

# Pigeon River Helmer Dam Nature Preserve



## ***Fish Species***

Brown Trout; Rainbow Trout; Steelhead

## ***Species Description***

Brook trout are rare here, since the river flows a bit warmer than in upstream reaches. Brown trout and rainbow trout are prevalent. Brown trout can reach up to 24 inches here and downstream many miles, but most will only be swayed to hit at night due to their nocturnal habits. Juvenile rainbows are found in these waters, and typically are caught when they are less than 8 inches long. Adult steelhead from Mullett Lake migrate through this reach in the fall, winter, and spring, spawn in the river, and return to the lake by May or June. April would be the best time to look for 15-25 inch steelhead at this location.

## ***Geographic Coordinates***

Lat:45.351683 / Long:-84.507717

## ***Noteworthy***

Recently purchased nature conservancy land. The river has a shale bottom here and naturally creates what appears to be a dam. The Pigeon River is fairly easy to wade at this location.

## ***Fishing Regulations***

This is a designated Type 4 trout stream. Please refer to the Inland Trout and Salmon Stream Regulations of the current Michigan Fishing Guide. Anglers can fish all year round and possess the appropriate bag limit of steelhead throughout the year. Brook and brown trout may only be harvested from the last Saturday in April through September.

## ***Directions to Site***

From M-68 Highway, take Afton Road (paved road) south for 1.3 miles to the Helmer Dam Nature Preserve signs on the left. Parking is limited to a couple vehicles. Take the path to the east about a mile or less to the river. There is 200 acres of nature preserve here, with 1 ¼ miles of river frontage.

## ***Regional Visitor Information (URL)***

[gaylordmichigan.net](http://gaylordmichigan.net)