



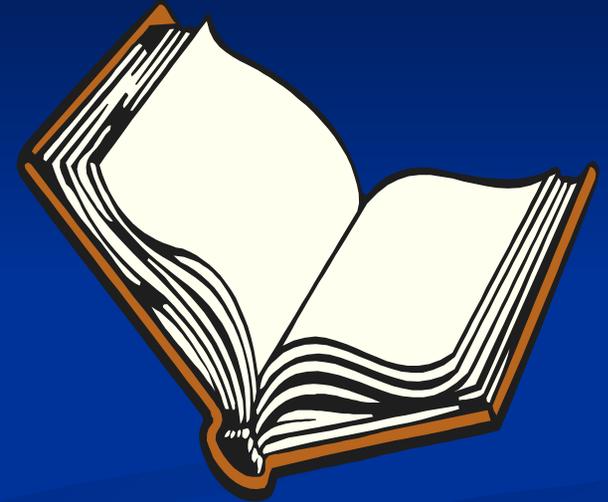
Michigan's Natural Rivers Program

Fisheries Division

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

# Natural Rivers Part 305 of 1994 PA 451

- Authorizes DNR to establish a system of designated Natural Rivers
- Requires that a long-term plan be written before designation
- Requires the plan to be presented at public hearings
- Requires that State zoning rules be written



# Objectives of designation (from Pere Marquette River Natural River Plan)

- To maintain water quality consistent with the designated classification of the river and adhere to the concept of non-degradation of water quality.



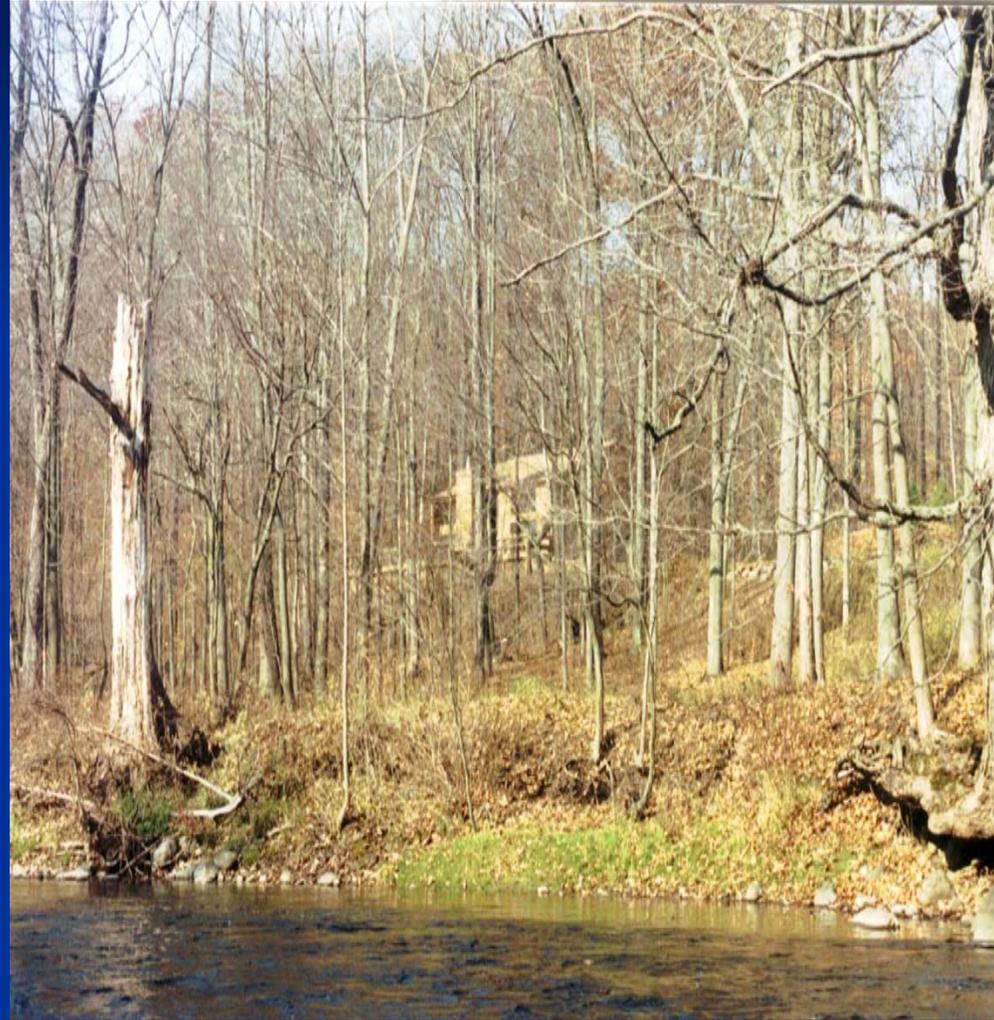
# Objectives of designation

- To prohibit development or activity that may damage the ecologic, aesthetic or historic values of the river and adjacent lands.



# Objectives of designation

- To ensure that development that may occur shall be done in an orderly manner consistent with the natural environment and aesthetic qualities of the stream.



# Objectives of designation

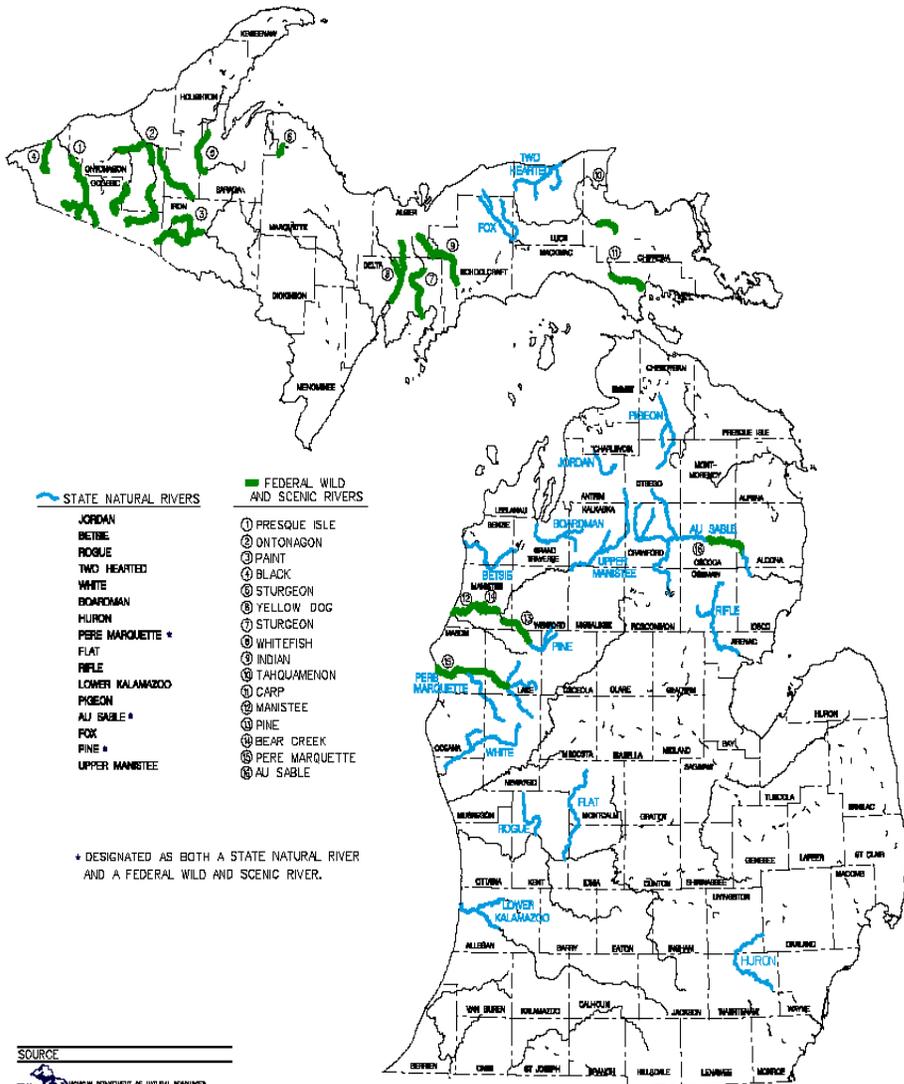
- To ensure that recreational uses that occur be done in an orderly manner consistent with the natural environment and aesthetic qualities of the stream, and that a quality recreation experience is maintained



# Bottom Line....

- Designation of a Natural River is intended to help protect, preserve and enhance the natural values of the river for future generations while still allowing for reasonable use and development of public and private land.

## MICHIGAN'S NATURAL AND WILD & SCENIC RIVERS



**SOURCE**

**DNR** MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
 FORESTRY, AND THE WILDLIFE DIVISION  
 Michigan Geographic Information System  
 Part 506, Resource Inventory of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Act, 1969 PA 426, as amended  
 OCTOBER 2003  
 NOTE: ALL RIVERS INCLUDE SOME OR ALL TRIBUTARIES

# Current Natural River System

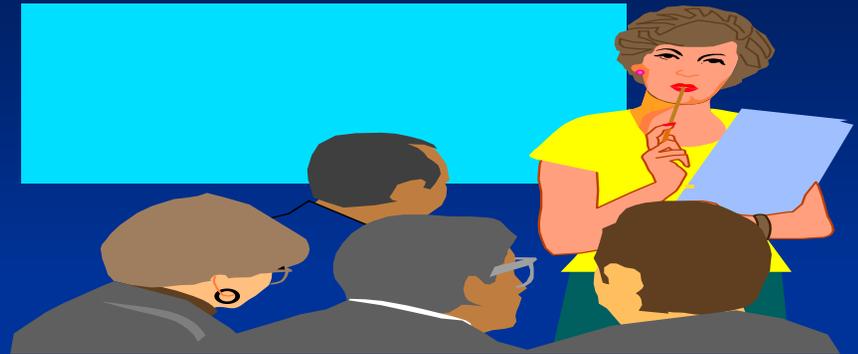
- 16 designated Natural Rivers
- 2091 miles of designated river
- Less than 6% of State's streams

# Criteria for Designation

- Mainstream – 10 miles long
- Must possess one or more outstanding values (fisheries, wildlife, scenic, historic, etc.)
- Significant threats to those values
- At least a regionally significant resource
- Level of local protection
- Level of local support
  - Resolutions from local governmental units
  - Citizens group support
  - Landowner support

# Designation process

- DNR staff contact key individuals
- Public meetings
- Citizens Advisory Group meetings
- Public agency staff input
- Draft plan
- Public hearings
- DNR Director approval

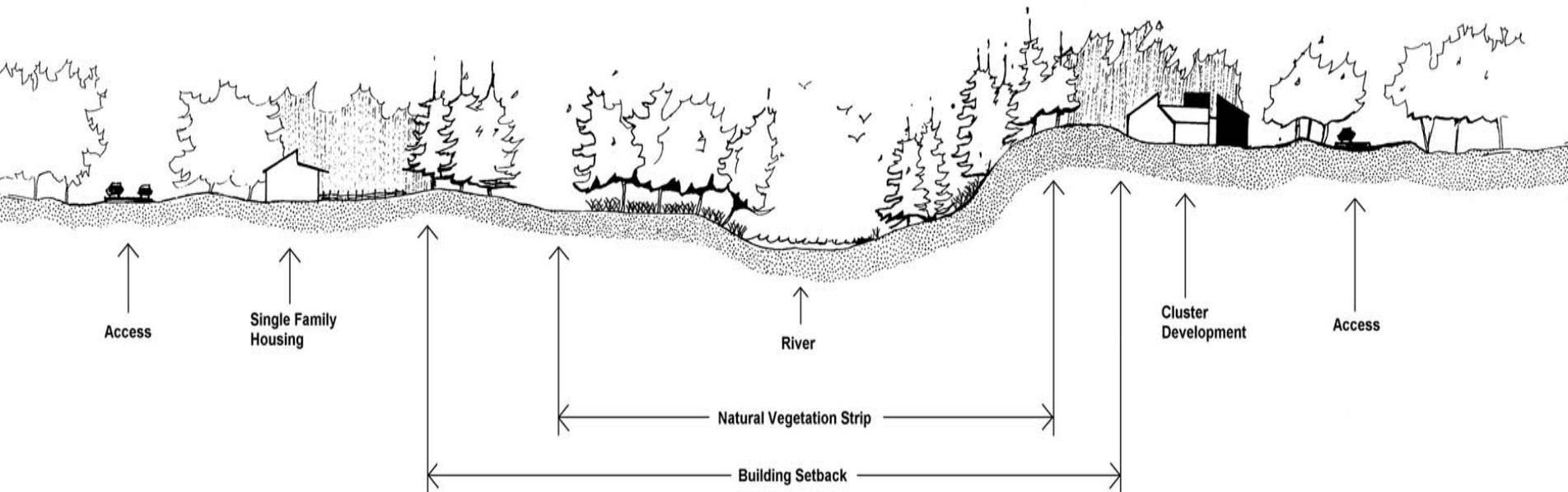


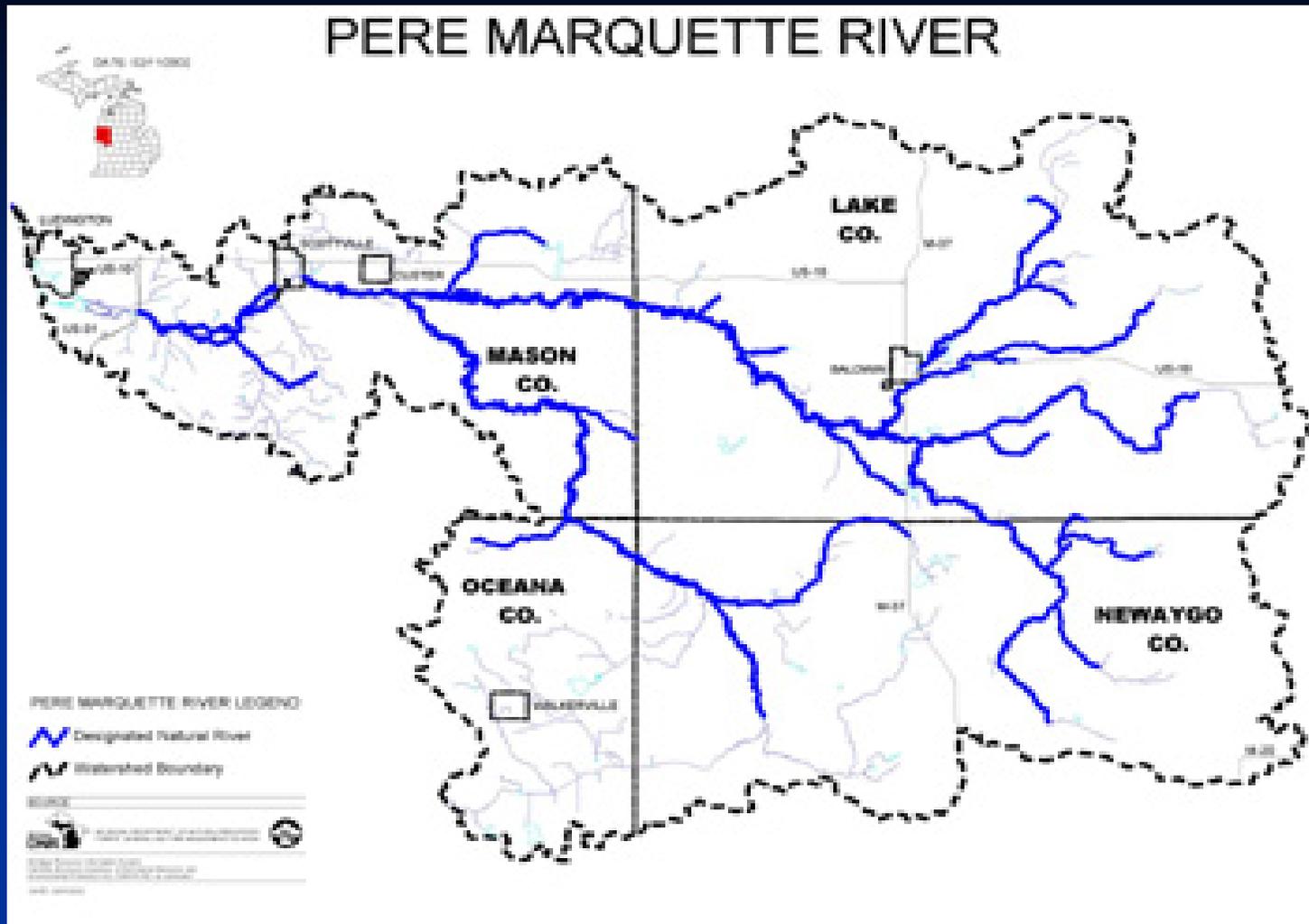
# Plan sections

- Watershed background information
- Goals and objectives
- Proposed designation
- Private land use and development standards
- Public land use and development standards
- Implementation

# Natural River District

- River channel and all land within 400 feet of the river's edge
- NOT a “non-development zone”
- A ZONING DISTRICT - the area where Natural River standards apply





- Michigan's 8th Designated Natural River
- *State* Designation July 1978 (zoning rules in 1981)
- *Federal Designation* November 1978 (*plan* 1983)

# Private Land Standards Pere Marquette River

- Minimum Building Setback (reduced based on bank height)
- Minimum Lot Width and area— New land divisions
- Natural Vegetation Strip
- Septic system setback
- Bluff setback
- Wetland and floodplain standards

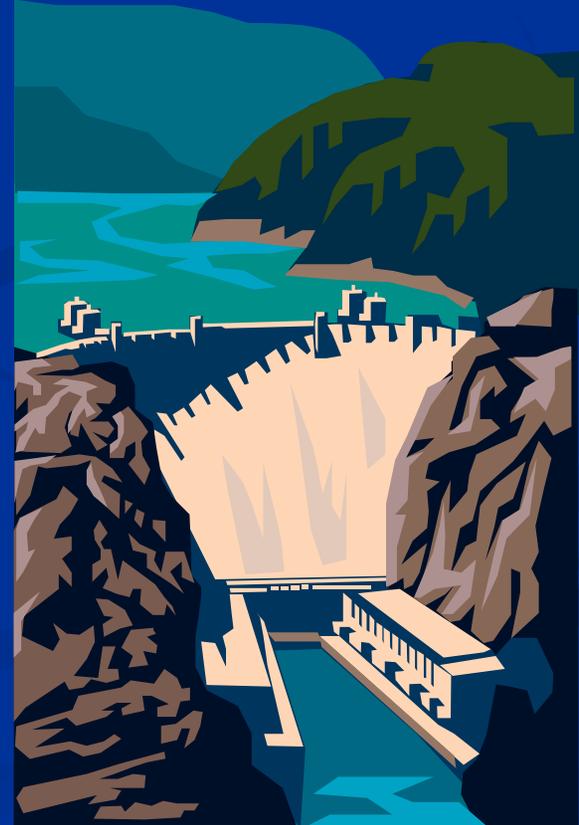
# Public Land Standards - Permitted Uses

- Forest Management Practices
- Mineral exploration
- Campgrounds
- Trails
- Restoration/erosion control
- No new mainstream boat or canoe access sites



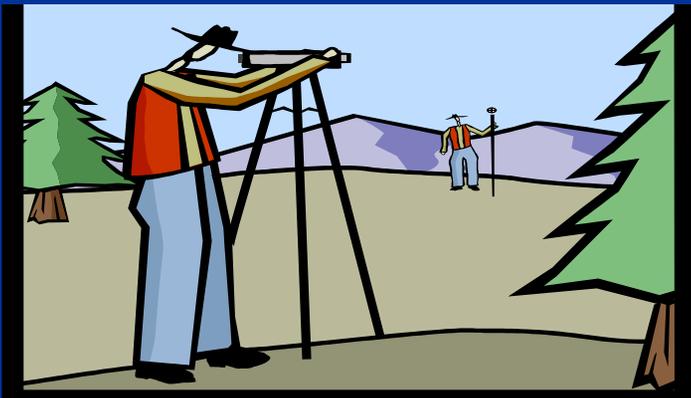
# Public Land Standards - Permitted Uses

- Limited land alteration
- Pipeline crossings
- No new dams



# Implementation

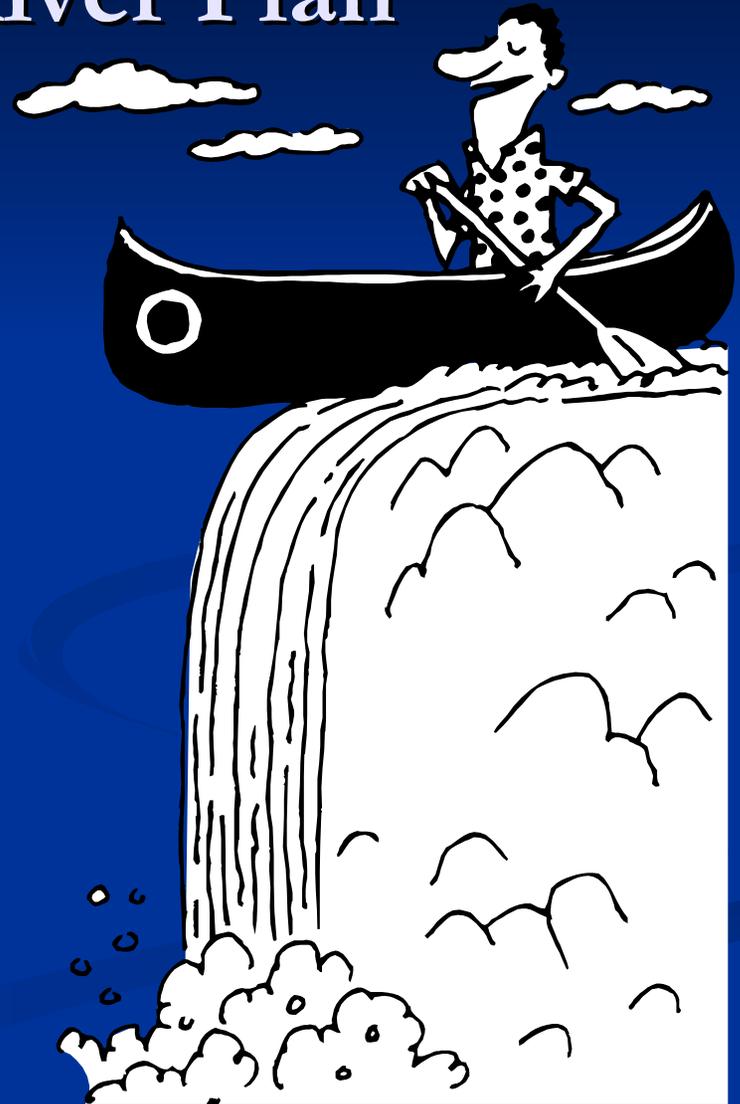
- State lands managed according to plan
- State management per MOU with USFS
- State land use rules
- Local zoning ordinances
- State zoning rules
- Utilities/public facilities rules



# Watercraft Use

## State Natural River Plan

- No new watercraft access sites
- Recognition of user conflicts, over use
- Authority issues – Who has it? How much? What type? How to implement?
- New land use rules – Launching commercial boats is a commercial use of State land



# On-Water Regulations Pere Marquette River

- Marine Safety Act –  
Regulates boats on water
  - Safety issues only
  - Indian Bridge to Pere Marquette Lake – Slow, no-wake speed (1974)
  - Lake, Pleasant Plains, Sweetwater Twp. – Electric motors in upstream direction only (1978)



# State Watercraft Permits

- Memorandum of understanding – DNR/USFS
  - “Strive for general concurrence” on DNR/USFS plan provisions that affect State or Federal management or authority
  - Allows for Federal involvement in management of traditional State issues by written agreement between agencies
- State permit system? – M-37, Sulak, State land
  - Separate system? Coordinate with USFS?
  - Both systems regulate LAND USE

# Natural Rivers Program



- Not the complete answer
- A management tool, used with other tools
- Protect river for future generations



Thank you