FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Chuck Lombardo (CML)
clombardo@cmlmc.com
231.922.6782 (O) 231.621.0224 (M)

IMPORTANT ACCESS INFORMATION REGARDING BOARDMAN RIVER AND BROWN BRIDGE QUIET AREA

Public Access is Limited During Dam Removal Work

Traverse City, MI (August 17, 2012) – The Brown Bridge Dam removal project team is notifying the public that effective immediately, access to the Boardman River, Brown Bridge Pond and Brown Bridge Quiet Area is limited due to construction work that is expected to continue through the end of this year. The measures are necessary to ensure public safety and to protect sensitive exposed bottomlands.

- The entire construction area at Brown Bridge Pond is closed. Paddlers should be aware that Scheck’s Landing is the last safe location to exit the river while Brown Bridge Dam is removed and critical habitat is restored.

- Paddlers that fail to exit the river at Scheck’s Landing will encounter a portage of approximately one mile of steep, rugged terrain around the project area.

- The public can expect some temporary trail closures in the Brown Bridge Quiet Area at various times during construction.

- Viewing areas will remain open at designated overlooks. Please see the attached map.

- The landing below Brown Bridge Dam will remain open.

- Grand Traverse Conservation District has installed interpretive signs at the viewing areas to help educate the public about the dam removal and river restoration process.

For more information and project updates, please visit www.theboardman.org.

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The exposed bottomlands are fragile and unstable. It is critical humans and pets stay off these sensitive areas to allow native vegetation and wetlands to reestablish.