Water and foot traffic prohibited during Boardman River project construction

DETROIT – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, advises that all water and foot traffic is strictly prohibited in the Boardman River project area during Boardman Dam removal construction in Traverse City, Mich. due to unsafe conditions.

The Beaver Pond Trail and Boardman Pond Trail have been closed by the Grand Traverse County Conservation District. Boardman River is also closed to all traffic for approximately two miles from Lone Pine Trailhead to Sabin impoundment.

Boardman River traffic is advised to exit upstream of Beitner Road Bridge and reenter at Sabin Impoundment. Signage is posted along the river at various locations to provide warning and direction to take out spots for recreational users. Project signage has also been posted on all affected trails notifying public of closed trails. All foot traffic must remain on designated trails.

Visit Grand Traverse Natural Education Reserve for updated trail maps. The newly exposed bottomlands of the former impoundment are dangerous, although some areas may appear stable to walk on, they are saturated from the pooled water and unsafe for foot traffic.

This portion of the Boardman River and neighboring trails will remain closed into 2018, as restoration work continues. Completion date to be determined, but likely early summer 2018.

The Boardman Dam removal, along with other ecosystem restoration projects planned on the Boardman River, will assist in the restoration of the natural aquatic ecosystem as well as provide internal connectivity to Grand Traverse Bay of Lake Michigan.

For additional information please contact U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District employees Chris Schropp, civil engineer, (616) 842-5510 x25526 or Lynn Rose, chief of public affairs at (313) 226-4680.