



Restoring River Flows in Michigan

National Water Replenishment and Enhancement Initiative

Since 2008, the Huron-Manistee National Forests and the Oceana County Road Commission have been working to replace deficient road stream crossings in the White River watershed, including along Osborne and Brayton Creeks. Undersized road-stream crossings prevent aquatic organism passage and contribute to frequent flood events that were causing severe erosion and deteriorating the upstream valley. Replacing culverts with bridges helped resolve both environmental impacts.

Location: Huron-Manistee National Forests, Michigan

Partnerships Accomplishments: Removed five culverts and replaced with two bridges.

Number of Projects: Two (2013 and 2014)

Project Accomplishments:

- 2013: Removed three culverts and replaced with a bridge.
- 2014: Removed two culverts and replaced with a bridge.
- Restoration Benefits: Reconnected 34 miles of river and 62 acres of upstream lake.

Additional Benefits: Following completion of the Osborne Creek project, the autumn run of migratory fish, salmonids, and late-season lake trout was the strongest it has been in decades.

Coca-Cola Replenishment Value: 374 million liters per year.

Total Funding: \$474,012 (Funding Sources: Coca-Cola—\$260,760, National Forest Foundation— \$112,677, Other Sources—\$75,000, Forest Service—\$25,575)

Implementation Partners: National Forest Foundation, Oceana County Road Commission





Before (left) and after (below) photographs showing the results of this restoration project. (Courtesy U.S. Forest Service)

