

The Nationwide Rivers Inventory 8 Segments for the State of Nebraska

Reference Source: <http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rca/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 |
|---|-----------------------------|---|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------|---|--------------|
| Calamus River | Garfield, Loup, Brown, Rock | North Loup River to Source | 80 | 1982 | | S, W, C | See Calamus River Comments | |
| Calamus River Comments: Meandering river in Grand Valley surrounded by low rolling hills; wintering bald eagle population, a federally listed endangered species; high potential for cultural resources of National Register quality. | | | | | | | | |
| Calamus River, excluding reservoir | Garfield, Loup, Brown, Rock | North Loup River to Source, excluding Virginia Smith Reservoir | 71 | 1982/ 1995 | | S, W, C | See Calamus River, excluding reservoir Comments | |
| Calamus River, excluding reservoir Comments: Virginia Smith Reservoir extends approximately from about 5 1/2 miles NW of Burwell to just upstream of the confluence with Gracie Creek. The length of the reservoir is approximately 9 miles. | | | | | | | | |
| Dismal River | Blaine, Thomas | Middle Loup River to Source (confluence of North and South Forks) | 68 | 1982 | | S | See Dismal River Comments | |

Dismal River Comments: Within Sand Hill region, offers vistas of rolling prairie; trout fishery in upper reaches; highest-priority fishery resource (FWS).

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| Long Pine Creek | Rock, Brown | Niobrara River to Source | 38 | 1982 | | F | Important trout fishery; highest-priority fishery resource (FWS). |
| Middle Loup River | Blaine, Thomas, Hooker, Cherry | Milburn Diversion Dam to Source (confluence of North and South Branches) | 89 | 1982 | | S, F, W | See Middle Loup River Comments |

Middle Loup River Comments: Good scenic qualities with occasional bluffs, scattered trees, good clear flow; highest-priority fishery resource (FWS); wintering bald eagles and small least tern nesting colony.

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| Niobrara River | | The 40-mile segment from Borman Bridge southeast of Valentine, downstream to its confluence with Chimney Creek and the 30-mile segment from the river's confluence with Rock Creek downstream to the State Highway 37 bridge. | 0 | 1982/ 1995 | | | This river is under Congressional study for designation to the Wild and Scenic River System. It is currently under the protection of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act pursuant to Section 7 (b) of the Act. |
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| Niobrara River | Sioux | Entire segment within Agate Fossil Beds National Monument | 10 | 1982/ 1993 | S | S, G, F, W, C | See Niobrara River Comments1 |
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Niobrara River Comments1: Rare example of a free-flowing, perennial, prairie stream ecosystem. Nine species of native fish exist in stream. Protects fossil resources which represent golden age of mammals.

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| Niobrara River | Boyd, Holt, Keya Paha, Rock, Brown, Cherry | Keya Paha River to Antelope Creek (omit Cornell Dam and Reservoir) | 194 | 1982 | | S, R, G, F, W, H, C, O | See Niobrara River Comments2 |
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Niobrara River Comments2: Sometimes braided river with good flow meandering between high bluffs on either side of valley; many areas highly used for recreation, including excellent canoeing; wintering and migratory bald eagle populations, recent migratory use by whooping cranes, a federally listed endangered species; highest-priority fishery resource (FWS); many collecting sites for miocene, pliocene and some pleistocene vertebrates; high potential for cultural resources of National Register quality. THE SEGMENT FROM BORMAN BRIDGE DOWNSTREAM TO ITS CONFLUENCE WITH CHIMNEY CREEK AND THE SEGMENT FROM THE RIVER'S CONFLUENCE WITH ROCK CREEK DOWNSTREAM TO STATE HIGHWAY 137 BRIDGE WERE ADDED AS COMPONENTS OF THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM ON 5/24/91.

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| Niobrara River | Knox, Holt, Boyd | Missouri River to Keya Paha River (omit Spencer Dam & Reservoir) | 59 | 1982 | | S, G, W, C | See Niobrara River Comments3 |
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Niobrara River Comments3: Classic Miocene and Pliocene stratigraphic sections; area of great interest to vertebrate paleontologists; federally listed endangered least tern nesting colonies and possible whooping crane, also a federally listed endangered species, migratory use; high potential for cultural resources of National Register quality. THE SEGMENT FROM THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF KNOX COUNTY TO ITS CONFLUENCE WITH THE MISSOURI RIVER WAS ADDED AS A COMPONENT OF THE NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM ON 5/24/91.

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| Snake River | Cherry, Sheridan | Niobrara River to Source (omit Merrit Reservoir) | 96 | 1982 | | S, R, F, W | See Snake River Comments |
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Snake River Comments: Scenic spring-fed river with some whitewater and falls in narrow valley; fragile ecosystem with pockets of deciduous trees mixed with cedars; mixed tall and short grass prairie in Sand Hills environment; good canoeing stream; abundant wildlife, wintering bald eagle population, a federally listed endangered species, unusual insect types; highest-valued fishery resource (FWS); high potential for cultural resources of National Register quality.

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.