



RIVER INFORMATION

BE PREPARED

Much of the Upper North Platte River floating season is during May and June, when air and water temperatures are cold and can create dangerous conditions for floaters. If you must float a river when the water is very cold, equip yourself properly and protect yourself against the hazards of cold water. Some protection against the consequences of cold-water immersion may be obtained by wearing protective clothing. Waterproof outer wear helps against wind chill and spray. A neoprene wet suit, drysuit, and insulating layers (wool or synthetics - NO COTTON) worn under them, and an appropriately rated, sized and fastened life jacket (PFD) are recommended as the best protection for minimizing the effects of exposure to cold water. Keep changes of clothing, first aid kit, and matches dry by storing in waterproof river bags attached to the boat to prevent being lost in a capsized. Waterproof match containers carried in the pocket are also advisable in case of separation from your boat and gear. Know the signs of and treatment for hypothermia and act early to prevent dangerously cold body temperatures.

FLOATING THE RIVER

All of the Upper North Platte River is floatable - over 124.2 miles of free-flowing water from the boulder-strewn, torrential whitewater of Northgate Canyon near the state line, through the rolling agricultural lands of the Saratoga and Encampment valleys, down to the placid waters and sagebrush hills near Interstate 80. Due to its variable nature, the river offers numerous boating experiences ranging from whitewater thrills to leisurely drifting. The strategically placed access points offer the choice of float trips ranging from a few hours to three or four days.

Experience and skill are the best guides to floating the river. It is not advisable for the novice boatman to challenge Northgate Canyon. If in doubt about your abilities in handling whitewater, seek the services of one of the professional guide services that are available.

Typical floating craft on the Upper North Platte River include flatbottom or drift boats, inflatable rafts, canoes, and kayaks. Flat bottom and drift boats, generally used by fishermen and fishing outfitters, are useful in the river from Pickaroon campground downstream. Adventurous canoeists can begin floats as far upstream as Six Mile Gap. Rafts are used on all sections of the river, and along with kayaks are the typical method used in floating the "whitewater sections."

Boat motors are prohibited on upstream sections of the Upper North Platte River, both in the Platte River Wilderness and below the Wilderness as far downstream as the bridge at the Saratoga Resort and Spa (formerly Saratoga Inn).

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.

Leaving your boat for any reason could result in trespass on private lands. Watch for blue Bureau of Land Management and Game and Fish Department signs along the Upper North Platte River and Encampment River, which indicate public lands or easements. Blue 12x12" squares indicate 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.

FISHING EASEMENTS

Easements are the purchase of certain rights for public use on private lands and are typically purchased into perpetuity (such as a "permanent easement"). They vary according to what rights the particular landowner at the time of purchase would sell. Usually, these rights include road access, parking areas, and the 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 along the banks above the highway line to an unspecified width as indicated on the map.

All of the easements include the right to fish and some include the right to hunt waterfowl.

Overnight camping may be limited or not allowed in some areas.

Easements are shown on this map by green and orange lines that indicate the width and extent of each easement. For more information regarding the permitted rights on a particular easement, contact the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

LEAVE NO TRACE ON THE RIVER

When you launch yourself and your craft onto the Upper North Platte, you become a part of the river. You are instantly free of the noise and bustle of everyday life by joining with the

river and its natural environment. Enjoy your trip, and do your part to ensure that the solitude which you see, hear, and feel be retained for future generations of visitors. The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management encourage use of "Leave No Trace" principles for backcountry and river users. By virtue of their construction, floating craft typically leave no trace of their passage, but you can ensure that the pristine beauty of the Upper North Platte River is protected while on shore and traveling through with these principles:

Plan Ahead and Prepare - Know the weather forecast, the river, and locations of public and private land.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces - Camp in designated campsites when available and carry out all litter and human waste.

Dispose of Waste Properly - Pack it in, pack it out, and dispose of human waste and wash water properly.

Leave What You Find - Leave archeological and historic sites undisturbed and leave vegetation intact.

Minimize Campfire Impacts - Use established fire rings, break down new fire rings, and carry out ashes.

Respect Wildlife - Use bear-proof food storage practices, observe wildlife from a distance, control pets.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors - Consider that campsites may be crowded, and respect private lands. Steer clear of other boaters and wade anglers, including fishing lines.

All river users can make a difference in the future of the Upper North Platte River by taking a personal role in preserving this pristine, wild river experience for themselves and for future generations.

THE FISHERY

The Upper North Platte River is known nationally for its high-quality trout angling. In Wyoming, the river from the mouth of Sage Creek upstream to the Colorado-Wyoming state line is classified as blue ribbon trout water and the entire river is managed for "wild" trout. Wild rainbow and brown trout coexist as the primary game fish with lesser populations of brook trout, cutthroat trout, and walleye.

The many tributary streams flowing into the river provide the spawning habitat and nursery areas necessary for natural reproduction of spring spawning rainbow and fall spawning brown trout.

Nongame fish in the river include brassy minnows, Iowa and Johnny darters, longnose and white suckers, longnose dace, and creek chubs.

A Wyoming fishing license is required to fish in Wyoming. Special regulations apply on specific river reaches. Refer to the fishing regulations available through any license selling agent and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

WILDLIFE

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is responsible for the management of the fishery and wildlife resources along the river in Wyoming.

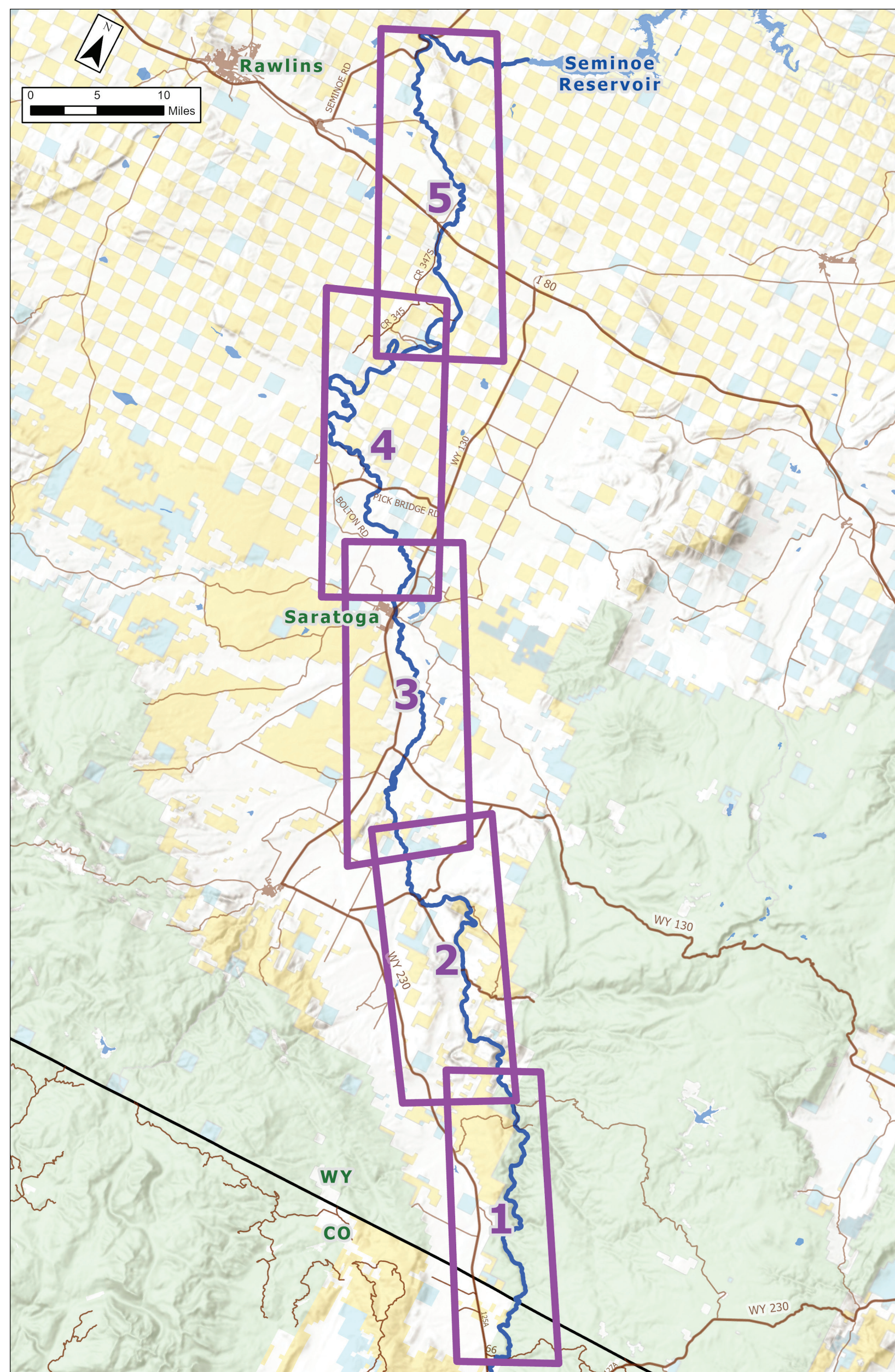
Numerous species of wildlife inhabit the area along the river and many species may be seen within the river corridor.

Elk are abundant in the mountains and the river canyon provides critical winter range for this species. Bighorn sheep are found from the Northgate Canyon downstream to Bennett Peak.

Numerous mule deer and a few white-tailed deer can be seen along the river. Pronghorn antelope utilize the open valleys and foot hill areas. Dusky grouse broods are found along the forested portions of the river in summer, and sage grouse are present in the sagebrush/shortgrass prairie adjacent to the river.

The riparian vegetation along the banks hosts numerous passerine birds and plays a vital part in providing habitat for all species of animals and cover for fish. Several species of raptors are common along the Upper North Platte River. Golden eagles, bald eagles, prairie falcons, American kestrels, red-tailed hawks, Swainson's hawks, and ferruginous hawks are frequently observed along the river. Water-fowl are abundant. Canada geese, mallards, goldeneye, and common mergansers can be encountered in the river by boaters during any part of the floating season. Birds such as the great blue heron, pelican, and kingfisher can be seen feeding on small fish among the pools and backwater areas. The common dipper or water ouzel frequents the pools and faces along rocky portions of the Upper North Platte River and in the tributary streams.

VICINITY MAP



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

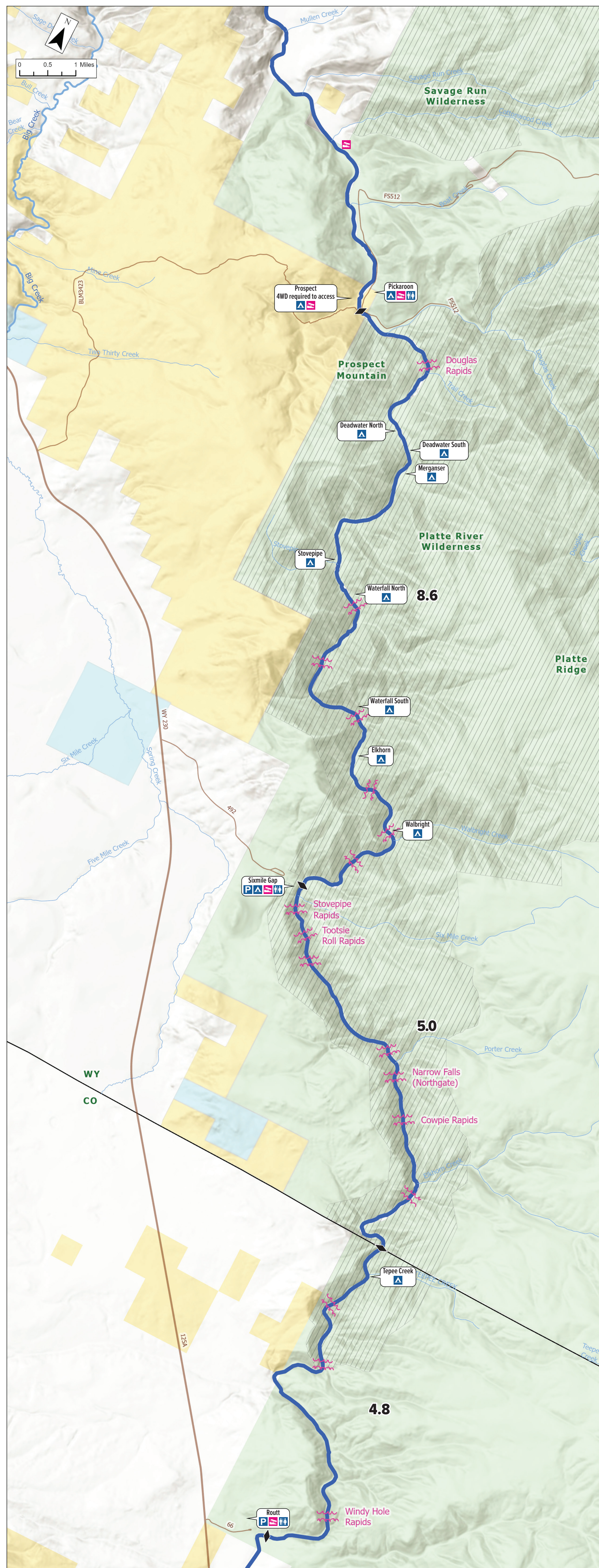
Route	State Line	6-Mile	Pickaroon	Big Creek	Bennett Peak	Treasure Island	Saratoga	Footst	Pick Bridge	Sanger	Sage Creek	Eagle's Nest	180	Shady Rest	Seminole Reservoir	
Route	-	4.8	9.8	18.4	25.9	35.5	47.0	58.5	64.3	68.8	73.4	81.9	93.5	103.4	116.7	142.2
State Line	4.8	-	5.0	10.6	21.1	30.7	42.2	53.7	59.5	64.0	68.6	77.1	88.7	98.6	119	144.4
6-Mile	9.8	5.0	-	8.6	16.1	25.7	37.2	48.7	54.5	59.0	63.6	72.1	83.7	93.6	106.9	131.4
Pickaroon	18.4	13.6	8.6	-	7.5	17.1	28.6	40.1	45.9	50.4	55.0	63.5	75.1	85.0	98.3	122.8
Big Creek	25.9	21.1	16.1	7.5	-	9.6	21.1	32.6	38.4	42.9	47.5	56.0	67.6	77.5	90.8	115.3
Bennett Peak	35.5	30.7	25.7	17.1	9.6	-	11.5	23.0	28.8	33.3	37.9	46.4	58.0	67.9	81.2	105.7
Treasure Island	47.0	42.2	37.2	28.6	21.1	11.5	-	11.5	17.3	21.8	26.4	34.9	46.5	56.4	69.7	94.2
Saratoga	58.5	53.7	48.7	40.1	32.6	23.0	11.5	-	5.8	10.3	14.9	23.4	35.0	44.9	58.2	82.7
Footst	64.3	59.5	54.5	45.9	38.4	28.8	17.3	5.8	-	4.5	9.1	17.6	29.2	39.1	52.4	76.9
Pick Bridge	68.8	64.0	59.0	50.4	42.9	33.3	21.8	10.3	4.5	-	4.6	13.1	24.7	34.6	47.9	72.4
Sanger	73.4	68.6	63.6	55.0	47.5	37.9	26.4	14.9	9.1	4.6	-	8.5	20.1	30.0	43.3	67.8
Sage Creek	81.9	77.1	72.1	63.5	56.0	46.4	34.9	23.4	17.6	11.5	4.6	-	16	25.9	39.2	63.7
Eagle's Nest	93.5	88.7	83.7	75.1	67.6	58.0	46.5	35.0	29.2	24.7	20.1	11.6	-	9.9	23.2	47.7
180	103.4	98.6	93.6	85.0	77.5	67.9	56.4	44.9	39.1	34.6	30.0	25.9	9.9	-	13.3	37.8
Shady Rest	116.7	111.9	106.9	98.3	90.8	81.2	69.7	58.2	52.4	47.9	43.3	34.8	23.2	13.3	-	7.5
Seminole Reservoir	142.2	137.4	132.4	123.8	116.3	106.7	95.2	83.7	77.9	73.4	68.8	64.3	58.7	54.2	50.7	47.2

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 July thru August). Canoes, kayaks, and boats with motors travel faster.

LEGEND

- River Mile Marker
- Hazard
- Camping Area
- Comfort Station
- Boat Launch or Landing Area
- Parking Area
- Paved Roads
- Unpaved Roads
- Upper North Platte River
- 100' Fishing Easement
- 50' Fishing Easement
- Rapids
- Public Access Area Boundaries
- Lake
- Wilderness Area
- Area Covered by Detailed Map
- State
- Bureau of Land Management
- Forest Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Wyoming Game & Fish Department
- Private

1 - ROUTT TO PICKAROON



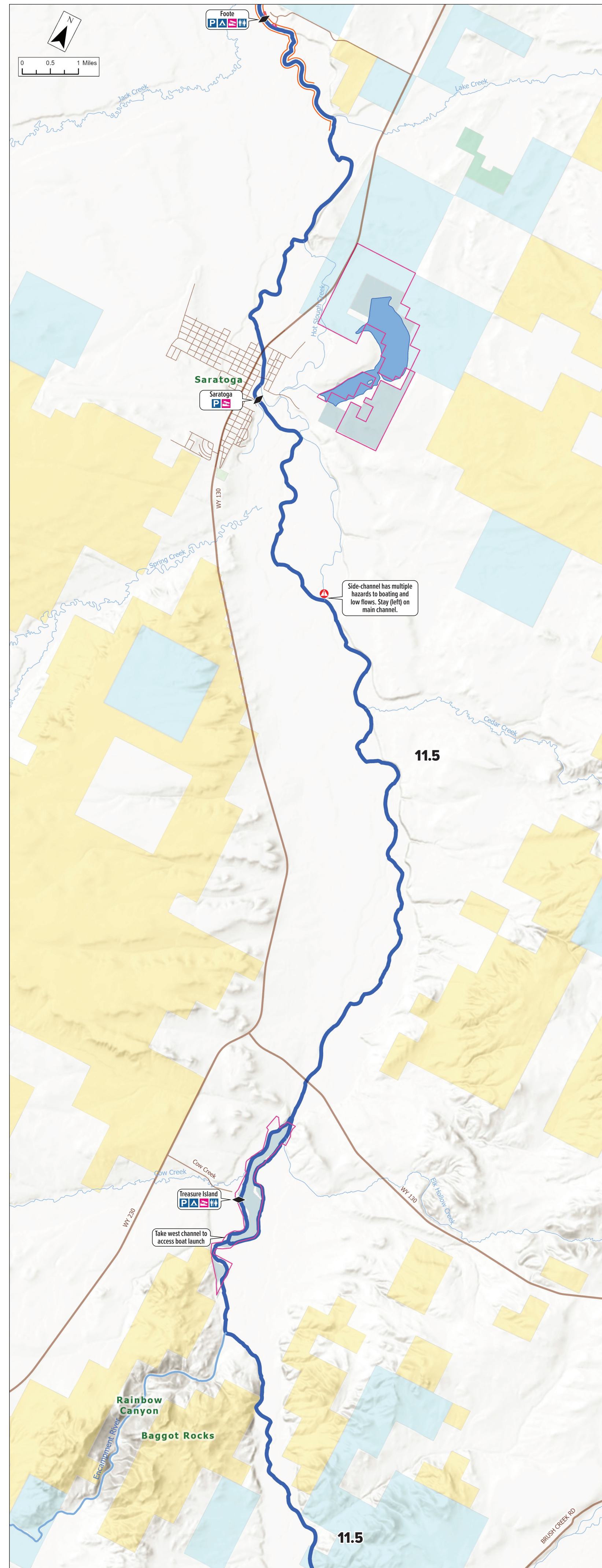
2 - PICKAROON TO BENNETT PEAK



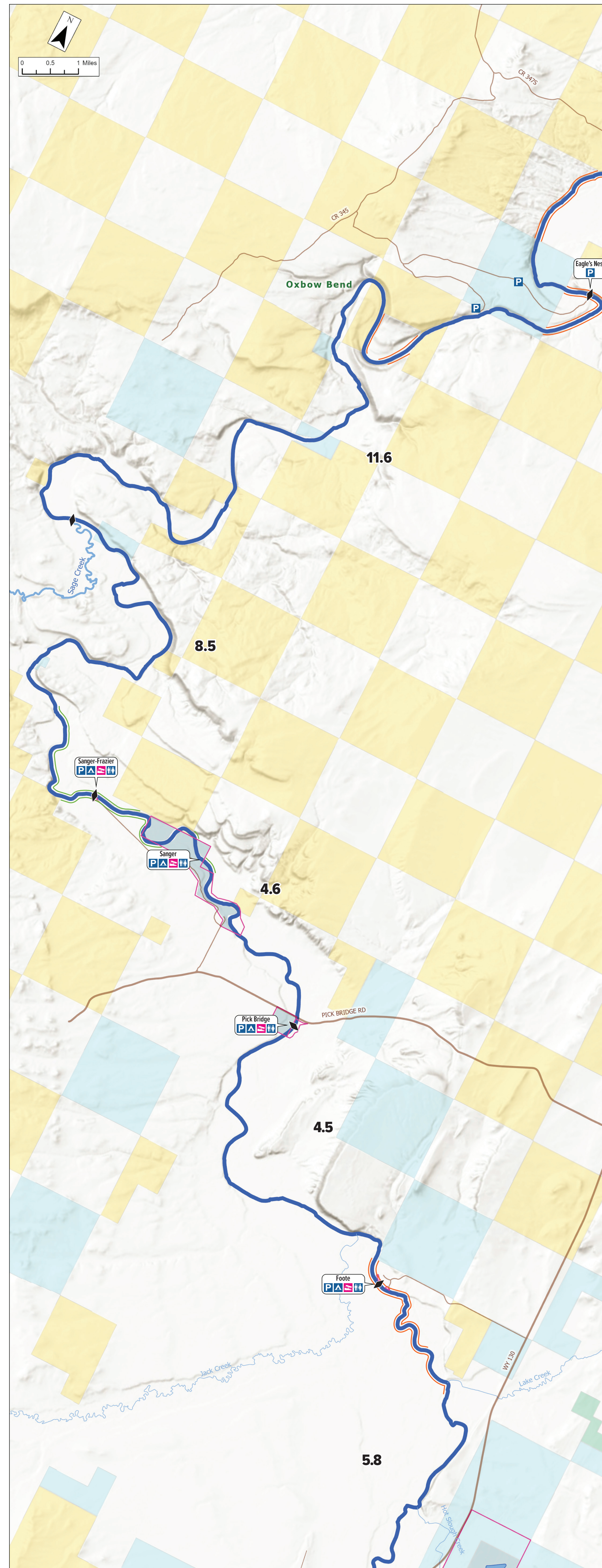
NORTHGATE CANYON RAPIDS RATING

Rapid Rating System	1000 cfs	2000 cfs	3000+ cfs
(I) Very Easy: Waves small regular, passages clear, very little maneuvering; riffles. Very marginal for rafts, small rafts and kayaks may be OK down to 800 cfs or so; depends on skill level and knowledge of river.	II	III	IV
(II) Easy: Rapids of medium difficulty, some maneuvering necessary; low ledges, slow rock gardens, medium regular waves. OK for kayaks, smaller oar boats, and paddle boats. Not advised for loaded oar boats (gear boats).	III	III	IV
(III) Medium: Waves numerous, high irregular; rocks, strong eddies, passages clear through narrow, expertise in maneuvering required, inspection necessary the first time. Getting pretty fast - still suitable for paddle boats.	III	III	IV
(IV) Difficult: Long rapids, waves powerful, irregular; dangerous rocks, boiling eddies, inspection usually necessary; powerful and precise maneuvering required; maximum safety precautions necessary. Risk to boat and life; limits of controlled navigation.	III	III	IV
(V) Very Difficult: Very large irregular waves, critical complex maneuvering required; maximum safety precautions necessary. Risk to boat and life; limits of controlled navigation.	III	III	IV
(VI) Limits: Navigation severe, risk to life and boat; rarely, if ever, run.	III	III	III

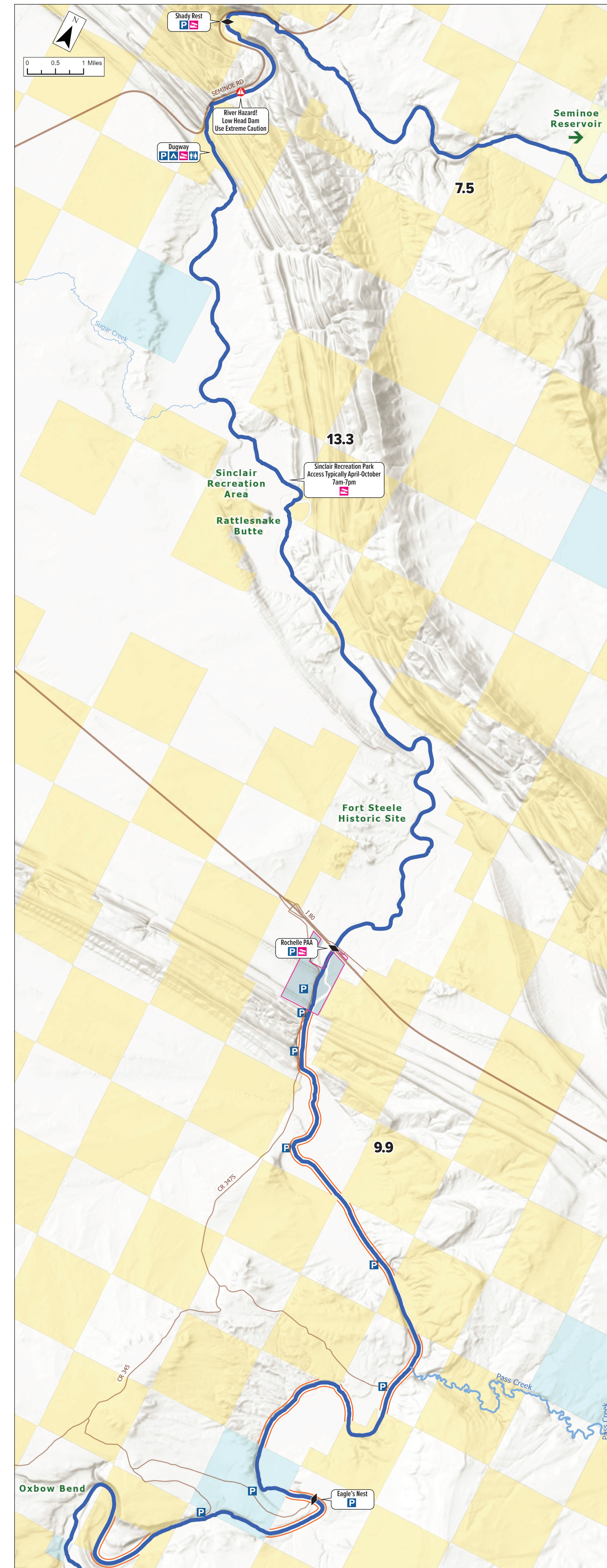
3 - TREASURE ISLAND TO FOOTE



4 - FOOTE TO EAGLE'S NEST



5 - EAGLE'S NEST TO SEMINOLE RESERVOIR



Conserving Wildlife, Serving People

Upper North Platte River Float Map

Routt, Colorado to Seminole Reservoir, Wyoming

FOR FREE DISTRIBUTION ONLY

REMEMBER

- It is legal to float through private land but it is the responsibility of the floater to know if the land is public or private. If you are floating through private land you must stay in your boat at all times unless permission has been obtained from the landowner.
- State law only allows you to leave your craft for short portages around non-navigable obstacles. The streambed is the property of the landowner. Wading or anchoring without permission is trespassing.
- Wyoming State Law requires personal flotation devices (PFDs) for each person in the boat. Youth 12 and under are required to wear a PFD.
- Any watercraft transported into Wyoming March 1-November 30 require an AIS inspection prior to launch, and purchase of an AIS decal.
- Camp in designated campsites when available and carry out all litter and human waste.
- Logjams and non-navigable side channels are hazards found throughout the Upper North Platte River. Accidents are common in these areas; anticipate routes well in advance and check river flows before each trip.
- Strong afternoon winds may slow your pace.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES ARE A BIG THREAT TO OUR WATERS. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO PREVENT THE SPREAD!

CLEAN all plants, mud, and debris from gear and equipment.

DRAIN all water from gear and equipment. Remove all kinks, fire-well and bilge pump plugs and stow out during travel. Leave wet compartments open to dry.

DRY everything thoroughly.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Wyoming Game & Fish Department	USDA Forest Service	USDA Forest Service	USDA Forest Service	U.S. Bureau of Land Management	Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Laramie Regional Office 1212 S. Adams Laramie, WY 82070 Phone (307) 745-4046 https://wgfd.wyo.gov	Brush Creek-Hayden Ranger District South Hwy 130 P.O. Box 249 Saratoga, WY 82331 Phone (307) 326-5258	Medicine Bow - Routt National Forests 2468 Jackson St Laramie, WY 82070 Phone (307) 745-2300 https://www.fs.usda.gov/mbr	Medicine Bow - Routt National Forests Parks Ranger District 100 Main Street Walden, CO 80480 Phone (970) 723-2700	Rawlins Field Office 1300 N. 3rd Street Rawlins, WY 82301 Phone (307) 328-4200 https://www.blm.gov/office/rawlins-field-office	Northeast Region Service Center 317 W. Prospect Road Fort Collins, CO 80526 (970) 472-4300 https://cpw.state.co.us

FLOAT NOTES