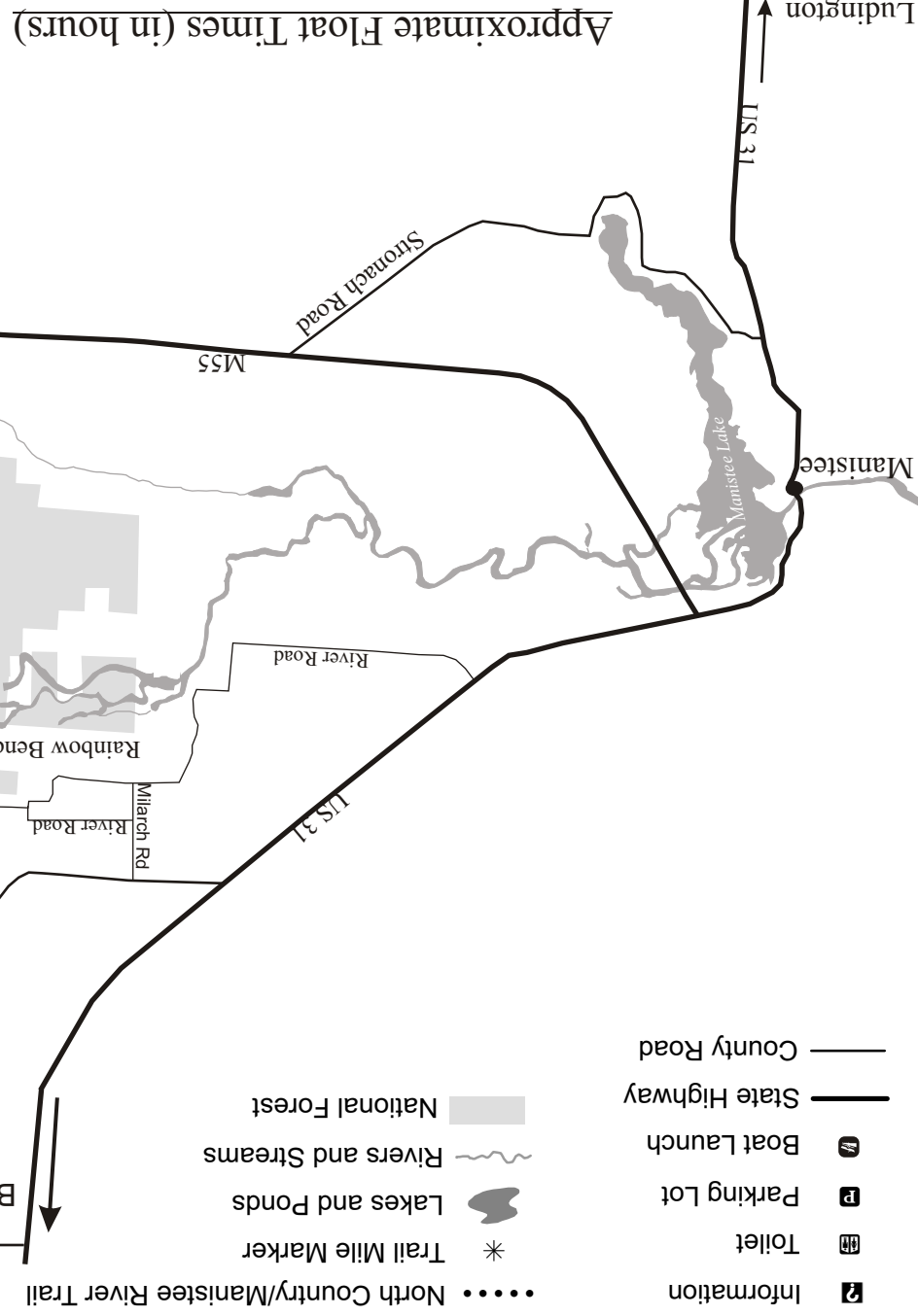


Manistee River

- ▣ Campsite
- Ⓜ Information
- ☼ Toilet
- Ⓟ Parking Lot
- Ⓢ Boat Launch
- State Highway
- County Road

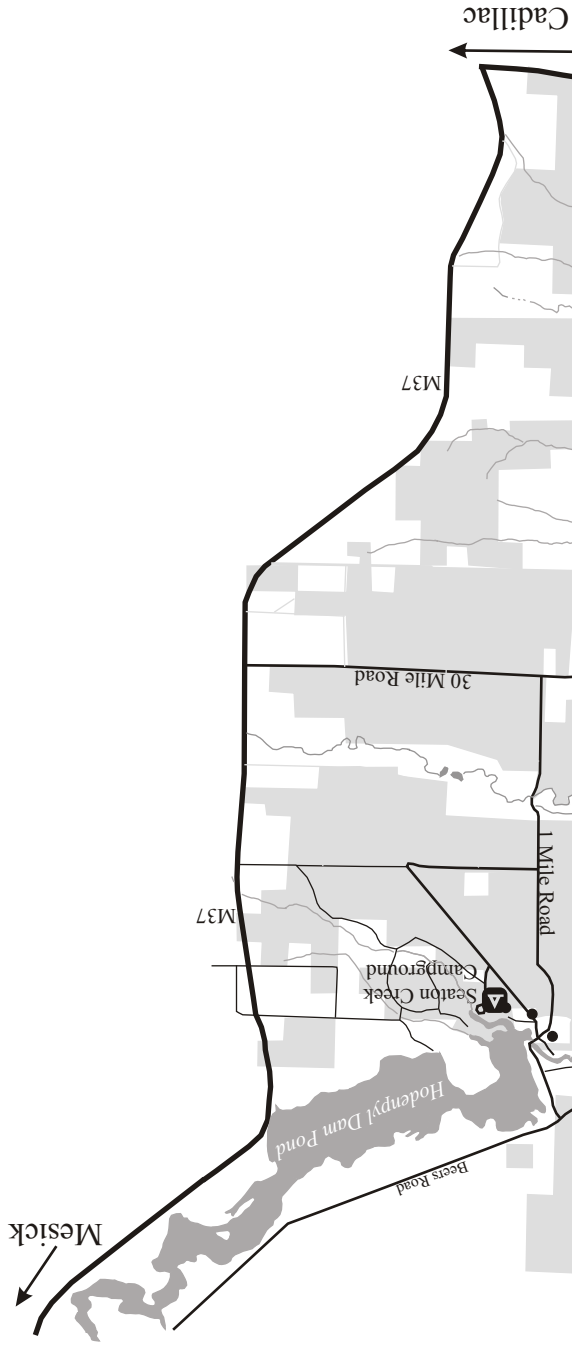
- ▭ Forest Service Road
- ⋯ North Country/Manistee River Trail
- * Trail Mile Marker
- ☾ Lakes and Ponds
- ~ Rivers and Streams
- ▨ National Forest



Approximate Float Times (in hours)

4.0	Hodenyil Dam - Red Bridge
3.5	Red Bridge - Tippy Dam
2.0	Tippy Dam - High Bridge
3.0	High Bridge - Bear Creek
1.5	Bear Creek - Rainbow Bend
4.0	Rainbow Bend - M55 Bridge

No camping within 200 feet of river or trails
 Campfires are allowed but use only dead or fallen wood
 Pack in/Pack out
 Do not attempt to drink river water. Microorganisms in unpurified water can create serious problems for humans



Camping on the Manistee River



Manistee River

Manistee Ranger Station
412 Red Apple Road
Manistee, MI 49660
(231) 723-2211 Voice
(231) 723-0124 TTY



Dispersed Camping on the National Forest

Camping is allowed anywhere on National Forest land unless posted otherwise. A permit is not required to camp on National Forest land. Your campsite must remain at least 200 feet from water and approximately 150 feet from roads and trails. Camping is permitted along the Manistee River at designated sites only.

Camping is allowed for a period of 16 days in a 30 day period on national Forest lands within a ranger district. There is well water available at river access sites. If you are dispersed camping, it is recommended to carry a water filter with you. Between the months of March and October/November, please be conscious of weather conditions such as strong wind and dryness in the forest if you plan to have a campfire. Campfires are permitted for cooking and warming even during high fire danger times. Be sure your campfire is **dead out** before leaving your campsite.

We encourage you to “Leave No Trace” of your visit to the National Forest and to leave the Area unspoiled for the next person to enjoy. **Please pack out what you pack in.**

Name of Primitive Campground	Huron-Manistee Vehicle Pass Required	Number of Sites	Facilities
Upper Manistee Dispersed	No	41	FR
Red Bridge (Boat launch)	No	4	FR, W, TL
Government Landing	No	3	FR, TL
Tunk Hole	No	Dispersed	TL
Sawdust Hole	Yes	8	FR, TL
Highbridge (Boat Launch)	Yes	No Camping	TL
Blacksmith Bayou (Boat launch)	Yes	Dispersed	FR, W, TL
Bear Creek (Boat Launch)	Yes	No Camping	TL
Rainbow Bend (Boat launch)	Yes	Dispersed	W, TL
TL = Toilet FR = Fire rings W= Drinking water available			

For more information on the Manistee River, please contact the Cadillac-Manistee Ranger Station, 412 Red Apple Road, Manistee, MI 49660 or telephone us at (231) 723-2211. The ranger station is open Monday - Friday from 8 a.m to 4:30 p.m.



The Manistee River is a designated Wild and Scenic River. Between Hodenpyl and Tippy Dams, it is characterized by steep banks and sharp bends. This segment offers good walleye and pike fishing. Novice canoeists and individuals who like to float wide, swift moving streams will enjoy this segment. The river below Tippy Dam is characterized by lower banks, a wider stream channel and slow wide bends. It has an excellent steelhead and salmon fishery. The lower section is ideal for novice canoeists and individuals who like to float wide, slow-moving streams. However, whether canoeing in the section above or below Tippy Dam, use caution to avoid the numerous logs and stumps in the river.

LOCATION

The part of the Manistee River found within the boundaries of the Huron-Manistee National Forests is located in the southern half of Manistee County and the western edge of Wexford County. The river flows through Manistee Lake to empty into Lake Michigan.

NATIONAL FOREST ACCESS

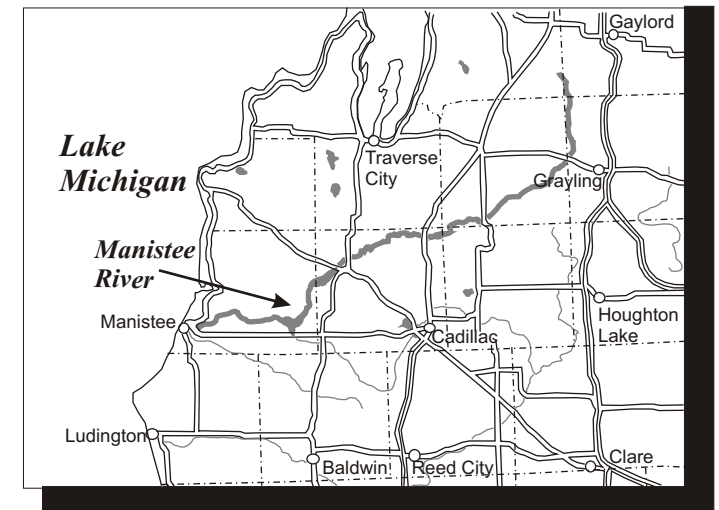
Hodenpyl Dam Pond: Go about 1 ½ miles west of Mesick on M-115 and then go left on north Hodenpyl Road for 1 ½ miles. Turn left (south) onto 20 Road to the municipal trailer park, campground and boat launch.

Red Bridge: Eight miles east of Brethren on Coates Hwy. Boat ramp, parking, camping, and a toilet is available on the west side of the river.

Tippy Dam Campground (North side): 3 ½ miles east of Brethren on Coates Hwy, then 4 miles south on Dilling Road. A State boat access and campground are maintained on the dam pond.

Tippy Dam Access: 3 ½ miles east of Brethren on Coates Hwy, then 4 miles south on Dilling Road. A State boat access, parking area and toilets are available. (There is a charge to use the parking area during the fall salmon run)

High Bridge: From Wellston, take M-55 west for 3 miles to High Bridge Road. Take High Bridge Road north about 3 miles to the access site on the north side of the river. A concrete ramp and parking lot are maintained for year around launching. Toilets are also available. No camping allowed.



Blacksmith Bayou: Access is located on the south side of the river. From Wellston, take M-55 west for 3 miles to High Bridge Road. Turn north and go 2 miles to Chicago Avenue. Turn west and follow Chicago Avenue to a sign directing you to the Bayou. Primitive camping, toilets and boat ramp for small boats and canoes are available.

Bear Creek: From Manistee, take US-31 north for 8 miles to Coates Highway. Turn east and go about 1 mile to Milarch Road. Turn south, go about ½ mile, turn east on River Road and go about 3 ½ miles east. Access is on the west side of the road, just past the mouth of Bear Creek. Facilities include boat launch, parking and toilets.

Rainbow Bend: From Manistee, take US-31 north for 8 miles to Coates Highway. Turn east and go about 1 mile to Milarch Road. Turn south, go about ½ mile, turn east on River Road and go about 1 ½ miles east. The gravel access road will be on the right (south). A boat launch, parking and toilets are available. Limited camping is available.

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