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# Highway NN culverts are lowered

by Terrell Boettcher  
News Editor

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A Sawyer County Highway Department crew lowered two culverts and installed a third culvert carrying Osprey Creek beneath County Road NN between Indian Trail Road and World's End Road Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 12-13.

That portion of road was closed to traffic during construction.

The culvert project is mandated by the Wisconsin Department of Justice at the request of the Department of Natural Resources. The culverts are the outlet for Osprey Lake at the lower end of the Round Lake watershed. Osprey Creek flows into Lac Courte Oreilles. This week's project resulted

in lowering the Highway NN culverts by 1.2 feet to 1,314.4 elevation with the first four inches buried, resulting in a net 0.8-foot lowering. This will match the riffle downstream from the culverts and will allow more water to leave the system in times of high water.

Sawyer County Highway Commissioner Gary Gedart said there was very low flow of water through the

culverts on Monday.

The project started with workers pulling out an existing pipe, adding a six-foot extension, moving it three feet to the east and setting it at the proper elevation. The county hired a surveyor, Mike Clamer, to set the benchmarks and elevations for the culverts at streambed level.

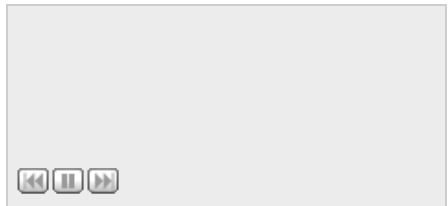
In the second phase, a third 48-inch pipe was installed at the site.

The third phase involved taking out an existing pipe, moving it to the south, flipping it over, adding a six-foot extension and moving it three feet to the east, Gedart said.

Under a provision negotiated with the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe, wild rice will be seeded in the creek at the site.

Placid dam

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In another project related to the Round Lake watershed, Sawyer County Zoning and Conservation Director Dale Olson said he's applied for \$47,000 in state dam removal funds to take out the Lake Placid diversion canal and lagoon on the man-made channel between Lake Placid and Round Lake.

The DNR has issued a permit to the county to remove the structures and backfill the canal, and has set a deadline of Nov. 1, 2012, to complete the project. The DNR has 60 to 90 days to review the county's funding application.

Tiger Cat Flowage Association representative Robert Olson told the Zoning and Conservation Committee Sept. 7 that the association voted unanimously on Sept. 3 to oppose dropping the water level on that flowage. He said property owners have suffered through drought conditions for years and don't want to re-create that in any way.

Olson said he's applied for and received a permit to place a coffer dam to hold back the Tiger Cat's water during the Placid canal removal process. The temporary dam probably will consist of sand bags, he added.

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