

# The Nationwide Rivers Inventory 18 Segments for the State of Kansas

Reference Source: <http://www.nps.gov/nrcr/programs/rtca/nri/> Note: Outstanding Resource Values (ORVs) Definitions at List Bottom

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River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Arikaree River	Cheyenne	KS/NE Line to Alder Creek	48	1982		F, W, H, C	See Arikaree River Comments	CO

**Arikaree River Comments:** Exceptional fish and wildlife habitat along river, especially wetlands; highest-valued fishery resource (FWS); significant waterfowl use; historic Beecher Island Indian Massacre site; Jones-Miller Gap Paleo Buffalo Kill-Storage site.

Caney River	Chautauqua, Elk	KS/OK line to source	56	1982		S, R, G, F, H	See Caney River Comments	
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**Caney River Comments:** Very scenic southern Flint Hills stream through relatively undisturbed woodland tall grass prairie ecosystem; excellent seasonal canoeing; excellent sport fishery; significant limestone outcrops and unusual formations; old trail crossings.

Cedar Creek	Chase	Cottonwood River to Chase/Butler county line	20	1982		S, R, G	See Cedar Creek Comments	
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**Cedar Creek Comments:** Relatively clear gravel bottom stream; excellent quality Flint Hills stream.

Chikaskia River	Sumner, Harper	KS/OK line to Highway 2 northeast of Runnymede	52	1982		S, R, F, W, H	See Chikaskia River Comments	
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**Chikaskia River Comments:** Best of south central Kansas streams, one of best high plains streams; good seasonal canoeing; high water quality, good fishery; excellent wildlife diversity and populations; old mill site.

Cimarron River	Comanche, Clark, Meade	Confluence with Buffalo Creek in OK Highway 23 east of Liberal, KS (continues upstream in Section 13d to KS/CO line)	94	1982		H	See Cimarron River Comments1	OK
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**Cimarron River Comments1:** Wide stream with minimal flow, scattered trees, surrounded by isolated, undeveloped land; Cimarron Redoubt, excavated remains of small sandbag 'fort' built by army in 1870 to protect military route between Kansas and Indian territory.

Cimarron River	Meade, Seward, Haskell, Grant, Stevens, Morton	Highway 23 east of Liberal, KS, to CO/KS Line (continues downstream in Section 13e to KS/OK State line)	125	1982		H, C	See Cimarron River Comments2	
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**Cimarron River Comments2:** Wagon Bed Springs National Historic Landmark, an oasis on 60-mile Cimarron Cutoff route of Santa Fe Trail (ruts still visible in vicinity); numerous prehistoric sites from Paleo to more recent Indian usage.

Cottonwood River, South Fork	Chase	Cottonwood River to Little Cedar Creek	22	1982		S, R, G, F, W	See Cottonwood River, South Fork Comments	
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**Cottonwood River, South Fork Comments:** Flint Hills stream, surrounded by rolling hills and native tall grasses; excellent native fishery; excellent riparian habitat.

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Fall River	Wilson, Elk, Greenwood	Verdigris River to Fall River Lake	56	1982		S, R, G, F, W	See Fall River Comments	
<b><u>Fall River Comments:</u></b> Scenic larger river flowing out of rolling tall grass prairie, upper reaches in high quality Flint Hills ecosystem; excellent fish and wildlife resources; excellent canoeing.								
Grouse Creek	Cowley	Arkansas River to Cowley/Butler County Line	60	1982		S, R, G, F, W	See Grouse Creek Comments	
<b><u>Grouse Creek Comments:</u></b> High quality western Flint Hills stream; good canoeing; excellent fish and wildlife resources.								
Kansas River	Wyandotte, Johnson, Leavenworth, Douglas, Jefferson	I-635 to Delaware River	57	1982		S, R, F, W, C	See Kansas River Comments	
<b><u>Kansas River Comments:</u></b> Relatively large plains river having good scenic values; one of only three public streams in the state; access for recreation opportunities, including canoeing, is uncommonly good.								
Lyon Creek	Geary, Dickinson	Smoky Hill River to RR Bridge south of Woodbine	42	1982		S, R, F, W	See Lyon Creek Comments	
<b><u>Lyon Creek Comments:</u></b> Scenic northern Flint Hills stream with good water quality, dense tree corridor; good canoeing; good native fish population; large blue heron rookery.								

Medicine (Lodge) River	Barber, Kiowa	Gerlane to Belvidere (continues downstream in Section 12f to KS/OK Line)	43	1982		S, R, W	See Medicine (Lodge) River Comments1	
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**Medicine (Lodge) River Comments1:** Good stream flow through rolling topography with moderate-to-heavy streamside vegetation; excellent wildlife values.

Medicine (Lodge) River	Barber	KS/OK Line to Gerlane (continues upstream in Section 13e to Belvidere)	25	1982		S, R, W, H	See Medicine (Lodge) River Comments2	
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**Medicine (Lodge) River Comments2:** Good stream flow through rolling topography with moderate to heavy streamside vegetation; excellent wildlife values; Carrie A. Nation House National Historic Landmark, Medicine Lodge Peace Treaty Site National Historic Landmark.

Mill Creek and West and East Branches	Wabaunsee	Kansas River to source of East and West Branches	79	1982		S, R, G, F, W	See Mill Creek and West and East Branches Comments	
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**Mill Creek and West and East Branches Comments:** Highly scenic Flint Hills stream, some stretches surrounded by virgin tall grass prairie; excellent seasonal canoeing, some white water and riffles; excellent native fishery, wildlife.

Otter Creek and North Branch	Greenwood	Fall River Reservoir to State Highway 96 northwest of Blodgett	30	1982		S, R, F	See Otter Creek and North Branch Comments	
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**Otter Creek and North Branch Comments:** Good flow through rolling terrain with relief features to 300'; heavy tree corridor; good fishery.

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Saline River	Russell	Wilson Lake to Fairport	23	1982		S, R, G, F, W	See Saline River Comments	

**Saline River Comments:** Good flow through scenic portion of Smoky Hills; good fishery and riparian wildlife.

Shoal Creek	Cherokee	Spring River to source	69	1982		S, R, F, W, H	See Shoal Creek Comments	MO
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**Shoal Creek Comments:** One of two Ozarkian watersheds that extend into Kansas, bedrock substrate, waterfall; excellent canoeing; rare/endangered mussel (Missouri list); rare/endangered salamanders, one species reported as only known occurrence in Northern Hemisphere; numerous mill and dam sites.

Spring River	Cherokee	Highway 96 to Highway 44	53	1982		S, R, F, W	See Spring River Comments	MO
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Spring River Comments: One of two Ozarkian watersheds that extend into Kansas, narrow tree-covered corridor through gently rolling terrain; excellent canoeing; unique fish communities confined to drainage including two on Missouri rare/endangered list--Neosho madtom, redbfin shiner; rare/endangered mussels (Missouri list).

## Outstanding Resource Values (ORV) Definitions:

**Scenery (S):** The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors -- such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed -- may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment.

**Recreation (R):** Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison or are unique or rare within the region. Visitors are willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing and boating.

- Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and attract, or have the potential to attract, visitors from outside the region of comparison.
- The river may provide, or have the potential to provide, settings for national or regional usage or competitive events.
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**Geology (G):** The river, or the area within the river corridor, contains one or more example of a geologic feature, process or phenomenon that is unique or rare within the region of comparison. The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a "textbook" example, and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, or other geologic structures).

**Fish (F):** Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations, habitat, or a combination of these river-related conditions.

- *Populations:* The river is nationally or regionally an important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species. Of particular significance is the presence of wild stocks and/or federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."
- *Habitat:* The river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison. Of particular significance is habitat for wild stocks and/or federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."

**Wildlife (W):** Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic wildlife populations or habitat or a combination of these conditions.

- *Populations:* The river, or area within the river corridor, contains nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species. Of particular significance are species considered to be unique, and/or populations of federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."
- *Habitat:* The river, or area within the river corridor, provides exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for federal or state listed (or candidate) threatened, endangered or sensitive species. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of "outstandingly remarkable."

**Prehistory (P):** The river, or area within the river corridor, contains a site(s) where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must have unique or rare characteristics or exceptional human interest value(s). Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare and represent an area where a culture or cultural period was first identified and described; may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups; and/or may have been used by cultural groups for rare sacred purposes. Many such sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which is administered by the NPS.

**History (H):** The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) or feature(s) associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or one-of-a-kind in the region. Many such sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A historic site(s) and/or features(s) is 50 years old or older in most cases.

**Cultural (C):** The river or area within the river corridor contains archaeological sites or areas significant to traditional cultures. Examples might be American Indian burial grounds, petroglyphs, the oldest known human use site in a region, or streams that support traditional agriculture, subsistence fishing, or religious ceremonies.

**Other Values (O):** While no specific national evaluation guidelines have been developed for the "other similar values" category, assessments of additional river-related values consistent with the foregoing guidance may be developed -- including, but not limited to, hydrology, paleontology and botany resources.