wildlife habitat for grouse and other species dependent on early successional habitat. The primary vegetation type that would receive treatment are Aspen stands and red pine plantations. Any plantings should use native species.

- a. Individual aspen regeneration harvests will be less than 20 acres. Aspen stands occupy about 150 acres in the Pine River Corridor.
 - b. In aspen stands, retain snags, den trees, mast trees and downed logs in sufficient quantities to meet habitat needs of Management Indicator Species.
2. Within the seen area of the river, there shall be a natural succession of vegetation toward an old growth forest condition. Any plantings should use native species with an emphasis toward large, long-lived tree species. Exceptions to promoting a natural succession 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. Actions maintain essential habitat for threatened, endangered 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 bio-chemical 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. river access sites and Peterson Bridge 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 at or in the immediate vicinity of commercial business (Coolwater Campground), private residences, river landings and developed campgrounds (Peterson Bridge, and Lincoln Bridge), and along primary access routes (M-37, County Roads 50 and 48).
2. A Semiprimitive recreation setting shall be maintained on National Forest system lands in the remainder of the corridor. The primary character of the Semi-primitive setting will be motorized, due to the existing high density of public roads, but opportunities for non-motorized experiences should be enhanced where feasible (e.g. in areas without open public roads).
3. 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).
4. Camping on public lands should be permitted only at the developed camgrounds (Lincoln Bridge and Peterson Bridge South). Dispersed camping shall be prohibited in the designated river corridor, except during the winter (December 1 through March 31) with a letter of authorization from the Dsitrict Ranger.
5. Establish a program to monitor recreational use patterns, impacts, and visitor preferences.
 - a. Conduct a survey of recreational use in the corridor within the first three years of plan implementation. The study should focus on use during the watercraft permit season, May through September, 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 the Pine River, etc...)
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.

Watercraft Use

The Forest Service shall continue to restrict watercraft access on the river.

1. Non-commercial watercraft use shall be limited to 100 watercraft per day on weekends and holidays, and 60 watercraft per day on weekdays during the permit season (May 1 through October 1). Watercraft users must obtain a permit from the Forest Service for each watercraft.

- Commercial watercraft use shall be regulated through issuance of a special use permit to commercial liveries using National Forest lands for river access. Use shall be limited to 1994 levels between the dates of May 1 and October 1, as indicated below. Use shall be evenly distributed among the 6 existing liveries (Jarolim's, Horina, Sportsman's Port, Marrik's, Carl's, and Baldwin Canoes), unless otherwise negotiated between livery operators.

Weekend and Holiday Use Allocation	516 total (86 watercraft/day/livery)
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Week Day Allocation	186 total (31 watercraft/day/livery)
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- In order to reduce conflicts between anglers and non-angling watercraft users, all private and commercial watercraft users should be encouraged to limit boating hours to between 9pm and 6pm daily, *unless* their primary purpose for floating the river is to fish. Compliance with these "courtesy hours" is voluntary.
- Commercially guided fishing shall be regulated through issuance of a special use permit to commercial guides using National Forest lands for river access. Use shall be limited to 110 service days per year (current authorized guides are Schmidt Outfitters, Z-Boat River Guide Service, and J&J River Guide Service). This use level may be re-evaluated when/if there is sufficient interest by the public and potential commercial guides to change the amount of commercially guided fishing services on the Pine River. At such time, a thorough study should be conducted to determine the optimal level of commercial fishing activity, considering capacities of physical, biological and social resources. No new fishing guide permits will be issued until after completion of the study.
- Launching and retrieving of motorized watercraft on National Forest system lands in the corridor shall be prohibited (36 CFR 261.58 (n)).

Recreation Development

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

- New dispersed campsites and the new river rest stop shall be designed and maintained to provide a semi-primitive experience. Facility design or site modification should have the primary objective of resource protection, while still providing a "rustic" experience with opportunities for self-reliance and practice of outdoor skills. Proposed recreation developments are listed under **Implementation Schedule**.
- A Design Narrative, following the direction in FSH 2309.13, should be developed prior to the construction of any new 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, except at Peterson Bridge Campground. 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, beyond actions listed in the **Implementation Schedule**, 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 Pine 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. Proposed trail developments are listed in the *Implementation Schedule*.
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 route designated for mountain bikes in the lower section of the corridor between Low Bridge and Peterson Bridge should follow existing roads and two-tracks where possible in order to minimize construction of new trail tread.
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 Pine River corridor.

Historic and Prehistoric Resources

1. Conduct site specific surveys for all proposed ground-disturbing projects within the Pine 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.

Historic Structures and Buildings

1. Complete an inventory and documentation of all historic structures on public land or under federal jurisdiction in the Pine River corridor within five (5) years of plan implementation.
2. All historic structures potentially affected by any action within the Pine River corridor shall be evaluated for National Register (of Historic Places) eligibility. Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) shall be completed for all affected historic structures. Appropriate mitigation shall be developed through consultation with the SHPO and the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation as necessary, and implemented prior to any action resulting in adverse effect.
3. Complete evaluations for National Register eligibility and/or nominations to the National Register of Historic Places for all historic buildings and structures on public land or under federal jurisdiction in the Pine River corridor within ten (10) years of plan implementation.

Cultural Values

1. Preserve elements of the river corridor contributing to local social and cultural values. Re-assess 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 minimal interpretation of cultural resources within the Pine River corridor. Interpretation to be established only at developed recreation sites and/or the Stronach Dam site (refer to brochure discussed in **1600 Information Services**).
2. No site specific locational information (except the location of Stronach Dam) will be included in any developed interpretive material without full SHPO and Advisory Council for Historic Preservation concurrence.

2380 VISUAL MANAGEMENT

Visual Quality Objectives

1. Management actions on National Forest system lands, such as vegetation management, development of recreation facilities, or construction of erosion control structures, must meet one of the following Visual Quality Objectives:
 - a. Retention - Lands within the seen area from the river, (except in the immediate vicinity of recreation developments), and lands visible from primary access routes (e.g. M-37, county roads **50** and 48) and forest access roads to developed river access sites.
 - b. Partial Retention - Lands within the river corridor that lie outside the seen area from the river or primary access roads, and at developed recreation sites (e.g. river access facilities).

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 Pine 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 Lincoln Bridge river access site).
 - 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 Pine River, and coordinate with the MDNR Land and Water Management Division on approval for any construction or stabilization activities within the normal highwater mark of the Pine 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.
 - a. 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 Pine River. This schedule also recognizes the natural characteristics of the Scenic reach, it's lack of substantial development and the reduced potential for pollution because of its protected land use status.
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 only 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 the Pine 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. Forest Roads or segments of roads which are causing unacceptable soil compaction, displacement or puddling, and which do not access administrative or recreation sites will be evaluated for future closure to motor vehicle traffic, or reconstruction to reduce the impacts. Road segments which should be evaluated within the first 3 years of plan implementation are list below. All proposed closures will be coordinated with the MDNR and potential impacts for closure will be analyzed through the National Environmental Policy Act process and public involvement.

ROAD SEGMENTS TO BE EVALUATED FOR RESOURCE IMPACTS

FR 5130	FR 7319
FR 5131	FR 7336
FR 5230	FR 7341
FR 5352	FR 7343
FR 5469	FR 7344
FR 5635	FR 7345
FR 7304	FR 7730
FR 7314	FR 7738
FR 7315	FR 7740
FR 7317	

3. To reduce the need for fertilization, native vegetation will be relied upon as much as possible to revegetate eroding banks. Where possible, nitrogen fixing plants (such as legumes) will be used. Fertilization will only be considered after analysis of soil conditions.

4. Prevent soil loss by maintaining **at least** the minimum percent effective ground cover following cessation of any soil-disturbing activity (project sites should be revegetated immediately - at least within the next growing season for the primary vegetative species).

<i>Erosion Hazard Class</i>	Minimum Percent Effective Ground Cover	
	<i>1st Year</i>	<i>2nd Year</i>
Low (very slight - slight)	20 - 30%	30 - 40%
Medium (moderate)	30 - 45%	40 - 60%
High (severe)	45 - 60%	60 - 75%
Very High (very severe)	60 - 75%	75 - 90%

5. Continue to coordinate with the county road commissions and other 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 the following native wildlife species found in the planning area, also considered management indicator species (MIS):
 - a. black-throated green warbler,
 - b. chestnut-sided warbler,
 - c. eastern bluebird,
 - d. fox and gray squirrels,
 - e. pileated woodpecker,
 - f. ruffed grouse,
 - g. whitetail deer,
 - h. beaver,
 - i. ducks (all species),
 - j. black bear, and
 - k. bald eagle.
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. Use bear resistant refuse containers in developed recreation sites where the Forest Service maintains trash collection facilities (not under the "pack-it-in, pack-it-out" policy).
5. 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 Pine 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 Pine 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 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 Scenic corridor.
- d. Emphasis shall be placed on maintaining the scenic quality of the Pine 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 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 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 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 Pine 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. Support the reintroduction of species, such as the marten, within the corridor.
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 recreational 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 Pine River corridor.
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 Pine 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 agency law enforcement presence in the river corridor during high use periods (summer weekends). Uniformed law enforcement personnel shall make frequent contact with recreationists and commercial operators.
2. The Forest Service shall maintain cooperative agreements with the Wexford and Manistee counties Sheriff's Departments 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 261.50 that prohibit the launching or retrieving of motorized watercraft from National Forest system lands in the Pine River corridor (36 CFR 261.58 (n)). Dispersed camping in the river corridor shall continue to be prohibited, under 36 CFR 261.58 (e), except during the winter (December 1 through March 31). Camping during this time may be permitted with written authorization from the District Ranger.

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.
2. The United States **does not** have condemnation authority under the Wild and Scenic River Act, 1968, on the Pine National Scenic River, since over 50% of the lands in the corridor are already National Forest system lands (Section 6(b)).

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. Reduce occurrence of trespass on private property in the corridor by erecting National Forest boundary markers where necessary (e.g. where trespass is currently a problem). Placement of boundary markers shall replace "No Trespass"/"Keep Out" signs posted on private property and visible from the river.
3. Lease lots (2) on National Forest system lands will not be renewed.

Covenants and Restrictions Management

1. Private property on which the United States owns a conservation or scenic easement shall be inspected, at a minimum, every three (3) years by the Forest Service. Conservation restrictions are restated below, followed by several specific interpretations:
 - "a. No structures of any kind shall be placed on, erected or maintained upon the above-described tract unless they be: 1) Structures required in the practice of conservation ... which the Grantor, or its successors and assigns may find necessary to protect the area to be benefited; or 2) Structures necessary for recreational dwelling or related purposes and such structures as may be approved by the Grantor, its successors or assigns. New structures must be approved by the Grantor, its successors or assigns before any construction begins. Existing structures shall be maintained in their present state or improved in such a manner that they blend with and contribute to the harmony of the surroundings.
 - b. No signs, billboards, outdoor advertising structures or advertising of any kind or nature shall be located on these properties. Commercialism of any kind is prohibited.

- c. No trash, ashes, garbage, sewage, sawdust or any unsightly or offensive material shall be dumped or placed, except as incidental to the use for customary horticultural purposes.
- d. No trees or shrubs shall be removed or destroyed by said Grantee, its successors or assigns, except those that are removed or destroyed in accordance with good residential maintenance.
- e. The general topography of the landscape shall be continued in its present condition, and no excavations or topographic changes shall be made except those that promote approved soil conservation practices.
- f. Neither the Grantee nor his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns shall in any way be restricted from sound conservation practices.
- g. The Grantee shall have the right to maintain all of the buildings, roads and other facilities now existing on said tract and if any or all of them shall be destroyed or damaged by fire, storm or other casualty or happening, they may be restored or replaced and may be maintained in accordance with the covenants and restrictions contained in these standards and upon prior approval of the District Ranger.
- h. The premises and the buildings and structures therein shall be maintained in proper repair and sanitation and shall comply with all laws and lawful orders, State and Federal, relative thereto.
- i. These properties shall not be subdivided.
- j. Adequate sanitation facilities shall be provided ..."

Interpretations of above covenants:

- "Grantor, its successors and assigns..."
The responsibility of the District Ranger
- "New buildings must be approved...before any construction begins."
Application for new construction must be received by the District Ranger 6 months prior to commencing construction.
- "Grantee, its successors and assigns..."
The landowner

- 2. A separate file will be maintained for each parcel of land for which the United States owns an easement. At a minimum the file shall contain:
 - a. A copy of the deed containing the restrictions granted and the area's legal description,
 - b. Photographs of the easement area at the time of plan implementation.
 - c. Copies of inspection reports.

3. Actions to prevent or stop violations to partial interests the United States has acquired will be taken as soon as a violation is noticed. The Forest Supervisor will obtain a Temporary Restraining Order, if necessary, to prevent such violations.

Coordination with Other Landowners

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Forest System roads should be maintained to the following standards and be compatible with the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum class and objectives of the National Scenic River corridor:

ROAD NUMBER	ROAD MAINTENANCE LEVEL
FR 5050	1
FR 5130	3 for 1st mile, 1 to terminus
FR 5131	none specified
FR 5186 Peterson Bridge River Access road	5
FR 5230 Elm Flats River Access road	3
FR 5233	2 to closure, 1 to terminus
FR 5330	3
FR 5352	1
FR 5469	1
FR 5634	1

ROAD NUMBER	ROAD MAINTENANCE LEVEL
FR 5635	2 to closure, 1 to terminus
FR 5682	1
FR 5776 Peterson Bridge Campground road	5
FR 7300	none specified
FR 7301	2
FR 7302	2
FR 7303	2
FR 7304	2
FR 7305	2
FR 7308	1
FR 7309	1
FR 7314	2
FR 7315	2
FR 7317	2
FR 7318	1
FR 7319	2
FR 7341	2
FR 7342	2 to closure, 1 to terminus
FR 7343	2
FR 7344	2
FR 7345	2
FR 7346	2
FR 7347	1
FR 7348	1
FR 7349	2
FR 7704	2
FR 7707	2
FR 7730	2
FR 7738	1
FR 7740	none specified
FR 7741	none specified

Traffic Service Level Codes (FSH 7709.58)

Level 1 = Intermittent service roads during the time they are closed to vehicular traffic.

Level 2 = Roads open for use by high clearance vehicles.

Level 3 = Roads open and maintained for travel by a prudent driver in standard passenger car.

Level 4 = Roads that provide a moderate degree of user comfort and convenience at moderate travel speeds.

Level 5 = Roads that provide a high degree of user comfort and convenience.

Closures

1. Approximately 3.15 miles of Forest System Roads or road segments have been identified for potential closures. The objective of the majority of closures is to eliminate resource impacts. "Bunkering" roads is not recommended as a temporary closure method in the corridor, since it has not been effective for eliminating vehicle traffic. Closure methods should be one of the following.
 - a. Complete obliteration and rehabilitation. Road segments that do not provide important access for administrative vehicle traffic, or for recreational pedestrian traffic, should be completely obliterated and rehabilitated. Plantings of native species, particularly long-lived tree species, is encouraged where suitable.
 - b. Administrative Closures. Roads necessary to maintain for administrative access, but which are not suitable for public access, shall be gated and signed as closed to public vehicle use, but open to non-motorized use.
2. All proposed closures should be analyzed through the National Environmental Policy Act process to determine effects, and should be coordinated with the State of Michigan, in accordance with direction in the Michigan Scenic Rivers Act, 1992. In addition, proposed closures should be posted one year in advance so that the public is made aware of the future management actions.

Bridges

1. New bridge crossings over the main channel of the Pine River 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.

MONITORING

Monitoring will help to evaluate the effectiveness of the management direction. It will compare conditions within the river corridor to the "Desired Future Condition". Monitoring results can alert river managers to unacceptable changes in the river corridor before it is too late to react. This monitoring strategy is designed to be the foundation for the long-term protection and enhancement of the important river-related values in the Pine National Scenic River corridor.