

The Nationwide Rivers Inventory 51 Segments for the State of Kentucky

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
Bad Branch	Letcher	From the headwaters on Pine Mountain (RM 4.1) to the confluence with Poor Fork of the Cumberland (KY 932).	4	1995	W	S, R, G, F, W, O	See Bad Branch Comments	

Bad Branch Comments: Very scenic headwaters stream in deep gorge with 45' waterfall; hiking opportunities in State Nature Preserve; numerous federal and state-listed threatened and endangered species; excellent water quality.

Barren River	Butler, Warren	RM 0, confluence with Green River, to RM 31, below Bowling Green	31	1982		S, R, F	See Barren River Comments	
Barren River	Warren, Allen	RM 43, above Bowling Green, to RM 84, Barren River Lake	41	1982		S, R, F	See Barren River Comments	

Barren River Comments: Broad stream with banks of various steepness; lush vegetation; islands common.

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Beaver Creek	McCreary	From headwaters (RM 9.2) to backwaters of Lake Cumberland (RM 2.2)	7	1995	W	S, R, F, W, O	See Beaver Creek Comments	

Beaver Creek Comments: Very scenic stream in National Wilderness Area within Daniel Boone National Forest. Harbors federally listed blackside dace throughout. Very primitive and isolated. State-designated outstanding resource water.

Boone Creek	Fayette, Clark	RM 0, confluence with Kentucky River, to RM 23, headwaters one mile below I-64	23	1982		S, R, G, F	Scenic stream with vertical rock walls; gorge area, and waterfalls.	
Buck Creek	Pulaski, Lincoln	RM 0, confluence with Cumberland River and KY 762 bridge, to RM 40, 0.5 mile above Pulaski/Lincoln County line	40	1982		S, R, G, F, W	Scenic topography including gorge area; outstanding cliffs and numerous caves--Blowing Rock.	

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Cumberland River	Monroe, Cumberland, Clinton, Russell	RM 385, one mile below town of Vernon, to RM 462, US 127 bridge over Wolf Creek Dam	77	1982		S, R, G, F, W	See Cumberland River Comments.	
Cumberland River	Livingston, Crittenden, Lyon	RM 0, confluence with Ohio River, to RM 32, Lake Barkley	32	1982		S, R, G, F, W	See Cumberland River Comments.	
Cumberland River	Whitley	RM 552, Camp Creek junction, to RM 582, two miles downstream of I-75 bridge	30	1982		S, R, G, F, W	See Cumberland River Comments.	
Cumberland River	Whitley	RM 522, Camp Creek Junction, to RM 582, two miles downstream of I-75 bridge	30	1982/ 1993			See Cumberland River Comments.	

Cumberland River Comments: Extensively wooded, high bluffs, remote and rugged; corridor area excellent for canoeing, hiking and camping; within uppermost reach, a 16 mile segment within Daniel Boone National Forest, designated State Wild River; Cumberland Falls State Park.

Cumberland River, Little South Fork	McCreary, Wayne	RM 0, confluence with Cumberland River, to RM 32, TN State line	32	1982		S, R, G, F, W	See Cumberland River, Little South Fork Comments I	
<u>Cumberland River, Little South Fork Comments1:</u> Excellent scenery characterized by deep channels bordered with large boulders and rock ledges; provides boundary of Daniel Boone National Forest; water quality rated good to excellent; supports sizeable bass, trout, and panfish populations.								
Cumberland River, Little South Fork	McCreary, Wayne	Junction with Big South Fork of Cumberland River to Tennessee state line	32	1982/ 1993	R	R, W	Canoeing and fishing. Diversity of wildlife and fauna populations. Rare species of mussels in stream.	
Cumberland River, South Fork	McCreary	RM 40, KY 92 bridge, to RM 55, TN State line	15	1982		S, R, G, F, W, H, C	See Cumberland River, South Fork Comments	
<u>Cumberland River, South Fork Comments:</u> Outstanding whitewater stream in highly scenic, rugged, and forested corridor area; spectacular gorge area.								
Cumberland, Martins Fork	Harlan, Bell	RM 27, confluence with Rough Branch, to RM 37, headwaters in Cumberland Gap National Park	10	1982		S, R, G, F, W, H, C	See Cumberland, Martins Fork Comments	
<u>Cumberland, Martins Fork Comments:</u> Unusually steep stream with swift current in beautiful pristine scenic mountain setting; contains state's only Coosa bass fishery.								

Eagle Creek	Grant, Owen, Scott	RM 29, Pettitt Road bridge, to RM 79, Pikeberry Road	50	1982		S, R, F	Deeply entrenched stream with forested hillsides.	
Elkhorn and North Elkhorn Creeks	Franklin, Scott	RM 0, confluence with Kentucky River, to RM 67, Fayette County line	67	1982		S, R, F, W	Extremely popular recreational stream with beautiful scenery.	
Gasper River	Warren, Logan	RM 0, confluence with Barren River, to RM 35, headwaters northwest of Auburn	35	1982		S, R, G, F, W	One of western Kentucky's most beautiful rivers; flows through small scenic gorge area.	
Green River	Edmonson, Hart, Green	RM 189, Mammoth Cave National Park and Lock No. 6, to RM 290, Greensburg	101	1982		S, R, G, F, W, H, C	See Green River Comments	

Green River Comments: Designated Kentucky Wild River; habitat for numerous rare or endangered species; abundance and variety of wildlife; most productive muskellunge fishery in State.

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Harrods Creek and North Fork and South Fork	Jefferson, Oldham	RM 0, confluence with Ohio River, to RM 24, KY 53 bridge; RM 0, confluence with Harrods Creek, to RM 5, I-71 bridge	29	1982		S, R, G, F, W, H, C	Highly utilized pristine stream; affords quality recreational opportunities; covered bridge.	
Horse Lick Creek	Jackson	From headwaters (RM 21.2) to the confluence with Rockcastle River.	21	1995	S	S, R, G, F, W, O	See Horse Lick Creek Comments	
<p><u>Horse Lick Creek Comments:</u> Very scenic creek within Daniel Boone National Forest. Listed as one of Nature Conservancy's "Last Great Places". Harbors two federally listed T&E mussel species. The Nature Conservancy owns much of the land along the stream. It is also a State-listed Outstanding Water Resource.</p>								
Jessamine Creek	Jessamine	KY Highway 29 (RM 13.3) to the confluence with the Kentucky River.	13	1995	R	S, G, F, W, O	See Jessamine Creek Comments	
<p><u>Jessamine Creek Comments:</u> Harbors rare plant species; Much acreage protected by The Nature Conservancy; Fine example of Kentucky River Pallisades Limestone Gorge, very scenic.</p>								
Kentucky River, South Fork	Lee, Owsley, Clay	RM 0, confluence with Kentucky River, to RM 44, 0.5 mile below TN 1482 bridge near Oneida	44	1982		S, R, W, H, C	Scenic float stream rich in history and archaeology; within Daniel Boone National Forest.	

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Kentucky River, South Fork	Clay, Lee, Owsley	River mile 0 junction with Kentucky River to river mile 44 about 1/2 mile downstream from bridge on KY 1482 near Oneida, KY	44	1982/ 1993	R	R	Boating and warm water fishery.	
Kinniconick Creek	Lewis	RM 6, one mile above McDowell Creek Road bridge, to RM 48, headwaters southwest of Petersville	42	1982		S, R, F, W	Flows through sparsely populated and relatively undeveloped scenic country; one of best muskellunge fisheries in State.	
Licking River	Pendleton, Bracken, Harrison, Robertson, Nicholas, Bath, Fleming, Rowan	RM 52, South Fork junction, to RM 159, three miles below I-64 bridge	107	1982		S, R, G, F, W, H, C	Wide, deep, free-flowing, well-entrenched stream that traverses scenic rolling valley; variety of unusual flora and riverine species.	

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Licking River, South Fork	Pendleton, Harrison	RM 0, confluence with Licking River, to RM 58, Bourbon County line	58	1982		S, R, F, W	See Licking River, South Fork Comments	
<u>Licking River, South Fork Comments:</u> Flows through steep mud banks lined with water maple and sycamore; generally hilly and forested corridor area.								
Little River	Trigg	RM 15, backwaters of Lake Barkley, to RM 21, KY 272 bridge	6	1982		S, R, G, F, W	Winding, tree-lined stream with stands of giant, virgin timber.	
Little River, Muddy Fork	Trigg	RM 3, backwaters of Lake Barkley and KY 778 bridge, to RM 9, Adams Mill Road bridge below I-24	6	1982		S, R, F, W	Inviting intimate stream with steep, profusely shaded banks.	
Marsh Creek	McCreary	RM 0, confluence with Cumberland River, to RM 18, KY 92 bridge and headwaters	18	1982		S, R, G, F, W	Undeveloped, scenic and heavily forested corridor area with high cliffs and gorge area.	

Marsh Creek	McCreary	River mile 15 to the confluence with the Cumberland River	15	1982/ 1993	R	R, W	See Marsh Creek Comments	
<u>Marsh Creek Comments:</u> Contains Cumberland Bean Pearly mussel, Federally listed threatened and endangered species. Offers fast water canoeing when water is up.								
Nolin River	Edmonson	RM 0, confluence with Green River, to RM 8, Nolin River Dam	8	1982		S, R, G, F, W	See Nolin River Comments	
<u>Nolin River Comments:</u> Flows through attractive forested shoreline and backcountry woodlands of Mammoth Cave National Park; especially scenic with high exposed bluffs; plentiful and diverse wildlife.								
Ohio River	Ballard, McCracken, Livingston, Crittenden, Union	Cairo, IL to Cave in Rock, IL (95 river miles); Cave in Rock, IL to New Haven, IL (45 river miles)	140	1982		S, R, G	See Ohio River, IL Comments.	IL
<u>Ohio River, IL Comments:</u> A very broad interstate river carrying a considerable amount of commercial barge traffic and has many locks and dams. Flows through mainly hill country with some high bluffs and much forest land along river. Very high recreation potential. Receives heavy fishing use.								
Ohio River	Mason, Lewis	From Rome to Morgansville, KY	21	1982		S, R, H	See Ohio River, OH Comments.	OH
<u>Ohio River, OH Comments:</u> A broad interstate river used extensively for recreational boating, canoeing and fishing. In this area it flows through scenic hill country in Ohio and Kentucky with some cliffs and rock outcroppings. Considerable historic and archaeological values along river. Used extensively in 19th century by settlers and early explorers. Many stream side recreational facilities available. Flows through Cincinnati and several other smaller cities.								

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Otter Creek	Meade	RM 0, confluence with Ohio River, to RM 21, Hardin County line	21	1982		S, R, G, F, W	Swift and scenic Class II whitewater stream.	
Red River	Logan, Simpson	RM 50, TN State line, to RM 79, TN State line	29	1982		S, R, G, F, W, H, C	See Red River Comments1	
Red River	Clark, Estill, Powell, Menifee, Wolfe	River mile 68.9 to river mile 78	9	1982/ 1993	W	S, G, C, O	See Red River Comments1	
<u>Red River Comments1:</u> Relatively remote, undeveloped, and deeply entrenched stream; possesses recreational, educational, and esthetic potential.								
Red River	Clark, Estill, Powell, Menifee, Wolfe	RM 0, confluence with Kentucky River, to RM 59, Clark Branch junction	59	1982		S, R, G, F, W, H, C	See Red River Comments2	
<u>Red River Comments2:</u> Wilderness habitat for rare and endangered species; whitewater flowing through spectacular geological formations, including Red River Gorge Area.								

Red River	Clark, Estill, Powell, Menifee, Wolfe	River mile 59 to river mile 68.9	10	1982/ 1993	R	S, G, C, O	See Red River Comments3	
<u>Red River Comments3:</u> Supports high quality warm water fishery including species of darter found only in Kentucky. Unusual preservation of organic materials due to potassium nitrate found in local sandstone. Diversity of flora and fauna.								
Red River, Elk Fork	Todd	RM 8, TN State line, to RM 27, east of Elkton	19	1982		S, R, G, F, W	See Red River, Elk Fork Comments	
<u>Red River, Elk Fork Comments:</u> Excellent karst topography; numerous sinkholes and caves; supports important habitat for black bass and panfish; unique wildlife.								
Red River, South Fork	Logan	RM 0, confluence with Red River, to RM 8, TN State line	8	1982		S, R, F, W	Small pastoral stream lined with hardwoods.	
Red River, West Fork	Christian, Todd	RM 14, TN State line, to RM 45, headwaters west of Tabernacle	31	1982		S, R, G, F, W	Recreational and aesthetic potential.	
Rock Creek	McCreary	RM 0, confluence with South Fork of Cumberland River, to RM 22, TN State line	22	1982		S, R, G, F, W	Highly scenic with deep, narrow, undeveloped valleys and wooded hillsides.	

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Rock Creek	McCreary	From White Oak Junction to the Kentucky-Tennessee Border	18	1982/ 1993	R	R, O	High quality of water. Camping, picnicking, hiking, and fishing.	
Rockcastle River	Pulaski, Laurel, Rockcastle	RM 7, KY 192 bridge, to RM 31, US 25 bridge to Laurel County	24	1982		S, R, G, F, W, H, C	Within Daniel Boone National Forest; spectacular gorge area; supports excellent game fishery.	
Rockcastle River	Pulaski, Laurel, Rockcastle	RM 7, KY 192 bridge, to RM 31, US 25 bridge to Laurel Co.	24	1982/ 1993				
Russell Fork	Pike	RM 0, confluence with Levisa Fork at Millard to KY/VA state line	15	1982		S, R, G, F, W	See Russell Fork Comments	

Russell Fork Comments: Class IV-VI whitewater stream that flows through 1600 foot deep gorge area; thundering vertical drops and numerous intensely complex rapids.

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Salt River	Bullitt, Spencer, Nelson, Anderson	RM 27, two miles east of Shepherdsville city limits, to RM 71, junction of Spencer, Nelson, and Anderson Counties	44	1982		S, R, F, W	Idyllic, winding, pastoral stream dotted with dozens of small islands.	
Salt River, Floyds Fork	Bullitt, Jefferson	RM 0, confluence with Salt River, to RM 50, Oldham County line	50	1982		S, R, G, F	Flows swiftly through steep hills, ridges, fields, and pasture land.	
Shillalah Creek	Bell	RM 0, KY 217 bridge, to RM 6, headwaters in Cumberland Gap National Park	6	1982		S, R, G, F, W, H, C	Flows through spectacular gorge area for approximately four miles.	
Sinking Creek	Breckenridge	RM 4, above confluence with Ohio River, to RM 40, headwaters southeast of Graysville	36	1982		S, R, G, F, W	Extremely scenic stream with numerous caves, sinkholes, and springs.	

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Station Camp Creek and War Fork	Estill, Jackson	River mile 14 at Alumbaugh, KY to river mile 32 near Privett, KY	18	1982		S, R, G, F, W	Scenic with biotic diversity; penetrates Daniel Boone National Forest.	
Station Camp Creek, South Fork	Jackson	RM 0, confluence with Station Camp Creek, to RM 22, near Long Branch	22	1982		S, R, F, W, H	Very scenic and esthetically pleasing stream; approximately nine miles within Daniel Boone National Forest.	
Station Camp Creek, South Fork	Jackson	River mile 0 at confluence with Station Camp Creek to river mile 22	22	1982/ 1993	S, R	S, R	Fishing, cave exploring, hiking, and limited canoeing.	
Stoner Creek	Bourbon, Clark	RM 0, confluence with South Fork of Licking River, to RM 69, headwaters five miles southeast of Winchester	69	1982		S, R, F, W, H, C	Interesting scenery with numerous grass islands and steep banks.	

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Tygarts Creek	Carter	RM 42, Greenup County line, to RM 64, one mile below I-64 bridge	22	1982		S, R, G, F, W, H, C	See Tygarts Creek Comments	

Tygarts Creek Comments: Most scenic stream flowing through magnificent gorge area and Carters Cave State Park; unique assemblage of flora and fauna.

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.

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).

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.

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.

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.