

The Nationwide Rivers Inventory 50 Segments for the State of Wisconsin

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

For More Information Contact: **Hector Santiago**, National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office, 601 Riverside Drive. Omaha, Nebraska 68102 (402) 661-1848

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Bad River	Ashland	From town of Mellen to mouth	47	1982		S, G	See Bad River Comments	

Bad River Comments: A northern Wisconsin river in a heavily forested watershed. Flows through outstanding Copper Falls State Park and Bad River Indian Reservation and empties into Lake Superior. Upper area has high hills, rock outcrops, gravel banks and Copper Falls. Good trout fishing in upper reaches. Canoeable only below falls. Relatively undeveloped. Studied by the state for possible inclusion in the State Wild Rivers System.

Black River	LaCrosse, Jackson	From confluence with Mississippi River to Black River Falls dam	56	1982		S, R, G	See Black River Comments	
-------------	-------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------	----	------	--	---------	--------------------------	--

Black River Comments: An outstanding river segment flowing through western Wisconsin hill country to the Mississippi River. Very little cultural intrusion. High sand banks, wooded shores and occasional limestone bluffs. Only 12 dwellings visible, except for village of North Bend; 4 road crossings on entire stretch. A sand bottom stream with good water quality and flow. Many large sandbars offer excellent recreation opportunities on this unspoiled stretch of river. Studied by the State for possible inclusion in the State Wild Rivers System.

Black River, East Fork	Jackson, Wood, Clark	Mouth to source	53	1982		S	See Black River, East Fork Comments	
------------------------	----------------------	-----------------	----	------	--	---	-------------------------------------	--

Black River, East Fork Comments: A generally small stream only seasonally canoeable. Low recreational use. Fishing fair. Has a relatively undeveloped shoreline and a fairly well wooded watershed. Little cultural intrusion.

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Bois Brule River	Douglas	Mouth to campground at County road south	30	1982		S, R, F	See Bois Brule River Comments	

Bois Brule River Comments: This stretch of river flows entirely within the Brule River State Forest to Lake Superior. One of the state's most famous and scenic trout streams. An excellent canoe trip over some medium rapids in lower section. Watershed heavily forested with 3% public ownership along stream.

Brule River	Florence, Forest	From backwater of Brule Island dam to Brule Lake	44	1982		R, F	See Brule River Comments1	MI
-------------	------------------	--------------------------------------------------	----	------	--	------	---------------------------	----

Brule River Comments1: Flows on boundary of Michigan and Wisconsin. Good to excellent canoeing and fishing. Watershed is primarily forested. Good water quality.

Brule River	Florence, Forest	Brule Lake to Forest boundary	10	1982/ 1993	R	R, F, H	See Brule River Comments2	MI
-------------	------------------	-------------------------------	----	------------	---	---------	---------------------------	----

Brule River Comments2: Excellent brown trout fishery. Provides fine recreational canoe route during most of the year.

Chippewa River	Rusk, Sawyer	Holcombe Flowage to dam at Radisson	40	1982		S, R	See Chippewa River Comments1	
----------------	--------------	-------------------------------------	----	------	--	------	------------------------------	--

Chippewa River Comments1: A north central Wisconsin stream flowing through a mostly forested area. Some farming to waters edge. Not a top quality river although very good for recreation. More than usual cultural intrusion.

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Chippewa River	Peppin, Dunn	From its confluence with Mississippi River to Eau Claire-Dunn County line	38	1982		S, R	See Chippewa River Comments2	

Chippewa River Comments2: A broad river segment located in the western Wisconsin hill country. Many sand bars and islands in the channel. Near mouth, the country flattens out to a broad floodplain interspersed with forests and farms. Chippewa River Bottoms National Natural Landmark located at mouth. Banks are generally forested. Fishing fair to good. Provides an excellent scenic canoe trip with generally slow water and few rapids.

Chippewa River, East Fork	Iron	From Sturgeon Bay at upper end of Blaisdell Lake to bridge crossing in Sec. 13 of Glidden	34	1982		S, R	See Chippewa River, East Fork Comments	
Chippewa River, East Fork	Iron	Glidden to source	29	1982		S, R	See Chippewa River, East Fork Comments	
Chippewa River, East Fork	Ashland, Sawyer	Sturgeon Bay at upper end of Blaisdell Lake to forest boundary	20	1982/ 1993	S, R	S, R, F, W	See Chippewa River, East Fork Comments	

Chippewa River, East Fork Comments: A tributary of the Chippewa River flowing through a forested watershed. An average stream for this part of the state. Fair to good recreational potential. Crosses Chequamegon National Forest.

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Clam River	Burnett, Polk	Clam River flowage to Clam Falls flowage	35	1982		S	See Clam River Comments	
<u>Clam River Comments:</u> A tributary of the St. Croix River located in northwestern Wisconsin forest land. Limited trout fishing and some warm water species. Canoeing possible on entire length.								
Crystal River	Waupaca	Long Lake to Waupaca	10	1982		R	See Crystal River Comments	
<u>Crystal River Comments:</u> A fast running small stream flowing through central Wisconsin farm and forest country. Banks are generally wooded. Trout fishing above Cory Millpond. Old grist mill and small towns have historic value.								
Des Plaines River	Kenosha	Wisconsin-Illinois State line to source	12	1982		R	See Des Plaines River Comments	
<u>Des Plaines River Comments:</u> An interstate river rising in Kenosha County farm country. Major portion of this river is in Illinois. Flows through Racine and Chicago SMSA. Portion in Wisconsin generally free of development, except farming. Some floating use. Fishing is major use. Good warm water fishing.								
Flambeau River	Rusk, Price	Big Falls Reservoir to Crowley dam	50	1982		S, R	See Flambeau River Comments	
<u>Flambeau River Comments:</u> Much of this stretch of river lies in the Flambeau River State Forest. Virtually all wilderness with very little cultural development. Good water quality with many rapids and good fishing. A very good stretch of wild river.								
Flambeau River, South Fork	Sawyer, Rusk, Price	Three Mile Creek to Round Lake	26	1982		S, R, F, W	See Flambeau River, South Fork Comments	

Flambeau River, South Fork	Sawyer, Rusk, Price	Confluence with Flambeau to SR 13 S. of Park Falls	32	1982		S, R, F, W	See Flambeau River, South Fork Comments	
----------------------------	---------------------	----------------------------------------------------	----	------	--	------------	-----------------------------------------	--

Flambeau River, South Fork Comments: Flows through a generally wild, forested watershed and portion of Chequamegon National Forest. A good to high quality stream with very good musky and walleye fishing. Some bald eagle nesting. Canoeable with mostly easy water and some rapids. Minimal cultural intrusion.

Flambeau River, South Fork	Price	Round Lake to forest boundary	15	1982/ 1993	S, R	S, R, F, H, O	Canoeable in high water.	
Fox River	Outagamie, Brown	Kaukauna to DePere	15	1982		R, H	See Fox River Comments1	

Fox River Comments1: A major route across Wisconsin of early explorers, fur traders and settlers. Many historic sites in upper river area and around Green Bay. Flows through Green Bay SMSA.

Fox River	Kenosha, Racine, Waukesha	Wilmot to Waterford dam (26 river miles); Waterford to Waukesha (33 rm)	59	1982		R, H	See Fox River Comments2	
-----------	---------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------	----	------	--	------	-------------------------	--

Fox River Comments2: A slow moving river through southern Wisconsin farm country with agriculture to the waters edge in many places. Flows through some lakes and Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha SMSA's. Has good recreation potential.

Jump River, including North Fork	Chippewa, Price, Rusk, Taylor	From Holcombe flowage to Spring Creek flowage	41	1982		S	See Jump River, including North Fork Comments	
----------------------------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------	----	------	--	---	-----------------------------------------------	--

Jump River, including North Fork Comments: A north central Wisconsin tributary of the Chippewa River. Good warm water species habitat. An average stream for recreation purposes.

Jump River, South Fork	Price	Confluence with Jump River to SR13 at Prentice	32	1982		S	See Jump River, South Fork Comments	
<u>Jump River, South Fork Comments:</u> Flows through a well forested watershed and has some cultural intrusions. Canoeable and fishable, but not heavily used.								
Jump River, South Fork	Price	Confluence with Jump River to State Highway 13 at Prentice, WI	1	1982/ 1993	S, R	S, R		
Kickapoo River	Crawford, Richland, Vernon	Confluence with Wisconsin River to Ontario	93	1982		S, R, G	See Kickapoo River Comments	
<u>Kickapoo River Comments:</u> A long river segment flowing through very scenic western Wisconsin hill country. Bottomlands along river are generally farmed, but hill-sides and watershed are fairly well wooded. High bluffs and rock outcrops in places. Harbors rare and endangered tundra plants. Flows through Kickapoo River National Natural Landmark.								
LaCrosse River	LaCrosse	Mouth to Perch lake dam	25	1982		S	See LaCrosse River Comments	
<u>LaCrosse River Comments:</u> Flows through western Wisconsin area of high hills and coulees. Moderate floating use. Good trout fishing above Perch Lake.								
Marengo River	Ashland	Confluence with Bad River to town of Marengo	10	1982		S	See Marengo River Comments	
<u>Marengo River Comments:</u> A generally narrow trout stream, tributary to the Bad River. Shorelands almost entirely forested. Lower reaches have extensive agriculture to waters edge in places.								

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Mecan River	Marquette, Waushara	From backwaters of impoundment at Germania to Richford	25	1982		R	See Mecan River Comments	
<u>Mecan River Comments:</u> A fair to good trout stream in upper reaches and warm water fishing in lower portion. A good small central Wisconsin stream receiving moderate fishing and canoeing use. Watershed about 50% farmed. Banks generally wooded. Flows through some marsh areas in upper reaches.								
Menominee River	Marinette	Backwaters of Grand Rapids to dam at White Rapids	26	1982		R	See Menominee River Comments	MI
<u>Menominee River Comments:</u> Flows on boundary between Wisconsin and Michigan. A broad river with good flow through heavily forested country. Good fishing and canoeing. Several portages.								
Milwaukee River	Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, FonDuLac	Thiensville to Grafton (10 river miles); Waubeka to W. Bend (20 rm); Young America to CampBellsport (16 rm); CampBellsport to Eden (8 rm)	54	1982		S, R	See Milwaukee River Comments	
<u>Milwaukee River Comments:</u> A southeastern Wisconsin river rising near the highly popular Kettle Moraine State Forest emptying into Lake Michigan at Milwaukee. Has scenic dolomite bluff near Grafton. Relatively little development considering the area it flows through. Watershed fairly heavily farmed although banks are generally wooded.								

Nemaji River	Douglas	From drive-in theater S. of Superior village to Wisconsin-Michigan State line	55	1982		S	See Nemaji River Comments	
<u>Nemaji River Comments:</u> A meandering, generally slow moving stream flowing through the extreme northwestern part of the state. Moderate recreational use. High banks along part. Generally little cultural intrusion. Flows through Duluth-Superior SMSA.								
Oconto River	Oconto	Underhill to confluence with Peshtigo Brook	20	1982		S	See Oconto River Comments	
<u>Oconto River Comments:</u> A northeastern Wisconsin river flowing through generally forested land in upper portion and largely agricultural country in lower portion. A basically slow moving stream.								
Peshtigo River	Marinette, Forest	Backwaters of Caldron Falls Reservoir to source	36	1982		S, R, G	See Peshtigo River Comments	
<u>Peshtigo River Comments:</u> A winding stream flowing through marsh country in upper portion. Receives considerable floating and fishing use. Numerous falls and rapids. A high quality stream with upper reaches almost entirely undisturbed and within Nicolet National Forest. Lower section has "Roaring Rapids", a four mile long whitewater segment called the most unique whitewater in Midwest. Fishing good.								
Peshtigo River	Forest	The Peshtigo within the Nat. Forest boundary. The NB Peshtigo from FR 2183 to the NF boundary.	43	1982/ 1993	W, S, R	S, R, G, O	Canoeable on main branch in high water, variety of character from flat oxbows to narrow rapids.	

Pike River, including South Branch	Marinette	Mouth to Brock pond dam	35	1982		S, R, G	See Pike River, including South Branch Comments	
<u>Pike River, including South Branch Comments:</u> An excellent northeastern Wisconsin stream flowing through a heavily forested watershed. Rock outcrops, falls, canyons, and rapids provide a high quality floating experience. Somewhat threatened by expanding recreation home interest. A component of the State Wild Rivers System.								
Pike River, North Branch	Marinette	Mouth to township Rd. one-half mile downstream of U.S. 8	27	1982		S	See Pike River, North Branch Comments	
<u>Pike River, North Branch Comments:</u> A tributary of the Pike River flowing through mostly wild, well forested country with some farmland in the watershed. Some rapids and low falls. Canoeing fair, difficult at times.								
Pine River	Florence, Forest	From backwaters of Pine River dam to source	60	1982		S	See Pine River Comments	
<u>Pine River Comments:</u> A relatively undeveloped stream mostly within the Nicolet National Forest. Has a heavily forested watershed with few areas cleared to waters edge. Generally not canoeable during summers. A component of State Wild Rivers System. Fishing generally good.								
Pine River	Florence, Forest	Includes the North Branch Pine from the East shoreline of Butternut Lake to the intersection with Pine River. Also the Pine River from its headwaters to the National Forest boundary.	62	1982/ 1993	W, S	S, R	Canoeable in high water. Remote recreational setting.	

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Plover River	Portage, Marathon	Stevens Point to Bevent	20	1982		R	See Plover River Comments	
<u>Plover River Comments:</u> A small tributary of the Wisconsin River located in north central farm and hill country. Brook, brown and rainbow trout in upper reaches. Very good canoeing.								
Popple River	Florence, Forest	Mouth to source	43	1982		R	See Popple River Comments	
<u>Popple River Comments:</u> Flows through a heavily forested portion of northeastern Wisconsin. Good fishing. Canoeable from Hwy. 139 downstream. Relatively undeveloped, flowing mostly through Nicolet National Forest. A component of the State Wild River System.								
Popple River	Florence, Forest	Includes the NB Popple to the intersect. with Popple. Also the SB Popple from source to the intersection with Popple. Also the Popple from source to the Forest boundary.	55	1982/ 1993	W, S	R, W	Canoeable below Highway 55 during high water (spring), stretches of rapids alternate with slow water, variety of wildlife in area.	
Potato River	Iron	Confluence with Bad River to town of Upson	30	1982		S, G	See Potato River Comments	
<u>See Potato River Comments:</u> A tributary of the Bad River system in northern part of the state. Very little cultural development. Waterfalls and rapids in wild corridor. Canoeing limited. Low quality trout fishing. Good public ownership. Some high hills and banks.								

Somo River	Lincoln	Lake Mohawksin to junction of Big Somo & Little Somo creeks at Clifford	25	1982		S	See Somo River Comments	
------------	---------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------	----	------	--	---	-------------------------	--

Somo River Comments: Flows through an open area of little relief in north central part of state. Many low, swampy areas along stream.

Sugar River	Green	From the confluence with the Pecatonica to Lake Decatur in Green County, Wisconsin	26	1982		R, F	See Sugar River, IL Comments.	IL
-------------	-------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----	------	--	------	-------------------------------	----

See Sugar River, IL Comments: A meandering interstate river with many remnant and existing oxbow lakes. Flows through an area of very intensive agriculture in northern Illinois. Has very good sport fishing and some unique flora.

Thornapple River	Rusk, Sawyer	Mouth to source (except part within Chequamegon National Forest)	67	1982		S	See Thornapple River Comments	
------------------	--------------	------------------------------------------------------------------	----	------	--	---	-------------------------------	--

Thornapple River Comments: Flows through forested and farmed watershed. Low to moderate recreational use. Corridor generally well forested.

Totagetic River	Douglas, Sawyer, Washburn	From Minong flowage (formerly Lake Nancy) to Nelson Lake	25	1982		S	See Totagetic River Comments	
-----------------	---------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------	----	------	--	---	------------------------------	--

Totagetic River Comments: A small to medium sized stream flowing through northern coniferous and hardwood forests. Good recreation potential, but use low. Fishing is generally average. Tributary to Namekagon River, a component of National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Waupaca	Waupaca	Below Mill Pond at Amherst, Wisconsin to Weyauwega	0	1995	R	S, R, F, W	See Waupaca Comments	
---------	---------	----------------------------------------------------	---	------	---	------------	----------------------	--

Waupaca Comments: The Tomorrow/Waupaca is one river with two names. The name change occurs at the Portage-Waupaca county line rather than at a confluence. The corridor is largely undeveloped, but it does flow through farm lands and woods. The upper reaches support a trout fishery, while the lower reaches support trout and small mouth bass. In addition, many waterfowl and shore birds use the corridor.

White River	Ashland, Bayfield	From impoundment at SR 112 crossing to source	34	1982		S, R	See White River Comments	
-------------	-------------------	-----------------------------------------------	----	------	--	------	--------------------------	--

White River Comments: A large tributary of the Bad River flowing through an area of high hills in the lower reaches and many miles through the very wild Bibon Swamp. Outstanding water quality in upper reaches. A popular canoe route. Popular trout water in upper portion. A very small portion lies within the Chequamegon National Forest.

White River	Ashland, Bayfield	Impoundment at crossing of County Road 112 in Ashland County to source in Bayfield County	1	1982/ 1993	S, R	S, R		
-------------	-------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---	------------	------	------	--	--

Wisconsin River	Marathon, Lincoln	Merrill to Wausau (22 river miles); Wausau to Marathon Co. line south (23 rm)	45	1982		R, G	See Wisconsin River Comments	
-----------------	-------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----	------	--	------	------------------------------	--

Wisconsin River: Wisconsin River Comments: The largest river system in Wisconsin. Good water quality. Flows from near Michigan border in the north to Mississippi River. Crosses unglaciated driftless area of hills and bluff.

River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/ Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Wolf River	Outagamie, Wampaca, Shawano	County Road P, 2 miles North of Shiocton to Shawano	41	1982		R, F	See Wolf River Comments	

Wolf River: Considered a prime northern river, it has outstanding seasonal walleye and white bass fishing. The river is a popular canoe route with generally good water quality. The watershed is about 60% farmed, the rest being forested with some extensive swamps. Part of upper portion of this river is an existing component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Yellow River	Juneau, Wood	From Necedah Bluff to Spillway at Lake Bexter	36	1982		S	See Yellow River Comments	
--------------	--------------	-----------------------------------------------	----	------	--	---	---------------------------	--

Yellow River Comments: A central Wisconsin stream flowing through farm country with a generally wooded corridor and watershed. Lower portion flows through Necedah National Wildlife Refuge where there are remnant oxbow lakes.

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.

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).

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.

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.