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August 26, 2015

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**\$400,000 IN GRANT FUNDING AWARDED TO
BOARDMAN RIVER DAMS & RESTORATION PROJECT**

Traverse City, MI – Conservation Resource Alliance was recently awarded \$400,000 in new grant funding for the Boardman River Dams and Restoration Project. These funds will be used for dam removal and restoration work on the Boardman River, including the removal of Boardman and Sabin Dams and the modification of Union Street Dam.

The Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act grant program awarded \$300,000 to the dam removal and restoration project. These grants are a program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service whose mission is to work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Additionally, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership awarded \$100,000 for the removal of Boardman Dam.

In awarding the funds, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service noted the potential for high impact on wildlife and habitat, as well as exceptional governmental, tribal, private and nonprofit support for the high profile project.

"This was a quality proposal from a collaborative group dedicated to best outcomes for both environment and community benefits," said Tammy Newcomb, Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act Proposal Review Committee Chairperson.

The new grant funds bring the total dollars raised for the current project phase to \$3.7 million. An additional \$3.1 million funding award from Michigan Department of Transportation and funds contributed by the Grand Traverse County Road Commission will pay for the construction of a new Cass Road bridge.

"We are extremely grateful to be included among these grantees," said Boardman Implementation Team Chairman Frank Dituri. "However, additional funding is still

needed and our team is working diligently with private and public funding sources to meet our goal.”

In addition to fundraising, the project team is currently engaged in data collection and design/specification processes for the removal of Boardman Dam and replacement of the Cass Road crossing. The Implementation Team is targeting construction at Boardman Dam, beginning with the Cass Road bridge construction, to begin in 2016. Construction for removal of Boardman Dam is projected for 2017. Sabin Dam removal is expected subsequently in 2018.

Additional funders for the Boardman Dam Removal and Cass Road Bridge work include:

- *Bureau of Indian Affairs – Great Lakes Restoration Initiative*
- *City of Traverse City*
- *Frey Foundation*
- *Grand Traverse County*
- *Grand Traverse County Road Commission*
- *Great Lakes Fishery Trust*
- *Michigan Department of Environmental Quality*
- *Michigan Department of Natural Resources*
- *Michigan Department of Transportation*
- *National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Sustain Our Great Lakes*
- *Rotary Charities of Traverse City*
- *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*
- *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act Grant Program*
- *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership*
- *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Fish Passage Program awarded to Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians*

For more information about Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, visit <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/fisheries/glfwra-grants/GLFWRA-facts.pdf>.

For more information and project updates regarding Boardman River Dams and Restoration Project, please visit www.theboardman.org.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the historic federal initiative to restore the Great Lakes ecosystem, represents the largest investment in the Great Lakes in over two decades to help ensure the sustainability and economic vitality of the lakes and surrounding eight-state region.

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