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The Blind Sucker River lies in the northwest corner of Luce County between the village of Grand Marais (8 miles to the west) and Deer Park Settlement (3 miles to the east). It flows from a swampy environment and escarpment springs in a north easterly direction to Lake Superior, draining an area of approximately 18 square miles.

Historically, the Blind Sucker River was a part of the lower portion of the Sucker River which now flows into East Bay at Grand Marais. During the logging era the Sucker River was used to float logs from the "Whitewash" Plains to its mouth, then located near Deer Park. The logs were then floated back to the mill at Grand Marais via Lake Superior. In the 1870's, by a stroke of engineering genius and lots of hard work, the Sucker River channel was pinched off at Cable Hill and diverted across and between the dunes to Grand Marais Creek and thus into East Bay at Grand Marais some 13 miles west of original river mouth. The remaining portion of the old Sucker River now consisted of a broad expanse of swamp, escarpment springs, and the Dead Sucker River and are now called the Blind Sucker River.

A log dam was constructed at the site of the present wildlife flooding dam, resulting in an impoundment which was used to facilitate the movement of sawlogs. The original flooding produced very good northern pike fishing from 1923-1933 until the old dam washed out in 1934. Yellow perch and white suckers were abundant at that time also. Brook trout were first noted here near Sherman's Shack in 1936 and some catches of one to three pound fish were made in 1938. Fishing for trout did not get under way to any extent until after World War II and brook trout fishing was considered very good from 1947-1950. From then on, it was spotty with some good catches being made in Wheeler and Mud lakes and in the "widewaters" below Mud Lake. A few rainbow were also taken at this time. In 1954, this stream was dammed with a concrete and wood structure to form the 1200 acre Blind Sucker Wildlife Flooding. This area extends upstream about 6 miles on the Blind and about 2 miles on the Dead Sucker River. Props Lake lies at the head of the Dead Sucker while Brucker and Keofgen lakes lie between the Dead and the Blind. Mud and Wheeler Lakes used to lie immediately below the escarpment, but are inundated by the flooding.

After the new dam was built, 2000 fin clipped brook trout were stocked in 1955. Several of these and some native brook trout were caught in 1956, but by 1957 numerous catches of small pike were reported. Pike numbers increased rapidly between 1956-1958 resulting in the elimination of the brook trout that were left. Since 1958 pike fishing has been fair to good but under rather heavy fishing pressure few big fish (over 10 pounds) are taken. Perch are abundant and rock bass and white suckers are common. The upper portion of the flooding produces good catches of perch in the winter time. Fish growth is good. Besides fishing, the flooding produces good fall duck and goose hunting and fair trapping for muskrats and mink. Forestry campground on either side of the dam are very popular to the summer visitors.

The portion of the river from the dam to Lake Superior is classified as a warmwater stream, however, spring and fall temperatures are cool enough to provide a suitable environment for anadromous species-- namely steelhead, white and long nosed suckers, and smelt during the spring and steelhead, chinook, and coho salmon, and some brook trout in the fall. Instream cover is lacking in the area below the Grand Marais Truck Trail. Access to the mouth is not good since the road is rough and often impassible.

This lower portion of stream flows easterly between low sand hills vegetated with white birch, soft maple, poplar, oak, jack and red pine. The stream channel is bordered by tag alder and leatherleaf. Though there are some raw sand banks, the run off is not exceptionally heavy and erosion is not a significant problem. The stream varies from 15 to 40 feet wide and 6" to 4 feet deep. The bottom is mostly sand but is interspersed with numerous gravel runs which provide good spawning habitat for anadromous species. Cover consists mostly of occasional logs, tag alder overhang, and under cut banks.

The flooding has maintained enough water to provide a more constant discharge, however, summer water temperatures in the lower reaches may rise to the critical point preventing good culture of salmonid species. Some brook trout are maintained near spring fed inlets.

Fishing for steelhead is considered good during the month of May, and for steelhead and salmon during October and November. Access is good (except at the mouth) and the stream is easy to fish. Areas of heavy use are very sandy and some erosion is occurring. The sucker run is heavy in the spring and smelt occasionally ascend the lower portion. Menominee fishing has been good to excellent over the rocky Lake Superior bottom at the mouth of the Blind Sucker. Lake trout, salmon and steelhead are also taken at the mouth in late spring and fall seasons. During the fall of 1975, the river sustained a fall run of pink salmon.