

Rogue River Float Guide



America's Great Outdoors

Oregon

2004



Bureau of Land
Management

Department of the Interior



United States
Forest Service

Department of Agriculture

“It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.”

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
October 2, 1968

“The tellers of the heart of the river story are miners and the grandchildren of early settlers on the Rogue River. Their memories and impressions weave a fine strong fabric. All have lived a long time, with energy that comes from years in vast, rugged country within earshot of the sound of flowing water. In each person exists a love of the river canyon which draws them back year after year.”

Illaha, The Story of Settlement in the Rogue River Canyon
by Kay Atwood, 1978

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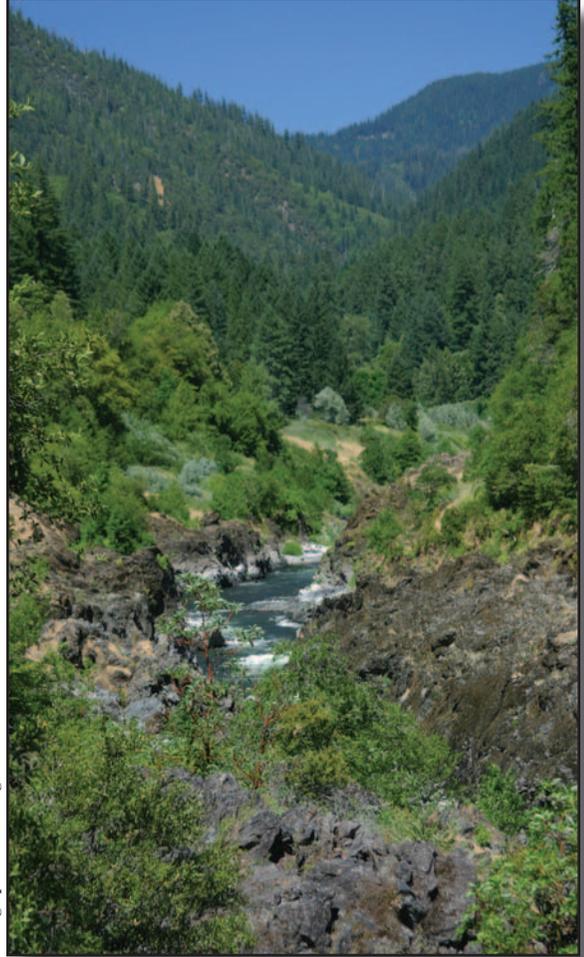
Cover photo: Blossom Bar, Photographer Tom Wedge, 1,750 cfs at Grants Pass, August 17, 2002

Welcome to the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River

Over millions of years, lifting of the western part of Oregon formed the mountains of the Pacific Coast. As the land slowly rose, the river channel eroded deeper and deeper into rock and soil creating an average canyon depth, from river level to mountaintop, of over 3,000 feet.

The Rogue River begins near Crater Lake and flows 215 miles through the mountains and valleys of southwest Oregon emptying into the Pacific Ocean at the town of Gold Beach. Rushing from the Cascade Range, the river glides into the Rogue Valley floor, drifting peacefully past cities and towns and agricultural lands. The Wild and Scenic River designation begins west of the city of Grants Pass where the Applegate River flows into the Rogue River. The river turns north, flowing through the scenic Hellgate Canyon, and then bends sharply west at Grave

Creek, where the Wild Section of the Rogue River begins. Here the powerful river cuts through the rugged terrain of the northern edge of the Klamath Mountains. The river churns through the steep rock walls of Mule Creek Canyon and the boulder-strewn Blossom Bar Rapids before slowing in Huggins Canyon and Clayhill Stillwater. Below the town of Agness, the Rogue and Illinois Rivers join and flow through picturesque Copper Canyon. Below Copper Canyon, the river widens and slows, with the Wild and Scenic designation ending where Lobster Creek enters the Rogue River.



Photographer: John Craig

Mule Creek Canyon looking upriver, July 17, 2003

Flowing through time, the Rogue River has nurtured those who have come to its lush banks. The earliest inhabitants were Indians who



Boating the Narrows in Mule Creek Canyon, early 1900s

lived a life of hunting, fishing, and gathering. Various Indian tribes made their homes and found sustenance along the Rogue River for over 9,000 years before Euro-Americans arrived. In the 1850s, miners poured into the Rogue Valley and Indians awoke to the coarse cry of “Gold!” which, with startling immediacy, signaled an end to a way of life Indians had known for thousands of years. The boatmen of the early- to mid-1900s, whose daring and perseverance established dominance over the wild waters of the river, were responsible for opening these waters to the guide-fishing industry and whitewater boating that has become so economically vital to southwest Oregon today.

The Rogue River was one of the original eight rivers included in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. With its famous steelhead and salmon fishing, challenging whitewater, and extraordinary wildlife-viewing opportunities, the Rogue River continues to be one of the world’s most popular recreation destinations. The 34-mile Wild section features predominantly Class III (or less) rapids, and includes thundering Rainie Falls (Class V) and breathtaking rapids at Mule Creek Canyon (Class III) and Blossom Bar (Class IV).

The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Medford District, Grants Pass Field Office and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (FS), Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Gold Beach Ranger District jointly manage the Rogue National Wild and Scenic River. The BLM administers the river corridor from the Applegate River downstream to Mule Creek. The Forest Service administers from Mule Creek downstream to Lobster Creek. These two federal agencies, in partnership with state and county agencies, manage the river for protection of outstanding resources and for the enjoyment of river recreationists.

Wild and Scenic Designation

The 84-mile Rogue National Wild and Scenic River is divided into three Wild and Scenic River designations: Recreation, Scenic, and Wild. Relative to the levels of development, each section is managed under the conditions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Rogue River Management Plan. These designations do not refer to the size of the whitewater.

Wild River is defined as free of impoundments and generally accessible only by trail representing vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic River is defined as free of impoundments, with shorelines and watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational River is defined as readily accessible by road that may have some development along the shoreline, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

The river designations starting inland and flowing toward the Pacific Ocean are as follows:

Recreation – Applegate River to Grave Creek, 27 miles, rapid Class I and II

Wild – Grave Creek to Watson Creek, 33.8 miles, rapid Class III and IV

Recreation – Watson Creek to Blue Jay Creek, 8.9 miles, rapid Class I and II

Scenic – Blue Jay Creek to Slide Creek, 7.6 miles, rapid Class I

Recreation – Slide Creek to Lobster Creek, 7.1 miles, rapid Class I

Permit Requirements

Use of the Wild section of the Rogue River is regulated each year, from May 15 through October 15, to protect the river corridor from overuse and to provide a wild river experience. During this time, 120 commercial and noncommercial users may obtain special-use permits to enter the Wild section each day. Permits for the regulated use period are originally allocated through a computer selection process, or “lottery.” The annual application period for the permit lottery is December 1 through January 31. From April 1 through October 14, available permits are distributed through a first-come/first-served telephone process. Permits and details on the permit process are available at:

River Permits and Information
Smullin Visitor Center at Rand
14335 Galice Road
Merlin, OR 97532

Phone: 541-479-3735
Fax: 541-479-0535
E-mail: or110rr@blm.gov
www.or.blm.gov/Rogueriver

LEGEND

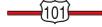
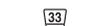
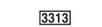
RIVER DESIGNATION

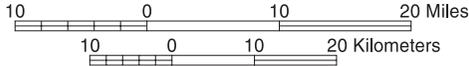
-  Wild Section
-  Scenic Section
-  Recreation Section

ADMINISTERED LAND

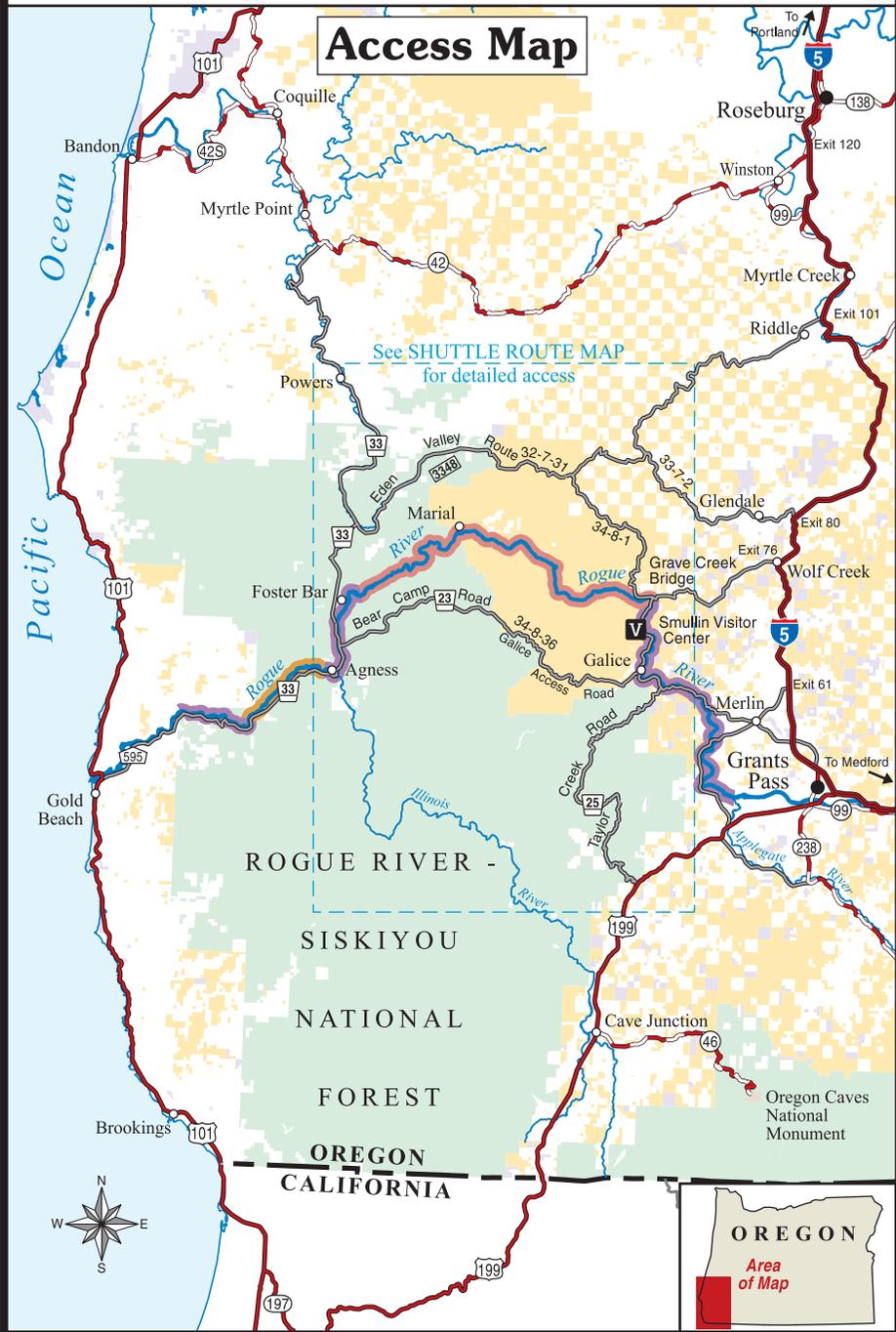
-  Bureau of Land Management
-  U.S. Forest Service
-  Other Federal
-  State
-  Private

TRANSPORTATION

-  Interstate Highway
-  U.S. Highway
-  State Highway
-  Access Road
-  County Road Designation
-  B.L.M. Road Number
-  U.S.F.S. Arterial Route
-  U.S.F.S. Other Primary Route



Access Map



LEGEND

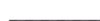
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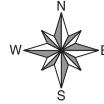
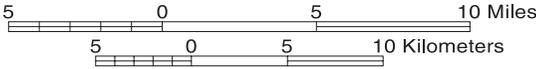
-  Wild Section
-  Scenic Section
-  Recreation Section

ADMINISTERED LAND

-  Bureau of Land Management
-  U.S. Forest Service
-  State
-  Private

TRANSPORTATION

-  U.S. Highway
-  Light-Duty Road, Paved
-  Light-Duty Road, Gravel
-  County Road Designation
-  B.L.M. Road Number
-  U.S.F.S. Arterial Route
-  U.S.F.S. Other Primary Route



Shuttle Route Map



River Etiquette

A river trip is not a solo event; your actions directly and immediately affect the experience of other visitors, whether individuals or groups. You are responsible for your actions. Please conduct your trip to nurture the “community” concept. Users of river resources are part of a community who actively and sincerely care about the river corridor and each other. Following are tips to help visitors be more caring and responsible members of the river community.

Boat Ramps

Your trip begins here, before you actually get on the water, and your experience here can set the tone for your whole trip. Wait patiently for your turn. Use the ramp only for loading and unloading, and put your gear and boats together off the ramp. Allow others to go before you if all they want to do is put a loaded boat into the water and take off. Be friendly, be helpful, and be considerate.

Encounters on the Water



Grave Creek boat ramp, January 2004

It is safer and more enjoyable if you do not bunch up with another group on the river, especially in rapids. If you find yourself traveling too closely to someone else, slow down, perhaps stop for a break, or simply tell the other party that you seem to be traveling faster and you would prefer to pass them. When you do come into contact with another river party, be friendly, exchange greetings, give and receive information or assistance.

An encounter between floating and fishing groups can cause some particular problems; be sensitive to the needs of others. Fishing parties should not block the river with their boats and fishing lines, and

floating parties should not float through and over anglers' lines. If your group is fishing with your boats spread across the river, move over to let a floating group pass. If you are floating and approach a fishing party, hold back until the anglers continue downstream or until they wave you through their group. Communication and common sense are the keys to successful interaction.

The Rogue River is a multiple-use river; a river for both float and motor boaters. River traffic rules dictate that downstream drift traffic has the right-of-way in stream channel meetings; however, a jet boat



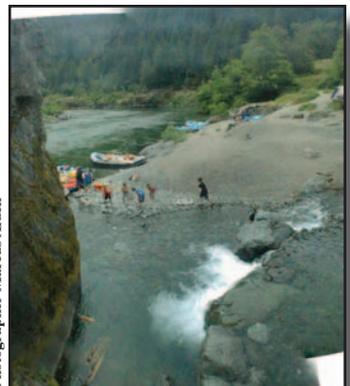
Photographer John Craig

Raft and motorized tour boat at entrance to Hellgate Canyon, 1,700 cfs, at Grants Pass, July 2003

cannot safely stop in the middle of a rapid. In meetings between motorized and nonmotorized boats, it is imperative that all the parties communicate clearly to avoid conflict and hazards. It is also imperative that neither group inflict itself upon the other through water fighting, making heavy waves or wakes, or antisocial, confrontational behavior. There is enough river to accommodate all forms of recreation.

Selecting River Campsites

Popular river campsites are listed within the map panels of this float guide. Many other unnamed campsites and sandbars will accommodate small parties. If your group is small and the river is busy, try to leave larger sites for larger groups, or offer to share a large site with another party. Developed campground information is in the back of this guide.



Photographer Marcus Alden

Mule Creek west campsite, 1999

Wildlife

Photographer John Craig



River otter on the Rogue River by Whisky Creek, May 2003

The Rogue River is a spectacular wildlife viewing area. Opportunities abound to see bald eagles, golden eagles, ospreys, great blue herons, Canada geese, and a variety of ducks. You may see the speedy flight of a belted kingfisher and the dipping of the American dipper. In the water, look for salmon and steelhead, or the surprising leap of a sturgeon. Watch for playful river otters and mink. You may spot an orange-bellied, rough-skinned newt that is poisonous to any prey. On shore you may be visited by ground squirrels, raccoons, deer, and bears.

It is best to view wild animals from a safe distance. Please don't feed wild animals. Feeding wild animals to attract them or attracting wild animals unintentionally by having food, food scraps, or garbage available are not good practices. These practices can cause animals and insects to visit campsites regularly, or even live there, to take advantage of the food source. When animals and insects stay in an area to gather people's food, they become pests. By feeding wild animals, you are teaching them to depend on people for food, rather than their natural food sources. People food is not healthy for wild animals.

You Are in Bear Country

The Rogue River has a large population of the American black bear, *Ursus americanus*, ranging from dark black to brown, cinnamon, and blond. These bears are interesting and beautiful to view from a distance, but unpredictable and dangerous up close. On the Wild Rogue River, bears may be a part of your camp experience. Drawn to food that is easy to get, "camp bears" repeatedly visit campsites

looking for handouts. In the past, bears have stolen food or garbage and have been persistent pests that refuse to run away. They are not always frightened when campers shine lights or make noise. Here are some hints for co-existing with bears.

 Remove food and food storage containers from your boat. In search of food, bears get into and damage boats, even when boats are anchored offshore.

 It is important to keep your camp clean. Pick up food scraps and store your garbage overnight in a dry box or cooler or hang it at least twelve feet off the ground between two trees and six feet from tree trunks. Remove food smells from tables, utensils, and coolers with alcohol or ammonia.

 Strap coolers and dry boxes together to make it harder for a bear to open or drag away. Booby trap coolers and dry boxes with empty pans or cans that will wake you up if a bear tries to raid your food.

 **DO NOT TAKE FOOD INTO YOUR TENT OR SLEEPING BAG!**

Most bear problems occur in the last 10 miles of the Wild section, from Blossom Bar through the Camp Tacoma area. Selected campsites in that area feature bear boxes, food hoists, and/or bear fences. These bear structures have been effective at keeping bears from eating people food. Portable fences are available at Rand.

Minimum Impact River Use

You affect this river canyon when you pass through it. River users come to the Rogue River for many reasons, but none of them come expecting to find vegetation hacked, beaches



Photographer Dennis Kirkland

Black bear, brown phase



Photographer John Craig

Electric bear fence at Tacoma campsites, May 2003

scarred with fire rings or fouled with human waste and scattered litter. This river corridor cannot survive if you don't work to protect it. Here are ways you can care for the river.

Fire Pans

Fire rings are not allowed under any circumstances. Fire pan use for all open fires within 400 feet of the river's edge is mandatory on the Rogue River year-round. You are expected to meet the intent of the fire pan regulation, which is to keep the beaches clean and to carry out all your ashes and unburned fire residue. The Rogue River has no minimum specifications for fire pans; you may use the equipment and methods that work best for you.



When using your fire pan, elevate it on rocks to keep from scorching the sand and to provide for complete cooling. If scavenging for fuel, use only wood that is both dead and down. Burn only pieces of wood that fit your pan and that will incinerate completely. During the summer months, special fire restrictions may be in effect. Check with the Smullin Visitor Center or the Rogue River website for current fire restrictions before beginning your trip.

Human Waste

River visitors must carry a toilet to pack out solid human waste. You are required to present your toilet for approval before your float permit will be issued. Government-provided toilets are available at many campsites. If you stop where there is no public toilet, you must carry out your solid waste

in an air- and water-tight, washable, reusable river toilet. The toilet system must be large enough to accommodate your entire group for the entire length of your trip. A SCAT machine to clean and disinfect your toilet is available at the Foster Bar take-out. Please do not put



Foster Bar restrooms and SCAT machine, November 2000



feminine hygiene products, handy wipes, or paper towels in your toilet as these items cause SCAT machine breakdowns. The SCAT machine requires one dollar (either four quarters or a one-dollar bill) to run one cleaning cycle.

Gray Water

Gray water is urine and wastewater. Current “leave no trace” practices recommend discarding urine in the river. Wastewater includes soap and dirty water from bathing, dishwashing, and tooth brushing, as well as unwanted liquids from canned foods. Strain wastewater to separate solid food particles and carry food particles out with your trash. Discard strained wastewater directly into flowing water in the river or scatter it on the land. Wastewater scattered on the land should be spread over a broad area away from camp and at least 200 feet from side streams.

Litter

Take out all trash and litter you find, whether or not it is yours. Help keep Rogue River beaches free of cigarette butts, twist ties, small pieces of plastic and foil, fishing line, and all trash.

Protecting Fish



Photographer: Martin Hudson

Chinook salmon jumping Rainie Falls, 1989

The diverse fish within the Rogue River depend upon clean water and substrates (gravel). The Rogue River is home to chinook salmon, coho salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout, and green sturgeon to name a few. The adult

fish use the clean river substrate to deposit their eggs. The eggs then remain in the gravel for several months. After hatching, some species such as coho, steelhead, and green sturgeon, rear within the river from one to three years, while others such as chinook begin the journey to the ocean. These young fish will eventually make their way back to their natal stream to spawn. Ways you can help protect the fish of the Rogue River are:

- Keep streams and the river free of substances that do not occur naturally, including, but not limited to, soap, people food, fishing line, and litter.
- Avoid disturbing gravel beds in the river in the fall and spring. Clean, undisturbed gravel beds may contain salmon redds and are essential to salmon survival.

Cultural Resources

Up until 1855, Takelma Indians lived along the Rogue River in the area near Rainie Falls, upriver from Grants Pass, and beyond. The Takelma, as defined by language dialect, were divided into two, possibly three, distinct groups. The lowland Takelma, who called themselves Dagekma, meaning “those living alongside the river”; upland Takelma or Latgawa, meaning “those living in the uplands”; and the northern Takelma or Ha-ne-sakh, a group little is known about (Gray 2003 and 1987, Sapir 1907). The following are tribes who resided close to the Rogue River corridor and their language group:

- ☞ Rogue River Drainage to Galice Creek – **Takelma** (Penutian speakers)
- ☞ Galice Creek – **Tal-tuc-tun-te-de** (Athapascan speakers)
- ☞ Applegate River – **Da-ku-be-te-de** (Athapascan speakers)
- ☞ Upper Illinois River – **Gu-sla-dada** (Athapascan speakers)
- ☞ Lower Illinois River and the Rogue River between present-day Agness and Foster Bar – **Shasta Costa** or Chasta Costa (Athapascan speakers)
- ☞ Klamath River - **Karok** (Hokan speakers)

The history of human use along the Rogue River can be reconstructed and interpreted by examining the physical remains of previous inhabitants. The banks of the Rogue River have both prehistoric and historic sites, early settlements, Indian war sites, mining sites, Depression Era sites, and early Forest Service sites.

View and enjoy these sites and help preserve them. Removing arrowheads, tin cans, bottles, and other artifacts is illegal and prevents others from discovering historical



Photographer John Craig

Whisky Creek Cabin, May 2003

“footprints.” River users who follow will appreciate and value your protective ethic. These ethics are vital in maintaining the Rogue River as a special place.

River Safety

Floating the Rogue River is thrilling, enjoyable, and generally safe; however, river running and camping have inherent risks. Think before you act, use your common sense, and respect the strengths and hazards of the river. Remember these safety hints:

When in Doubt, Scout. If you are not sure about a rapid, pull over to the shore and walk ahead to look over the situation. Do not invite a blind encounter with the unknown.



Photographer Gary Ingram

Chinook salmon headed upriver and rafter headed downriver at Rainie Falls, Class V whitewater, 1,500 cfs at Grants Pass, September 16, 2002

When in Trouble, Be Active. When you find yourself in a difficult situation or if your craft is out of control, always keep trying to help yourself. Boaters who stay active in times of trouble are usually able to extricate themselves, while boaters who become inactive with fear or indecision succeed only by chance.

Dress For Success; Wear Your Life Jacket. Make sure it is a U.S. Coast Guard-approved Type III or Type V model, best for whitewater boating. Plan for all kinds of weather by packing an accessible day-bag with clothing to keep you comfortable and safe from hypothermia.

Watch Your Step. River sandals offer the best traction on wet rocks from slips, trips, and falls. Wearing a life jacket on land can be the best protection if you fall.

Most Accidents Happen in the Home. On a river trip, your camp is your home. This is where you will encounter sharp knives, hot stoves, toe-stubbing rocks, bees, yellow jackets, ticks, rattlesnakes, and poison oak. Pay attention to where you put your hands and feet.

Think Before You Drink. Neither the river nor any side streams are tested or treated, and they may or may not meet safe drinking water standards. Boil, filter, or chemically treat all drinking, cooking, and dishwashing water.

Fireworks and Firearms. Discharging fireworks and the following are prohibited: Firearms or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury, or damaging property are prohibited as follows:

- (1) In or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site, or occupied area, or
- (2) Across or on a public road or across or on a trail or body of water adjacent thereto, or in any manner or place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result of such discharge.

Pursuant to Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations 8351.2-1 and Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations 261.10(d).

European Rapid Rating System

Whitewater rapids are rated on a scale of one through six, indicating the difficulty of each rapid at medium water level.

CLASS I Very Easy – small, regular waves and riffles; few or no obstacles; little maneuvering required.

CLASS II Easy – small waves with some eddies, low ledges, and slow rock gardens; some maneuvering required.

CLASS III Medium – numerous waves that are high and irregular; strong eddies; narrow, but clear passages that require expertise in maneuvering; scouting from the shore necessary.

CLASS IV Difficult – long rapids with powerful, irregular waves, dangerous rocks, and boiling eddies; precise maneuvering and scouting from the shore imperative; take all possible safety precautions.

CLASS V Very Difficult – long rapids with wild turbulence and extremely congested routes that require complex maneuvering; a danger to your life and boat and near the limits of navigation.

CLASS VI The Limits of Navigation – rarely run; a definite hazard to your life.

These definitions are constant and unchanging; however, personal interpretation can vary. The same rapid may be rated a Class III by one person and a Class IV by someone else. You must determine for

yourself the degree of difficulty of any particular rapid. Remember that fluctuating water levels can change the difficulty ratings for rapids. Higher flows make the water more powerful and cover up more rocks. Lower water makes the rapids more technical with more rocks to miss. On the Rogue River, flows below 1,200 cfs are considered low; flows above 6,000 cfs are considered high. Normal spring and summer flows are usually between 4,000 and 1,200 cfs.



Photographer John Craig

Kayaker in Rainie Falls fish ladder, 1,710 cfs at Grants Pass, July 2003

How to Use This Map

The maps read from the bottom **up** on each page, as if one were in a boat facing downriver. Correspondingly, the map logs **read up** on each page to more closely match the adjacent map feature to which it refers.

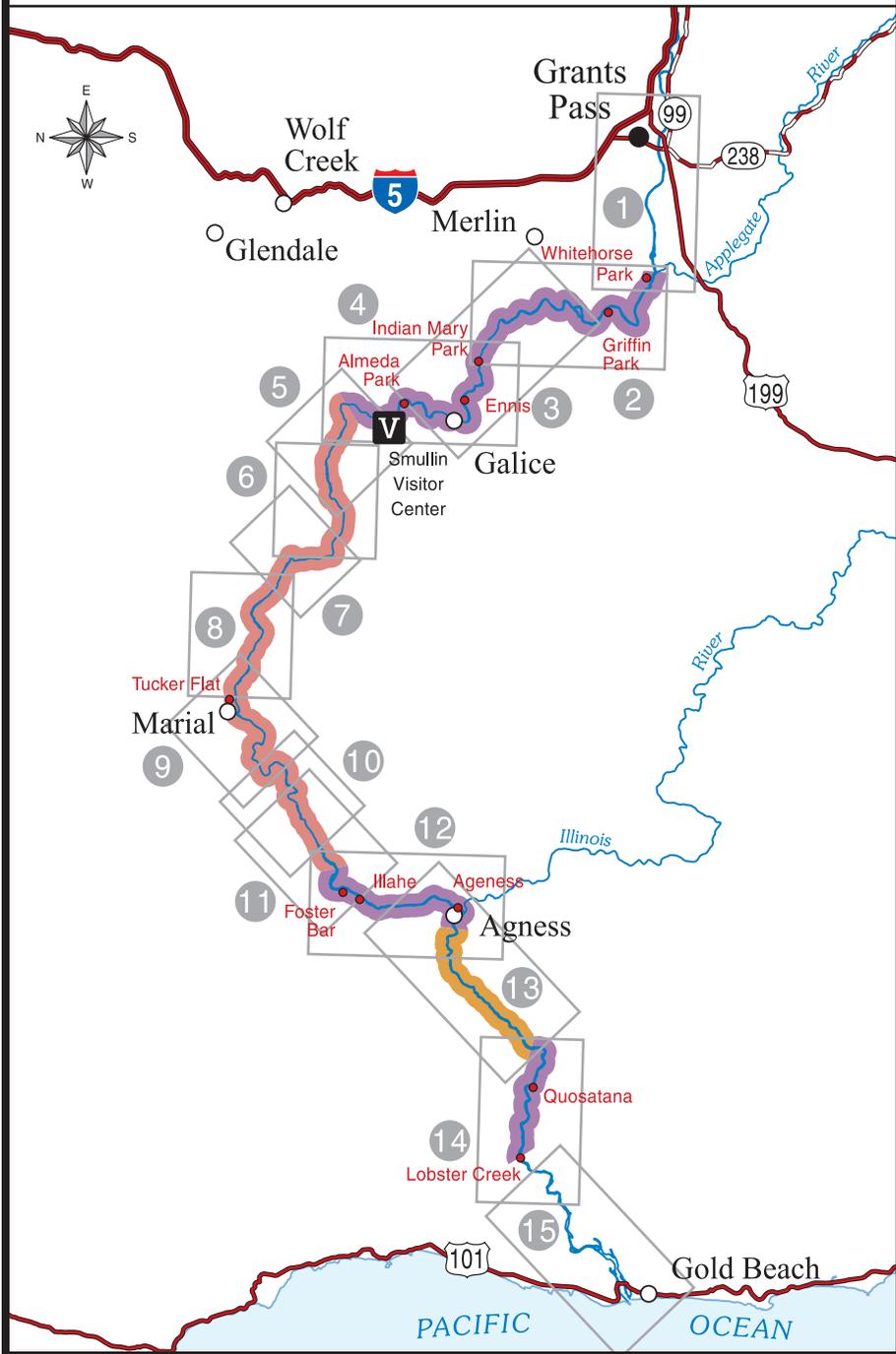
Each map log page is flanked by two sets of river mileages. To the left of the narrative, the “River Miles” column begins at 0.0 where the Applegate River joins the Rogue River and **counts up** as one travels downriver. To the right of the narrative, the “Miles from Grave Creek” column begins at 27.0, where the Applegate River joins the Rogue River, and **counts down** to Grave Creek. At Grave Creek the mileage is reset to 0.0. and begins to **count up** as one passes Grave Creek and enters the Wild section of the Rogue River.

Using Grave Creek as a pivot point for both single-day use (beginning upriver and ending at Grave Creek) and multi-day use (beginning at Grave Creek and ending downriver), allows for easier calculation of the distance traveled and the distance remaining to travel.

PANEL LOCATION MAP

ROGUE RIVER WILD AND SCENIC DESIGNATION

-  Wild Section
-  Scenic Section
-  Recreation Section
-  Campground



LEGEND

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

-  Campground - River Access
-  Campground - Trail Access
-  Picnic Area
-  Visitor Center
-  Trailhead
-  Point of Interest
-  Viewpoint
-  Watchable Wildlife
-  Boat Landing
-  Hiking Trail

ADMINISTRATIVE SITES

-  BLM Office
-  U.S.F.S. Ranger District Office
-  U.S.F.S. Guard Station

ADMINISTERED LAND

-  Bureau of Land Management
-  B.L.M. Wilderness
-  U.S. Forest Service
-  U.S.F.S. Wilderness
-  State
-  Local Government or Private

RECREATION SITE FACILITIES

-  Restrooms
-  Drinking Water
-  Swimming
-  Fishing
-  Bear-Proof Structure

ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES

-  County Boundary

TRANSPORTATION

-  Interstate Highway
-  US Highway
-  State Highway
-  Light-Duty Road, Paved
-  Light-Duty Road, Gravel
-  County Road Designation
-  B.L.M. Road Number
-  U.S.F.S. Arterial Route
-  U.S.F.S. Other Primary Route

OTHER SERVICES

-  Medical Evacuation / Hospital
-  Telephone
-  Gas Station
-  Landing Strip

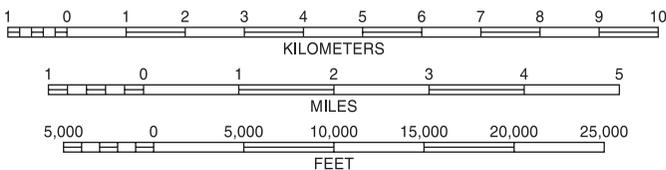
WILD AND SCENIC RIVER CORRIDOR BOUNDARY

-  Wild Section
-  Scenic Section
-  Recreation Section

OTHER FEATURES

-  River Miles
-  Rapids or Riffle - Class 1 unless otherwise indicated
-  Urban Area
-  Location

SCALE 1/2" = 1 MILE



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management and USDA Forest Service as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Read from the bottom up

RIVER MILE

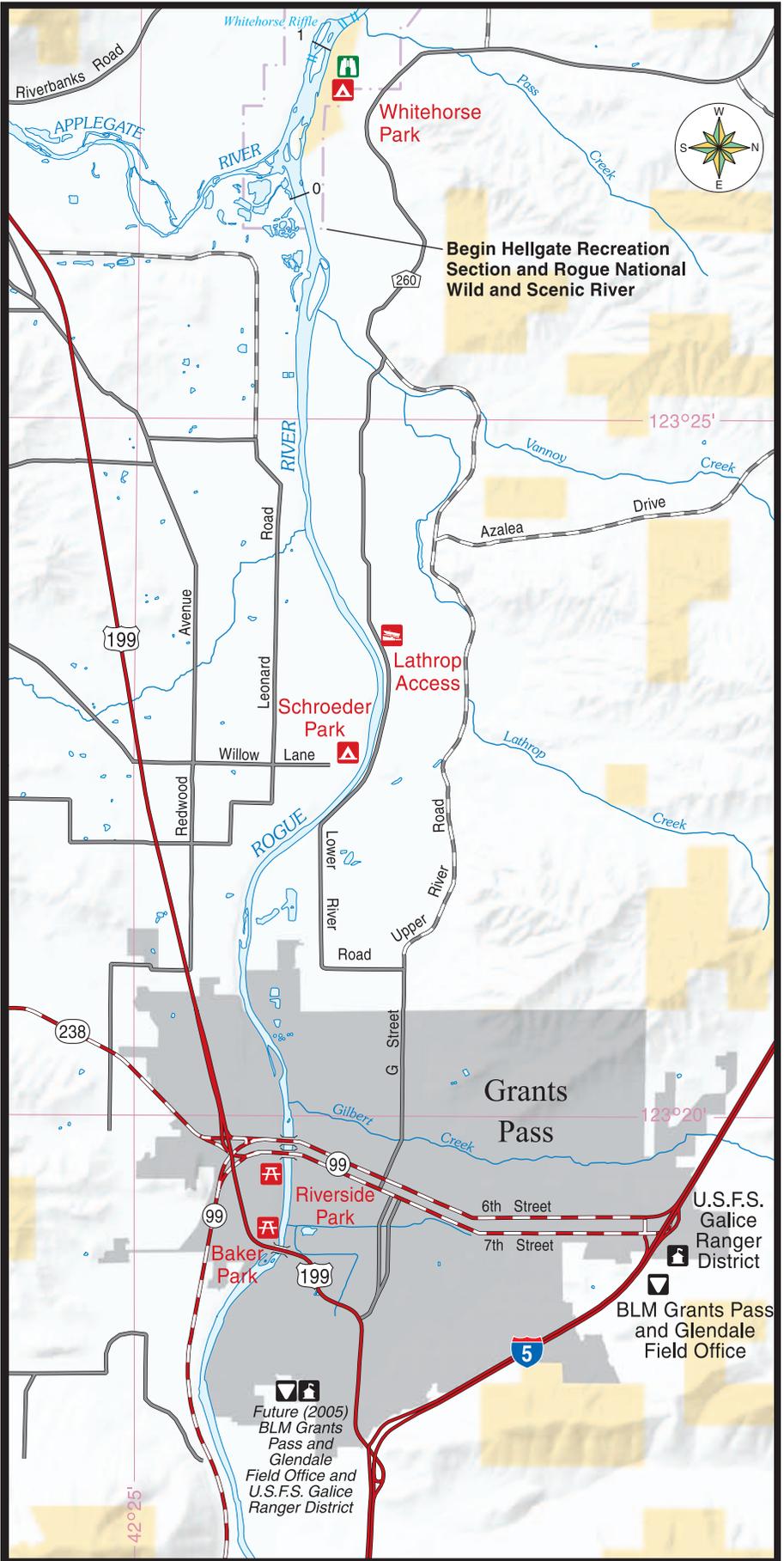
MAP PANEL #1

MILES FROM
GRAVE CREEK

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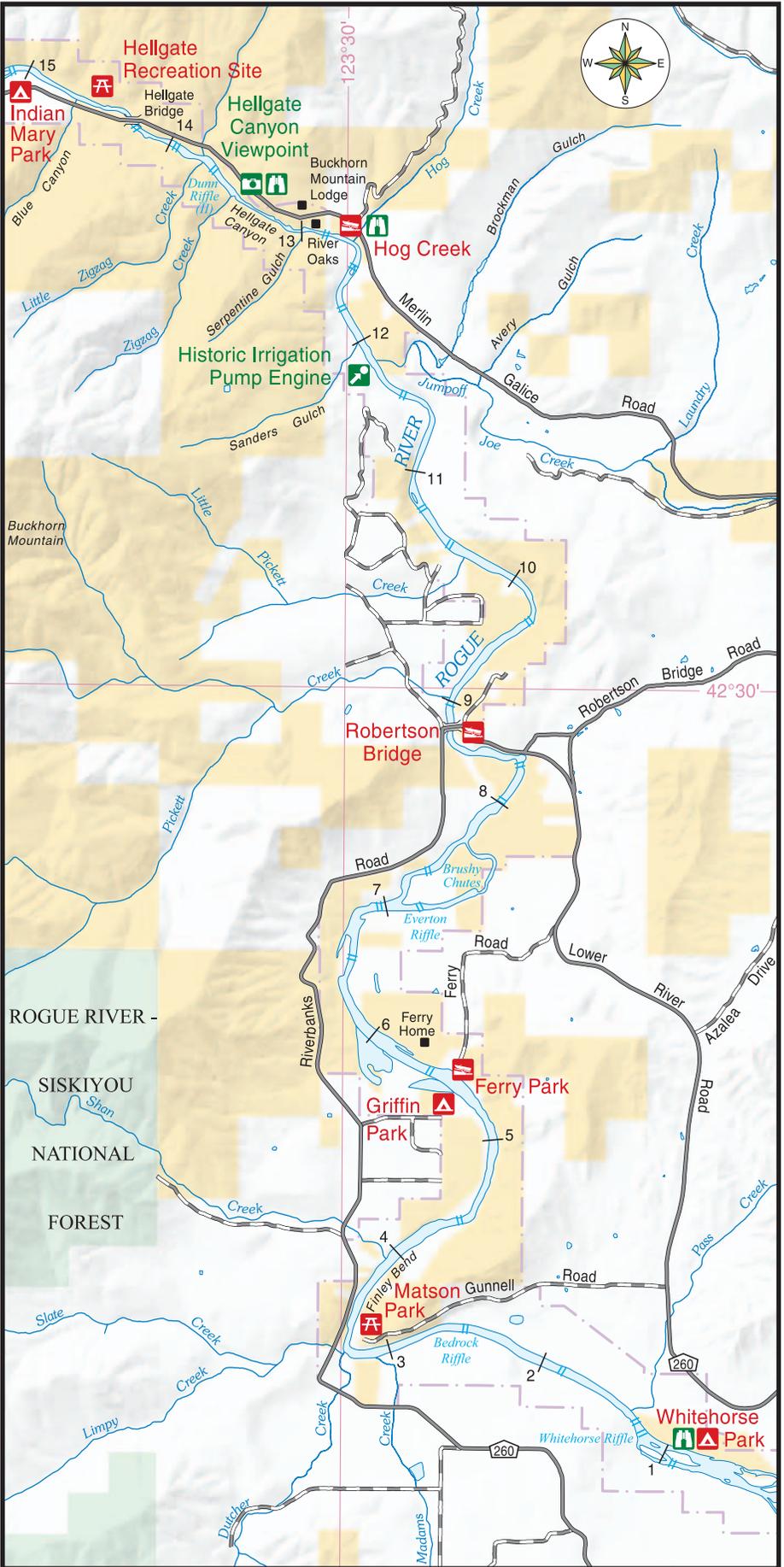
0.7		Whitehorse Park (right bank) - (see Campground section)	26.3
0.0		Applegate River (left bank) – Designation of the Rogue River as a National Wild and Scenic River begins here. The stretch of river downstream to Grave Creek is designated as a Recreational River.	27.0
		Lathrop Access (right bank) – A Josephine County boat ramp.	30.0
		Schroeder Park (left bank) – A Josephine County Park featuring fee camping at 31 campsites, showers, restrooms, picnic areas, a playground, sports fields, a beach, a boat ramp, and a fishing platform.	30.7
		Riverside Park (left bank) – A Grants Pass City Park with restrooms, a playground, picnic areas, sports fields, a boat ramp and fishing access.	33.3
		Baker Park (left bank) – A Grants Pass City Park with restrooms, a boat ramp, and fishing access.	33.8

▲ **START MAP LOG HERE**



RIVER MILE	MAP PANEL #2	MILES FROM GRAVE CREEK
END MAP LOG HERE GO TO PAGE 22		
13.7	Dunn Riffle (Class II)	13.3
13.5	Hellgate Canyon Viewpoint (right bank)	13.5
13.0	Buckhorn Mountain Lodge (right bank) - (see Lodging section)	14.0
13.0	Hellgate Canyon (see Areas of Interest)	14.0
12.9	River Oaks (right bank) – (see Lodging section)	14.1
12.7	Hog Creek Boat Ramp (right bank) - A BLM-Josephine County day-use site and a popular put-in for floating the Hellgate Recreation section of the river. A toilet, boat ramp, and fishing access are available.	14.3
11.8	Jumpoff Joe Creek (right bank)	15.2
11.8	Historic Irrigation Pump Engine (left bank) - An early 1900s one-cylinder gasoline engine that pumped water from the river.	15.2
8.8	Robertson Bridge/Boat Ramp (right bank) - This is a day-use area with a boat ramp, fishing access, and toilets.	18.2
7.5	Brushy Chutes (Class I) – The main channel is on the left side of the island.	20.0
5.7	Ferry Home (right bank) – (see Lodging section)	21.3
5.4	Ferry Park (right bank) – Toilets, a boat ramp, and fishing access are available at this Josephine County Park.	21.6
5.2	Griffin Park (left bank) – (see Camp-ground section)	21.8
3.3	Matson Park (right bank) – This Josephine County Park at Finley Bend is a day-use site with a picnic area and river access.	23.7

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RIVER MILE

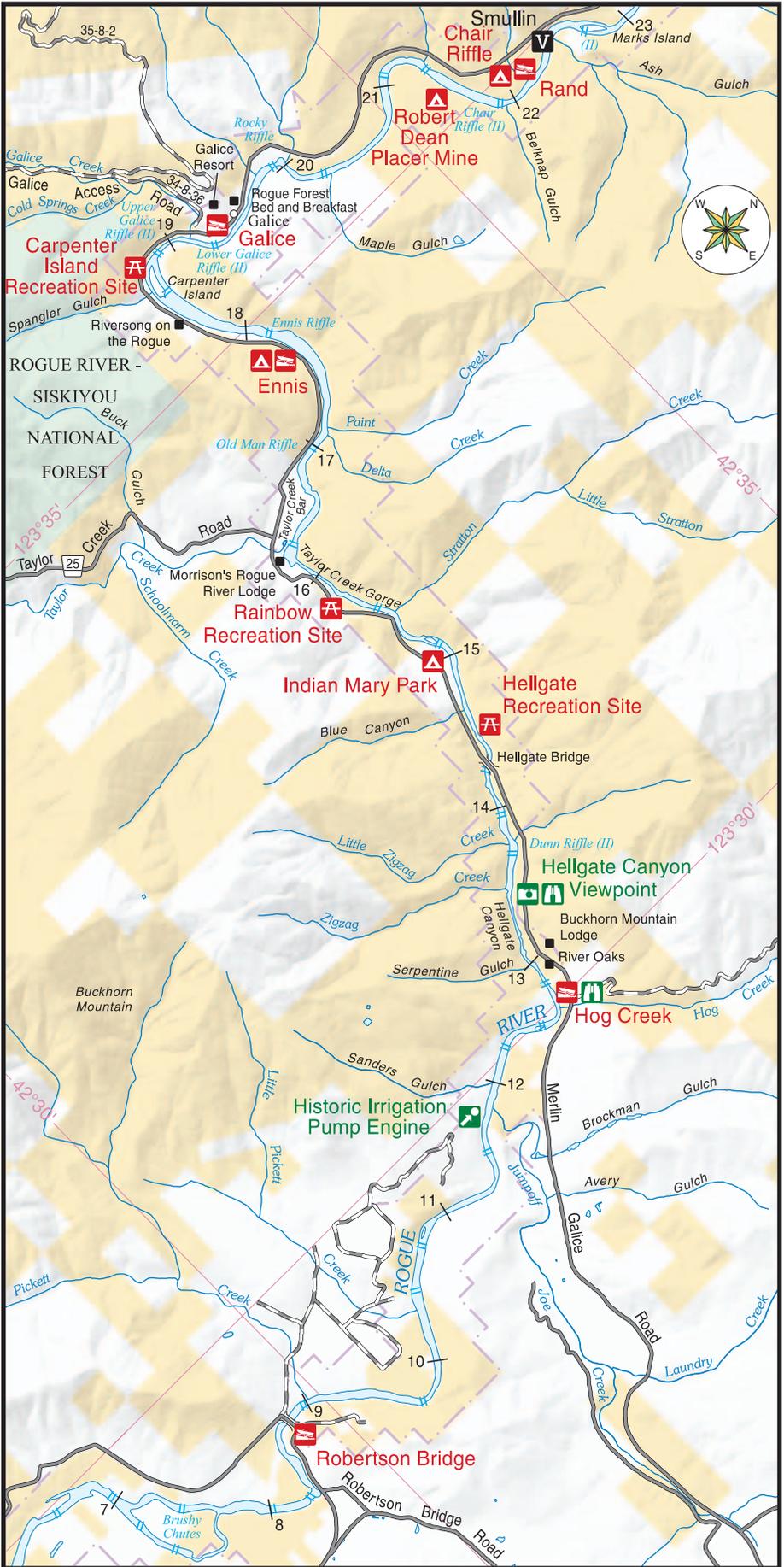
MAP PANEL #3

MILES FROM
GRAVE CREEK

END MAP LOG HERE GO TO PAGE 24

- 19.1  **Galice Creek** (left bank) - (see Areas of Interest) 7.9
- 18.9 **Upper Galice Riffle** (Class II) - Watch out for the rocks on the left; inflatable kayaks flip easily in the hole at the bottom of this riffle. 8.1
- 18.8   **Carpenter Island Recreation Site** (left bank) - A BLM day-use area featuring a picnic table and river access. 8.2
- 18.6 **Riffle** (Class I) - 8.4
Shallow water and ledges dominate this calm stretch of water. Float boaters usually go on the right side of the island. Motorized boaters usually go on the left side of the island.
- 18.5 **Riversong on the Rogue** (left bank) - (see Lodging section) 8.5
- 17.7     **Ennis Riffle Boat Ramp and Campsite** (left bank) – A Josephine County boat ramp and large sandy, riverside campsite area. (See Camping section) 9.3
- 16.2 **Morrison's Rogue River Lodge** (left bank) - (see Lodging section) 10.8
- 15.9 **Taylor Creek Gorge** – Flat water flowing through a scenic canyon. 11.1
- 15.8   **Rainbow Recreation Site** (left bank) – A BLM day-use area featuring a toilet, picnic tables, a small beach, and river access. 11.2
- 15.0         **Indian Mary County Park** (left bank) - (see Areas of Interest and Campground sections) 12.0
- 14.5     **Hellgate Recreation Site** (right bank) - A BLM day-use area featuring a restroom, a picnic area, swimming, fishing access, and a beach. 12.5
- 14.2 **Hellgate Bridge** – After the 1964 flood, the present bridge was built 70 feet above the normal summer flow. The original bridge, which was located down-river from the present bridge, was built in 1913 and destroyed by the 1927 flood. 12.8

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RIVER MILE

MAP PANEL #4

MILES FROM
GRAVE CREEK

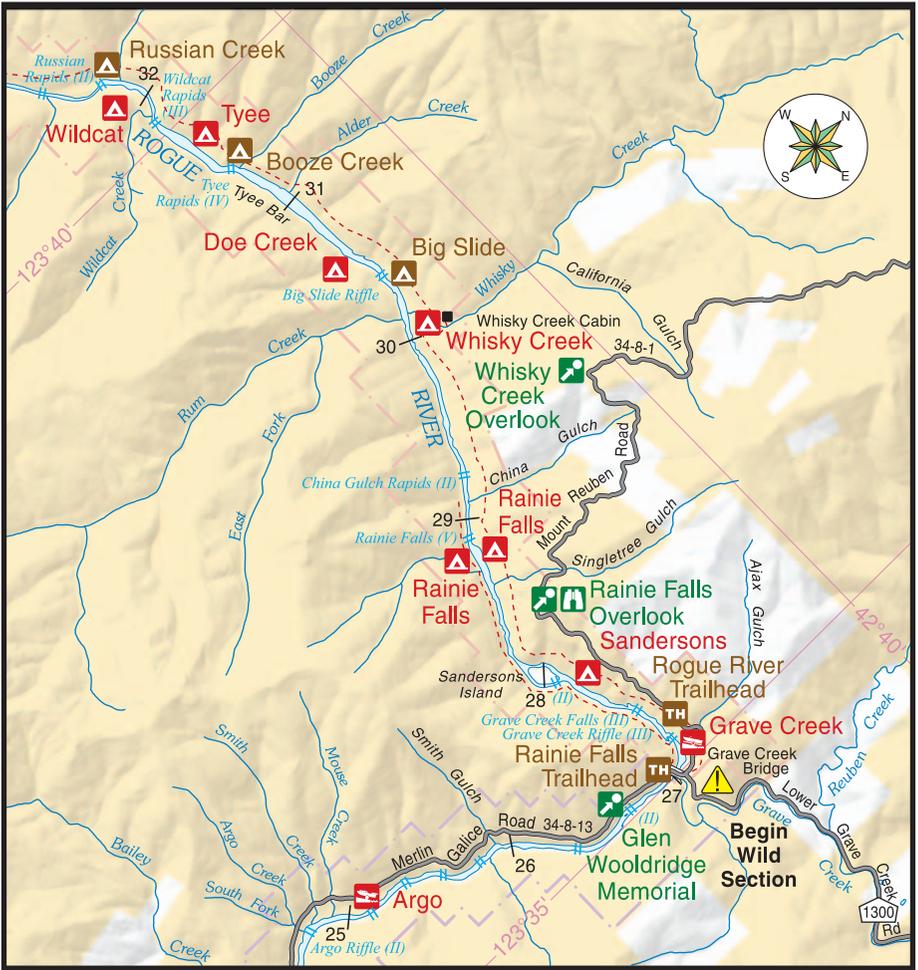
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26.7		Glen Wooldridge Memorial (left bank) - There is a memorial plaque along the road. (see Areas of Interest)	0.3
26.7		Riffle (Class II)	0.3
25.2	    	Argo Boat Landing (left bank) – A BLM site with a toilet, gravel boat ramp, and several primitive campsites.	1.8
24.8		Argo Riffle (Class II)	2.2
23.5		Almeda Mine (right bank) – (see Areas of Interest)	3.5
23.4		Almeda Riffle (Class II) – Also referred to as Mine Riffle and The Mine Hole; this fun riffle, which culminates in a ledge drop, offers excellent kayaking practice at lower flows.	3.6
23.2	     	Almeda County Park (left bank) – (see Campground section)	3.8
22.7		Riffle (Class II)	4.3
22.4	    	Smullin Visitor Center at Rand/Beach (left bank) - (see Areas of Interest)	4.6
22.2	    	Rand Boat Landing (left bank) – A BLM gravel boat landing located in the eddy below Chair Riffle is large and generally uncongested. This large campsite area has a toilet, swimming area, and fishing access.	4.8
22.0	 	Chair Riffle (Class II) – Zane Grey fished here on the left bank from a rock that is shaped like a chair.	5.0
21.5	  	Robert Dean Placer Mine (right bank) – A BLM river campsite with a toilet, several campsites, and old mining trails.	5.5
19.9		Rocky Riffle (Class I)	7.1
19.6		Rogue Forest Bed and Breakfast (left bank) - (see Lodging section)	7.4
19.4	     	Town of Galice/Boat Ramp/Galice Resort (left bank) - (see Areas of Interest and Lodging section)	7.6
19.3		Lower Galice Riffle (Class II)	7.7

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END MAP LOG HERE GO TO PAGE 29

- | | | | |
|------|---|---|-----|
| 30.3 |   | Big Slide Riffle (Class I) – In the late 1800s, a huge landslide occurred here, blocking the entire river and backing it up as far as Hellgate Canyon. A large hikers’ campsite with a toilet is located above the river on the right bank. | 3.3 |
| 30.1 |    | Whisky Creek Campsites/Creek/Cabin (right bank) – There are two campsites, one on each side of the creek, that are suitable for large parties. A toilet is located on the east side of the creek near the trail. (see Areas of Interest) | 3.1 |
| 30.1 | | Rum Creek (left bank) – The creeks in this area were named by the early prospectors who were more interested in alcohol than water. | 3.1 |
| 29.2 | | China Gulch Rapids (Class II) – China Gulch, named after Chinese miners of the 1800s, enters the river from the right. | 2.2 |
| 28.8 |    | Rainie Falls (Class V – SCOUT!) (see Areas of Interest) | 1.8 |
| 28.7 |   | Rainie Falls Campsites (right and left banks) - The campsite on the right bank is above the fish ladder and just below trail and is suitable for hikers and boaters. Left bank camping is less defined with sand areas by the water above the main falls. Both banks have toilets. | 1.7 |
| 27.9 | | Riffle (Class II) – The main flow is to the left of the island. Just below Sandersons Island, concrete piers are the only visible remnant of the mule and foot bridge that was destroyed by the flood of 1927. | 0.9 |
| 27.7 |  | Sandersons Campsite (right bank) - A small sandy beach just above Sandersons Island. The concrete foundation from the Sandersons brothers’ cabin, built in 1939, is still visible above this beach. | 0.7 |
| 27.4 | | Grave Creek Falls (Class III) – A 3- to 5-foot vertical drop over a ledge approximately 200 feet downriver from Grave Creek Riffle. The left half of the river is free of rocks. | 0.4 |
| 27.2 | | Grave Creek Riffle (Class III) – Beginning 200 feet below the boat ramp, the main channel flows to the left of the island toward the left bank of the river. A mid-channel, partially submerged boulder, lurks at the bottom. | 0.2 |



Read from the bottom up

RIVER MILE

MAP PANEL #5

MILES FROM GRAVE CREEK

27.1



Grave Creek Boat Ramp (right bank) - This is the primary put-in for Wild Rogue River boaters and a popular take-out for Recreation section boaters.

0.1

27.0



Rainie Falls Trailhead (left bank) – The trailhead is on the south side of the bridge for this 4-mile round-trip hike to the falls. Best view of the falls and is in the shade in the summer.

0.0

27.0



Grave Creek/Grave Creek Bridge (Right bank) - Beginning of Wild section. Next take-out is 34 miles down river. Permits are required from May 15 through October 15.

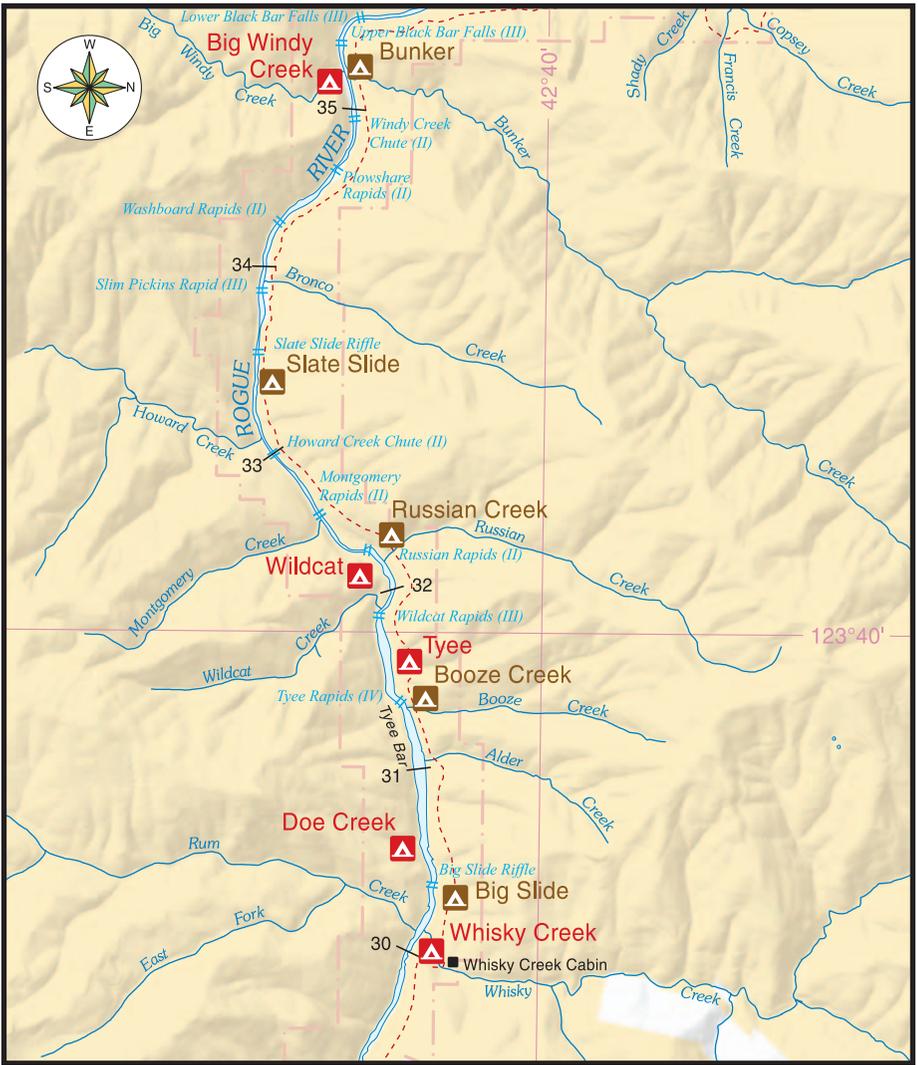
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34.9	Windy Creek Chute (Class II)	7.9
34.6	Plowshare Rapids (Class II) – The long, horizontal, sharp rocks on the right prompted these rapids’ name.	7.6
34.2	Washboard Rapids (Class II) – The standing waves here that split the river are easily imagined as the ripples on an old-time washboard.	7.2
33.8	Slim Pickins Rapid (Class III) – Named for its narrow chutes, this rapid was blasted to provide easier passage. It is easily identified by the remains of a dredge that washed downriver in 1955 and presently guards the left bank.	6.8
33.1	Howard Creek (left bank) – A spectacular swimming pool sits just above the mouth of the creek.	6.1
33.0	Howard Creek Chute (Class II) – This rapid is a series of three ledge-drops that have chute-like characteristics.	6.0
32.5	Montgomery Creek (left bank) – Depression-era gold mining was extensive here, with reports of more than 25 buildings located in this stretch of river. The 1955 flood destroyed the buildings.	5.5
32.5	Montgomery Rapids (Class II) – Set close together, these two rapids are the results of a ledge across the river and submerged boulders just below.	5.5
32.2	Russian Rapids (Class II)	5.2
32.1	Wildcat Campsite (left bank) – This campsite can accommodate two large parties.	5.1
31.8	Wildcat Rapids (Class III – SCOUT!) – An island splits the river here, with the main channel going right. A straight line of standing waves leads into shallow ledges as the river turns sharply right at the bottom of the rapids.	4.8





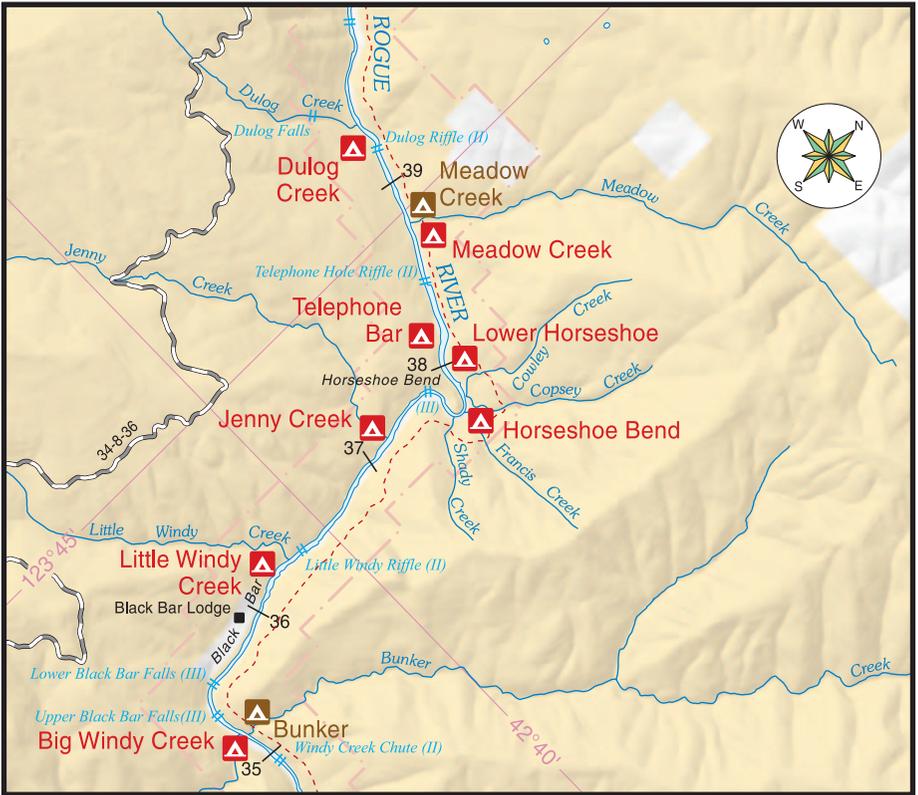
Read from the bottom up

RIVER MILE	MAP PANEL #6	MILES FROM GRAVE CREEK
31.5		4.5
	Tyee Campsite (right bank) – This large campsite is located in the eddy below Tyee Rapids. The toilet is located towards the trail, downriver from the campsite by a little draw.	
31.3		4.3
	Tyee Rapids (Class IV - SCOUT!) – A long stretch of shallow ledges lead into these rapids. Water races to the right bank as the river turns slightly left between the right bank and a large midstream boulder.	
31.0		4.0
	Tyee Bar (left bank) – (see Areas of Interest)	
30.5		3.5
	Doe Creek Campsite (left bank) – A large sandy beach with a toilet located uphill at the upriver end of the beach. Doe Creek is located at the downriver end of the beach.	

START MAP LOG HERE

END MAP LOG HERE GO TO PAGE 33

39.9	Riffle (Class I) – This riffle marks the entrance to Kelsey Canyon, a scenic one-mile canyon with low rock walls.	14.9
39.3 	Dulog Creek/Campsite (left bank) – A large campsite with areas of shade to escape the heat of the day. Take a one-quarter mile hike up the creek to Dulog Falls.	14.3
39.1	Dulog Riffle (Class II) – Large boulders split the river at this riffle just above Dulog Creek.	12.1
38.8  	Meadow Creek/Campsites (right bank) - A small beach just upriver from the creek makes a suitable boaters' campsite. A large meadow with a toilet and several hikers' campsites are available downriver from the creek.	11.8
38.4	Telephone Hole Riffle (Class II) – Also known as “Mary’s Hole,” “Dugan’s Hole,” and “Surprise,” this riffle was named for a U.S. Forest Service telephone line that crossed the river here.	11.4
38.1 	Telephone Bar Campsite (left bank) – This campsite on the gravel bar will accommodate a large group.	11.1
38.0  	Lower Horseshoe Campsite (right bank) - This site will accommodate a large group. The toilet is at the downriver end of the bar.	11.0
37.7  	Horseshoe Bend Campsite (right bank) – One of the largest and most picturesque of Rogue River campsites, Horseshoe Bend offers a panorama of the long, severe curve of the river. The toilet is on the top level, with access to the Rogue River Trail nearby.	10.7
37.5	Horseshoe Bend (Class III) – The harder rock across the river has forced the river to carve its channel into the adjacent softer rock, creating the tight horseshoe-shaped curve. Horseshoe Bend consists of three segments; the last requiring the most maneuvering.	10.5
37.1  	Jenny Creek Campsites (left bank) – Campsites are located both above and below the creek. The toilet is at the tree line, 200 feet below the creek.	10.1
36.3	Little Windy Riffle (Class II)	9.3



Read from the bottom up

RIVER MILE	MAP PANEL #7	MILES FROM GRAVE CREEK
36.3 ▲ 🏕️	Little Windy Creek/Campsite (left bank) – The campsite has sleeping areas above the beach. The toilet is located before the creek, downriver from camp.	9.3
35.8	Black Bar Lodge (left bank) - (see Lodging section)	8.8
35.5	Lower Black Bar Falls (Class III) – A rapid with large standing waves approximately 100 yards downriver from Upper Black Bar Falls.	8.5
35.3	Upper Black Bar Falls (Class III-SCOUT!) - A river ledge and scattered boulders make this rapid significant. It is an easy scout on the right bank.	8.3
35.1 ▲ 🏕️	Big Windy Creek/Campsite (left bank) – This large campsite requires some effort for camping; gear must be carried uphill over rocks. Big Windy Creek and the toilet are located downriver from the camp. A swimming pool near the river makes this spot an attractive lunch stop.	8.1

▲ **START MAP LOG HERE**

END MAP LOG HERE GO TO PAGE 35

45.5	Johns Riffle (Class II) – This riffle is named after Chief John, one of the Indian leaders of the various tribes of the Rogue Valley during the wars of 1855-56.	20.5
45.2	Island Rapids (Class II) – The Quail Creek burn is seen on both sides of the river from this area. Large boulders in the river create the rapids here. The river is split by an island just downriver from the rapids.	20.2
44.9	Big Boulder Rapids (Class II) – Large boulders in the river are the result of numerous landslides.	19.9
44.7	Long Gulch Riffle (Class II)	19.7
44.3	  Long Gulch Campsite (left bank) – This is a very small campsite. The toilet is up a switchback at the downriver end of the gravel bar. Glen Wooldridge, a pioneer river runner, built a cabin at this site. The footings of the cabin are evident near the toilet.	19.3
43.8	 Quail Creek/Campsite (right bank) – A small sandy beach upriver from the creek can accommodate a small group. Site of a 1970 fire that burned 2,700 acres.	18.8
43.5	  Missouri Bar Campsite (left bank) – This large campsite has a toilet and a shelter located on the upper level. From the 1950s to 1987, Gerald Frye, caretaker at Winkle Bar, lived at this site.	18.5
42.4	 Zane Grey's Cabin/Winkle Bar (right bank) – (see Areas of Interest)	17.4
42.3	  Hewitt Creek/Campsite (left bank) – A small campsite with a toilet on the hill downriver from the creek.	17.3
41.5	Battle Bar Riffle (Class II)	16.5
41.4	   Battle Bar Campsite (left bank) - A large campsite with a toilet located near the bench, straight back from the riverside beach landing. (see Areas of Interest)	16.4
40.6	 Lower Kelsey Campsite (left bank) – A large campsite with separate campsites divided by a low hogback ridge.	15.6



Read from the bottom up

RIVER MILE

MAP PANEL #8

MILES FROM GRAVE CREEK

40.4



Kelsey Creek/Campsite (right bank) – There is a small boaters’ campsite with a short but tough haul of gear over rocks just past the creek. There is a large hikers’ campsite situated on the upriver side of the creek near the bridge. The creek hosts two excellent swimming pools. The creek was named for Colonel John Kelsey, one of the leaders of Volunteer Militia and Army forces against the Indians at Battle Bar. Kelsey Creek is the dividing line between Josephine and Curry Counties.

15.4

40.2

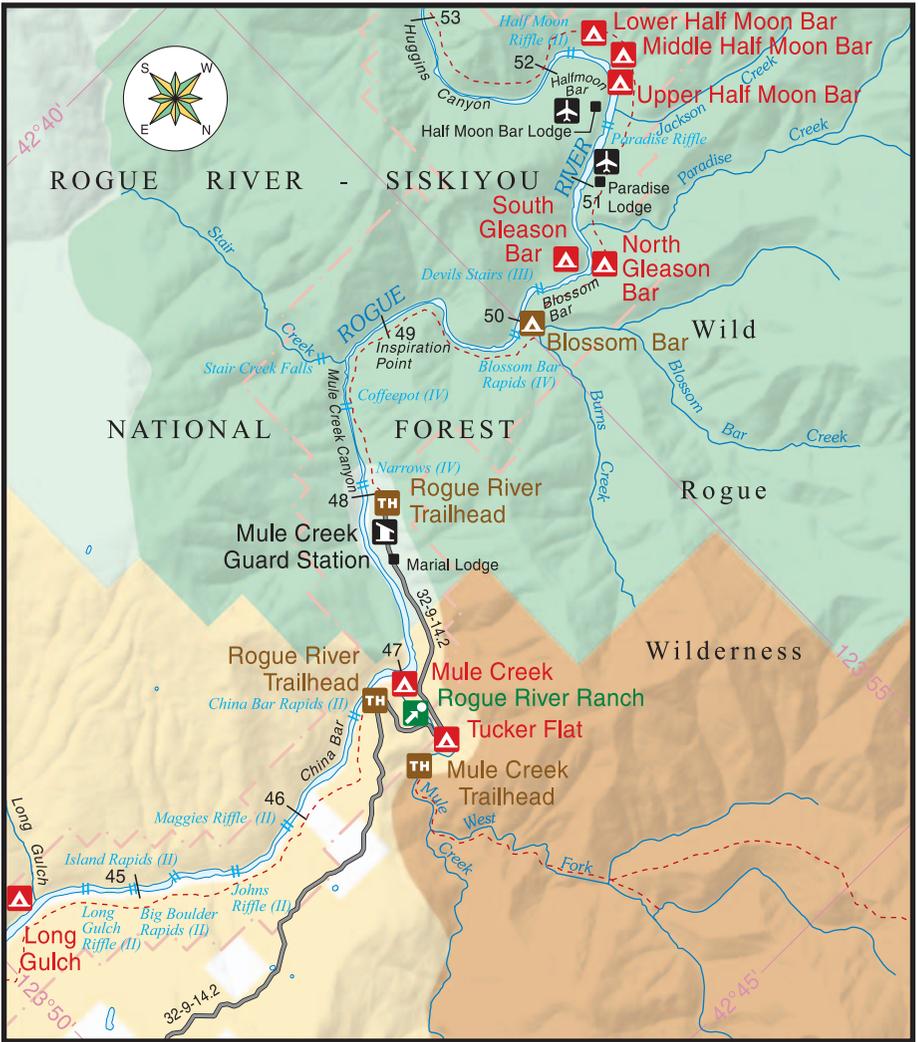
Kelsey Falls (Class II) – This is one of the many rapids dynamited by Glen Wooldridge to create a passage. A large boulder splits the river here.

15.2

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END MAP LOG HERE GO TO PAGE 37

51.3	Half Moon Bar Lodge (left bank) (See Lodging section)	26.3
51.0	Paradise Lodge (right bank) (See Lodging section)	26.0
50.6	Paradise Creek (right bank) – A natural stone swimming pool is located at the creek below the trail.	25.6
50.5	  North Gleason Bar Campsite (right bank) - This gravel bar has camping and sleeping levels at the top and a toilet uphill.	25.5
50.4	  South Gleason Bar Campsite (left bank) - This large bar has several levels and can host many parties. The toilet is uphill.	25.4
50.2	Devils Stairs (Class III) – A strong current and waves rush from river center to the right wall.	25.2
49.8	    Blossom Bar Rapids (Class IV-SCOUT!) - (see Areas of Interest) A toilet is located by the trail and Burns Creek. A large trail campsite on the flat above Blossom Bar has a food hoist and a bear box.	24.8
48.7	Stair Creek (left bank) – A beautiful waterfall.	23.7
47.9	 Mule Creek Canyon (Class IV – SCOUT!) - (see Areas of Interest)	22.9
47.7	Three Unnamed Riffles (Class II) – After leaving Mule Creek and the Rogue River Ranch, the river passes through three riffles before reaching the entrance to Mule Creek Canyon.	22.7
47.7	Marial Lodge (right bank) (See Lodging section)	22.7



Read from the bottom up

RIVER MILE **MAP PANEL #9** **MILES FROM GRAVE CREEK**

- 46.9



Rogue River Ranch/Tucker Flat Campground/Mule Creek/Mule Creek Campsites (right bank) - Mule Creek features two large campsites, one on each side of the creek. Toilets are available up-hill at both campsites. These are the last campsites before Mule Creek Canyon and Blossom Bar Rapids and can easily accommodate more than two large groups, so be prepared to share your camp. (see Areas of Interest and Campground sections)

21.9
- 46.7

China Bar Rapids (Class II) – A sharp, nasty rock (the “Can Opener”) guards the top of the rapid in midstream.

21.7
- 46.2

China Bar (right bank) – Home to a community of Chinese miners from the 1860s to 1880s.

21.2
- 45.8

Maggies Riffle (Class II) – Glen Wooldridge named this riffle after Maggie Stoddard, who caught her first steelhead here.

20.8

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Read from the bottom up

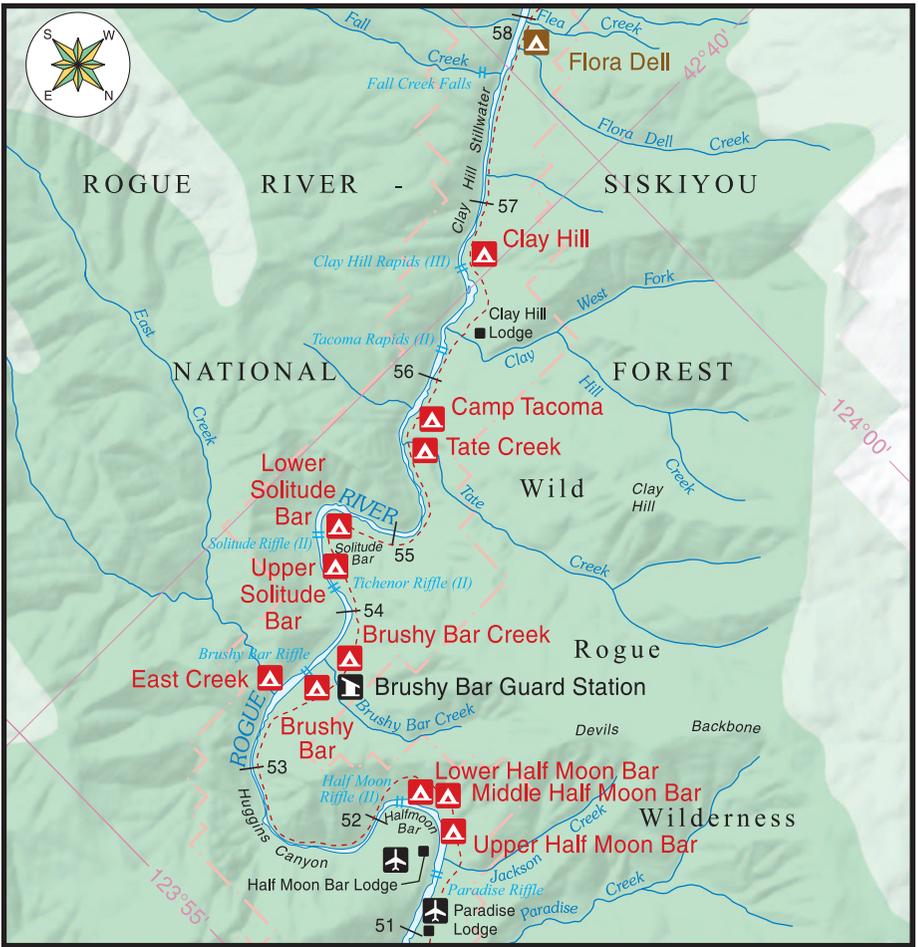
RIVER MILE

MAP PANEL #10

MILES FROM
GRAVE CREEK

END MAP LOG HERE GO TO PAGE 39

56.3	Clay Hill Lodge (right bank) – (See Lodging section)	30.3
56.1	Tacoma Rapids (Class II) – Some maneuvering required.	30.1
55.7	 Camp Tacoma (right bank) - Hosts one large campsite and two small campsites. All three share two toilets located just below the trail and upriver from the large campsite. A bear box and food hoist are sit- uated near the trail, downriver from the toilets. The large campsite and one small campsite have bear fences.	29.7
55.5	 Tate Creek/Campsites (right bank) –	29.5
	Two campsites are located near the creek, one above the creek, and one around the corner below the creek. The toilet for both is located downriver from the creek, above the trail. There are two bear fences and a food hoist.	
54.7	 Lower Solitude Bar Campsite (right bank) -	28.7
	This large campsite is at the bottom of Solitude Riffle. There is a bear fence up on the flat and a toilet uphill above the trail.	
54.5	Solitude Riffle (Class II) – Enjoyable “rol- lers” extend downstream to “Decision Rock.”	28.5
54.3	 Upper Solitude Bar Campsite (right bank) -	28.3
	This large campsite has a bear fence and a toilet at tree line downriver from the site.	
54.2	Tichenor Riffle (right bank) (Class II) –	28.2
	This stretch of rolling waves marks the beginning of Solitude Bar.	
53.7	 Brushy Bar Creek/Campsite (right bank) -	27.7
	One level up from the river, this campsite beside the creek has a bear box, a food hoist, and toilets located near the trail.	
53.5	 Brushy Bar/Campsite (right bank) – A large, mid-bar river campsite with a bear fence, food hoist, and a U.S. Forest Service guard station. Toilets are located near the trail. (see Areas of Interest)	27.5
53.3	 East Creek/Campsite/Cabin (left bank) –	27.3
	Rock steps on the downriver side of the creek lead up to a fireplace chimney, rem- nants of a cabin owned by several WWII generals. There is a large campsite on a gravel bar downriver from the creek.	
52.2	Huggins Canyon – A lazy, scenic, mile-long drift, this river section has rock walls deco- rated with California fuchsia and is a loca- tion where you may see green sturgeon jumping.	27.2



Read from the bottom up

RIVER MILE	MAP PANEL #10	MILES FROM GRAVE CREEK
51.8	Half Moon Riffle/Two Unnamed Riffles (Class II) - A series of three riffles leads you approximately one-half mile into Huggins Canyon.	26.8
51.7	 Lower Half Moon Bar Campsite (right bank) - A large campsite with a bear fence and a toilet just below the Rogue River Trail.	26.7
51.6	 Middle Half Moon Bar Campsite (right bank) - A smaller campsite with a bear fence and a toilet that is shared with Lower Half Moon Bar Campsite.	26.6
51.5	 Upper Half Moon Bar Campsite (right bank) - A large campsite with a bear fence and a toilet at the upriver end.	26.5

 **START MAP LOG HERE**

END MAP LOG HERE GO TO PAGE 40

62.3	The remaining 33 miles to the Pacific Ocean is relatively slow moving Class I whitewater, with approximately 48 more riffles.	36.3
62.3	Illahe Riffle (Class II) – Part II.	36.3
62.2	Illahe Campground (right bank) – (see Areas of Interest and Campground sections)	36.2
		
62.1	Illahe Riffle (Class II) – Part I	36.1
61.5	Foster Bar Boat Ramp/Foster Creek (right bank) - The primary take-out point for Wild Rogue River boaters. (see Areas of Interest and Campground sections)	35.5
		
60.6	Illahe Lodge (right bank) - (see Lodging section)	34.6
60.6	Billings Creek (right bank) – (see Areas of Interest)	34.6
		
60.5	Brewery Hole (Class I) – The river is very shallow here, with an island in right mid-stream. The far right channel is FOR JET-BOAT USE ONLY! The main river channel passes TO THE LEFT of a small boulder located in the center of the river and should be used by float craft.	34.5
60.2	Big Bend – The river begins a long, slow turn. (see Areas of Interest)	34.2
		
60.0	Watson Riffle (Class II)	34.0
59.8	Watson Creek (left bank) – This creek marks the end of the “Wild” section of the Rogue River and begins a 8.9-mile “Recreation” section downstream to Blue Jay Creek. Up river from Watson Creek, on the left bank, the trees are frequently used as perches by bald eagles.	33.8
59.3	Burnt Rapids (Class II)	33.3
58.5	Payton Riffle (Class II)	32.5
57.8	Flora Dell Creek/Falls (right bank) – Flora Dell Creek features a delicate waterfall nestled in a fern glen by the trail bridge with perhaps the most scenic of the swimming pools. A toilet and hikers’ campsite are on the trail downriver of the creek.	31.8
		



Read from the bottom up

RIVER MILE	MAP PANEL #11	MILES FROM GRAVE CREEK
57.6	Fall Creek Falls (left bank) – A short hike up Fall Creek exposes a small, beautiful waterfall.	31.6
56.7	Clay Hill Stillwater – Approximately two miles of calm water moves slowly through a dramatic corridor change marked by live oak, brush, and conglomerate rock.	30.7
56.6	Clay Hill Rapids/Campsite (Class III) – Below the calm water near the lodge, the river turns sharply left over a ledge, forming these rapids. After the short drop, the rapids stretch into a long set of small “rollers,” and end with a midstream boulder as the river turns right. There is a large sandy beach campsite on the right just below the rapids.	30.6

▲ START MAP LOG HERE

END MAP LOG HERE GO TO PAGE 43

69.7 **Blue Jay Creek** (right bank) – Beginning of a 7½-mile stretch of “Scenic” river featuring the Copper Canyon area. The Gold Beach/Agness Road climbs out of view of the river. This stretch of river is slow and winding, with small riffles and excellent camping beaches. 42.7

68.1 **Town of Agness and Agness Boat Landing** (right bank) (see Areas of Interest and Lodging sections) 41.1



67.9 **Confluence of the Illinois River** (left bank) **and the Rogue River.** 40.9

67.7 **Lucas Pioneer Lodge** (right bank) - (see Lodging section) 40.7

67.2 **Singing Springs Resort** (right bank) - (see Lodging section) 40.2

67.1 **Agness RV Park** (left bank) - (see Campground section) 40.1

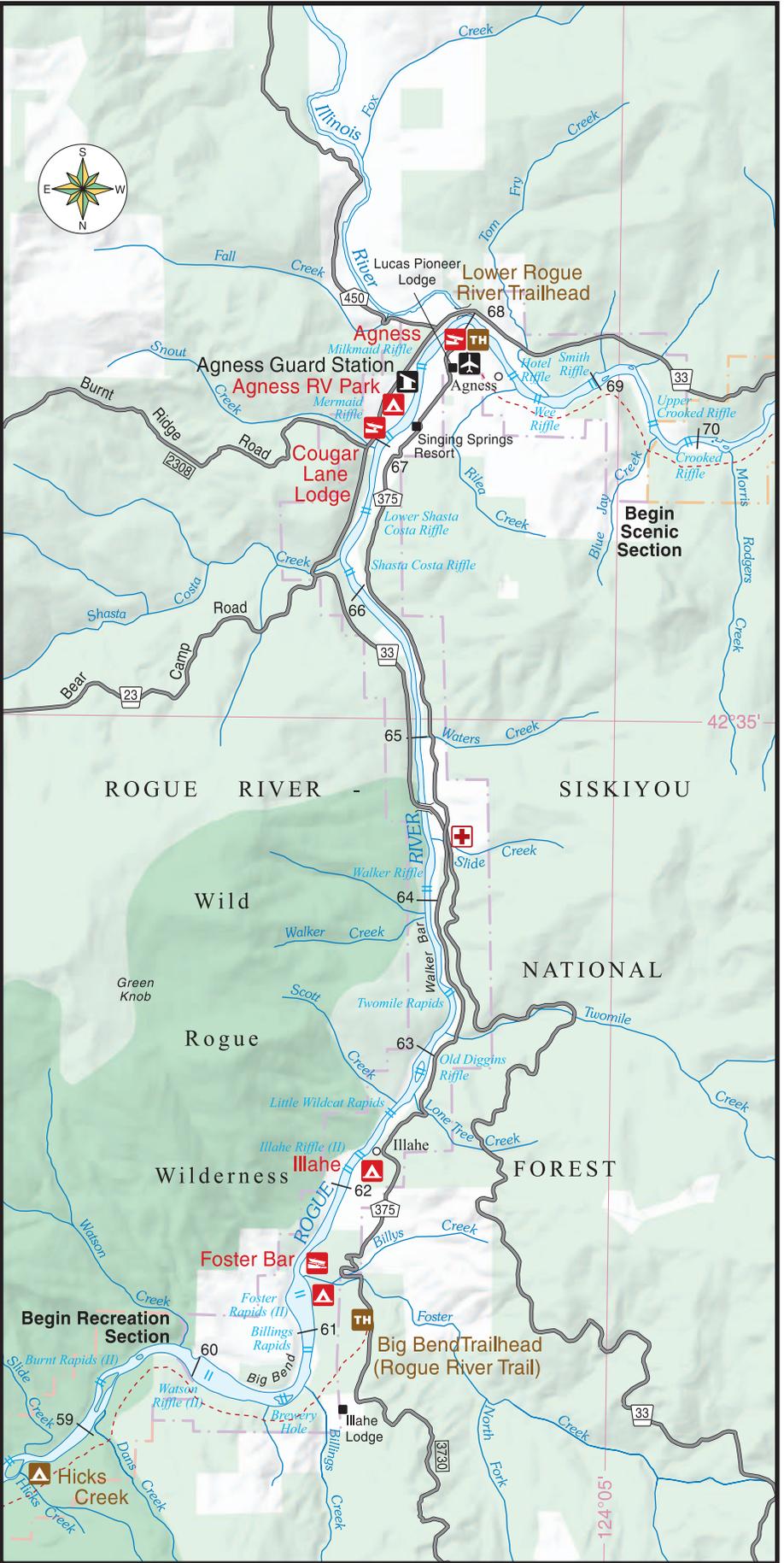


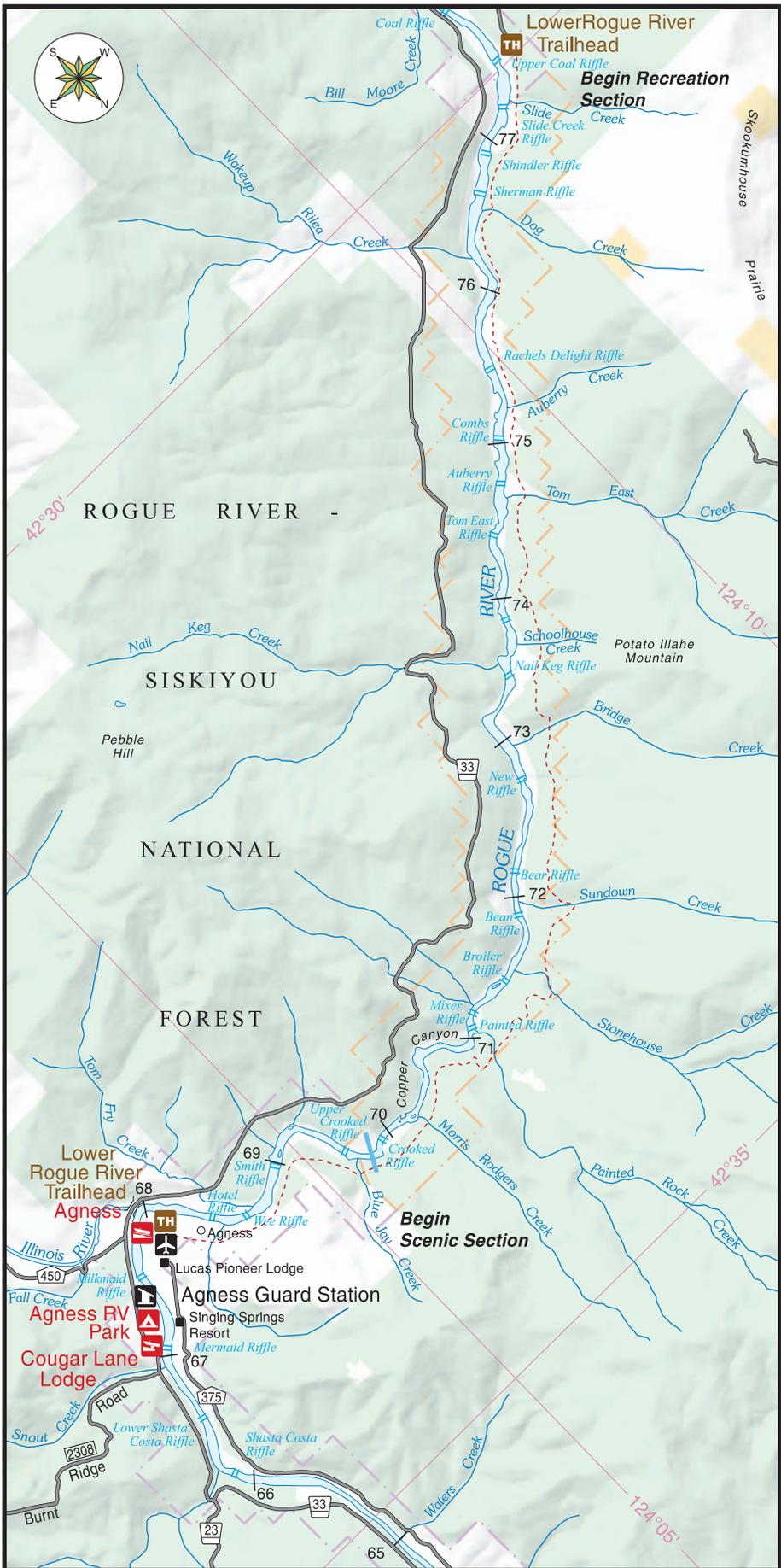
67.0 **Cougar Lane Lodge** (left bank) – Hosts a private boat landing on a gravel bar, a lodge, a store, a gas station, and a public telephone. (see Lodging section) 40.0



66.2 **Shasta Costa Riffle** (Class I) - During low water channel goes right to left across river. 39.2

63.4 **Twomile Rapids** (Class I) – Shoot the tongue and stay left around guard rock at the bottom of the rapids. 37.4







Read from the bottom up
RIVER MILE

MAP PANEL #14

MILES FROM
GRAVE CREEK
57.4

84.4



**Lobster Creek Campground/
Boat Ramp** (left bank) - (see
Campground section)

57.4

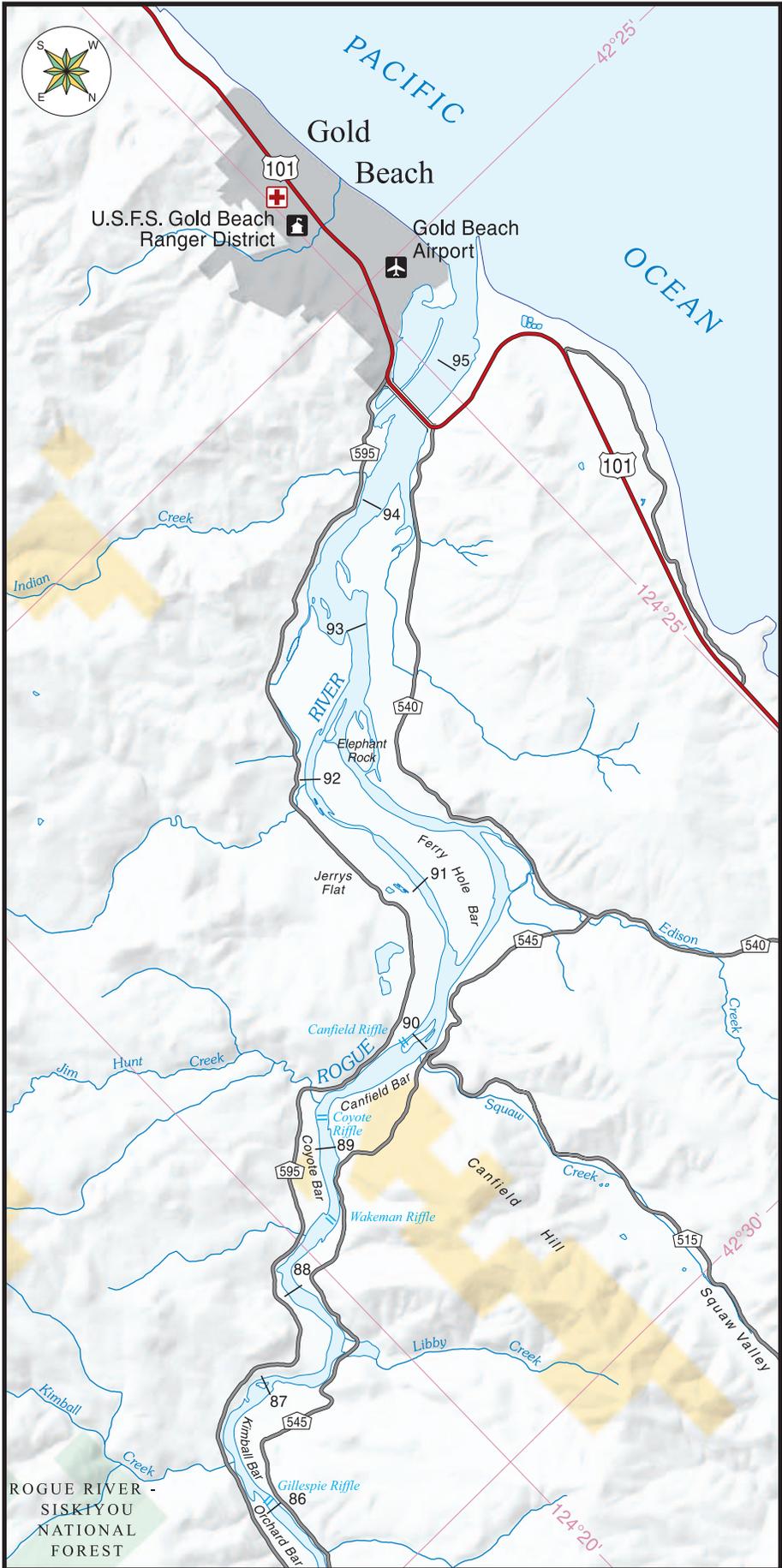
80.5



**Quosatana Campground/Boat
Ramp** (left bank) - (see Camp-
ground section)

53.5

▲ START MAP LOG HERE



Areas of Interest

Hellgate Canyon, 14 miles upriver from Grave Creek, was named



Motorized tour boat in Hellgate Canyon, 1990s

by the early river runners because the canyon looked like the gates of hell during floods. The canyon is 700 yards long, and the water depth has been measured at 104 feet in some spots. Hellgate Canyon was a proposed dam construction site until the Rogue River was designated as a Wild and Scenic River. In 1971, Pacific Power and Light Company dedicated Hellgate Canyon and the surrounding lands “that the grandeur and natural beauty of Hellgate Canyon may ever delight the people of Oregon....as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers system.”

Indian Mary Park, 12 miles upriver from Grave Creek, is a popular Josephine County campground (see Campground section). In 1852, Umpqua Joe, a Rogue River Indian who befriended the local miners, established a ferry here and operated it until his untimely death in 1886. In 1855, Umpqua Joe warned miners of an imminent Indian attack and was allowed to live here as a reward for his warning; the rest of the Indians of the Rogue Valley were rounded up and sent to the Siletz and Grande Ronde Indian Reservations.

Indian Mary, Umpqua Joe’s daughter, succeeded in operating the ferry after her father’s death. In 1894, Mary filed a homestead application and received a federal land grant for the property across and downriver from the present park.



Massie Ferry operated from 1852 to 1920s in the area presently known as Indian Mary Park

Galice Creek, 7.9 miles upriver from Grave Creek, is a historic gold-producing creek still showing “color” today. The road up the creek shows ample evidence of mining activity; piles and piles of mine tailings line the creek. This paved road links Galice with Agness and Gold Beach and serves as the primary Wild Rogue River shuttle route to the Foster Bar take-out.

Galice, 7.6 miles upriver from Grave Creek, is a small town with a Josephine County boat ramp, a toilet, and fishing access. The town features two lodges, a store, restaurant, public telephone, gas station, and rafting services. Galice was named after Louis Galice, a French placer miner, who first prospected Galice Creek in the mid-1800s.

Smullin Visitor Center at Rand is located 4.6 miles upriver from Grave Creek and 2.6 miles north of Galice. Wild Rogue River boaters stop at this historic site to pick up their permit to float the Wild section. Permits can be picked up by driving to the Visitor Center or floating to the beach below the Visitor Center. The long, narrow beach is in quiet water downriver and around the corner from the Rand Boat Landing. Stairs lead up to the Visitor Center from the beach. This BLM facility features a restroom, emergency assistance, and information on the Rogue River and surrounding area.

The area is a National Historic Site named Rand. The site has hosted 1800’s miners, 1930’s Civilian Conservation Corp workers, Forest Service employees, Bureau of Land Management employees, and recreationists. In 1905, Rand Mining Company surveyed the Rand terrace to lay out lots for a town site. The name Rand came from Witwaterstrand, a gold-laden ridge in South Africa. Contact the BLM for a Rand brochure

Almeda Mine is located 3.5 miles upriver from Grave Creek. The mine opening and tailings are visible from the river below the riffle. Almeda Mine was named for Almeda Hand, niece of the owner, J.F. Wickham. Almeda was the most extensively developed lode mine along the river. Between 1905 and 1917,



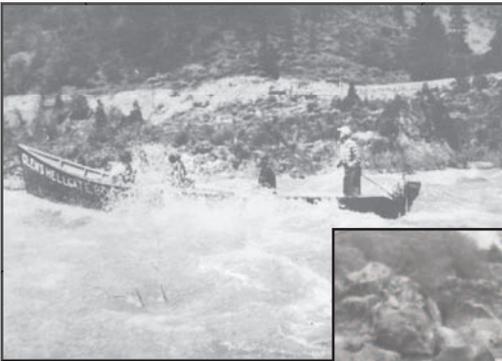
Bridge by Almeda Mine, 1910

total gold, silver, copper, lead, and zinc production was estimated at more than one-million dollars. The mine closed in 1917 due to financial difficulties. In 1942, the mine was reopened, but closed again two years later.

Glen Wooldridge Memorial is located on the road 0.3 miles upriver from Grave Creek. Glen was a pioneer whitewater river runner. In 1915, Glen floated the Rogue River from Grants Pass to the Pacific Ocean and became the first man recorded in modern times to succeed in this feat. Glen ran boat trips on the Rogue River from 1915 to 1978, and ran his first guided fishing trip in 1917 to Gold Beach. In 1947, Glen accomplished another feat by being the first man to run the Rogue River from Gold Beach to Grants Pass in a powerboat.

Glen built many boats for himself and others, including Zane Grey. He made the Rogue River safer and easier to boat by blasting numerous rapids with dynamite. Blasting occurred from Dunn Riffle to just

above Agness. Glen guided many famous people down the Rogue River, including: Herbert Hoover, Zane Grey, Clark Gable, and Ginger Rogers.



Glen's Hellgate tours, 1949

Amaziah Aubrey was Glen's river running and rowing teacher. In 1907, Amaziah took his first freight downriver, weighing about 20,000 pounds. From 1910

through 1917, Amaziah boated heavy machinery and supplies from Grants Pass to Mule Creek for the Red River Mining company. He made these trips once a year. Amaziah would leave his 27-foot wooden boats at Mule Creek where the mining company would dismantle them and use the lumber for construction, as there was no way to get the boats back upriver. The town of Agness was named after Amaziah's daughter.



Glen and Mr. Degner, a Grants Pass Courier employee, lifting the boat over boulders at Blossom Bar, early 1900s

Grave Creek was named after Martha Leland Crowley, the daughter of a pioneer couple. She was buried in 1846 under an oak tree near the creek.

Grave Creek Boat Ramp is 23 miles northwest of I-5. Take Exit 61, the Merlin exit, just north of Grants Pass, Oregon. Grave Creek marks the beginning of the 34-mile Wild section of the Rogue River. Grave Creek is the primary put-in for Wild Rogue River boaters and a popular take-out for Recreation section boaters. The boat ramp area has toilets and is a small site that is easily congested. Common courtesy and patience will guarantee an enjoyable beginning to

your river trip. The Rogue River National Recreation Trail east end trailhead is located at the downriver end of the boat ramp parking lot. The 40-mile trail extends to the Big Bend trailhead near Illahe and is open to foot traffic; dogs are allowed, but pack stock, motorbikes, and trail bikes are not allowed. Contact the BLM for a Rogue River Trail brochure.

Rainie Falls, 1.8 miles downriver from Grave Creek, was named after “Old Man Rainie,” who made a living gaffing salmon and resided in a cabin below the falls in the early 1900s. The main falls have a vertical drop of approximately 12 feet with massive turbulence at the bottom. The falls is a serious drop, so scout it carefully. There are two alternatives to running the main falls - the middle chute and the fish ladder. The middle chute is aptly named. Located in the middle of the river, this natural opening in the rocks offers a fast, bouncy ride with some maneuvering at the top to enter the chute. Scout this run from the left bank near the main falls. The left bank is also a great location to watch salmon jump the falls. Another alternative is floating or lining



Photographer: John Craig

Rainie Falls middle chute and main falls , 1,710 cfs at Grants Pass, July 2003

the fish ladder, a man-made channel along the right bank. The fish ladder is the primary route chosen by most boaters. In very low water, the fish ladder cannot be floated, and craft must be lined down the channel with ropes, a task that can be hazardous because of slips, trips, and falls.

Whisky Creek Cabin, 3.1 miles downriver from Grave Creek, may be found by hiking uphill from Whisky Creek campsite, crossing the trail bridge, turning right and hiking another 400 feet uphill along Whisky Creek. An unknown placer miner built this cabin around 1880.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the cabin offers a glimpse into the mining history of the Rogue River Canyon. Contact the BLM for a Whisky Creek Cabin brochure.

Tyee Bar is 4 miles downriver from Grave Creek. Tyee is a Chinook Indian word meaning “Chief.” The river bar was the site of tremendous mining activity. Estimates say that more than 300 Chinese workers took between \$1 million and \$5 million in gold dust from here. In the 1880s, a store and a boat crossing were in operation at this site.

Battle Bar, 16.4 miles downriver from Grave Creek, was a combat site during the Rogue River Indian Wars of 1855-1856, thus named Battle Bar. Murder, retaliation, ambush, massacre, and tragedy all characterize the nature of the conflict between the Indians and the settlers. Outrage and retaliation by both sides eventually forced the Indian Bands, led by principal Chiefs John and Limpy, to seek refuge in the wild canyon of the Rogue River. An expeditionary force of U.S. Regulars, led by Lieutenant Henry Judah, and two companies of volunteers, led by Major James Bruce, attempted to overwhelm the Indians in their stronghold.

Judah’s Regulars struggled to maneuver a small canon to a high ridge overlooking the Indian camp while the volunteers attempted to build rafts to cross the river for a direct attack. The Indians repulsed more than five times their number, and the troops, short of supplies, abandoned the battle. Although not a major battle, its events exemplify the determination of the troops and the resolve of the Indian people to preserve their ancient culture.

In 1920, a man named Bob Fox began construction of a fishing resort at Battle Bar. In 1947, Bob Fox was murdered by his neighbor, George Mahoney, and the resort was never completed. The 1964 flood destroyed the walls of the cabin, but the roof and supports remained. The structure was renovated in 1991 for use by boaters as a rain camp.

Zane Grey’s Cabin, 17.4 miles downriver from Grave Creek, is located on Winkle Bar. Famous western novelist, Zane Grey, purchased this site from a gold miner in 1926. Zane Grey

Photographer: Marcus Alden



Zane Grey's Cabin, 1999

used the cabin while writing books and fishing the Rogue River. The land is privately owned; however, visitors are welcome to visit the cabin.

Rogue River Ranch, 21.9 miles downriver from Grave Creek, is nestled at the confluence of Mule Creek and the Rogue River. George and Sarah Billings homesteaded 70 acres along the creek in 1887. George Billings was John and Adeline Billings' eldest son (see Billings Creek). From 1898 to 1903, George and Sarah constructed a two-story house that served as a trading post, post office, and boarding house for travelers. In 1931, George sold the ranch to Stanley Anderson as a vacation home. In 1970, the BLM bought the land and restored the ranch to look as it did in the early 1900s.



Photographer: John Craig

Rogue River Ranch, May 2003

Rogue River Ranch is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Billings' main house is now a museum, open daily from May through October. Drinking water and emergency radio communications are available at the ranch. The Rogue River National Recreation Trail passes through the Rogue River Ranch area and continues southwest on the road past Marial Lodge, Mule Creek guard station, and the Marial Trailhead, where the road ends and the trail continues. Contact the BLM for a Rogue River Ranch brochure.

Mule Creek, 21.9 miles downriver from Grave Creek, was named after an army officer's mule. In 1852, an Army officer lost his mule (the mule's name was John). Originally, the creek was called John Mule Creek, and was later shortened to Mule Creek.

Marial is 21.9 miles downriver from Grave Creek. The area around Mule Creek, which includes Rogue River Ranch and Marial Lodge, was once considered a town. The town was named after Marial Billings Akesson, born in 1894 to Thomas and Anna Billings. Thomas was the second son of John and Adeline Billings (see Billings Creek). Marial was raised on the river and ran Marial lodge, near Mule Creek, for many years.

Mule Creek Canyon, 22.9 miles downriver from Grave Creek, is a dramatically narrow stretch of river with outstanding scenery and challenging turbulence. Two large boulders (called the “Horns” or “Jaws”) located in the right half of the river, are genuine “wrap-rocks” that mark the entrance to the canyon. Beyond these guardian rocks is a series of three sweeping turns, taking you right, left, and right again. A nasty “eater” hydraulic named “Telfer’s Rock,” covers the left half of the river as the canyon constricts again. Some 100 yards downstream, another severe constriction occurs at the “Narrows” and necessitates some maneuvering. Another 250 yards downstream brings you to the “Coffeepot,” named for the effects of deep turbulence surging upward in a confined space, as in a percolator. Water here is very unpredictable, as is the amount of time you may be forced to circulate in this confinement. Upon exiting the “Coffeepot,” you will experience calm water until you reach Blossom Bar.



Photographer John Craig

The Coffeepot in Mule Creek Canyon, 1,710 cfs at Grants Pass, July 2003

Blossom Bar, 24.8 miles downriver from Grave Creek, is named after the wild azaleas that adorn this area in the springtime. Blossom Bar is the Wild Rogue River's most famous and feared rapid. Once a portage, this boulder garden was blasted with dynamite to make a passable route. Although now passable, the route requires much maneuvering to avoid serious wraps, flips, and swims. In very general terms, the keys to success here are: (1) starting far left, (2) moving to a center eddy above the dreaded "Picket Fence," (3) edging right around a corner rock and entering the "pour over," and (4) playing "dodge 'em" through the rest of the rapid.



Photographer: John Craig



Blossom Bar, Class IV whitewater 1,720 cfs at Grants Pass, July, 2003.

Brushy Bar, 27.5 miles downriver from Grave Creek, is a large bar with a magnificent stand of trees and evidence of extensive mining.



The Forest Service has a guard station at Brushy Bar that is staffed with volunteers from June through September. Emergency radio communication is available when the volunteers are at the guard station.

Brushy Bar guard station

Big Bend, 34.2 miles downriver from Grave Creek, was the site of the last battle of the 1855-56 wars. On May 27 and 28, 1856, the Battle of Big Bend spanned 30 hours. Two days later, the Indians surrendered. More than 1,000 Indians were then removed from the Rogue River area and forced to go to the Siletz and Grande Ronde Reservations.

Billings Creek, 34.6 miles downriver from Grave Creek, was named after John Billings. In 1868, Adeline and John Billings settled near Agness with their first three children. Adeline was a Karok Indian from the Klamath River, California. Adeline and John moved up the Rogue River twice in the following years making their final home at Big Meadows above Mule Creek in 1892. They had a total of seven children.

Foster Bar Boat Ramp, 35.5 miles downriver from Grave Creek, is the primary take-out point for Wild Rogue River boaters. Foster Bar offers shuttle parking, garbage disposal, a portable toilet waste



Foster Bar boat ramp, 2000

disposal (SCAT) machine, a public phone, restrooms, and changing rooms. The Big Bend west end trailhead for the 40-mile Rogue River National Recreation Trail is one-half mile northwest of Foster Bar.

Illahé is a small community 36.2 miles downriver from Grave Creek. “Illahé” (ill’-a-hee) is a Chinook Indian term meaning “land on earth.” The Indians felt this was their land to fight for and keep.

Agness, 41.1 miles downriver from Grave Creek, is a historic town with three lodges, two stores, three restaurants, public phones, an RV park, a post office, a gas station, and medical evacuation services. A road leads down to a gravel beach boat landing on river right at the confluence of the Rogue and the Illinois Rivers. Agness is approximately a seven-mile drive southwest from Foster Bar.

Campgrounds in the Rogue Wild and Scenic River Corridor

Whitehorse Park is a Josephine County facility with fee camping at 44 campsites, eight with full hookups. The park features restrooms, showers, a playground, a picnic area, a boat ramp, fishing access, and a short hiking trail through a wetland birding area. **Contact:** Josephine County Parks Department, 541/474-5285, 125 Ringuette, Grants Pass, OR 97527 www.co.josephine.or.us/parks/index.htm (26.3 miles upriver from Grave Creek - see page 19).

Griffin Park is a Josephine County facility featuring fee camping at 18 campsites, restrooms, showers, an RV dump station, a boat ramp, swimming area, playground, picnic areas, and fishing access. **Contact:** Josephine County Parks Department - see Whitehorse Park above (21.8 miles upriver from Grave Creek - see page 21).

Indian Mary Park is a popular and scenic Josephine County fee campground featuring 102 campsites with numerous RV hookups, an RV dump station, showers, a boat ramp, fishing access, a swimming area with a beach, and picnic areas. **Contact:** Josephine County Parks Department - see Whitehorse Park above (12.0 miles upriver from Grave Creek - see page 23).

Ennis Riffle is a Josephine County fee camp area with primitive camping, a toilet, fishing access, and a boat ramp. There is a two-day stay limit at Ennis. **Contact:** Josephine County Parks Department - see Whitehorse Park above (9.3 miles upriver from Grave Creek - see page 23).

Almeda Park is a Josephine County fee campground with 25 primitive campsites, toilets, drinking water, fishing access, air for rafts, and a boat ramp. **Contact:** Josephine County Parks Department - see Whitehorse Park above (3.8 miles upriver from Grave Creek - see page 25).

Tucker Flat is a BLM campground with six primitive campsites and toilets. There is a Rogue Wilderness trailhead at the north end of the campground. **Contact:** Medford District BLM, 541/618-2200, 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504 www.or.blm.gov/Medford (21.9 miles downriver from Grave Creek - see page 35).

Foster Bar hosts a Forest Service fee campground with eight primitive campsites, toilets, fishing access, a boat ramp, drinking water, and nearby Rogue River trailhead access. **Contact:** Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Gold Beach Ranger District, 541/247-3600, 29279 Ellensburg, Gold Beach, OR 97444 www.fs.fed.us/r6/siskiyou (35.5 miles downriver from Grave Creek - see page 39).

Illahé Campground is a Forest Service fee campground with 14 primitive campsites, restrooms, and drinking water. **Contact:** Gold Beach Ranger District - see Foster Bar above (36.2 miles downriver from Grave Creek - see page 39).

Agness RV Park is a private RV Park. **Contact:** Agness RV Park, 541/247-2813, 04215 Agness Road, Agness, OR 97406 www.agnessrv.com (40.1 miles downriver from Grave Creek - see page 41).

Quosatana Campground is a Forest Service fee campground with 43 primitive campsites, restrooms, drinking water, a public phone, an RV dump station, a fish cleaning station, and a boat ramp. **Contact:** Gold Beach Ranger District - see Foster Bar above (53.5 miles downriver from Grave Creek - see page 43).

Lobster Creek Campground is a Forest Service fee campground with six primitive campsites, restrooms, a public phone, and a boat ramp. **Contact:** Gold Beach Ranger District - see Foster Bar above (57.4 miles downriver from Grave Creek - see page 43).

Lodging in the Rogue Wild and Scenic River Corridor

Black Bar Lodge 541/479-6507, P.O. Box 510, Merlin, OR 97532
blackbarlodge@aol.com (8.8 miles downriver from Grave Creek - see page 31).

Buckhorn Mountain Lodge 541/471-9516, 4880 Galice Road, Merlin, OR 97532
www.buckhornmountainlodge.com willbere@rvi.net (14 miles upriver from Grave Creek - see page 21).

Clay Hill Lodge 503/859-3772, P.O. Box 115, Agness, OR 97406
www.clayhilllodge.com clayhilllodge@starband.net (30.3 miles downriver from Grave Creek - see page 37).

Cougar Lane Lodge 541/247-7233, 04219 Agness Road, Agness, OR 97406
cougarlane@msn.com (40 miles downriver from Grave Creek - see page 41).

Ferry Home 541/476-2115, 952 Ferry Road, Grants Pass, OR 97526
www.FerryHome.com (21.3 miles upriver from Grave Creek - see page 21).

Galice Resort 541/476-3818, 11744 Galice Road, Merlin, OR 97532
www.galice.com fun@galice.com (7.6 miles upriver from Grave Creek - see page 25).

Half Moon Bar Lodge 1/888/291-8268, P.O. Box 455, Gold Beach, OR 97444 www.halfmoonbarlodge.com una@harborside.com (26.3 miles downriver from Grave Creek - see page 35).

Illahe Lodge 541/247-6111, 33709 Agness-Illahe Road, Agness, OR 97406 (34.6 miles downriver from Grave Creek - see page 39).

Lucas Pioneer Lodge 541/247-7443, 03904 Cougar Lane, P.O. Box 37, Agness, OR 97406 (40.7 miles downriver from Grave Creek - see page 41).

Marial Lodge 541/474-2057, P.O. Box 1395, Grants Pass, OR 97528 (22.7 miles downriver from Grave Creek - see page 35).

Morrison's Rogue River Lodge 541/476-3825, 800/826-1963, 8500 Galice Road, Merlin, OR 97532 www.morrisonlodge.com info@morrisonlodge.com (10.8 miles upriver from Grave Creek - see page 23).

Paradise Lodge 1/800/525-2161, P.O. Box 456, Gold Beach, OR 97444
rrr97@harborside.com paradiselodge@direcway.com (26 miles downriver from Grave Creek - see page 35).

River Oaks 541/955-0442, P.O. Box 952, Merlin, OR 97532
www.chatlink.com/~gpcoc/ rivoakso@msn.com (14.1 miles upriver from Grave Creek - see page 21).

Riversong on the Rogue 541/476-4434, 140 Spring Mountain Road, Grants Pass, OR 97526 riversong@cmextreme.com (8.5 miles upriver from Grave Creek - see page 23).

Rogue Forest Bed and Breakfast 541/472-1052, 12035 Galice Road, Merlin, OR 97532 www.rogueforestbnb.com info@rogueforestbnb.com (7.4 miles upriver from Grave Creek - see page 25).

Singing Springs Resort 541/247-6162, P.O. Box 68, Agness, OR 97406
www.singingspringsresort.net (40.2 miles downriver from Grave Creek - see page 41).

References

Flounce Around Fuels Cultural Resource Inventory, USDI Bureau of Land Management, Medford, Oregon, by Dennis Gray, 2003

Handbook to the Rogue River Hog Creek Float, by Michael Walker, 1989

Illahē: The Story of Settlement in the Rogue River Canyon, by Kay Atwood, 1978

Notes on the Takelma Indians of Southwestern Oregon, American Anthropologist. Volume 9, Number 2:251-275, by Edward Sapir, 1907

Requiem for a People: The Rogue Indians and the Frontiersmen, by Stephen Dow Beckham, 1971

The Rogue: A River To Run, by Florence Arman, 1982

The Takelma and their Athapascan Neighbors: A New Ethnographic Synthesis for the Upper Rogue River Area of Southwestern Oregon. University of Oregon Anthropological Papers 8, by Dennis Gray, 1987

Until the Last Arrow: A True Story of the Indian Wars and Gold Rushes that Opened the Last Frontier of the Oregon Country – the Rogue River Valley, by P.T. Booth, 1997

Additional Rogue National Wild and Scenic River Information

Daily River Flow and Local Weather

U.S. Geological Survey: Oregon Stream Flow

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/current/?type=flow>

KAJO 1270 am, local radio station, 541/476-5256

Outfitter and Guide Services or to Report Illegal Outfitting

Oregon Guides and Packers
PO Box 3797
Portland, OR 97208
1-800-747-9552
www.ogpa.org/

Fishing and Hunting Information

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
1495 E. Gregory Road
Central Point, OR 97502
541/826-8774
www.dfw.state.or.us/

Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce

1995 NW Vine Street
Grants Pass, OR 97526
541/476-7717
www.chatlink.com/~gpcoc/
1-800-747-9552

Gold Beach Chamber of Commerce

29692 Ellensburg Avenue #6
Gold Beach, OR 97444
541/247-0923
[www.goldbeachchamber.com/](http://www.goldbeachchamber.com/info@goldbeachchamber.com)
info@goldbeachchamber.com

Do you want to know more about the Rogue River?

For: **Noncommercial River Permits/Wild Rogue Information**

Contact: River Permits/Information
Smullin Visitor Center at Rand
14335 Galice Road
Merlin, OR 97532
541/479-3735
or 110rr@blm.gov
www.or.blm.gov/Rogueriver

For: **Commercial River Permits/Wild Rogue and Hellgate Recreation Area Information**

Contact: BLM Medford District
Rogue River Program
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR 97504
541/618-2200
www.or.blm.gov/Medford

For: **Coastal Rogue Information**

Contact: Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
Gold Beach Ranger District
29279 Ellensburg
Gold Beach, OR 97444
541/247-3600
www.fs.fed.us/r6/siskiyou

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