

# The Nationwide Rivers Inventory 8 Segments for the State of Oklahoma

Reference Source: <http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/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
Blue River	Bryan, Johnston, Pontotoc	From confluence with Red River upstream to headwaters near Roff	128	1982		S, R, G, F, W	See Blue River Comments	

**Blue River Comments:** Within migration route of Whooping Crane, Federally listed endangered species. Potential component of State Scenic Rivers System. The river is characterized as the most scenic stream in this section of the state- "picturesque beauty". There are numerous small rapids and waterfalls, combined with extensive vegetation, making the river a natural "oasis". Used for floating, hiking, picnicking, swimming, and fishing/hunting at the Blue River Public Fishing and Hunting area. It is a scenic, clear water stream with high value for fish and wildlife. It flows through granite outcroppings in places which form waterfalls/rapids.

Cimarron River (AKA Dry Cimarron River)	Woods, Harper, Beaver (Comanche, Clark, Mead in KS)	From confluence with Buffalo Creek in OK upstream to SH 23 crossing east of Liberal, KS.	94	1982		S, G, H	See Cimarron River (AKA Dry Cimarron River) Comments	KS
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**Cimarron River (AKA Dry Cimarron River) Comments:** Segment is within the migration route of the Whooping Crane, a federally listed endangered species. The river is characterized as a prime example of a Great Plains stream with scenic qualities. It is important geologically and historically in the development of the country. Associated with early cattle drives and the Santa Fe Trail. Consists of a braided channel, meandering river, almost totally isolated and undeveloped. There is scattered tree cover along the banks.

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Glover Creek	McCurtain	From confluence with Little River upstream to confluence with East and West Forks.	32	1982		S, R, F, W, H	See Glover Creek Comments	

**Glover Creek Comments:** Within habitat of Red-Cockaded Woodpecker, American Alligator and Leopard Darter, federally listed endangered species. Potential component of State Scenic Rivers System. The Glover is widely considered the state's last free-flowing scenic stream of significance. It offers a most exciting canoeing experience for the waters flowing through the narrow gorge and between frequent boulders and rock ledges offer a variant of whitewater canoeing. The bluff vistas along the section of the river north of Cedar Mountain can be breathtaking. The Meat Hollow Falls area has a collection of shoots, large boulders and fast water. Another unique area occurs near the Dierks Boy Scout Camp where the river cuts through three distinct hills to form a panoramic gorge. Upper reaches flow through hilly area with deep hollows. Stream bed is boulder strewn and forested bluffs line the river. The lower reaches flow through rolling plains; river becomes slow and meandering. Marshes appear near confluence with Little River. River is used for canoeing, camping, hiking, and has the potential for historic interpretation of logging practices and Choctaw Indian history. Heavy undergrowth on shores provides habitat for many types of wildlife.

Kiamichi River	Pushmataha, Le Flore	From upper Hugo Lake upstream to Muse.	102	1982		S, F, W	See Kiamichi River Comments	
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**Kiamichi River Comments:** Corridor provides habitat for three federally listed endangered species; Indiana Bat, Red-Cockaded Woodpecker and Leopard Darter. Potential addition to State Scenic Rivers System. Flows through bottomland hardwood forests, and is particularly scenic in lower reaches. Partially within Pushmataha State Wildlife Refuge. Characterized as a scenic, clear water stream with high fish and wildlife values. Flows through very "wild" country for Oklahoma and provides a sense of isolation. Cuts through Ouachita Mountain Uplift area of state.

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Lee Creek (AKA Lee's Creek, Big Lee Creek)	Sequoyah (Crawford, Washington in AR)	From the Oklahoma-Arkansas state line SE of Short, OK upstream to headwaters SE of Moffet, AR.	49	1982		S, R, F, W, C	See Lee Creek (AKA Lee's Creek, Big Lee Creek) Comments	AR

**Lee Creek (AKA Lee's Creek, Big Lee Creek) Comments:** Within wintering area of Bald Eagle, and the habitat of the Gray, Indiana and Ozark Bats, federally listed endangered species. Flows through a portion of the Ozark National Forest in AR. Lee Creek is a component of the OK Scenic River System and is a potential component of the AR system. In OK the segment is characterized as a small meandering stream with high bluffs, fast current, forested hills, dogwood and redbud blossoms, and a number of falls, riffles, rapids and islands. Recreation uses include canoeing, swimming, picnicking and fishing. Authentic Indian burial mounds are located in the area and state listed endangered species are present. In AR, Lee Creek is noted for its spectacular western Ozark Mountain scenery; smallmouth bass and pan fish; steep mountain gorges, canyons and niches. The Creek flows through Devil's Den State Park (nature associated recreation uses) and Lee Creek is a special attraction. Very popular stream used extensively for paddling, hiking, hunting, and fishing.

Mountain Fork Creek (AKA Upper Mountain Fork Creek)	McCurtain	From upper end of Broken Bow Reservoir upstream to Oklahoma-Arkansas state line.	25	1982		S, R, F, W	See Mountain Fork Creek (AKA Upper Mountain Fork Creek) Comments	
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**Mountain Fork Creek (AKA Upper Mountain Fork Creek) Comments:** The Red-Cockaded Woodpecker, American Alligator and Leopard Darter, federally listed endangered and threatened species, inhabit the area. Component of Scenic Rivers System of Oklahoma and is located in the scenic Kiamichi Mountains. Characterized by successive riffles with numerous rock ledges and boulder outcroppings. No lengthy rapids but there are occasional waterfalls during low flood. Dense shoreline vegetation of mixed deciduous and conifer, cane and reeds, and is the northernmost place in the state where beech trees can be found. Recreation uses include fishing, hunting, camping, picnicking and canoeing. It is a scenic, clear water stream with high fish and wildlife values.

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Washita River	Washita, Custer	From Cloud Chief-Cowden bridge south of SH 152 in Washita County upstream to Clinton	25	1982		S, R, G	See Washita River Comments1	

**Washita River Comments1:** This segment is within the migration route of the Whooping Crane, a federally listed endangered species. It is characterized as a slow, meandering river in heavily timbered bottomlands. The river provides a quiet, scenic floating experience. Rock outcrops, cliffs and springs occur in the southern portion. Good campsites are available in the corridor.

Washita River	Carter, Murray	From Ardmore Air Park River Bridge in Carter County upstream to US 77 bridge south of Jollyville	20	1982		S, R, G, F	See Washita River Comments2	
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**Washita River Comments2:** This segment is within the migration route of the Whooping Crane, a federally listed endangered species. It is identified as a potential State Scenic River and is characterized as a fast moving river through the heart of the Arbuckle Mountains, some of the oldest mountains in the world. Geologic processes are observable in rock outcrops. Class III rapids are located in the vicinity of Big Canyon. In addition to floating, camping and fishing are popular recreational uses. The river corridor contains important fish and wildlife habitat.

## 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.