REMEMBER

- Water over private land is public, but river banks and land under the river are private. If your boat is anchored while on private land, you are in trespass violation.

- Respect private landowners. Wyoming Watercraft Regulations state: "It is illegal to beach a boat and enter upon private land without permission from the landowner." For additional information call 1-307-777-4600 or visit http://gf.state.wy.us

- Wyoming State Law requires personal flotation devices (PFDs) for each person in the boat. Youth 12 and under are required to wear a PFD.

- Camp in designated campsites when available and carry out all litter.

- Your cooperation in preserving the North Platte River environment will ensure you and others may enjoy this area for years to come.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

USDA Forest Service
Parks Ranger District
Medicine Bow - Routt National Forests
100 Main Street
Box 156
Walden, CO 80480
Phone (970) 723-8204

USDA Forest Service
Colorado Division of Wildlife
Northeast Region Service Center
317 W. Prospect Road
Fort Collins, CO 80526
(970) 472-4300

USDA Forest Service
Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger District
South Hwy 130/230
P.O. Box 249
Saratoga, WY 82331
Phone (307) 326-5258

U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Northeast Region Service Center
317 W. Prospect Road
Fort Collins, CO 80526
(970) 472-4300

Wyoming Game & Fish Department
Laramie Regional Office
528 S. Adams
Laramie, WY 82070
Phone (307) 745-4046
In-State Toll-Free 1-800-843-2352

Parks Ranger District
Medicine Bow - Routt National Forests
100 Main Street
Box 156
Walden, CO 80480
Phone (970) 723-8204

Wyoming Game & Fish Department
Laramie Regional Office
528 S. Adams
Laramie, WY 82070
Phone (307) 745-4046
In-State Toll-Free 1-800-843-2352
**RIVER INFORMATION**

Headwaters of the Upper North Platte River originate in the mountains ringing North Park, Colorado, and join a number of other tributaries before forming the river as it meanders generally northward toward the Wyoming border (the first major boat access point, known as Routt), the elevation is 7,500 feet above sea level. Near Saratoga, Wyoming, the elevation is 8,600 feet. The elevation at the mouth of the river is about 6,300 feet.

This gradient in the upper part of the river, where the steep sides of Northgate Canyon contain a narrow, high velocity section that drops an average of 40 feet per mile, makes it necessary to monitor water levels carefully, since this portion of the river offers numerous boating experiences ranging from whitewater thrills to leisurely drifting. The strategically placed access points offer the following levels of threat to floaters: from a few feet to several feet of rapid water on a few days to a few feet to several feet of rapid water on a few days to zero feet four days.

Experience and skill are the best guides to floating the river. It is not advisable for the novice boater to attempt to float the entire Upper North Platte River, especially during higher water levels. In fact, if doubt about the conditions, seek the services of one of the professional guides that are available. The Upper North Platte River includes numerous small rapids and oar boat, inflatable rafts, canoes, and kayaks. Flattop and drift boat, generally used by anglers and fishing outfitters, is another acceptable route for the novice paddler. The uppermost sections of the river are best navigated by experienced and stand up paddlers, whereas the sections below the water's edge. On the Upper North Platte River these range from midstream to 50 and 100 feet above. Before the river is suitable for kayaking or canoeing, the area is suitable for waterfowl, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The riparian vegetation along the banks hosts numerous passerine birds and plays a vital part in the fisheries, especially during high water levels, for the passage of salmon. Salmon are abundant. Numerous mule deer and a few white-tailed deer can be seen along the river. Bighorn sheep are found from the Northgate Canyon downstream to Bennett Peak.

**BE PREPARED**

Much of the Upper North Platte River floating season is during May and June, when air and water temperatures combine to create-exposing conditions in cold water. If you must float a river when the water is very cold, equip yourself properly and protect yourself against the hazards of exposure. Some protection against the consequences of cold-water immersion may be obtained by wearing a protective coating. Waterproof outer wear helps against wind chill and snow. For more information regarding the whereabouts of the river, see the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

**FLOATING THE RIVER**

All of the Upper North Platte River is floatable - over 124 miles of free-floowing water from the brule-stream, territorial whitewater of Northgate Canyon near the state line, to the slicing agricultural lands of the Saratoga and Encampment valleys, down to the placid waters and serenity of the Wyoming Highway 80. The river offers numerous boating experiences ranging from whitewater thrills to leisurely drifting. The strategically placed access points offer the following levels of threat to floaters: from a few feet to several feet of rapid water on a few days to a few feet to several feet of rapid water on a few days to zero feet four days.

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**PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS**

In Wyoming, THE WATER OVER PRIVATE LAND IS PUBLIC - where the river flows over private land, the river banks and the land under the river are considered PRIVATE LAND. Owners of private land can control access and egress along their property boundaries. Watch for blue squares indicating you are entering public land or an easement where fishing or landing are legal. Red signs indicate you are entering private lands where you must stay in your boat. A portion of the river is in a wilderness area. The use of motor-powered watercraft is prohibited on the Upper North Platte River downstream from the Wilderness to the Saratoga Inn Bridge in Carbon County. Consult current Wyoming Fishing Regulations.

**FISHING EASEMENTS**

Easements are the purchaser of certain rights for public use on land and are typically granted temporarily (as a "permanents access") or permanent access. They vary according to what rights the particular landowner at the time of purchase would sell. Usually, these rights include road access to parking areas, but not right to walk along the banks within a specified distance from the water’s edge. On the Upper North Platte River these range from midstream to 50 and 100 feet above. Before the river is suitable for kayaking or canoeing, the area is suitiable for waterfowl, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The riparian vegetation along the banks hosts numerous passerine birds and plays a vital part in the fisheries, especially during high water levels, for the passage of salmon. Salmon are abundant. Numerous mule deer and a few white-tailed deer can be seen along the river. Bighorn sheep are found from the Northgate Canyon downstream to Bennett Peak.

Easements are shown on this map by red arrowed lines that indicate the width and extent of each easement. This map is a general indication regarding the permitted rights on a particular easement, contact the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

**NORTHGATE CANYON RAPIDS RATING**

Rapid Rating System

- **I (Easy):** Waves small regular; passages clear; very little maneuvering; riffles.
- **II (Easy):** Rapids of medium difficulty, some maneuvering necessary; low ledges, slow rock gardens, medium regular waves.
- **III (Medium):** Waves numerous, high irregular; rocks, strong eddies, passages clear through narrow, expertise in maneuvering required, necessary; very little maneuvering; riffles.
- **IV (Difficult):** Long rapids, waves powerful, irregular; dangerous rocks, boating eddies, inspection usually necessary; powerful and precise maneuvering required; maximum safety precautions necessary.
- **V (Very Difficult):** Very important waves, complex maneuvering required; maximum safety precautions necessary; risk to boat and life; limits of controlled navigation.
- **VI (Very Difficult):** Extremely important waves, dangerous serviced only by a knowledgeable and experienced guide.

**River Flow Levels**

**Below 900 cubic feet/second**

- Very marginal for rafting; small rafts and kayaks may be OK down to 500 cfs or so; depends on skill level and knowledge of river.

- **900 - 1200 cfs**
  - OK for kayaks, smaller oar boats, and paddle boats. Not advised for loaded oar boats (gear boats).

- **1200 - 2500 cfs**
  - Good water levels for all rafts - very technically difficult and dangerous.

- **2500 - 3000 cfs**
  - Getting pretty fast - still suitable for paddle boats.

**Above 2900 cfs**

- Very significant and dangerous at this point! Water levels about 2900 cfs demand expert experience and maneuvering ability for a successful and safe river trip. Advised for very experienced oar boats and kayakers only.

- **Windy River Rapids**
  - **III**
  - **IV**

- **Conway Rapids**
  - **III**
  - **IV**

- **Narrow Falls Rapids**
  - **III**
  - **IV**

- **Tootsie Roll Rapids**
  - **III**
  - **IV**

- **Stovage Rapids**
  - **III**
  - **IV**
Floating times vary considerably due to weather conditions, water conditions, and type of craft. As a general rule, flatbottom boats and rafts travel at a rate of about 2.5 to 3.5 mph during high water (late May to late June) and from one to two mph during low water (early June thru August). Canoes, kayaks, and boats with motors travel faster.

The sole purpose of the maps illustrated in this publication is to identify North Platte River float access areas. These maps are not designed to provide accurate information on public and private land status. Land status is in a perpetual state of flux given exchange and/or sale of public and private lands. As a result, current status of land parcels marked as state, BLM or USDA FS may be different than that represented in the base map. Please refer to the respective land management agencies for the current status of the land administered by them. Do not use the information provided in this publication for any other purpose than to identify North Platte River public access areas.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department does not assure the accuracy of private and public land status.

Relative River Distances Between Points on the North Platte River

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The area from Routt Access to SixMile Gap contains dangerous rapids. We advise only experienced floaters equipped with whitewater gear or we suggest you seek the services of an experienced guide. Refer to the rapids rating chart for difficulty of these rapids.
BOAT ACCESS ONLY. PARKING AREAS "G", "I", & "K".
NOTE:

- Gaging Station
- Low Head Dam
- Use Extreme Caution

LEGEND

- County Boundary
- State Boundary
- Access Road
- Foot Trail
- Rapids or Falls
- Forest Boundary
- Wilderness Boundary
- River Distance
- Game and Fish Managed Lands
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Forest Service
- State
- Private

Launch symbols are placed on the side of the river where the boat launch is located.