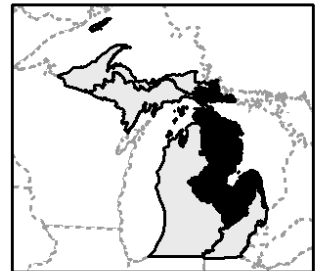


River Characteristic: Rock Banks



0 15 30 60 Kilometers

0 5 10 20 Miles



River Characteristic: Rock Banks

Description

Banks are the Ground bordering a channel above the streambed and below the level of rooted vegetation that often has a gradient steeper than 45° and exhibits a distinct break in slope from the stream bottom; the portion of the channel cross section that restricts lateral movement of water during normal streamflow. Rock banks are predominantly composed of a mass of stone of any size, consolidated or unconsolidated, of various mineral composition.

General Condition of Feature

This habitat is considered 25% in good to excellent condition, 40% in fair condition, and 35% in degraded to very degraded condition.

Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need

FISH

stonecat (*Noturus flavus*)

MAMMALS

water shrew (*Sorex palustris*)

Associated Threats

MODIFICATION OF NATURAL PROCESSES

- altered hydrologic regimes

POLLUTION

- Altered sediment loads: Sedimentation

HABITAT CONVERSION

- Dredging and channelization: Dredging; Removal & dredging

CONSUMPTIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE USE

- Mining practices

Conservation Actions Needed (Threats addressed)

LAND, WATER & SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- Engineered drainage channels should mimic natural stream channel stability (channel dimension, pattern, and profile) (altered hydrologic regimes, altered sediment loads, dredging and channelization)
- Protect natural seasonal flow patterns of the river by incorporating best management practices (altered hydrologic regimes, altered sediment loads)
- Rehabilitate channel diversity (dredging and channelization)
- Rehabilitate rivers to their original flow paths and hydrologic functions (altered hydrologic regimes, altered sediment loads)
- Remove dams to rehabilitate natural hydrology (altered hydrologic regimes, altered sediment loads)
- Work with Drain Commissioners to use natural channel processes to allow a river to manage sediment and flow and decrease the amount of channelization needed (altered hydrologic regimes, altered sediment loads, dredging and channelization)

LAW & POLICY

- Enforce the use of sediment barriers and best management practice's during road siting, construction, and maintenance (altered sediment loads)
- Impose restrictions on mining operations and mitigation and remediation actions for mining impacts (mining practices)
- Protect the natural hydrologic regime of streams by protecting existing wetlands, floodplains, and natural upland areas (altered hydrologic regimes, altered sediment loads)
- Work with regulatory agencies to restrict dredging and channelization activities (dredging and channelization)

EDUCATION & AWARENESS

- Educate the public on the importance of vegetated riparian buffers (altered hydrologic regimes, altered sediment loads)

Research and Survey Needs

- Determine the amount and condition of rock banks in this basin
- Determine the amount of use by SGCN of this landscape feature
- Determine what other species require this landscape feature for part of their life history

Monitoring

- Riparian modification
- Rock removal operations, including individuals
- Species that require rock bank habitat