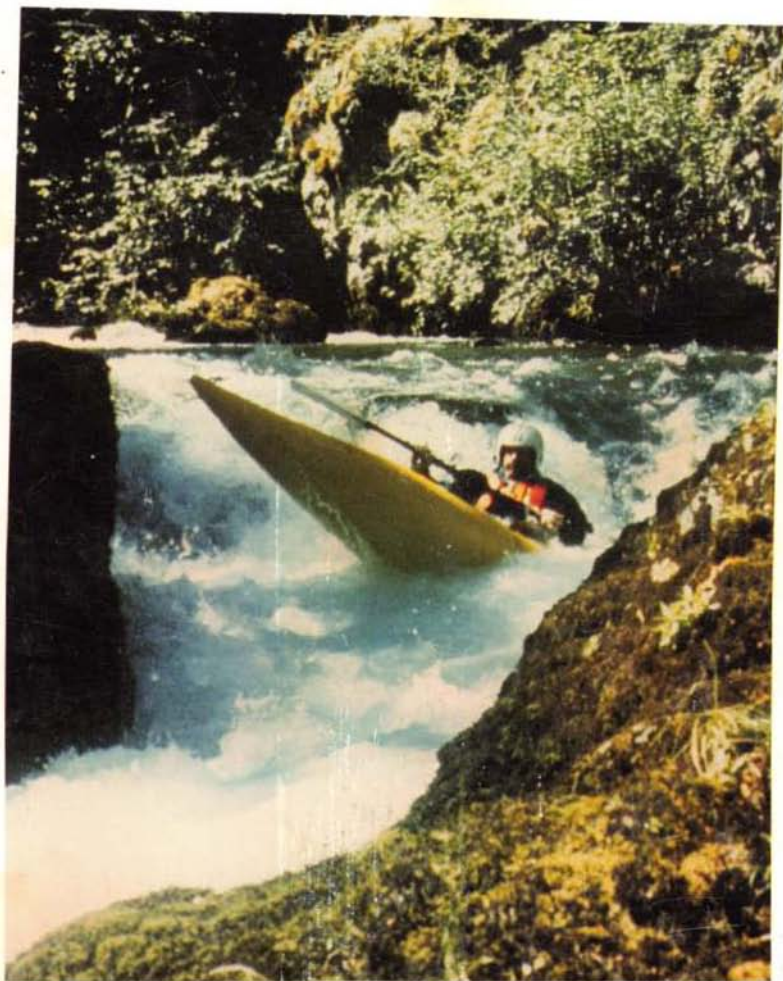


A PADDLER'S GUIDE TO THE OLYMPIC PENINSULA

A Paddler's Guide To The **OLYMPIC PENINSULA**



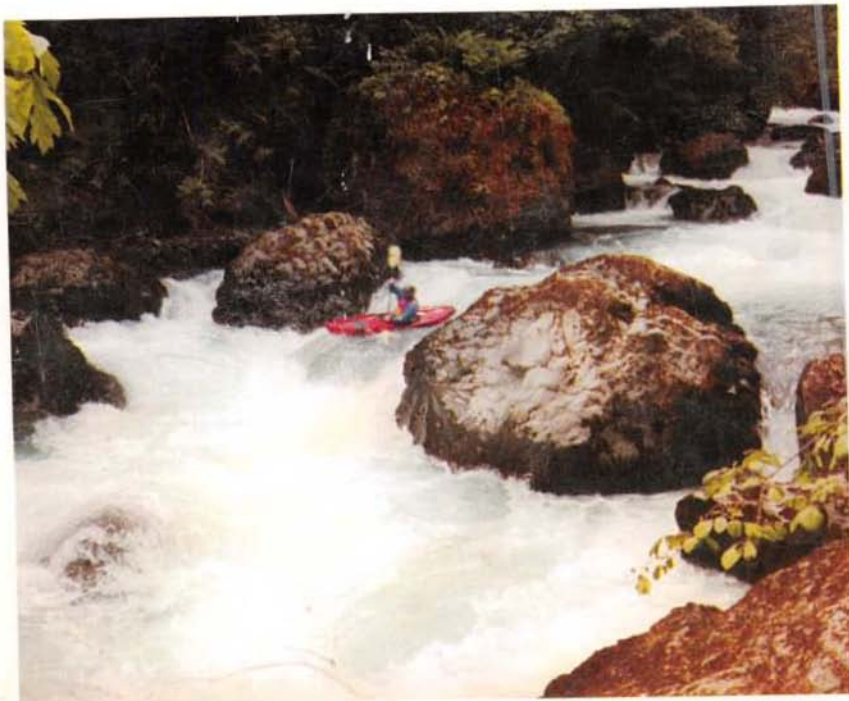
**A comprehensive guide to 75 river runs on
Washington's beautiful Olympic Peninsula**

By Gary Korb



printed on recycled paper

THIRD
EDITION

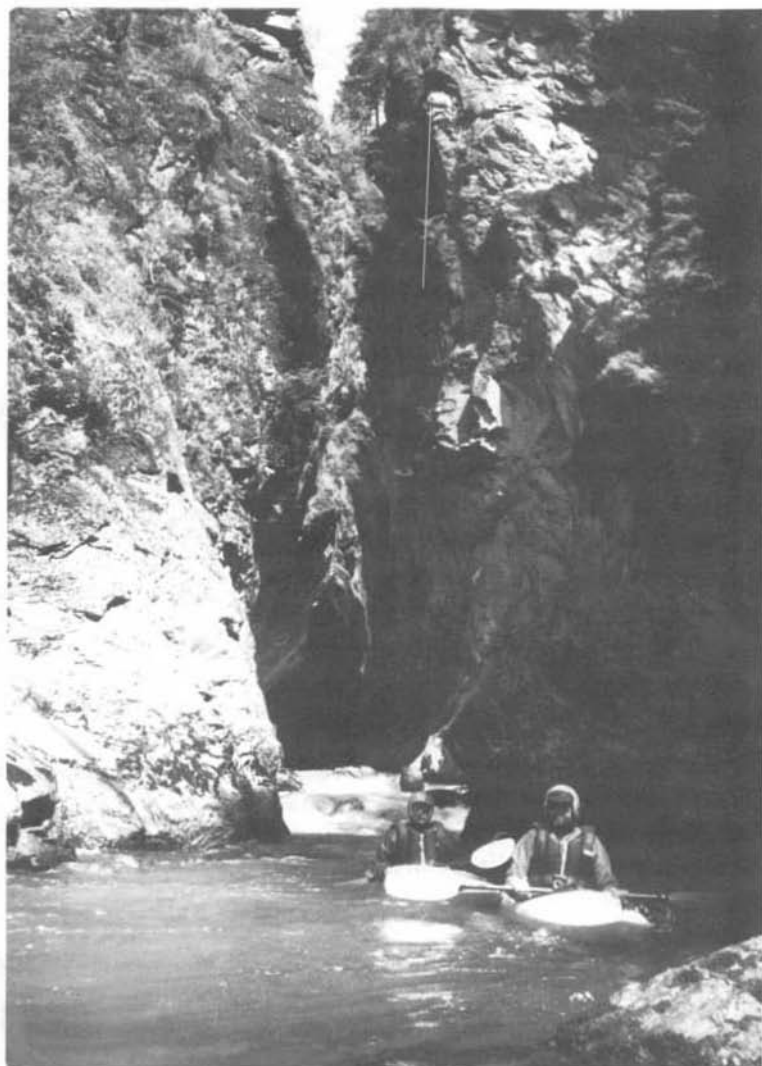


The Olympic Peninsula is a land of rivers, a land that owes its shape, its beauty, and the incredible richness of its natural systems to the power of falling water. Peninsula rivers radiate out from the heart of its mountainous core in thunderous rapids and quiet blue pools only to thread like bright dancers through the deep green forests of the lowland valleys. Each Olympic river has its own character, its own flavor and mood. The Duckabush like a coiled spring as it cuts through its narrow gorge below Big Hump, or the quiet power of the Elwha as it slows against its rock walls above the temporary nuisance of Glines Canyon Dam . . . The Soleduck in fall when wild Coho fling themselves against the boiling waters of Salmon Cascades; or the Queets in winter flood as it pulls down a centuries-old spruce or calves off a section of road as if the land were its plaything.

I've found no other place where the wealth, diversity, and wild free-flowing character of rivers is more abundant than the Olympic Peninsula. And I can think of no one more intimate with the Olympics' dazzling waters than Gary Korb. Gary's knowledge of Peninsula rivers is extensive, and the personal stories that accompany his descriptions of runs first rate. Read on as he unlocks some of the best kept secrets of the Olympics for you. The company is always excellent!

--Tim McNulty, author of
Washington's Wild Rivers

**A Paddler's Guide To The
OLYMPIC
PENINSULA**



**Boaters Paul Butler and Jack Moss exit the
Grand Canyon of the Elwha**

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Front cover: Bill Petty in the "Voodoo Chute" on
the 1988 first descent of the Gray
Wolf River.

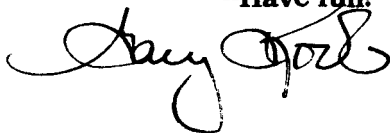
Back cover: The author working his way through the
"Maze" on the upper Dosewallips.

DISCLAIMER

This guide book is no more than a detailed map to the rivers on the Olympic Peninsula. When running one of these rivers you're on nature's terms and you assume the risk of your own actions.

I make no recommendation to run any rivers in this book nor do I imply they are safely navigable. I shall assume no liability for property loss or damage, trespassing, physical harm or death on rivers contained in this book.

--Have fun!



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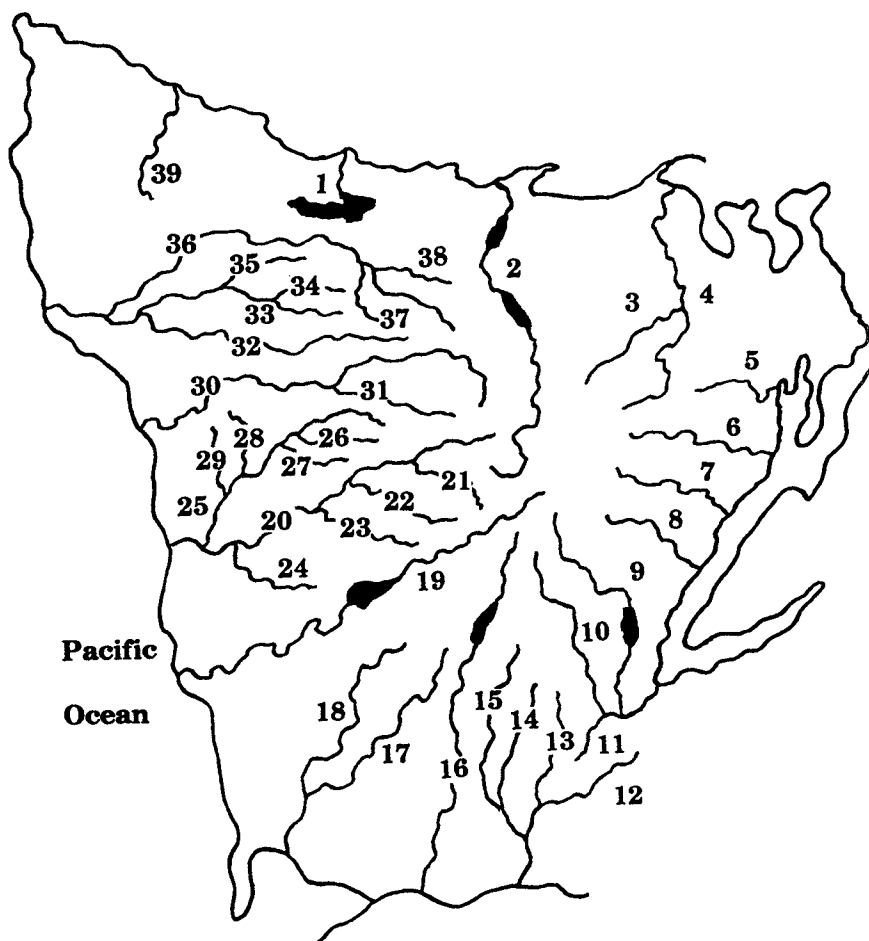
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Special thanks to my wife Carol for editing and organizing this project. And special thanks to Paul Butler for his contribution on the geology of the Peninsula.



Ray and Martha Parker on the East Fork Humptulips

RIVER LOCATION MAP



RIVER LOCATION MAP

1. Lyre River
2. Elwha River
3. Gray Wolf
4. Dungeness
5. Big Quilcene
6. Dosewallips
7. Duckabush
8. Hamma Hamma
9. North Skokomish
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28. Snahapish River
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30. Hoh
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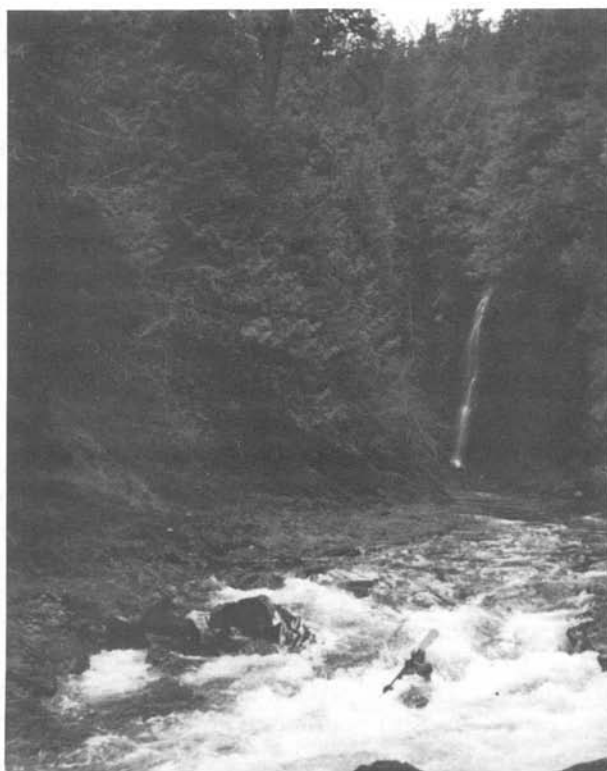
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Wynoochee Gorge

INTRODUCTION

Paddling a new river is one of my life's most fulfilling experiences. I seem to go into sensory perception overload as I try to deal with the challenge of the river combined with the hypnotizing scenery. With ouzels and otter as my guides, I cruise through mysterious gorges and eat lunch among massive, old-growth Sitka spruce. This is my Disneyland, a place where I can go to escape the real world.

Unfortunately, the real world is encroaching on the vulnerable Olympic Peninsula. Greedy people are already fighting over securing rights for water projects on most of the rivers. As you read this 500-year-old trees are dropping, changing the entire climate along the river corridors.

Fortunately, we had the foresight to protect some of this unique treasure with Olympic National Park. This area insures that we and future generations can experience nature and it's humbling powers. This can help us to put our own lives into perspective.

Some of the runs in this book are so beautiful they are beyond description. When I first paddled in the Olympics I was stunned. I wondered why I'd never seen pictures or heard stories about these rivers. I had traveled all over looking for this kind of boating and was usually disappointed.

This obsession with Peninsula rivers is what prompted me to write a guide book. In November of 1982 I started writing run descriptions and had my first book done in the fall of 1986. Then in 1992 the second edition came out. Now in 1997 I've come out with the third edition. One thing I've learned in this time is how fast the rivers of the Olympics are changing. I have tried to update the runs and shuttles as much as possible, but I realize the rivers and roads are changing with every big storm that blows through.

It has been a lot of work. Since 1984 I've been

paddling over 100 days a year. In 1994 it reached an all-time high: 161 days. I'll be checking into a recovery and rehabilitation center sometime soon. Some of these days have been spent riding a bicycle up and down bumpy dirt roads to run Class I water with trees to portage every 100 feet. Or just driving in circles, lost on clearcut shuttle roads only to find last months storm washed the road out.

But in this time I've seen sights few people will ever see; images and experiences that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I wrote this guide book so more people can enjoy the rivers and experience this area as I have.

So accept my invitation and join me in seeing some of the most beautiful places on this planet.



East Fork Humptulips Gorge

SEASONAL INFORMATION

The Olympic Peninsula is truly blessed with a year-round boating season. Although it's easy to find great boating November through July, things get really dry August, September and October. This time of year you can run the Quinault Gorge, Elkhorn Canyon on the Dosewallips, or a low water run on the Elwha. If these runs don't interest you, enjoy some of the best whitewater in Washington---the ocean surf!!

But even during the prime season (November to June), figuring out which rivers are flowing can be tricky. Knowing which runs to choose means monitoring the week's weather. Use the newspaper and check rainfall totals for Forks, Ocean Shores, and Hoquiam. Keep track of the freezing level and snowpack. Soon you'll be very aware of what water levels you're likely to find. The N.O.A.A. whitewater hotline (206-526-8530) gives levels for the Satsop and Elwha, which can tell you a lot about other runs in the area.

The rivers can then be separated into two groups: The spring run-off rivers and the rain-fed rivers. Although rain will bring up all the rivers, most precipitation above 4000 feet falls as snow. What this means is rivers with high drainages (above 4000 feet), save their water for spring and summer. Rivers with lower drainages respond immediately to rain. Here is how I break the rivers into the two groups:

Spring run-off November to July:

Elwha
Gray Wolf
Dungeness
Dosewallips
Duckabush
Hamma Hamma

Skokomish, North Fork
Quinault
Queets
Hoh
Hoh, South Fork
Soleduck

Rain-fed . . . November to May:

Skokomish, South Fork	Solleks River
Vance Creek	Stequaleho Creek
Satsop, East Fork	Snahapish River
Satsop, Middle Fork	Christmas Creek
Baker Creek	Bogachiel River
Canyon River	Calawah, South Fork
Satsop, West Fork	Calawah, North Fork
Wynoochee	Sitkum River
Big Creek	Hyas Creek
Humptulips, East Fork	Hoko River
Humptulips, West Fork	Soleduck, North Fork
Sam's River	Soleduck, South Fork
Matheny Creek	Lyre
Clearwater	

Here's a couple of hints for finding some paddling during high or low water conditions. If you find extremely high water, try the Soleduck, Calawah, Upper West Fork Satsop, or Vance Creek. These runs can usually be enjoyed at high water as long as there isn't too much wood coming down. These levels make these runs a good class harder.

If you find yourself with bad weather (dry & cold) during the winter, you can usually find good low water boating in some of the narrow canyons. Good winter low water runs include the Lyre, the Upper Hamma Hamma, South Fork Skokomish, Wynoochee, East Fork Humptulips, Bear Creek run on the Soleduck, and the Elwha. Some of the runs can be paddled at less than 100 cfs and still be very enjoyable. If these runs don't interest you, go surfing and have a great time!

If you have any questions regarding water levels or anything else, call me at (360) 876-6780.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDEBOOK

When using this guide book keep in mind that all rivers, even those rated Class I, may have potentially lethal hazards. Choosing Class IV or harder runs will increase your exposure to these hazards by orders of magnitude. Always be alert even on runs you've paddled before because landslides can change things overnight and new logjams come and go with each major flood. When reading the run and shuttle descriptions take into consideration changes that come with time and use your own good judgment.

In rating each run I've used the standard I to VI scale and applied it to a flow rate. These flows are levels at which the run is typically paddled. Some of these runs shouldn't be run much higher than recommended levels and others can be paddled at floodstage. Paddling a river at floodstage can only be done if you know the run and it's usually two classes too easy for you.

The gradient of each run is figured by dividing total elevation drop by total distance. This can be deceiving because some hard rivers have lots of flat water, bringing the average gradient way down. The Hoko River, for instance, only drops 18 feet/mile but has Class IV+ drops. Others lose their gradient evenly making a steep section of river relatively easy, like the upper Dungeness, which averages 125 feet/mile.

When rating each run I chose a skill level that is required to navigate the run. If a run has one or two individual drops that are a class or so harder than the run I add them in parentheses.

All the maps flow from the top of the page to the bottom, with an arrow indicating north. These maps should help you visualize the run and shuttle. Remember when using the shuttle mileages that odometers can vary, so bring along your DeLorme Atlas & Gazetteer and use your river sense.

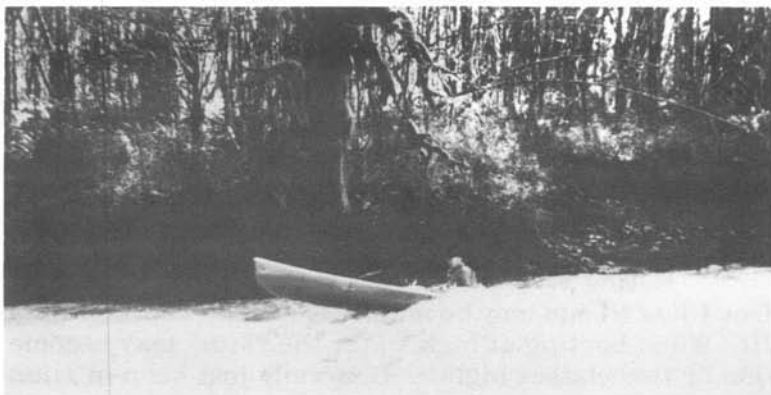
BEGINNERS NOTES

Start with easy runs at lower water levels. Practice catching eddies and ferrying on easy runs to develop skill and confidence before moving on to more challenging stretches.

Always follow these safety rules:

- * wear a life jacket and helmet.
- * never boat alone.
- * be prepared for cold weather, invest in the proper equipment: wetsuit, drytop, booties, etc..
- * stay away from floodstage rivers and runs beyond your abilities.
- * never run rapids blindly, get out and scout!
- * portage rapids you're unsure of.
- * make a habit of carrying rope, duct tape and matches.

When these guidelines are followed whitewater boating is the safest of all adventure sports. Break these simple rules and it can quickly kill you. Have fun and do it safely---other boaters will respect you for it.



Canoeing the Middle Satsop

INTERNATIONAL SCALE OF DIFFICULTY

CLASS I. EASY. Moving water with riffles and small waves. Few or no obstructions.

CLASS II. MODERATE. Easy rapids with waves up to about 3 feet high. Wide, clear channels that are obvious without scouting. Some maneuvering required.

CLASS III. DIFFICULT. Narrow passages that often require complex maneuvering. May need scouting from shore first time.

CLASS IV. VERY DIFFICULT. Long, difficult rapids with very constricted passages that often require precise maneuvering in very turbulent water. Scouting from shore usually necessary.

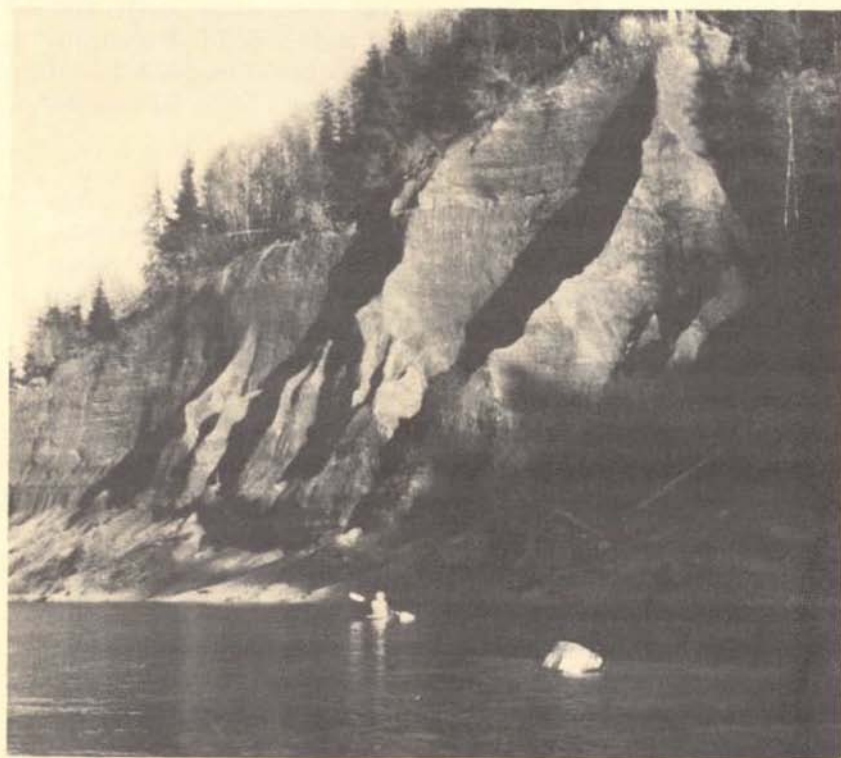
CLASS V. EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. Long and very violent rapids with highly congested routes that must be scouted from shore. Rescue conditions are difficult and there is significant hazard to life.

CLASS VI. VERY DANGEROUS. Difficulties of Class V carried to the extreme. Nearly impossible and very dangerous. For teams of experts, with all precautions taken.

Rating rivers with this scale is very subjective. One Class III run may be much easier than another Class III. When boating at high water the rating may become one or two classes higher. Generally just keep in mind that all rivers, no matter what the rating, contain dangerous conditions.

GEOLOGY
of the
OLYMPIC PENINSULA

**-by Paul Ray Butler, Geologist
The Evergreen State College
Olympia, Washington**



Exposed geology along the Hoh River

One of the most striking features of the Olympic Mountains is their circular appearance when viewed from above. Thus the major rivers radiate from the central part of the Peninsula like the spokes on a wagon wheel. Although these mountains are similar to other coastal ranges of the western United States, geologists have determined that they were uplifted in a separate event.

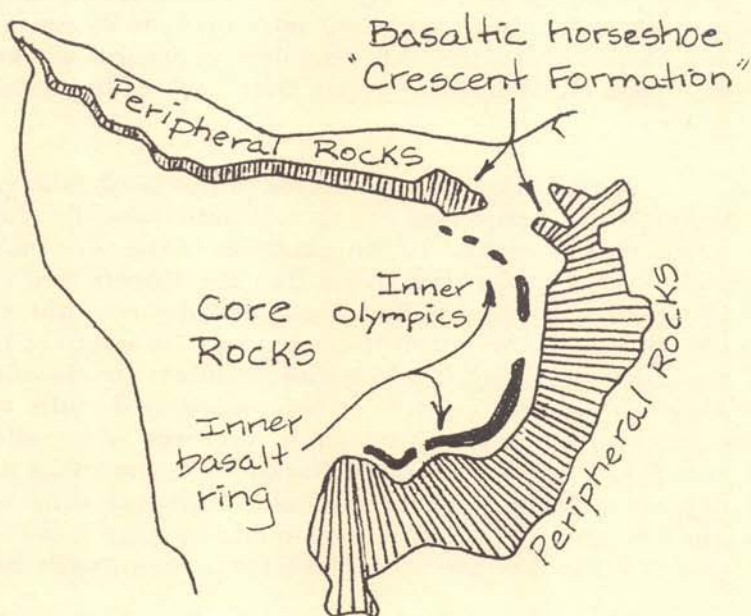
Until recently, geologists thought that the Olympic Mountains were formed as a result of a collision between two of the earth's lithospheric plates. On one of the plates, to the west of North America, basalt was being erupted along a rift in the sea floor. These eruptions eventually accumulated to form a generally north/south-trending chain of sea mounts and islands. In addition, sediments (sand, mud, and calcium carbonate) were deposited adjacent to and interfingering with the volcanic rocks, both to the east and west of the chain. The eruptions and sedimentary deposition took place during Eocene time, over a period from 30 to 55 million years before present.

Beginning approximately 30 million years ago, this western plate began to collide with the North American plate. The sedimentary material and basalt were squeezed, uplifted and deformed during the collision. Unusual as it may seem, those sedimentary rocks between the basalt and the North American continental margin were generally deformed less than the sediments deposited west of the volcanic ridge. It is not clear whether the circular outline of the range was inherited from the original orientation of the volcanic chain, or developed during the collision.

Recent work by Babcock, Suczek, and Engebretson (1994) suggests that the origin of this package of volcanic and sedimentary material is "a result of rifting along the continental margin of North America as a result of plate kinematics, possibly influenced by the

regional effects of the Yellowstone (?) hotspot." Although there may not be agreement in the exact origin of the rocks that make up the Olympic Peninsula, there is general agreement that these mountains formed as a result of the interaction between two or more of the earth's lithospheric plates.

Geologists have divided the rocks associated with the collision into two major groups. The peripheral rocks wrap around a central core like a large horseshoe open to the west. (SEE MAP) The peripheral rocks are composed primarily of basalt with associated volcanic-rich sandstone and shale. The basalt is usually found in the innermost part of the horseshoe and has been named the Crescent Formation. In general, the rocks of the peripheral group get younger as you move away from the core. The core rocks are comprised of complexly folded sandstone, shale, and basalt, which may be metamorphosed to semischist, slate, or phyllite, with minor occurrences of greenstone and greenschist.



Originally geologists thought that the core rocks were older than the peripheral rocks because of their position in what appears to be a plunging anticline. Fossil evidence from the less metamorphosed parts of the core suggests that the core rocks are about the same age or younger than the peripheral rocks, thus a more complex structural story is required. The two groups appear to be in fault contact, with the core rocks having been shoved under the Crescent Formation and then the whole pile turned on end. The collision and subsequent deformation of the core and peripheral rocks took place during the late Oligocene and Miocene epochs, from approximately 12 to 30 million years ago.

As the range continued to be uplifted and eroded, sedimentary rocks of younger ages (upper Miocene, Pliocene and lowermost Pleistocene) were formed along the Pacific coast and in embayments and estuaries. Some uplift of the entire range has taken place since that time, with several geologists suggesting that there is still active faulting in the Olympics. Examples of these younger sedimentary rocks can be seen in the Wynoochee and Satsop drainages. For excellent exposures of fossil mollusks, check out the upper West Fork of the Satsop River.

Most of the trips described in this book take you through the peripheral group; i.e. the rivers that flow north, east or south. To see examples of the core rocks, pick westward flowing rivers like the Queets and the Clearwater and their tributaries. Look for indications of the intense deformation that characterize many of the core rocks---folding, faulting, and abundant quartz veins. Although quartz is not usually associated with the crystallization of basaltic lava, it can form when silica-rich fluids migrate through fractures in the rocks and deposit molecules of silicon dioxide. Quartz veins are quite common in the core region and in some cases the quartz veins have been complexly folded along with their

host rocks.

The ruggedness and structural complexities of the Olympics have challenged geologists for decades, but for the non-geologist learning the predominate rock types is fairly straightforward. Most of the rocks that you will see while paddling the rivers described in this book are either basalt, sandstone, or shale.

Basalt is a black to dark-green volcanic rock that may sometimes appear red or yellow due to the weathering of the iron it contains. It is fine grained and one usually can't see the individual crystals with the naked eye. When seen along the river, basalt is usually massive, but may look like piles of broken rubble (referred to as volcanic breccia). Because the lava that formed the basalt was erupted under water, the flows may contain pillow structures. These pillows are often about the size of deformed bowling balls but can be much larger. They form when globs of lava are cooled quickly on the outside as they come in contact with sea water, while the center stays liquid and oozes out to form the next pillow. The lava inside is continually replaced as the flow advances. Good examples of pillow structures are common throughout the Crescent Formation. Look for them along Vance Creek or the South Fork of the Skokomish. In addition to pillows, one also sees columnar jointing, although less frequently than in other regions of Washington. During the formation of the volcanic chain, some of the lavas accumulated to such thicknesses that they rose above sea level. The columns are the result of contraction during cooling, and indicate that the lavas were erupted on land. Look for them just below the "Landslide Cascade" on the Wynoochee Gorge run.

Sandstone forms from the accumulation of weathered grains of pre-existing rocks. Common minerals found in the sandstones of the Olympic Peninsula are quartz (glassy), feldspar (white), mica

(shiny black or clear flakes), and iron- and magnesium-rich aluminosilicate minerals (black or green grains). Shales found in the Olympics were formed from mud deposited in marine waters with little or no turbulence. They are very-fine grained (usually the grains are too fine to be seen with the naked eye), and are often dark colored. As indicated above, there are good examples of fossiliferous sandstones and shales along the Satsop River.



Kayaker looks at fossils on upper West Fork Satsop

One can also see alternating layers of sandstone and shale (or slate if the shale has been metamorphosed) from the core rocks by paddling the Clearwater River and some of its tributaries. The sandstone beds formed when deposits of sand that had accumulated in coastal

areas flowed as dense slurries out into deep water. The shales then formed from mud that was thrown into suspension by these submarine landslides and settled out on top of the sand. The alternating layers indicate that these landslides occurred many times over thousands of years. Individual sandstone and shale layers range in thickness from less than an inch to many feet.

The alternating layers are significant because slopes formed in this material are often unstable (the degree of instability is primarily a function of the orientation of the beds with respect to the streams and the angle of the slope). These rocks are often highly fractured, and the shale is easily erodible, so the areas along the waterways are very prone to landslides. Under the right conditions, large (up to house size) blocks of sandstone roll into the rivers after the banks are undercut. A massive slide (and unrunnable rapid) has formed in this manner along Stequaleho Creek, in the Clearwater drainage.

If you look closely at individual sandstone layers, you may see graded bedding. Often, when the slurries of sand move out into deep water, the coarse material settles out first, so it is at the bottom of the layer. Then progressively finer material is deposited on top of the coarse material. The presence of graded beds is very important for geologists because it allows them to determine the original top to the bed. This type of information is especially useful in the Olympics, where many of the layers have been turned upside down.

As the sand slurries moved down slope, they often ripped up pieces of solidified mud and incorporated them into the sandstone beds. Look for these "shale-chip" deposits in some of the core-region sandstones, again along the Clearwater River and its tributaries.

Two other important rocks that you may see during your paddles are diabase and limestone. Diabase

is very similar to basalt in composition, but because it cools (crystallizes) below the surface and thus at a slower rate, larger crystals form. Diabase often intrudes between sedimentary layers to form sills, or exploits zones of weakness and cuts across the layers to form dikes. Diabase tends to be dark green, with the grains clearly visible to the unaided eye. Several good places to see diabase are the Staircase rapid along the North Fork of the Skokomish River just inside Olympic National Park, and "Faith Healer" rapid on the upper, upper Middle Fork of the Satsop River.

Unlike most of the world's limestones, which tend to be light-colored, the limestones found in the Olympics are a deep red. These limestones were formed by microscopic marine protozoans that secreted tests (shells) of calcium carbonate. These little critters lived in the water column and when they died, they drifted to the bottom and accumulated to form the limestones. The red color comes from oxidized iron derived from the basalt. These limestones are interbedded with the basalt, and were formed during periods of volcanic quiescence. Although misnamed (this limestone was not formed in a reef environment), an excellent place to see these red limestones is at "Red Reef" along the Staircase section of the North Fork of the Skokomish River.

If you are in the vicinity of Staircase, you may want to check out another interesting relationship between two rock types. This is actually easier to see as you are leaving the National Park. Within about a mile of the park boundary, along the shore of Lake Cushman, you can see a layer of shale or siltstone between two lava flows. The layer is about three or four feet thick and has a vertical orientation. This layer was formed during a time of volcanic quiescence, by fine material (probably both marine micro-organisms and inorganic debris) filtering down on the ocean floor. The uplift and rotation recorded in this outcrop took place during the collision that formed the mountains.

Although the Olympic Mountains are not known for having economically-valuable mineral deposits, some manganese and copper has been mined by early prospectors in the region. The mineralization took place as fluids and gases associated with the volcanic activity reacted with seawater. The metal-bearing deposition that did occur is often found where basalt is in contact with the red limestone. An example of an old manganese and copper prospect adit can be seen at Staircase along the North Fork of the Skokomish River across from the campground.

As soon as the rocks that make up the Olympic Peninsula were uplifted above sea level, running water began to wear them down. It was then that the radial drainage pattern began to be established. Later, during the Pleistocene, and superimposed upon preexisting river valleys, alpine glaciers occupied most of the headwaters. At least once during the Ice Ages, the continental ice sheet extended through the Straits of Juan de Fuca nearly to Forks on the northwest side of the Peninsula, and almost to the Wynoochee Valley on the south side. Some of the rivers were ponded against the continental ice sheet, as the continental glacier melted at a slower rate than the alpine glaciers in the mountains upstream. An excellent example of lake deposits that formed during ponding is found downstream from Brown's Creek Campground on the South Fork of the Skokomish River, near Oxbow Camp. These lake sediments contain stumps of trees and show clear evidence of soft-sediment deformation. This deformation is manifest as very small-scale, tightly-folded layers of mud that slid along the lake margins under the influence of gravity.

Another interesting result of the Ice Ages is the deposition of "glacial erratics." Along Vance Creek and the Upper Dungeness you will see many large granitic boulders, which could not have come from the Olympic Peninsula. They were rafted down on the continental ice sheet from somewhere in the north Cascades or British

Columbia.

Although the Olympic Peninsula has had an interesting geologic history so far, the action is not over. In November, 1986, a flood on the Wynoochee River caused a landslide which created a new rapid. This also led to a small-scale ponding event that drowned out several rapids. Other rivers also show evidence of lakes forming upstream of gorges that may have been blocked by landslides. A good example of this can be seen on the Narrows run of the East Fork of the Humptulips River. These lake sediments could not have been the result of ponding by the continental ice sheet.

Landslides are probably only temporary disruptions to the flow of the Olympic Peninsula rivers. Below the large landslide on Stequaleho Creek (mentioned above), another, older landslide has been re-excavated. Much of the toe of the slide has been removed and the trunks of large conifers that were initially buried now project out of the left bank like giant diving boards.

As river runners know, rapids often form where rivers flow across resistant rocks. In the Olympics this invariably occurs when streams cut through basalt and less commonly through diabase and sandstone. Many rivers on the Peninsula have very interesting/difficult/unrunnable drops at the entry to the basalt gorges. Once the river makes its initial cut, the river can be quite tame, with only a few additional rapids. The East Fork of the Humptulips and the Wynoochee fall into this category. Other rivers like the South Fork of the Skokomish have many difficult rapids along the entire length of their gorges. One additional noteworthy feature of the basalt gorges is the way the tributaries enter. Many enter as "hanging valleys," even though there was no previous glaciation. The small tributaries can not cut down through the basalt as fast as the main channel does, and thus some exceptional

waterfalls are formed. Look for these hanging valleys on the East Fork Humptulips Narrows Run at Goforth Creek and at Nicklund Creek Falls on Vance Creek. When rivers flow through the softer sedimentary rocks (sandstone and shale) they usually have low gradients, larger meanders, and not very many rapids.

In writing this section I relied heavily on the work of Rowland Tabor of the U. S. Geological Survey, plus many others. I assume full responsibility for any errors in interpretation. For those of you that would like to know more about the geology of the Olympic Peninsula, I highly recommend Tabor's work along with some recently-published material by other authors:

Alt, David and Hyndman, Donald W., 1995, Northwest Exposures--A Geologic Story of the Northwest; Missoula, Mountain Press Publishing Company, 443 p.

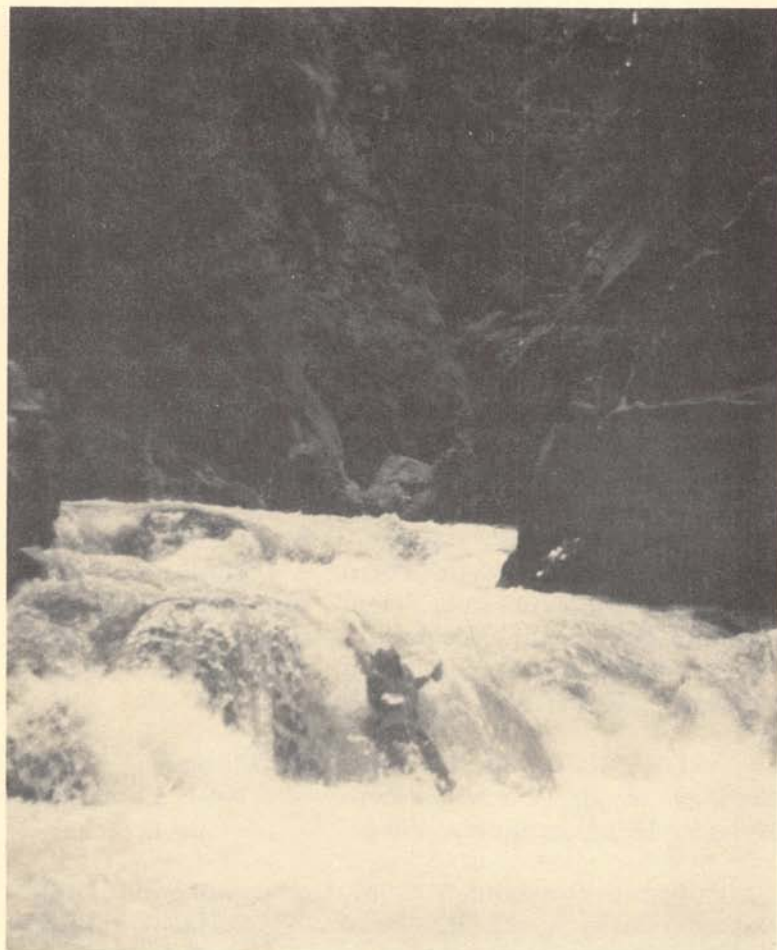
Babcock, R.S., Suczek, C.A., and Engebretson, D.C., 1994, The Crescent "Terrane", Olympic Peninsula and Southern Vancouver Island; in: Lasmanis, R. and Cheney, E.S. convs., Regional Geology of Washington State, Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources, Bulletin 80, pp.141-158.

Orr, Elizabeth L. and Orr, William N., 1996, Geology of the Pacific Northwest; New York, The McGraw-Hill Companies, 409 p.

Tabor, Rowland W., 1987, Geology of the Olympic National Park; Seattle, Pacific Northwest National Parks and Forests Association, 144 p.

Tabor, Rowland W. and Cady, W.M., 1978, Geologic Map of the Olympic Peninsula, Washington; United States Geological Survey Miscellaneous Investigations Series, 1:125,000, Map I-994.

---AND NOW, ONTO THE RIVERS!



**Carol takes the entry plunge into
the Elwha's Rica Canyon**

--photo by Mike Deckert

LYRE RIVER

Run:	Falls to Campground
Length:	3 miles
Difficulty:	Class IV-V @ 300cfs
Gradient:	113 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+

The River:

Very Dangerous!! This sums up a run on the Lyre. But somehow its twisting chutes through a hauntingly beautiful basalt gorge keep leading me back.

There are many trees to portage and several waterfalls to watch out for--so be extremely careful. One section just below a falls is blind to run and there are trees just around the corner. One other spot has a long, steep rapid that leads right into a mandatory portage. Both sections are very dangerous!

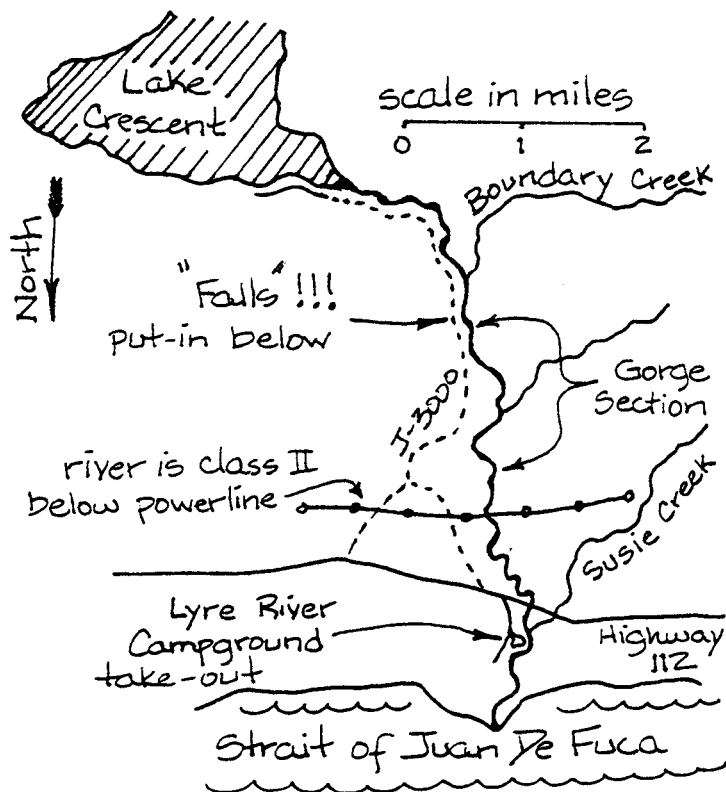


Marge VanCleve on the Lyre

The Shuttle: To reach the take-out, turn right off of Highway 112 to Lyre River Campground about four miles west of Joyce. Follow this road down to the campground where there is a great access.

To reach the put-in, go back out to 112 and turn left. Drive .3 mile and turn right onto PA J-3000. Follow this 2.8 miles to where you can look down from a small turn-out and see several falls down in a gorge. From here you hike down angling downstream to put in below a series of Class VI and worse cataracts.

Season: November to May---avoid high water!



"THE AUTHOR AS GUIDE"

-by Paul Thompson

I was at the end of my rope holding on alongside a rock wall, the far end of the rope was tied-off out of sight above me. I let go and fell into an ice water pool, and then swam to shore. In this way I abandoned my throw rope. Continuing on in the winter depths of Canyon Creek the up-river wind stiffened, the snow fell more heavily, the late afternoon grew darker, and once again we were following Gary on an exploratory run. After this passage around a waterfall, we portaged or ran another half-dozen rapids. Evening became the complete black of night as we reached the slack water of the take-out reservoir.

I started boating with Gary Korb when we both lived in the Mojave Desert. I figured if he ever wrote a book, the title would be, A River Runner's Guide to Restaurants of the Southwest. We often had more fun on the long hauls between the casinos and truckstops than on the "river." For a fact I know Korb registered a first descent down Flamingo Wash across from Ceasar's Palace parking lot on the Las Vegas Strip. Some high rollers are still mad that he side-surfed holes created by limousines disappearing beneath the rising brown water. But all this is subject for a text beyond the scope of this book.

A typical day with Gary in "the deepest, darkest . . ." kayaking on the Olympic Peninsula happened a few winters ago with Marge and Dave Van Cleve. Hiking into the Lyre River we marveled at all the downed trees fallen by a recent windstorm. After putting in we soon realized this difficult run

had become more hazardous with all the new wood in the water. Marge and Dave made the proper decision to hike out, and have last been reported nearly halfway up the canyon's side.

I chose with Gary as leader, or more appropriately as my probe, to continue downstream. I clearly remember, after the more difficult parts, immensely enjoying the magnificent scenery, knowing that I would never have to run this river again. Not that the Lyre is that dangerous, for I am sure with time most of the wood has been flushed down the river . . . it's just that sometimes you have to make a promise with your soul to allow your body back into your kayak.

Another time Gary was with me running shuttle on the East Fork of the Humptulips, which in parts is one of those dirt roads appearing to compete with the clouds for space on a ridgetop. We came upon a logging truck which obviously had lost its brakes descending straight towards us. To avoid being squished like a bug I abandoned the road and took to the woods. With four-wheel drive Gary and I went where no man has gone before. With Korb riding shotgun, I kept the pedal to the metal as we negotiated an asteroid belt of tree stumps. Not only did we not crash, we did not get stuck and regained the road with no apparent loss other than a couple of years off my expected life span.

So if you have the pleasure to join Gary on a float on the Peninsula be prepared for the jokes before the put-in such as: "best pack the extra rope and carabineers," or "don't forget your flashlight." Later be ready for reflections like "Looks to be a Korb put-in," and "It wouldn't be a Korb trip without all these portages." My only advice is do as I do, and tell those around you: "Relax, the author is with us."

THE ELWHA RIVER

Run:	Grand Canyon
Length:	8.5 miles (Plus 2.5 miles of lake)
Difficulty:	Class V @ 1000cfs
Gradient:	70 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+

The River:

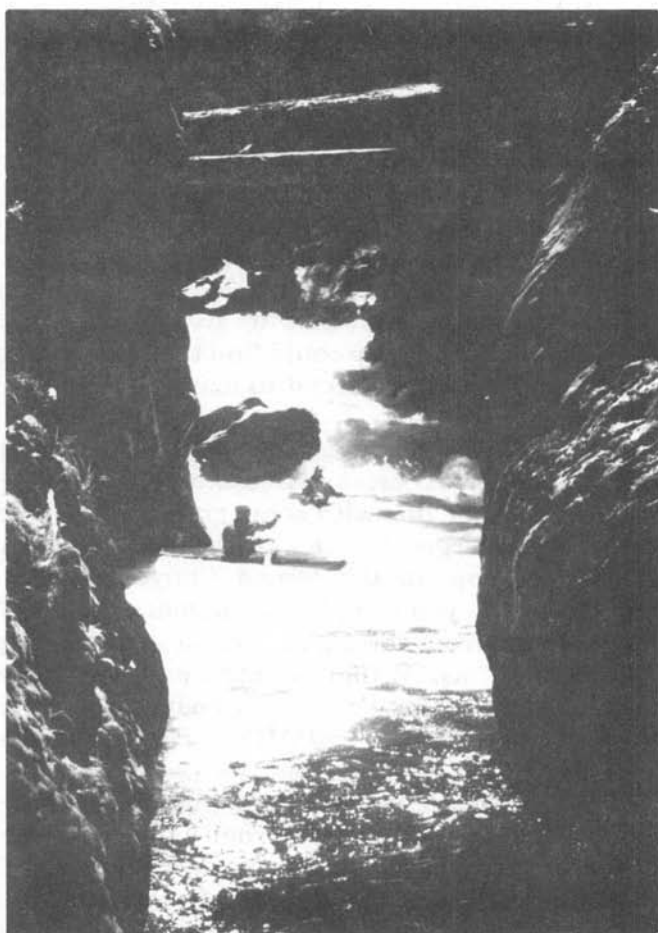
This run is so special it goes beyond words. The whitewater . . . the canyons . . . the wildlife . . the riverside camping . . --it's the Elwha! It has canyons so beautiful yet dangerous that it gives you a sacred, forbidden feeling. A group could find the canyon blocked by logs or rocks and be forced to leave the river . . . IF possible!!

Only advanced boaters in good physical condition should attempt to experience this sacred river.

The river begins with some great rapids through beautiful mini-gorges for the first mile. You'll know when you've come to the Grand Canyon. After the "Entrance Drop" you'll arrive at a maze of boulders. Scout this drop from the right. The next drop, "Eskimo Pie," is a long Class V that is extremely hard to scout because you have to get out of your boat on river right at the brink of the drop . . . SCARY!! This is the first of several "must run" rapids in the canyon.

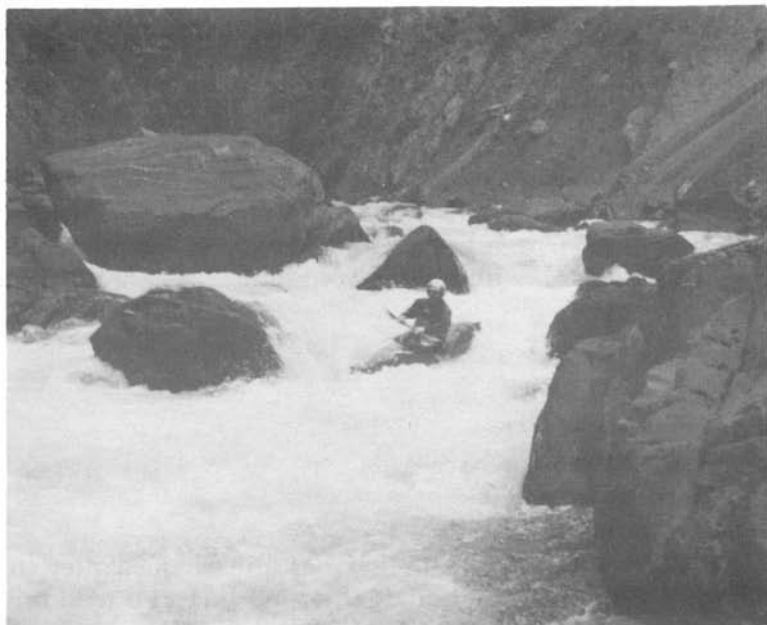
After a long technical rapid, pull out on the right to scout a big Class V drop. From here you'll see the entrance to the next rapid in a spectacular gorge. This is "Nightmare", the highlight of the Grand Canyon run. To see this drop you must commit yourself to it. Proceed with extreme caution.

After "Nightmare" wonderful rapids continue up to a new rock slide that requires a portage. This slide is quite unstable and will probably change in the near future. Below the Lillian River you'll come to "Pebbles" and "Bam Bam". Sprague Ackley and Jordan VanVost named these two drops on their exploratory run. These enjoyable drops are a little hard to scout, but fun to run.



**Ron Killen comes through "Eskimo Pie"
in the Grand Canyon of the Elwha**

Around the corner you'll come to "Dagger", a big Class V drop that I run on the right. Below here you'll see a giant landslide on the left. This slide creates a long Class V rapid. This drop has been run at low water but I paddle the upper section and carry the huge drop at the end. You'll then enter Geyser Valley where there are many great campsites right on the river.



The enormous slide above Geyser Valley

After about two miles of easy river in Geyser Valley you'll get to a steep Class III rapid with a big hole at the bottom. This is "Goblin's Gate", the entrance to Rica Canyon. Although only about a mile and one-half long, Rica is all Class IV and V rapids with no let-up. With the exception of the blind drop at the beginning, the rapids are fairly easy to scout and are my favorite of the trip.

One of the highlights is the "Secret Chute". This is the fourth rapid you come to, and it can be run down the far right on a narrow tongue that bypasses the nasty stuff . . . but watch out for the wall!

When you get to the lake you'll have about three miles to paddle to the dam. One way to do shuttle is to have someone walk up the trail at Whiskey Bend. Then you can tow their boat to the dam and meet them. Expect a strong wind on Lake Mills.

I recommend doing this as a three-day trip: one day to hike in the 8.5 miles and camp at the put-in, the second day to run the Grand Canyon and camp in Geyser Valley, and the third day to run Rica Canyon and take out at the dam. This gives you a lot of time to enjoy the river and the canyons. You could paddle the river in a day but this would put a lot of pressure on you while scouting and portaging. And after hiking in 8.5 miles you might as well relax and enjoy yourself!

The Shuttle:

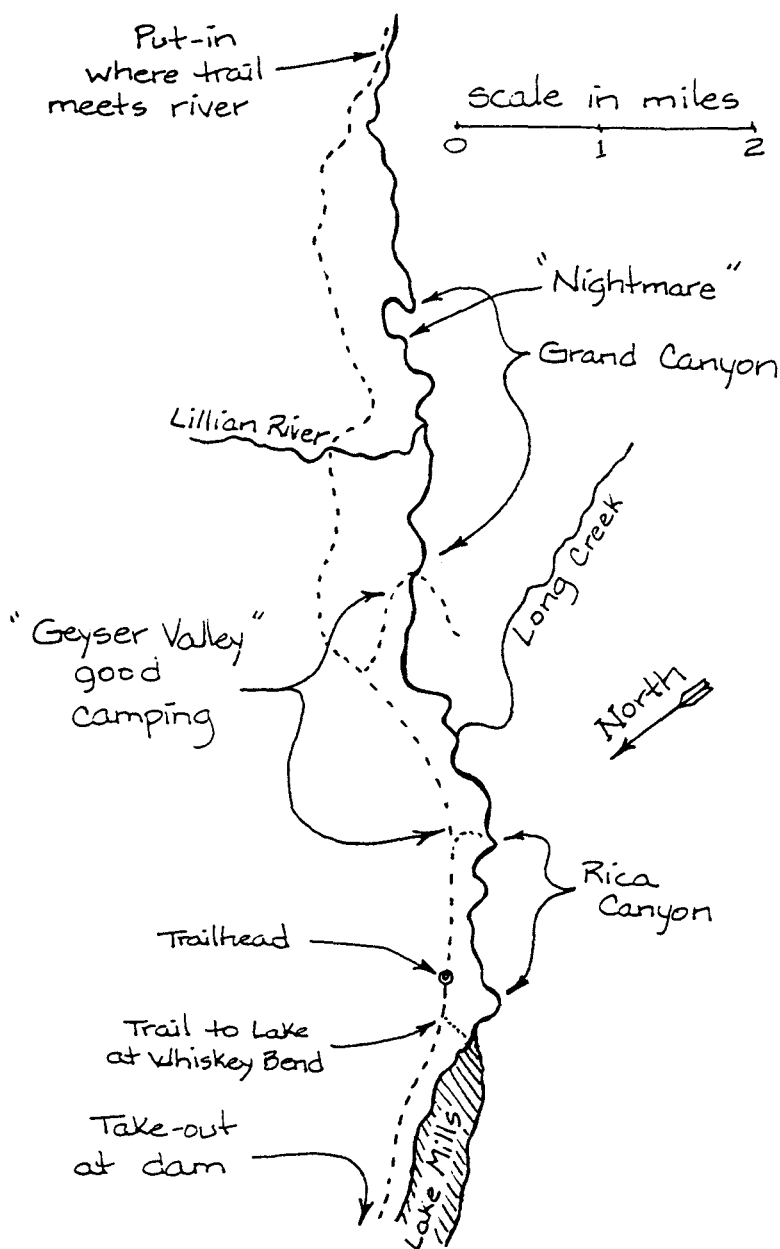
To reach the put-in, drive up the Elwha Valley to Whiskey Bend. At the end of the road take the trail for 8.5 miles to where you first come to the river.

The take-out is at the east side of the dam where there is some good parking.

Season:

July to September. Ideal water levels are between 700 and 1200cfs. You can call the NOAA hotline at (206) 526-8530 for flow levels. Although these flows are for the river below Lake Mills, they are pretty close to the upper river flows.

GRAND CANYON OF THE ELWHA



THE ELWHA RIVER

Run:	Dam to Gauge
Length:	4.6 miles
Difficulty:	Class II-III @ 1600cfs, with one optional Class IV.
Gradient:	40 feet/mile
Scenery:	B+

The River:

The run starts with a tough class IV rapid about .5 mile below the put-in. Scout this rapid on the shuttle to see if you want to run it or put in below.

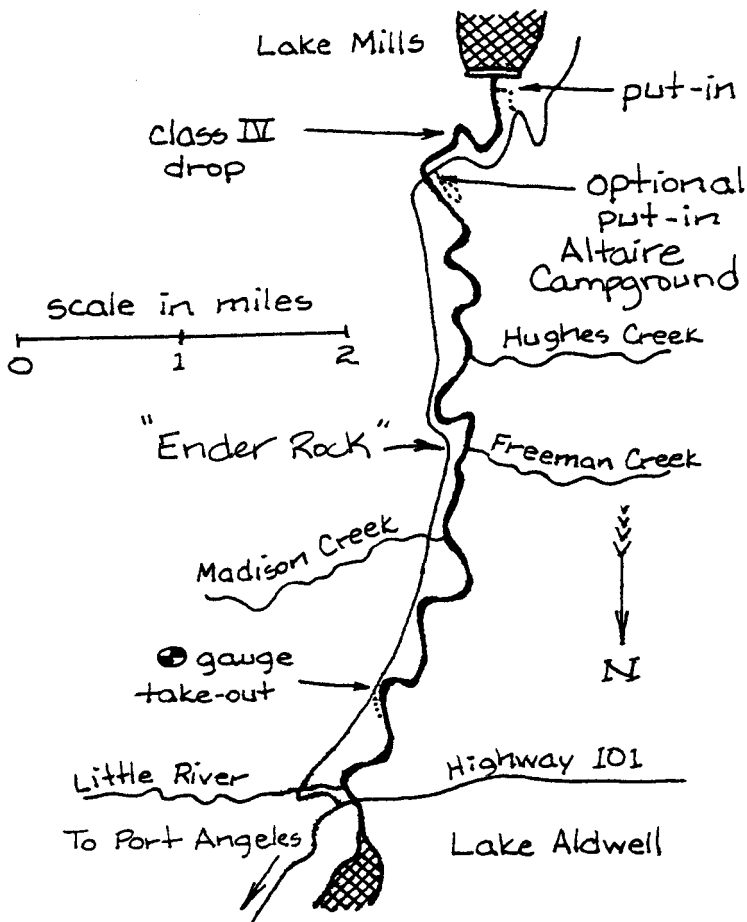
After the short gorge you pass under the bridge and the river changes to a fast bouncy ride through an impressive valley. There are some big waves and holes on the run most of which are visible on the shuttle ride. It's possible to take out about .7 mile down river at Highway 101 but the river is less interesting and it's private property.

The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out, turn at the sign to Elwha Valley on the east side of the Highway 101 bridge crossing the river. Follow this road .9 mile and turn right onto an unmarked dead end road along the river.

To reach the put-in continue on up the road another 4.3 miles to the road down to the dam. This road is marked "Private Road--Authorized Vehicles Only" and probably shouldn't be used but I've never had any problems. Boaters who wish to avoid the big drop can put in at the bridge less that a mile downstream.

Season: All year!! Dam release from Lake Mills is supposed to be "run-of-the-river" to approximate natural water flows. This river is currently included on the NOAA whitewater hotline. Hotline phone number is (206) 526-8530.



THE ELWHA RIVER.

Run:	Lower Elwha
Length:	4.9 miles
Difficulty:	Class II @ 1500 cfs
Gradient:	17.4 feet/mile
Scenery:	B+

The River:

The first few rapids below the dam are very nice and in a deep canyon. At mile 1.5 is a weir about 3 feet high that creates a fun drop. Afterwards the river becomes Class I the rest of the way to the mouth. It's a unique run to be able to start in a canyon and end up at the surf.

Excellent waves form at the mouth as swells roll in from the Strait of Juan de Fuca. When the waves are good you can spend hours surfing here. Also be warned that this stretch of river is lined with fishermen.

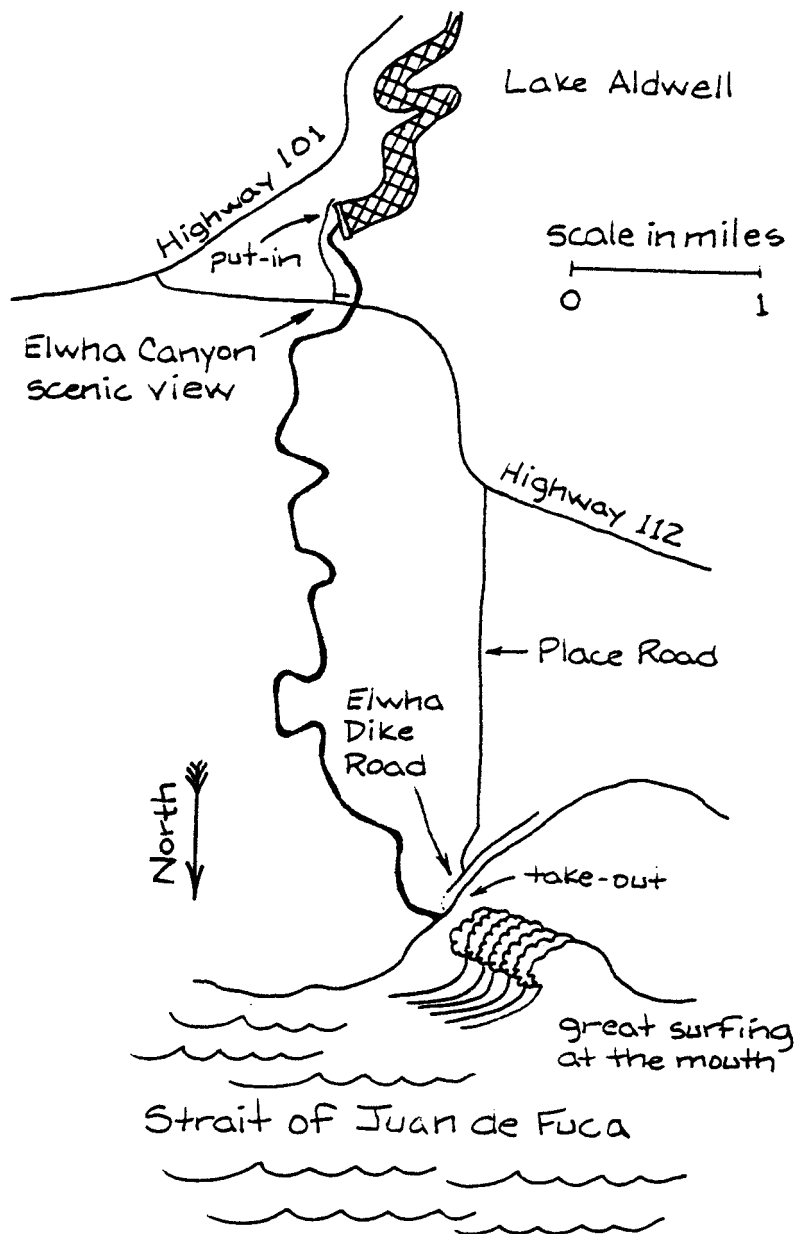
The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out, take Highway 112 just west of Port Angeles. Stop at the scenic overlook for a view of the river. After crossing the bridge over the river drive 1.5 miles and turn right onto Place Road. Follow it for 1.9 miles and turn right onto Elwha Dike Road. Park at the end.

To reach the put-in, drive back to the scenic view turn-off and follow the road to the dam. There is a steep trail down to the river here.

Season: All year! Dam release from Lake Aldwell rarely drops below 500cfs. The surfing waves at the mouth are best in winter at low tide.

LOWER ELWHA



THE GRAY WOLF RIVER

Run:	Deer Park to Dungeness Forks Campground
Length:	9.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class IV-V @ 500cfs
Gradient:	130 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+

The River:

Except for the Lyre, I think this is the most dangerous run in this book--not because of the drops but due to the fast water and likelihood of log portages. Be very careful!

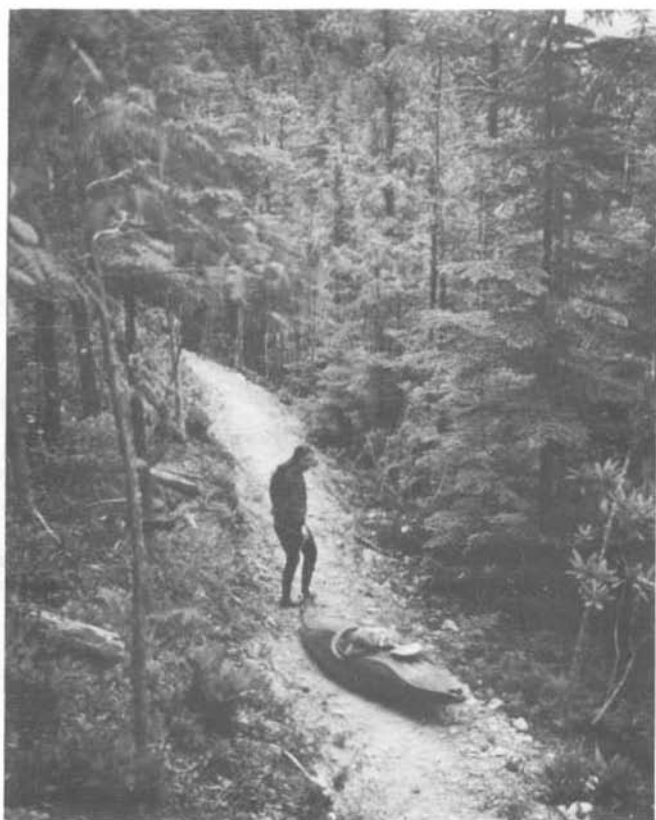
After the great hike in, you'll be ready for some whitewater and the river wastes no time in giving it to you. At the first bend to the right you'll enter a complicated rapid that must be scouted on the right due to trees. This is the start of the "Miracle Mile," a 200-foot/mile section with rapids called "Pencil Sharpener," "#2 Combination Dinner," "Undercut Rock Drop," and the "Right/Left Combination." This section is a real highlight.

Then the river lets up and fallen trees require not only extreme caution but possible portages in the next few miles. When you get to a set of rapids with large boulders you'll be coming to "Not a Problem", a long rapid that deserves careful scouting at the bottom.

Below the trail bridge near Camp Tony you'll arrive at a long Class V rapid named "Decapitation Canyon." Scout this section from the trail on river right. The name comes from the trees that are across at neck level in the steepest part. Below here nice rapids alternate with portages around trees. If you're running in early July the salmonberries make the portages rewarding. Beware of the "Voodoo Chute" on river left. It's a narrow chute that produces wild tailstands as you steer through a three-foot slot. Near the end of the run

you'll get to "Slide #1" and "Slide #2". "Slide #1" is changing all the time as new rocks keep falling in from river left, but it's usually runnable. "Slide #2" is best portaged on the right, but careful scouting might get you through the top to get lined up for the big drop along the left wall. A couple of more tree carries will bring you to the Dungeness confluence.

Expect about six carries around trees and maybe one or two rapid portages, depending on your attitude. This sounds like a lot of portaging but all of the carries are short and easy. This is also a great multi-day trip for those who want the full experience.



Running Shuttle for the Gray Wolf

The Shuttle: To reach the take-out, take Palo Alto road off of Highway 101 just east of Sequim. Follow it for about 8 miles and go right to the "Dungeness Forks Campground." In .3 mile go right again and wind down into the canyon. After crossing the Dungeness River, turn right into the campground.

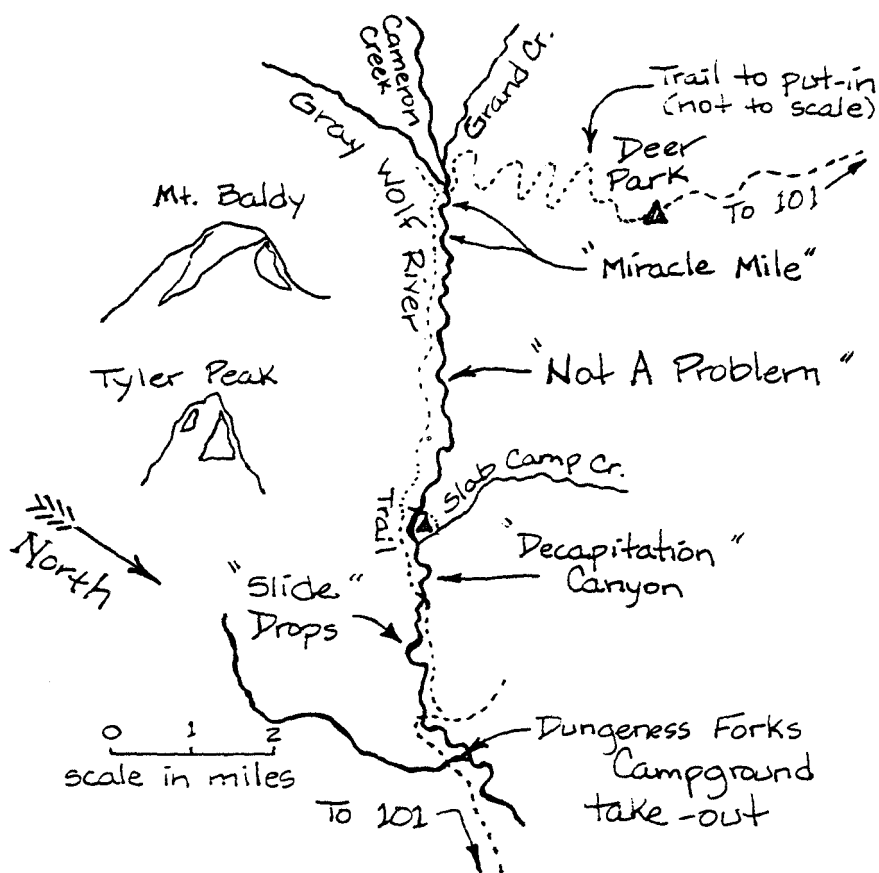
To reach the put-in, go back to Highway 101 and drive west toward Port Angeles. Just east of Port Angeles turn left onto "Deer Park Road" at the Olympic National Park sign. Follow the road to the end at the trailhead. From here it's a four mile hike down to the river, but you'll be dropping 3000 feet in elevation so it's an easy trip. The trail is fairly soft so dragging a boat is really nice.

Season: May through July, after the road opens to Deer Park. Avoid really high water levels.



Mike Deckert somewhere in the "Miracle Mile"

GRAY WOLF RIVER



THE DUNGENESS RIVER

Run:	Gold Creek to Forks Campground
Length:	3 miles
Difficulty:	Class III-IV @ 350cfs
Gradient:	125 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+

The River:

This is a wonderful run. I call it the "miniature golf run" because of all the busy, narrow passages and trees to duck. Whether you add this to the lower run or just run it alone, it will seem like more than three miles.

Starting from the bridge you'll hop a couple of two-foot log falls that have been set in the river for fish habitat enhancement. Be very careful of trees on this section as they come up very fast, and I guarantee there will be a few. The first mile of fantastic rapids can be scouted during the shuttle, but after passing East Crossing, the river enters a remote canyon section. Expect to make a couple of portages before entering the canyon section. The next couple of miles contain many great, technical rapids through excellent scenery.

The last rapid before reaching Forks Campground is the "Mousetrap", and is the hardest on the run. This rapid continues to change as more rocks fall from the cliff on river right.

In 1991, Dave VanCleve and I made a run with no portages. In other years I've made as many as seven carries.

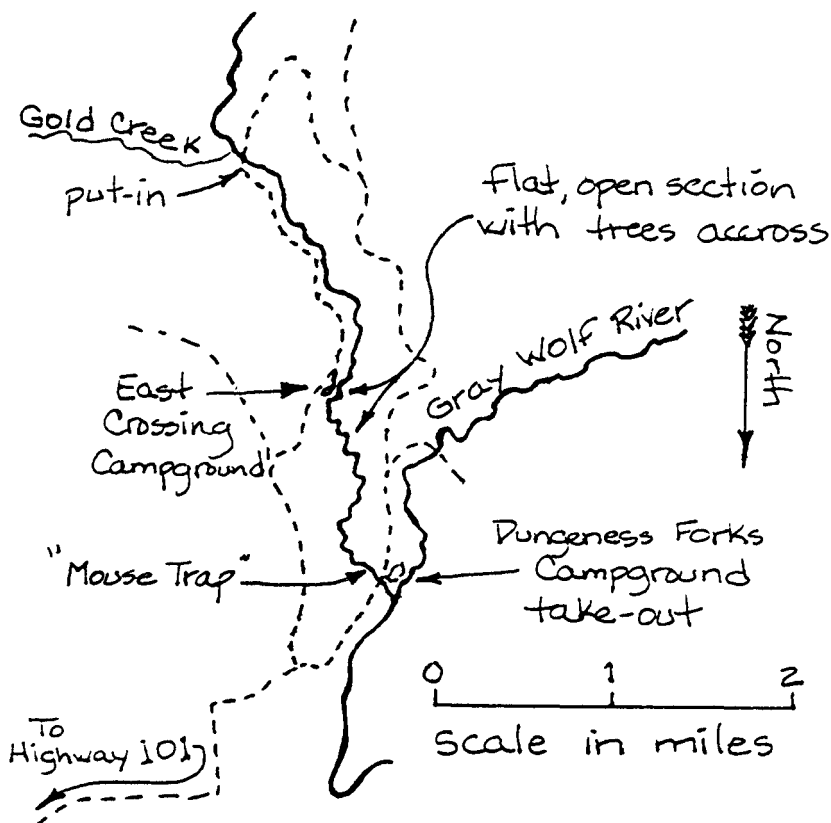
The Shuttle: To reach the take-out at Dungeness Forks Campground take Palo Alto Road off of Highway 101, just east of Sequim. Follow it about 8 miles and go right toward Forks Campground. In .3 mile go right again and wind down into the canyon. Take out at the bridge or

the campground.

To reach the put-in, go back toward Palo Alto road and go right onto FR 2950. Follow this road down to the river and continue to the bridge at the Gold Creek trailhead.

Season: March to July runoff.

GOLD CREEK RUN ON THE DUNGENESS



DUNGENESS RIVER

Run:	Forks Campground to Hatchery
Length:	5.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class III @ 800cfs
Gradient:	59 feet/mile
Scenery:	A

The River:

The run is steep and fast with possible portages around fallen trees. These trees can come up very fast so please be extra cautious. The first mile is very nice with some excellent waves and holes. The scenery in this first mile is also excellent.

The probability of portages increases towards the end of the run. Make sure you scout the take-out carefully so you don't miss it.

The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out, take the Taylor Cutoff which is .2 mile west of the Highway 101 bridge crossing the Dungeness River. Follow this for 2.7 miles and go left onto May Road at the junction. There is a sign to Dungeness Hatchery here. In .3 mile go right on Fish Hatchery Road. When you get to the hatchery pull in and ask permission to use the road to the old camp. The camp is behind the hatchery and is marked with an "Authorized Vehicles Only" sign.

To reach the put-in go back to Highway 101 and use it as mile 0. Drive east through Sequim for 5.5 miles and turn right onto Palo Alto Road. At mile 13.4 follow the sign to Dungeness Forks Campground to the right. At mile 13.7 follow the sign and go right again. You'll wind down into the canyon and have some exciting views of the river. After crossing the Dungeness River turn

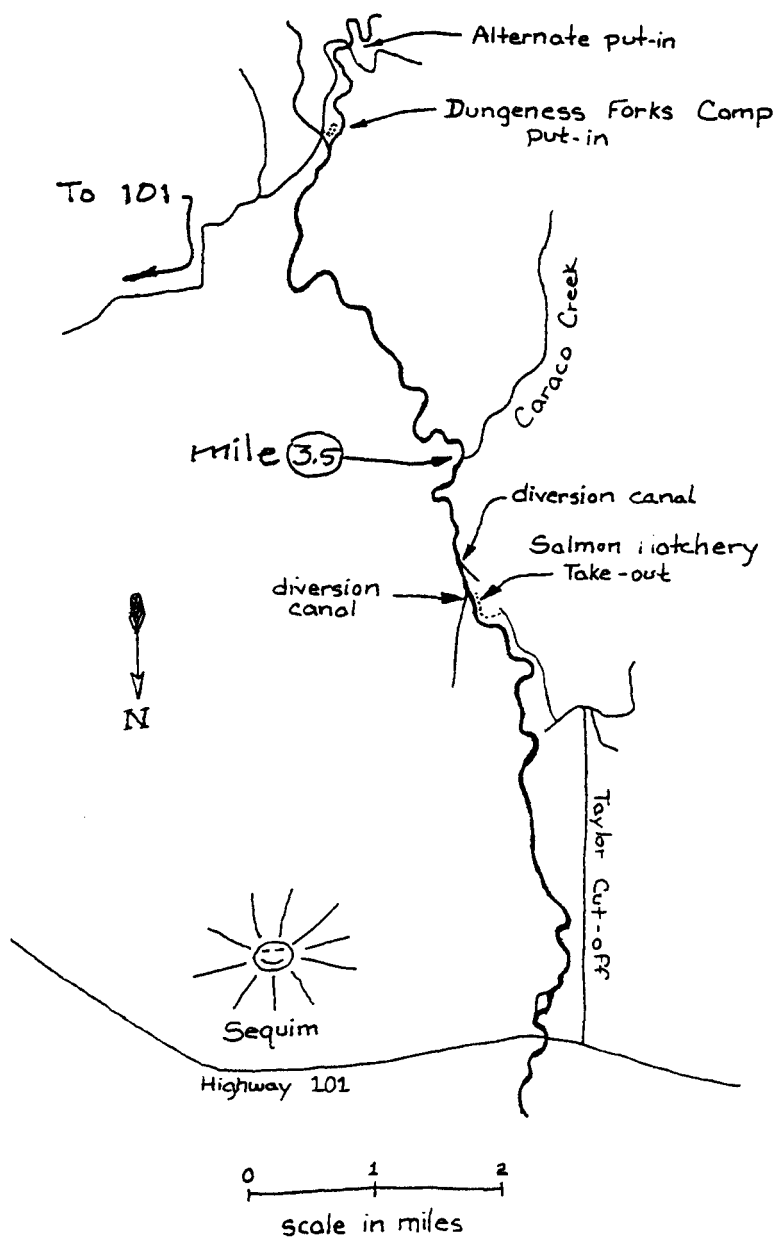
right into the campground and put in on the Gray Wolf River. There's an alternate put-in about .7 mile upstream as shown on the map.

Season: November to July. Best from May to mid-June. Draining many peaks above 7000 feet and the Cameron Glaciers the river sometimes stays up through July.



Jess Spromberg on the Upper Dungeness

DUNGENESS FORKS-TO-HATCHERY RUN



UPPER BIG QUILCENE

Run:	Upper Big Quilcene
Length:	2.0 miles
Class:	V-VI @ 250cfs
Gradient:	165 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+

The River:

This section of river is extreme in every aspect. The scenery, the rapids, the commitment, even the entrance to the gorge is a 20-foot falls. When you're in this chasm you are totally committed to the run. Your progress will be slowed to a snail's pace . . . you won't believe the upper section is only two miles. Logs are a constant threat in this gorge, and there are many. There are a couple of "must run" drops that I would prefer to carry.

If all these words just get you interested you may have found your new favorite run. You don't do the upper run by itself so plan on adding the lower 3.2 miles which will just be a cruise after the upper section.

The entrance falls is named "Casserly's Cascade" after Justin Casserly who was the first to run it. Of the six of us paddling that day Justin was the only one to make the plunge. Justin died less than a year later on a kayaking trip in Mexico.

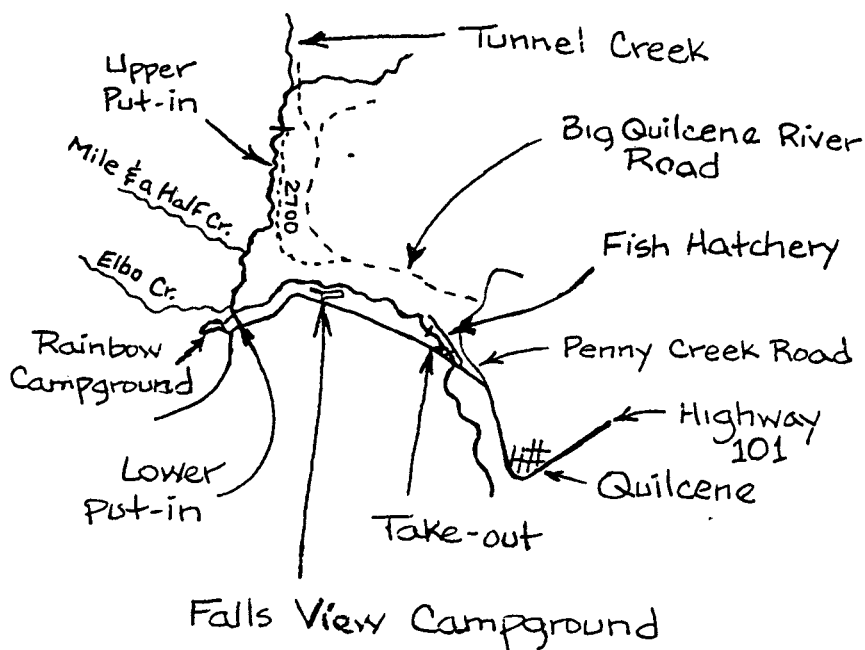
The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out, see the take-out for Lower Big Quilcene run.

To reach the put-in, head north on 101 about 1/2 mile and turn left on Penny Creek Road. In 1.4 miles, veer left, towards the Big Quilcene/Mount Townsend trailheads. In 1.8 miles, veer left gain. Follow Road #2700 for 2.3 miles, to where it runs alongside the river.

The Season: November to June, depending on how much water is getting past the Port Townsend water supply intake. This run is hard to catch with good water. Check after heavy rainfall or in April & May during snowmelt.

UPPER & LOWER BIG QUILCENE RUNS



0 1 2 3
scale in miles



LOWER BIG QUILCENE

Run:	Lower Big Quilcene
Length:	3.2 miles
Difficulty:	Class IV+ @ 300cfs
Gradient:	140 feet/mile
Scenery:	A

The River:

This section of river has about 1/2 mile of Class IV+ with the rest being Class II and III. It starts with some easy warm-up before arriving at the steep section. The first drop in the steep section is a portage below 200cfs, and should always be scouted. Also the final rapid in this section is choked with trees and should be scouted.

After leaving the gorge the river is a bit brushy and you'll encounter a diversion weir at the hatchery. If you choose to go down to the bridge you'll encounter the ELECTRIC weir! I have always taken out above it so I'm not sure how hazardous it really is.

The Shuttle:

The take-out for this run is the Highway 101 bridge over the Big Quilcene about two miles south of Quilcene. Again the electric weir is just upstream of the bridge so we have been taking out at the turn-out 1/10 mile upstream, but this is a crappy bushwack up to the road.

To reach the put-in, head south on 101 for about three miles to Rainbow Campground. There is a 1/2-mile trail that switchbacks down to the river here. Sometimes in winter the campground is gated and you'll have to walk in to the campground, but it's not too far.

Season:

November to June, depending on how much water is getting past the Port Townsend water supply intake. This run is hard to catch with good water. Check after heavy rainfall or in April & May during snowmelt.



Big fun on the Big Quil

DOSEWALLIPS RIVER

Run:	Elkhorn Canyon
Length:	3 miles
Difficulty:	Class V-VI @ 200cfs
Gradient:	208 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+

The River:

This run should be paddled at very low levels to allow safe passage of "Lower Dosewallips Falls." This is an unrunnable section of river just below the put-in. It requires some creative portaging among house-sized boulders . . . **be careful!** If the water level is above 200cfs, boaters should put in below the "Lower Falls."

The first two miles of the run provide endless challenge and danger. Boulders fill the gorge creating long, complicated rapids. The run is so challenging, progress is better measured in feet than in miles. Fortunately the canyon allows scouting and portaging at river level. Expect to make ten to twelve portages. Although this sounds like a lot of carries in three miles, there are still countless great drops to run. Someone who is really crazed and having a good day could get through with only five or six carries.

I should also mention the fantastic scenery that is so impressive you'll never forget it.

The Shuttle: To reach the take-out, take Dosewallips Road about three-fourths mile north of the 101 bridge over the Dosewallips. Follow it for 11 miles to the Elkhorn Campground.

To reach the put-in, follow the road up about 2.5 miles to where you'll see "Dosewallips Falls." You'll obviously put in below the falls.

Season: Year-'round when the water is low.

ELKHORN CANYON



Narrow Escape in Elkhorn Canyon



Ed Schmid negotiates "The Maze" on the Upper Dose



"The Pinch"

DOSEWALLIPS RIVER

Run:	Upper Dosewallips
Length:	5.2 miles
Difficulty:	Class IV+ @600cfs
Gradient:	82 feet/mile
Scenery:	A

The River:

The river starts with a tough rapid that will prepare you for the "Maze." The "Maze" is a quarter mile of technical drops that start out as Class IV, turns Class V in the middle, then back to Class IV. I'd recommend scouting this entire rapid from the road--don't worry, you can't miss it on your way up to the put-in. Below here the river changes character but remains steep and enjoyable. Stay alert for possible portages around fallen trees. The river changes back to Class IV towards the end of the run, and enters the "Pinch" just above the take-out. Scout this narrow slot before running it. A pin across this narrow slot would turn you into an instant taco. This rapid becomes more difficult as the flow increases.

The Shuttle:

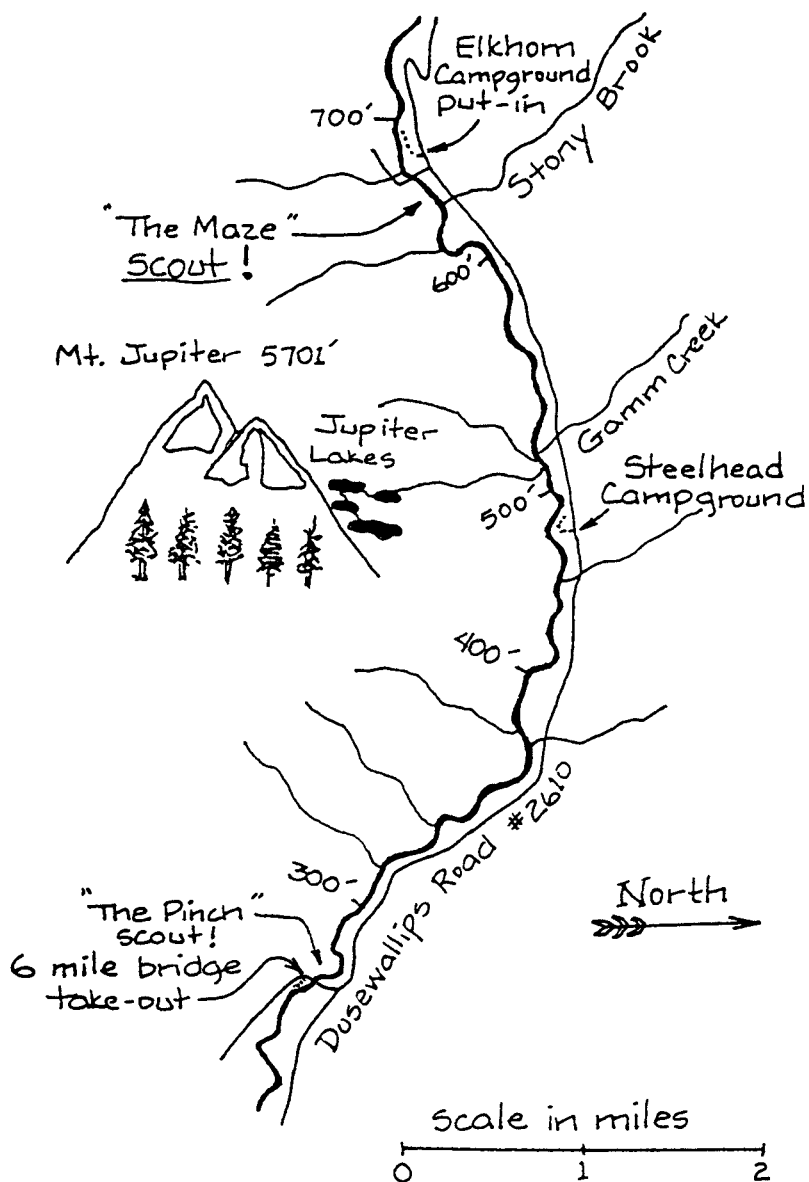
To reach the take-out, see the put-in description for the Six-Mile Bridge run.

To reach the put-in, go back out to Dosewallips Road and turn left. Drive 5 miles and turn left into Elkhorn Campground. While driving shuttle stop and look at the "Maze", and decide if you want to run it.

Season:

November through July.

UPPER DOSEWALLIPS



DOSEWALLIPS RIVER

Run:	Six-mile bridge to Mouth
Length:	6.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class III- @ 750 cfs
Gradient:	38 feet/mile
Scenery:	A-

The River:

The first two miles contain many rapids with small holes and waves to play in. After about three miles you'll come to a ledge that forms the best hole on the run. Just below here Rocky Brook enters from the left and the river enters the gorge. The gorge is only .5 mile long but has some good playspots and is intensely beautiful. After leaving the gorge the river becomes Class I but stay alert because the last two miles can have log jams requiring a portage.

The Shuttle:

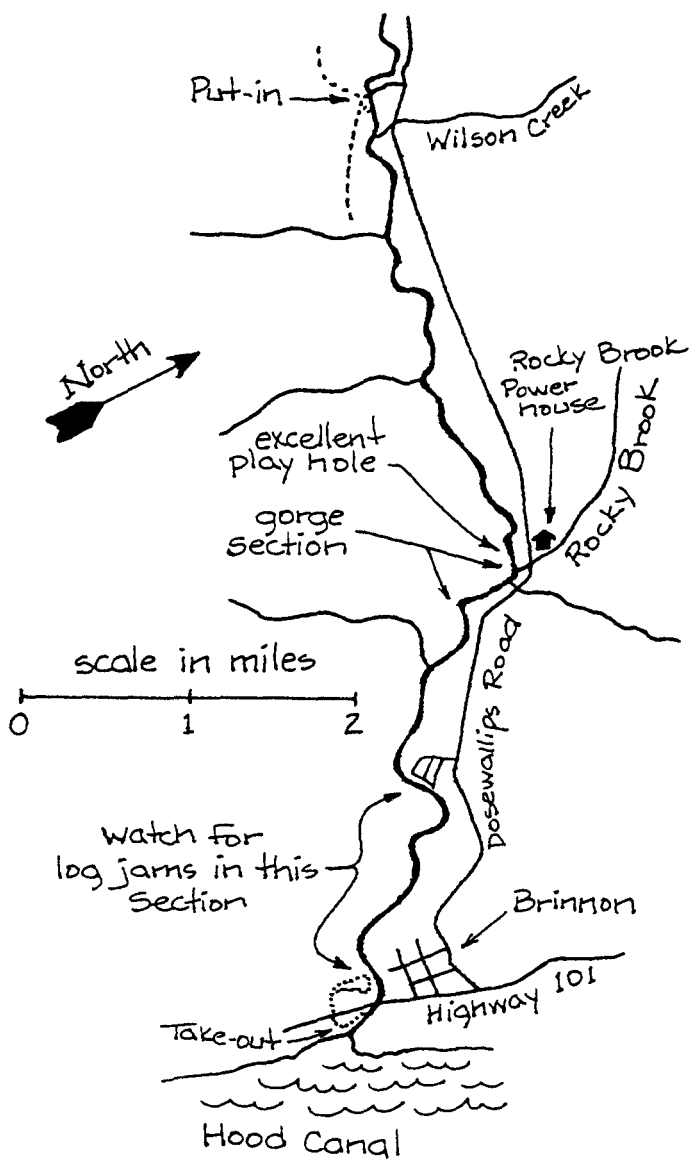
The take-out for this run is at "Dosewallips State Park, Beach Access." It's located .3 mile south of where Highway 101 crosses the Dosewallips.

To reach the put-in drive back out to 101 and go north .9 mile and turn left onto Dosewallips Road. Follow this for 5.9 miles and turn left onto Road #2620 and follow it .1 mile to the bridge. After crossing the bridge turn left and in 0.1 mile is an access on the left.

Season:

November to July. Drains many peaks over 7000 feet and several small glaciers. Good snowmelt through June and in some years through July.

LOWER DOSEWALLIPS



DUCKABUSH RIVER

Run:	2515 Bridge to Highway 101
Length:	6.2 miles
Difficulty:	Class IV+ @ 300cfs
Gradient:	55 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+

The River:

After a couple of miles of enjoyable rapids a huge boulder closes off the river at the head of the gorge. Below it is a falls followed by several steep, unscoutable rapids. This stretch is probably runnable if you can get back to the river below the falls.

The long portage around this section is done by going up the left side where there is somewhat of a trail. Follow this and it will hook up with the Ranger Hole Trail. Walk up above the two drops that make up Ranger Hole and put in. Below here be prepared for about a mile of continuous Class IV rapids. This section drops about 90 feet/mile and is extremely beautiful. Then the river becomes slow and houses line the river.

The Shuttle:

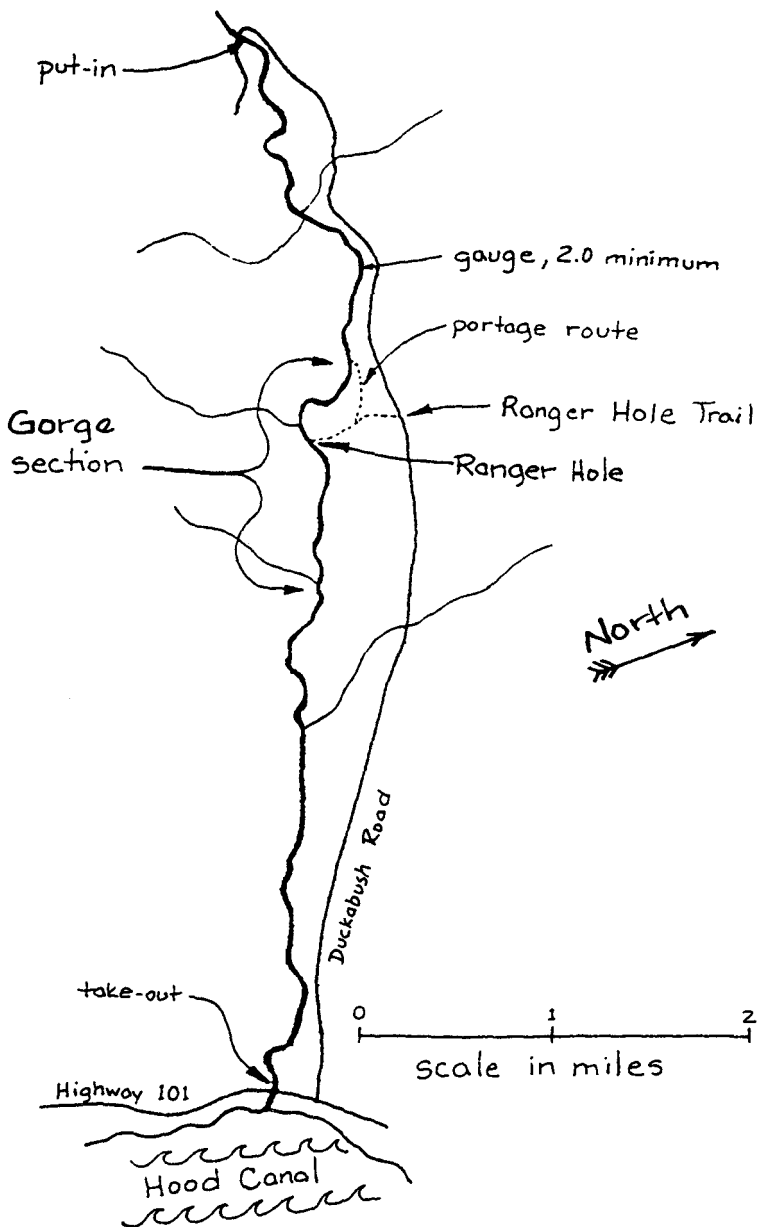
The take-out is the Highway 101 bridge over the river.

To reach the put-in, take Duckabush Road just north of the take-out. Follow it 6.2 miles to the bridge. Alternate put-in is the Ranger Hole Trail at mile 3.7. Check the water level at the gauge at mile 4.7.

Season:

November through July. The river drains peaks above 6000 feet and several small glaciers. Check the gauge described in the shuttle. Minimum level is about 2.0 feet.

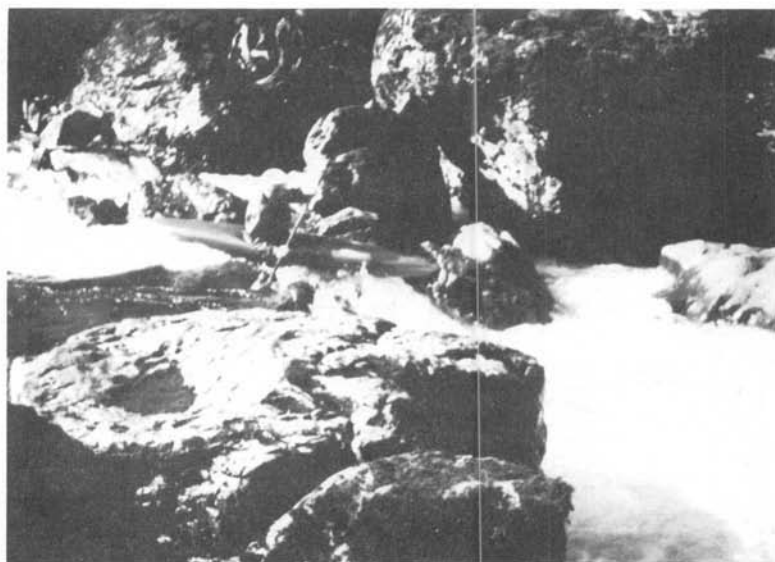
DUCKABUSH RIVER



HAMMA HAMMA RIVER

The Hamma Hamma means "stinky stinky" to local Indians, so-named for the abundance of salmon in the lower reaches. Perhaps the fish were more concentrated here than in other rivers because the gorge section, about two miles up from the Hood Canal, is impassable to salmon as well as paddlers.

The river drains many high lakes with peaks above the 6000 foot level. The water of the river seems exceptionally clear even when flooding. For the Bridge-to-Falls run, take a few minutes to walk along the road upstream of the put-in to see the horrendous rapids above the bridge. Then at the take-out, walk below to see the falls section and I'm sure you'll feel a deep respect for the ruggedness of this great little river.



HAMMA HAMMA RIVER

Run:	Upper Hamma Hamma
Length:	3.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class V-VI @250cfs
Gradient:	200 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+

The River:

If you're looking for an incredibly technical challenge, this run is for you. This run is extremely hard on equipment but very fun. Expect to hit a lot of rocks and maybe get pinned once or twice.

The first half-mile is very dangerous and requires expert judgement on which drops to run and which to carry. This section ends in a 30-foot falls that is portaged on the right. Below here steep, rocky drops just keep coming. Most of these are runnable at lower levels, but would be very intense at higher water levels. There is one more mandatory portage at a small falls among house-sized boulders. Be extremely careful of trees in the last steep boulder garden section because it's very hard to stop. Below here you'll feel it let up to enjoyable Class III and IV for about half a mile before the river starts meandering around log jams.

When you hit the flat stuff you can either take out and walk to the road near Lena Creek, or just fight your way through to where the road comes alongside the river. This will require several portages, but a couple of surprise rapids will keep you smiling.

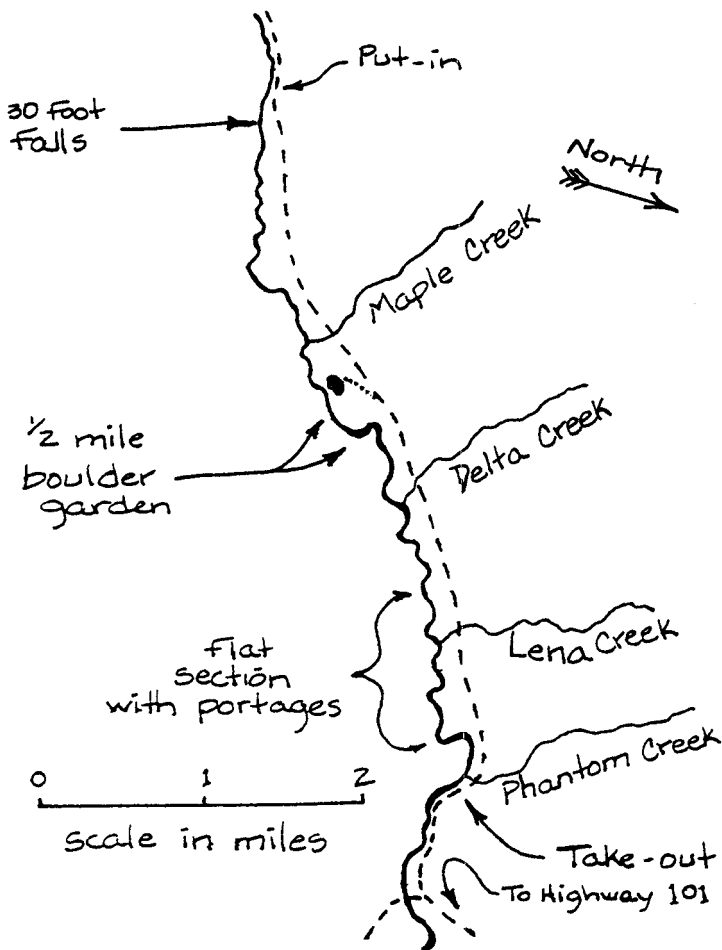
The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out, take Hamma Hamma Road off of Highway 101. It's well-marked with a sign "Hamma Hamma Recreation Area." Follow this past the campground, stay right at the bridge and take out where the road is alongside the river. This is about seven miles from 101. To take out at Lena Creek, continue up the

road another 1.4 miles.

To reach the put-in, continue up the road about five miles to where you can see the river alongside the road. It's a short steep carry down the hill---your first of many.

The Season: November to July; avoid high water.



ONE NIGHT AFTER WORK . . .

In June of 1984, Paul Thompson came to visit me from Las Vegas. I promised him lots of good boating while he was here. Having to work that week we ran some Olympic rivers in the evenings. I told him about the "U-turn" on the Hamma Hamma and explained how I'd portaged it on a solo run, but wanted to go back and run it.

We arrived at the put-in at about 6:00 and decided to walk the four mile shuttle after the run. We played our way down making the most of this beautiful little river. Scouting the "U-turn" isn't easy and probably took about half an hour. Having decided on our route we got into our boats and headed down. Once through the three drops of the "U", I started to surf at the bottom. Paul, also wanting to surf, tried to eddy-out, but was swept into the wall and knocked over. He recalls falling out of the seat and swimming the remainder of the gorge. When he got to shore he was without his paddle. It had SUNK to the bottom and we could see it in the clear water. We probed at it with some sticks but the water was about 15 feet deep and fairly swift. Paul decided to dive for it.

His first try was comical: he went upstream, dove from a rock and bobbed along the surface in his wetsuit and life jacket. After removing his life jacket he found about a 25-pound rock and dove in head first with it. He went straight to the bottom, released the rock and groped around for his paddle. After a few more tries Paul had his method worked out so he could just walk along the bottom holding a big rock. The trouble was by this time it had gotten so dark we couldn't see anything.

Looking through the driftwood I found a flat

piece of cedar and a branch suitable for a shaft. I split the branch and inserted the flat piece, then lashed it with rope. We paddled the last mile in the dark, portaging the chute above the take-out.

When we got back to the car it was nearly midnight. I got home and went to bed at 2:30. When I got up at 6:00a.m. the next morning to go to work, I stood up, smiled, then laughed. . . because tonight after work "we're going to go run the Dosewallips!"



Beautiful whitewater on the Hamma Hamma

HAMMA HAMMA RIVER

Run:	Lower Hamma Hamma (Bridge to Falls)
Length:	5 miles
Difficulty:	Class III @ 600cfs, with one Class IV+ rapid.
Gradient:	40 feet/mile
Scenery:	A-

The River:

The run starts with a delightful rapid under the bridge. Be sure to take note of the gauge on the left just below Watson Creek at mile 1.

At about mile 1.5 the river hits an island with an extensive log jam. Take the channel to the right. Jefferson Creek enters on the right at mile 2. The flow will have almost doubled since the put-in.

Shortly below Jefferson Creek you begin a long stretch of rocky rapids. At about mile 3.5 is a rapid in a right turn that should be scouted. At the next left turn pull out on the left shore to scout the "U-Turn." It's a Class IV+ rapid with a blind entrance. It consists of three drops and a flush through a narrow gorge. The third drop is the most difficult to scout and run. The "U" becomes even worse at high water as the first two drops merge together. The best level to run the "U" is between 1.2 and 1.5 feet on the gauge. The gorge walls make setting up a rescue impossible. To portage, pull in on the right shore and go over the hill. This is somewhat strenuous and some rope makes bringing the boats down the other side of the hill much easier.

About one-half mile below here is a steep chute that you may want to scout. The take-out is shortly below on a left turn. Scout this approach carefully so as

not to go over the falls. Anyone who missed the take-out would be history.

The Shuttle:

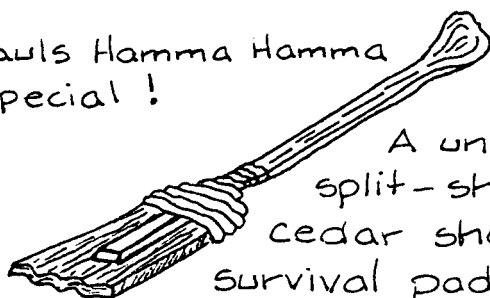
Driving north on Highway 101 you cross the Hamma Hamma at the town of Eldon. Two miles past the bridge take a left onto Hamma Hamma Road. It's well-marked with a sign that reads "Hamma Hamma Recreation Area." Follow this road past the campground and go left across the bridge and park on the right.

To get to the take-out, continue past the bridge for 3.6 miles and turn left onto an unmarked dirt road. This road was washed out last time I was here and we had to walk up about 1/2 mile to the car. I won't be back until the road is repaired.

Season:

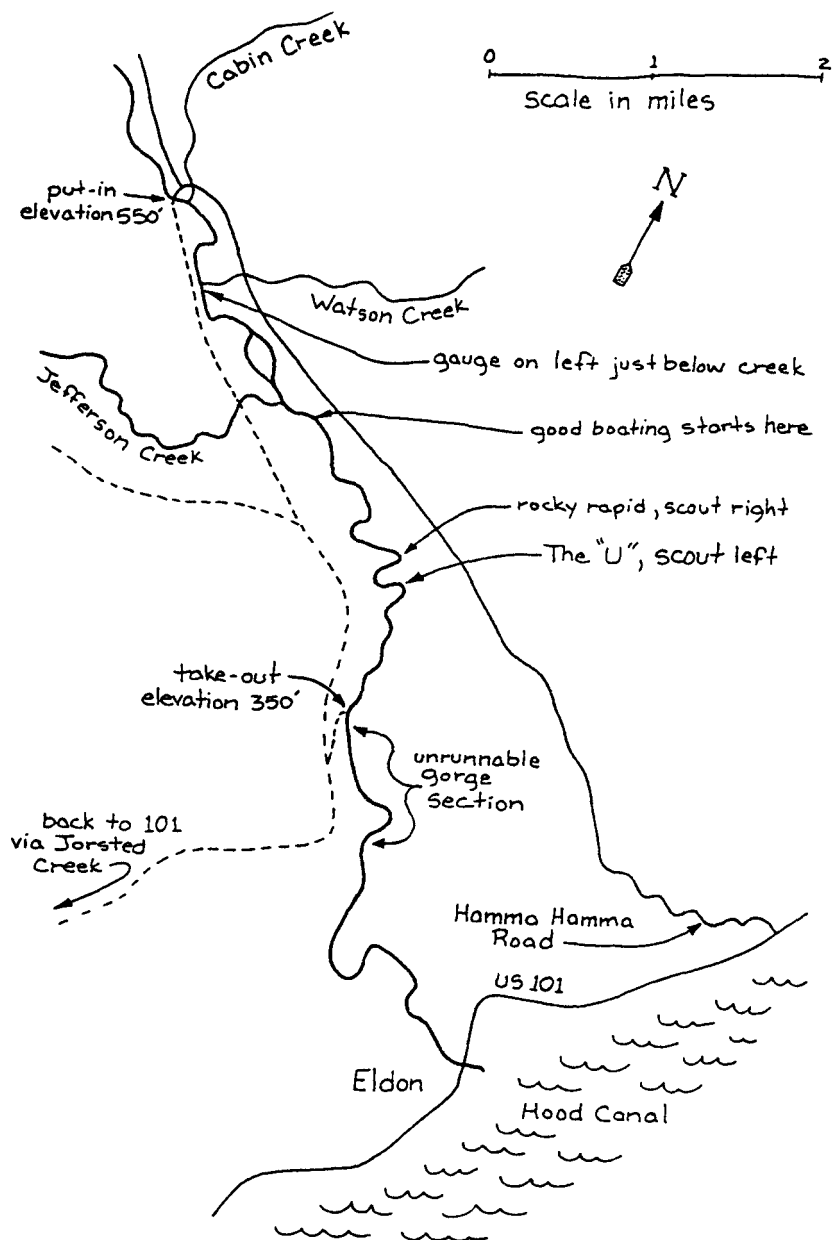
November through June. Drains several peaks over 6000 feet. Several lakes contribute to clear water and moderate run-off. Minimum level is about 1.2 on the gauge.

Pauls Hamma Hamma
Special !



A unique
split-shaft,
cedar shake,
survival paddle.

LOWER HAMMA HAMMA



NORTH FORK SKOKOMISH RIVER

Run:	Staircase to Lake Cushman
Length:	1.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class II+ @ 650cfs
Gradient:	
Scenery:	B

The River:

The run starts with several nice rapids as it flows through the campground. There are some playspots so you can spend several hours on this short run. It becomes slower as you approach the lake so enjoy the first few rapids. In spring of 1990 when the lake was very low a long challenging class IV rapid appeared about a half mile below the bridge.

The Shuttle:

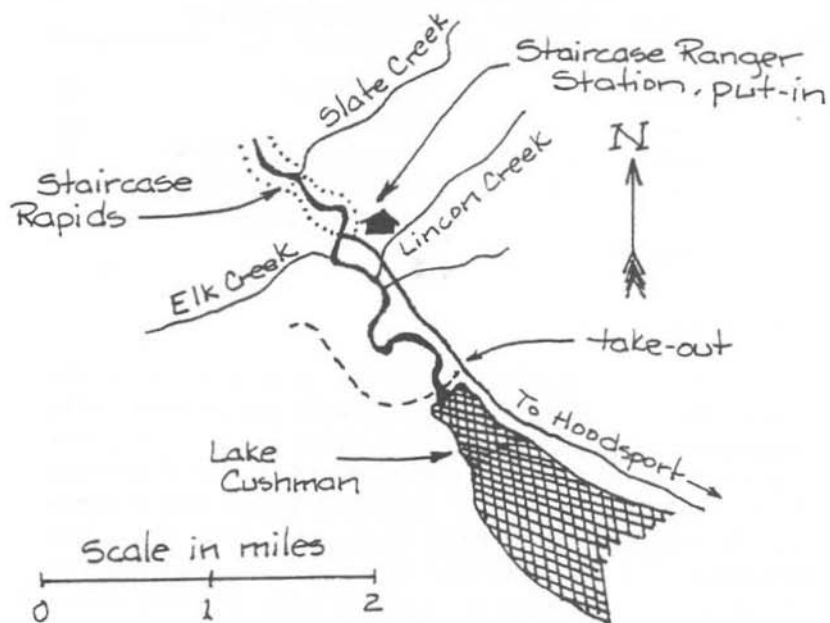
To reach the take-out start by driving to Hoodsport on Highway 101. In Hoodsport follow the signs to Staircase and Lake Cushman. Drive up the lake to where the bridge crosses the river as it flows into the lake. This is the take-out.

To reach the put-in continue on up to Staircase Ranger Station where the road ends. You can put in at the bridge here or hike up the trail and put in below Staircase Rapids. This adds about a half mile of great river which you can scout from the trail.

Season:

November to mid-June. Drains several peaks above 6000 feet and has good spring run-off.

NORTH FORK SKOKOMISH



SOUTH FORK SKOKOMISH RIVER

Run:	Gorge Run
Length:	11 miles
Difficulty:	Class IV-V @ 800cfs
Gradient:	36 feet/mile (90 feet/mile in second gorge)
Scenery:	A+

The River:

This is one of the most spectacular runs on the Peninsula. Flowing through a deep gorge containing numerous Class V rapids, boaters should be sure their skills will make this run a pleasant experience. Scout the drops carefully as many undercut rocks make some rapids appear easier than they are. This river has changed so much over the last six years that boaters should expect surprises as new landslides deposit car size boulders in the river.

After about a mile of easy river you will arrive at the first gorge. This is the easier of the two gorges but it has a couple of drops you may want to scout and a big hole near the end that usually provides some excitement. The river opens up briefly and there is an emergency access on river right where an old road leads up the hill.

After entering the second gorge you will be confronted by huge boulders that close off the river. This section is clear right now but it cycles off and on as debris jams in the chutes. Once to this drop you are totally committed and scouting is only an option at lower levels, so approach with caution!

Several more fantastic rapids bring you to the bridge and "High Steel Falls". This huge drop was unrunnable for many years. But it has opened up and is runnable at the right water level.

The next long Class V rapid--known as "Bobbing for Butler"--has undercut rocks, some bad holes, and is

not very forgiving--scout carefully! Just downstream is the new (1995) landslide, a mandatory portage. It may open up someday but for now, portage on the left.



South Skokomish from High Steel Bridge

The final Class V rapid--"Mr. Toad's Wild Ride"--is recognized by huge boulders blocking the river. Most of these boulders are undercut so there are few eddies. The water sweeps you into the boulders as you race through. --Scout carefully!

Below "Mr. Toad's Wild Ride" a couple of small

drops bring you to the relaxing finish--3.5 miles of Class I-II river complete with log jams and old cars for erosion control.



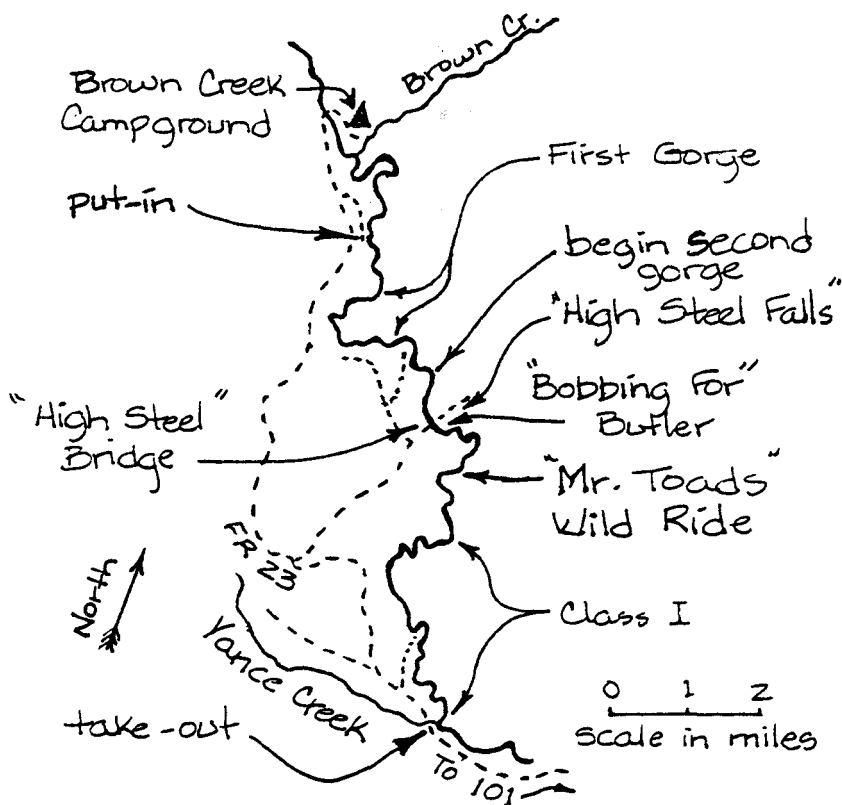
"Mr. Toad's Wild Ride"

The Shuttle: To reach the take-out, take the Skokomish Valley Road off of Highway 101 about seven miles north of Shelton. Follow this road 4.5 miles to the turn-out alongside the river.

To reach the put-in, continue up the Skokomish Valley Road 1.3 miles and turn right onto road #23. (V-1000) towards Brown Creek. Follow this road 8.9 miles to a gravel road on your right with a message board and a "No Shooting" sign. This road leads you down to the river.

Season: November to June, following light rain or dry weather. Avoid high water.

SOUTH FORK SKOKOMISH



TRIBULATIONS OF VANCE CREEK

(or "Don't Complain about the Put-in")

In March of 1991 six of us set out to explore Vance Creek. We set a vehicle at the take-out and headed off to find the unknown put-in. What we knew about the river was that it was running pretty high (650cfs), it had a steep gradient (well over 100 feet/mile) and it had no major waterfalls, according to Paul Butler who knew someone who had mapped it on foot for fisheries purposes. We drove along looking for a possible access and finally decided on a turn-out over looking the river gorge. Looking down we could see treetops and mist rising from the cliffs 500 feet below. Three of the group decided we would never be able to get down to the river and wisely backed out.

The three of us--Paul Butler, Mike Deckert and I--took our boats and ropes and headed down as if we knew exactly where we were going. Minutes later we found ourselves committed to an incredibly steep strip of vegetation with cliffs on both sides. By some miracle we got down to the river at the only possible spot!

We had a great run through many class III & IV rapids. The only wild moment of the day was Paul doing an accidental rear endo up onto a waterfall coming in on the left--VERY spectacular!

The run was so great Mike & I returned the next day with my wife Carol Volk to find a new put-in farther upstream. It had rained all night and the river was almost floodstage (about 1200cfs!). We found a new put-in several miles upstream of the old one but we decided the level was too high for exploring so we went back to the insane strip of

vegetation. It turns out this was to be a very wise decision. Down the hill we went, sliding on our butts and hanging onto salal twigs.

At this level the run was a smoker and I was very glad I had run it the day before. There were too many close calls to list but we all had a great run.

So this leads us to the next weekend when Paul Butler, Mike Deckert, Scott Mathews & I drive up to explore the rest of the run. We arrive at the take-out to find a level of about 250cfs, we decide though low it's a good level for exploring the upper section. We drive all the way to the top and find about 35cfs trickling between boulders. Now the insanity starts. We put-in anyway. After running about a half mile of rocks we come to a beautiful clean 12 foot falls into a deep big pool! But a log at the bottom blocks us from running this wonderful drop. Below here our flow doubles to perhaps 100cfs and gradient increases substantially.

I ask Paul: "What about your friend who said there were no waterfalls?" Paul says "He must not have surveyed this far upstream." After running a bunch of steep rock gardens we stop for lunch at Cabin Creek. While eating lunch Mike says, "It's like boating over lubricated rocks." Paul adds "Instead of a paddle I should have worn boxing gloves." Truer words were never spoken.

After lunch we run a few rapids and pull into scout what looks like the end of the world! Scouting reveals a 10-foot falls leading into a 35-foot vertical plunge with no decent portage. After contemplating our options we decide we're not astronauts or guinea pigs and start climbing up the left side. We traverse along the edge of the cliffs and begin to head down a gully that looks promising. Paul is below us and leaves his boat to see if we can get down or not. All of the sudden Mike slips and his

boat takes off like a tomahawk missile toward Paul. The boat nearly hits Paul and disappears over the cliffs. We decide this must mean we should go down here. As it turns out it was the only way down for a long way and Mike's boat is waiting at the bottom. We survey the falls from the bottom and find it to be a clean plunge into a huge pool. This is probably the biggest runnable falls on the Olympics although it will probably be quite some time before someone runs it. Below here the river lets up and soon we were at the old put-in.

At the take-out we thought about how smart we were to not try the upper section at high water. I'm not including this upper section as a run in this book because although the run has some great rapids, the portage around the falls is not my idea of fun. However if you're a person seeking out waterfalls to run you should check this one out.

When you run the lower section of Vance Creek you'll probably do some whining about the put-in, but trust me it's the best access to this fine run.



VANCE CREEK

Run:	Lower Vance Creek
Length:	3.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class IV @ 600cfs
Gradient:	120 feet/mile
Scenery:	A-

The River:

This is a fantastic run. Great scenery combined with continuous Class III and IV rapids make this one of my favorite runs when the water is high.

The run begins with a trashy section but you can usually get through with no portages. All the rapids on the entire run should be approached with caution due to trees.

After passing Nicklund Creek--a huge waterfall on the left--the river picks up a little steam. The next mile has a few big drops and various log hazards to watch out for. Scouting is highly recommended for any drop you're not sure of in this section.

Just when it looks like things are going to let up you'll come to some boulders dividing the river into several chutes. This is "String Cheese", it usually has a surprise waiting at the bottom.

After passing under the high railroad bridge, you'll come to the final rapid. At high water levels there is an ender spot at the bottom for those who aren't quite ready for the take-out.

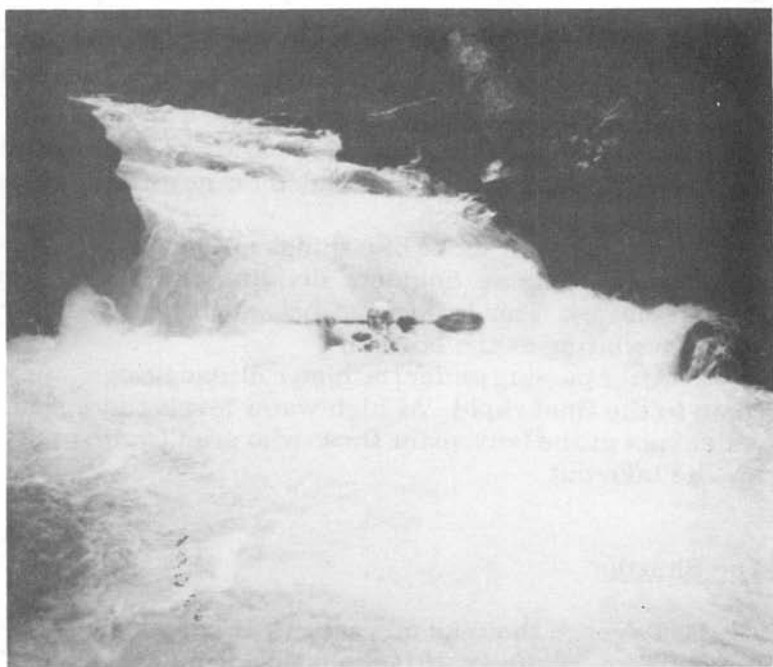
The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out, take the Skokomish Valley Road off of Highway 101 about seven miles north of Shelton. Follow this road 5.8 miles and go right towards Brown Creek on FR#23. Follow it for 2.6 miles and turn

left onto road #2341. Follow it 1.3 miles to the bridge over Vance Creek.

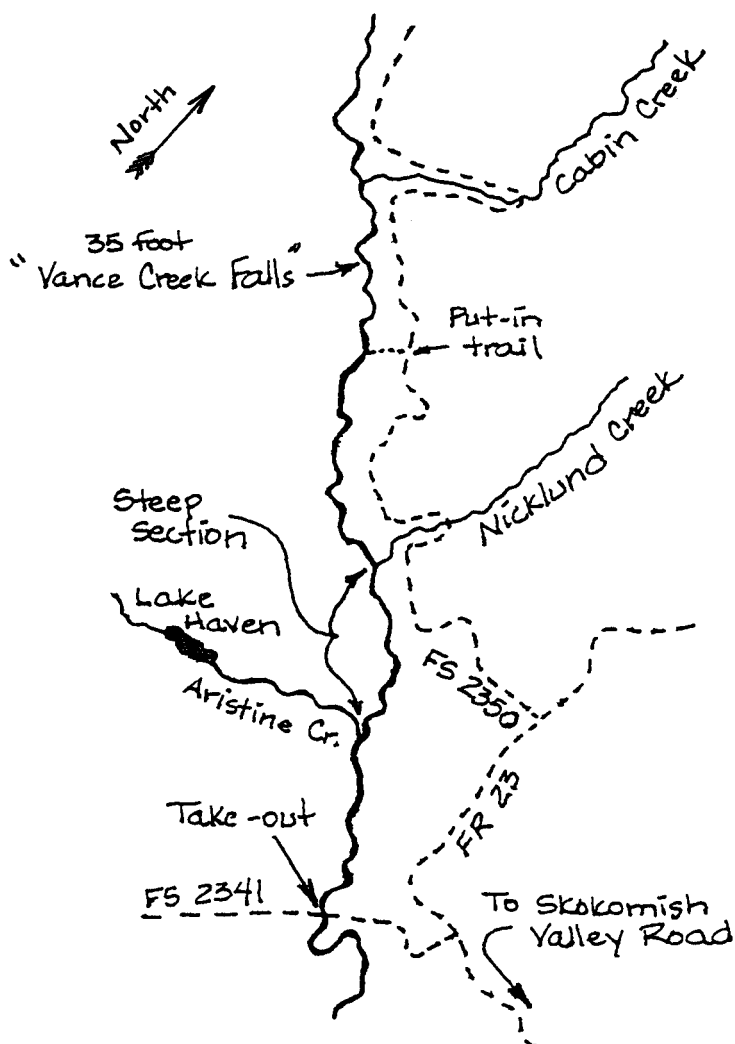
To reach the put-in, go back up the hill to road #23. Turn left and drive 1.7 miles to road #2350 on your left. Follow this road 3.8 miles and park at an old overgrown road on your left. Now the fun begins. Drag your boat down to the end of this old road and keep going right down the steep hill. Lowering boats down the hill with rope will increase safety. It's a long carry down to the river, but this run is worth it.

Season: November to May, following heavy rainfall.



Kayaker smothered by high water on Vance Creek

VANCE CREEK

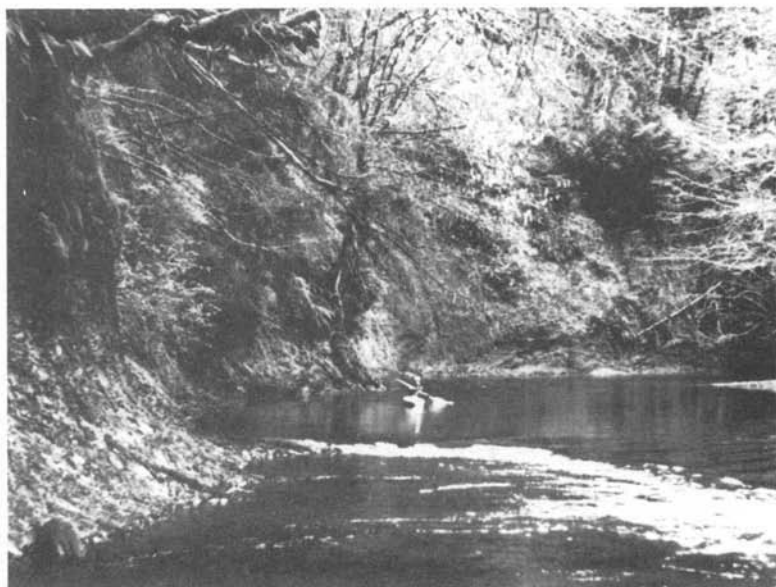


0 1 2
scale in miles

SATSOP RIVER

The Satsop is a large river with many boatable tributaries. Nearly all of its drainage is clearcut and below 3000 feet, resulting in high peak flows and very muddy water after heavy rains. It's not uncommon to have over 10,000cfs after big storms but the river drops fast. Once the ground is saturated and the rains have ceased the river will hold at about 2000 to 3000 cfs.

The flow is measured down by Highway 101 and is hard to apply to the runs. Here is a very rough breakdown of how to apply the gauge to the sections described in this book. When the river is at 3000cfs the West Fork is about 800cfs, the Middle Fork is about 600cfs and the Canyon River about 400cfs. To get the flow call NOAA's whitewater hotline at (206) 526-8530.



EAST FORK SATSOP RIVER

Run:	East Fork (Bingham Creek to Cook Creek)
Length:	8.2 miles
Difficulty:	Class II- @ 350cfs
Gradient:	8 feet/mile
Scenery:	B

The River:

This can be a very nice run in late November when the river is filled with salmon. There are several short smooth-walled sections with small rapids flowing over sandstone ledges . . . very pretty.

There will probably be a portage or two around newly fallen trees as well as one long carry at a huge log jam. The river holds its water very well when other runs are low.

You can also take out at Schafer State Park but you'll miss one short beautiful gorge section.

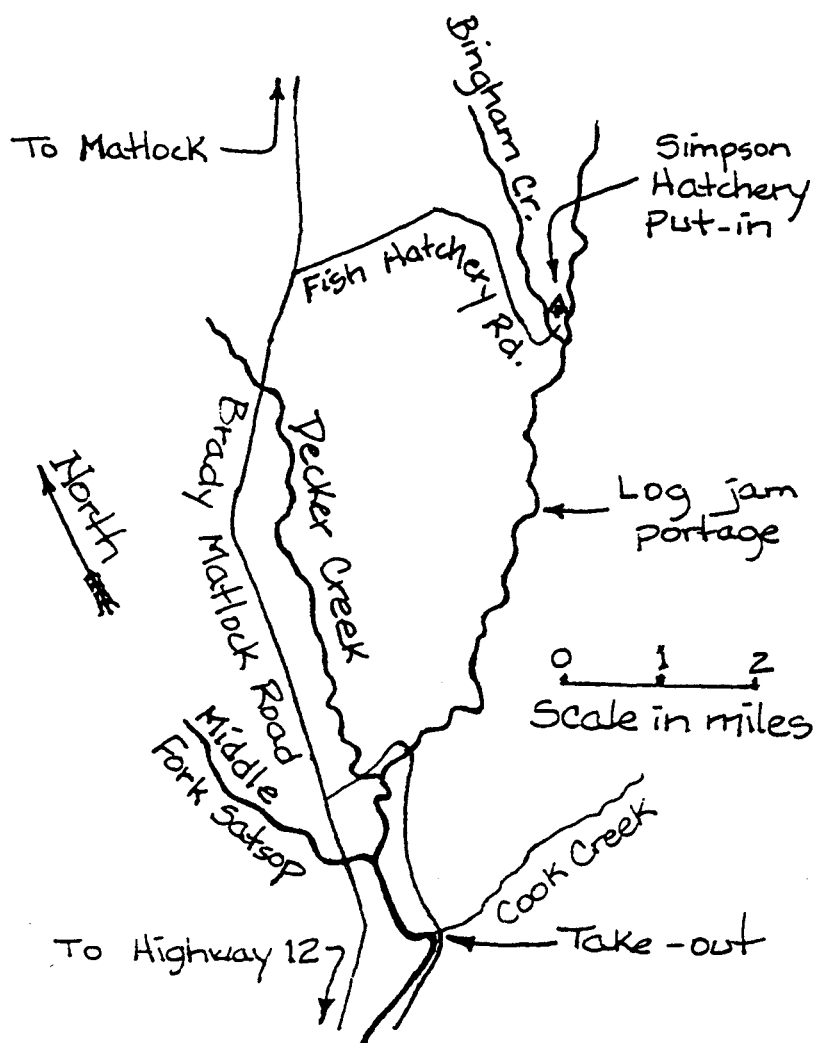
The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out from Matlock, drive 10.3 miles and turn left towards Schafer State Park. In 1.2 miles you'll cross the East Fork at the park. From here keep going another two miles to where there is a turn-out at Cook Creek. You can paddle up the creek from the river.

To reach the put-in, go back out to the Matlock-Brady Road and turn right. Follow it 5.4 miles to Fish Hatchery Road, and turn right. Follow this 3.6 miles to the hatchery and put in on Bingham Creek.

Season: November to May, following moderate rainfall.

EAST FORK SATSOP



MIDDLE FORK SATSOP

Run:	Upper Upper (Walter Creek to Baker Creek)
Length:	6.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class III (IV) @ 550cfs
Gradient:	69 feet/mile
Scenery:	A

The River:

This wonderful trip, that has quickly become one of my favorites, makes you pay the price for it. First a long shuttle on logging roads and then a mile of meandering creek at the top, complete with many trees to portage. Use caution!

Once you get to the first big boulder/log jam, the river begins dropping through great rapids surrounded by beautiful forest.

One section stands out from the rest. It begins with a short Class IV drop followed by several steep rapids ending in a narrow gorge. Paul Butler named this rapid "Faith Healer", because as you enter the narrow gorge you've just got to believe. This section of river is ultra-beautiful. The river remains beautiful with nice, technical rapids for the rest of the run, though several clearcuts mar the scenery on the lower section. The take-out at Baker Creek is a little steep but not too bad.

The Shuttle:

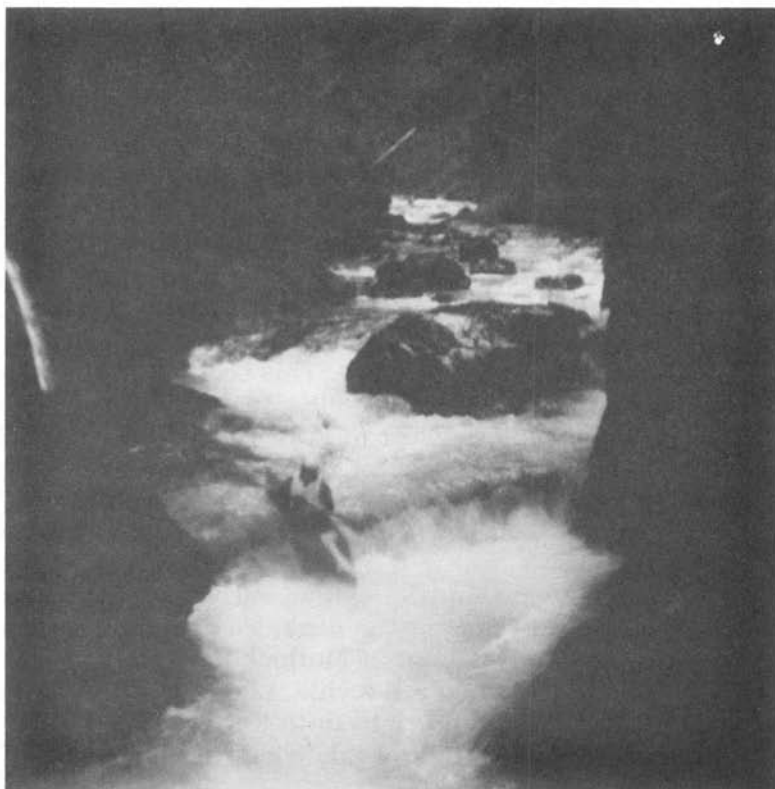
This is a long shuttle---get an early start so you're not driving these roads in the dark. To reach the take-out, take Beeville Road out of Matlock. Follow it for 2.5 miles, then stay left on Beeville Loop. Continue on another 2.1 miles and go right onto Kelly Hall Road. In 1.4 miles go left and follow this road 1.3 miles to the bridge over Baker Creek.

To reach the put-in, zero your odometer and go back 1.3 miles to the stop sign and go straight. Drive for

6.1 miles and turn left onto FS #2341. Follow it 4.4 miles and this will bring you to FS #23.

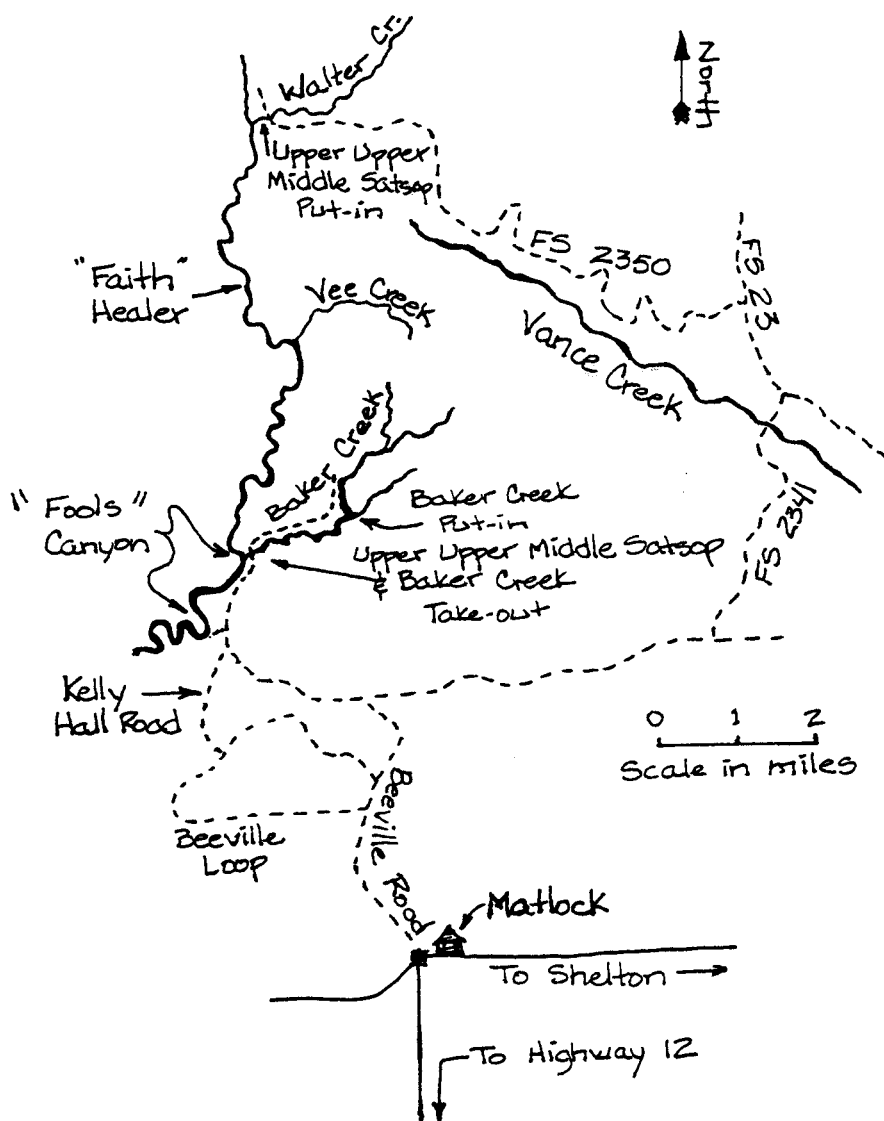
Go left on #23 and drive 1.7 miles to FS #2350 and turn left. Follow this for 7.8 miles and keep right avoiding #2342. Stay on #2350 for another 2.9 miles to where the bridge crosses tiny Walter Creek, the put-in.

Season: November to May following heavy rainfall.



Paul Thompson enjoying
"Faith Healer" on the Upper Upper Middle Satsop

UPPER UPPER MIDDLE SATSOP RUN



BAKER CREEK

Run:	Old bridge to Middle Satsop
Length:	1.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class III-IV @ 250cfs
Gradient:	100 feet/mile
Scenery:	B+

The River:

This is not my idea of a great run, but one day when the water was way too high to explore the Middle Fork Satsop we ran this section and found it to be a lot of fun. At the put-in the first steep rapid had some trees in it requiring a carry. But below were several nice steep drops in a row that were nice and clean. The rest of the run is easier but stay alert as we had to make one carry where trees blocked the channel. Although the road follows the creek it still has a remote feel to it.

If this run is too short and you're feeling a little crazy you could continue on into "Fools Canyon", but if Baker Creek is at a good level the canyon may be too high!

The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out, take Beeville Road out of Matlock. Follow it 2.5 miles and stay left on Beeville Loop. Continue on 2.1 miles and turn left onto Kelly Hall Road. Follow it 1.4 miles and go left onto FS #2341. Follow it 1.3 miles to the bridge across Baker Creek, the take-out.

To reach the put-in, continue on staying right along the creek. When you come to a washed out bridge you can put-in.

Season: November to May, following heavy rainfall.

MIDDLE FORK SATSOP

Run:	Fools Canyon
Length:	1.3 miles
Difficulty:	Class IV-V @ 400cfs
Gradient:	115 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+ extraordinary

The River:

This unforgettable run can be added to the Upper Upper section or to Baker Creek for those who want a longer trip. I call this "Fools Canyon" because the nature of the canyon doesn't allow for adequate scouting or portaging if there were a tree blocking the channel. The river rips along between smooth walls with frequent class IV and V rapids. The drops are big, powerful and clean.

I'd recommend **NOT** running this stretch, but once you see the gorge entrance you'll be drawn in by its mysterious beauty. Make sure you scout as much as possible before getting in the river to check for logs and to make sure your skills are up to the challenge.

The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out, take the Beeville Road out of Matlock. Follow it 2.5 miles stay left on Beeville Loop. Continue on 2.1 miles and go right onto Kelly Hall Road. Drive for 1.2 miles and turn left onto a small road. If you have 4-wheel drive you can drive down to the river here, if not you'll have to carry your boat up the hill.

To reach the put-in, continue on Kelly Hall Road and stay left in .2 mile. Follow this road 1.3 miles and put-in at the bridge across Baker Creek.

Season: November to May.

MIDDLE FORK SATSOP RIVER

Run:	Upper Middle Fork
Length:	9.8 miles
Difficulty:	Class II @ 600cfs
Gradient:	21.4 feet/mile
Scenery:	B+

The River:

At higher water levels this run provides very enjoyable surfing. Easy Class II rapids continue throughout the trip as do many excellent waterfalls and side creeks. At high water levels there is one spot where you can surf while a waterfall crashes down on you. The stretch below Rabbit Creek to the take-out is very pretty and is my favorite part of the trip. As with all the Satsop runs beware of trees spanning the river.

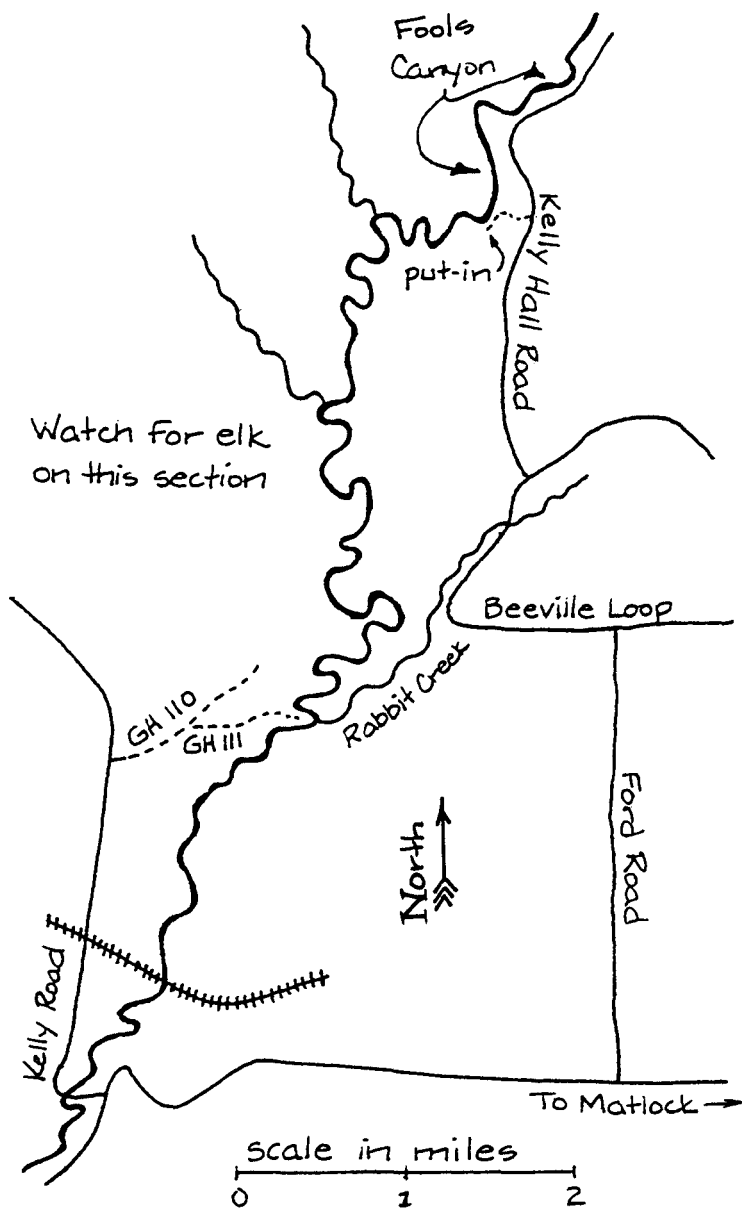
The Shuttle:

To get to the take-out from Matlock take Middle Satsop Road for 5.5 miles, then turn right onto Kelly Road and park at the bridge.

To reach the put-in, drive back toward Matlock for 3.2 miles and take a left. Drive for 2.5 miles, and turn left onto Beeville Loop. Follow it for 2.2 miles and turn left onto Kelly Hall Road. Drive for 1.2 miles and turn left onto a small road. Then right to where the old road leads down to the river, an easy hike. In the early 1980's we could drive down to the river here, now it's just a trail.

Season: November to May.

UPPER MIDDLE FORK SATSOP



MIDDLE FORK SATSOP RIVER

Run:	Lower Middle Fork
Length:	7.4 miles
Difficulty:	Class II- @ 650cfs
Gradient:	13 feet/mile
Scenery:	B+

The River:

The run begins with some small rapids in a beautiful short gorge. Above 1000cfs the river forms nice smooth waves and a couple of good holes. Below the bridge are some enjoyable playspots and a large waterfall on the right. When you see some cabins on the left you'll know the take-out is coming up.

This is a great stretch for beginners, and at high water is a playful run for intermediate boaters. It also lends itself to an easy bicycle shuttle.

The Shuttle:

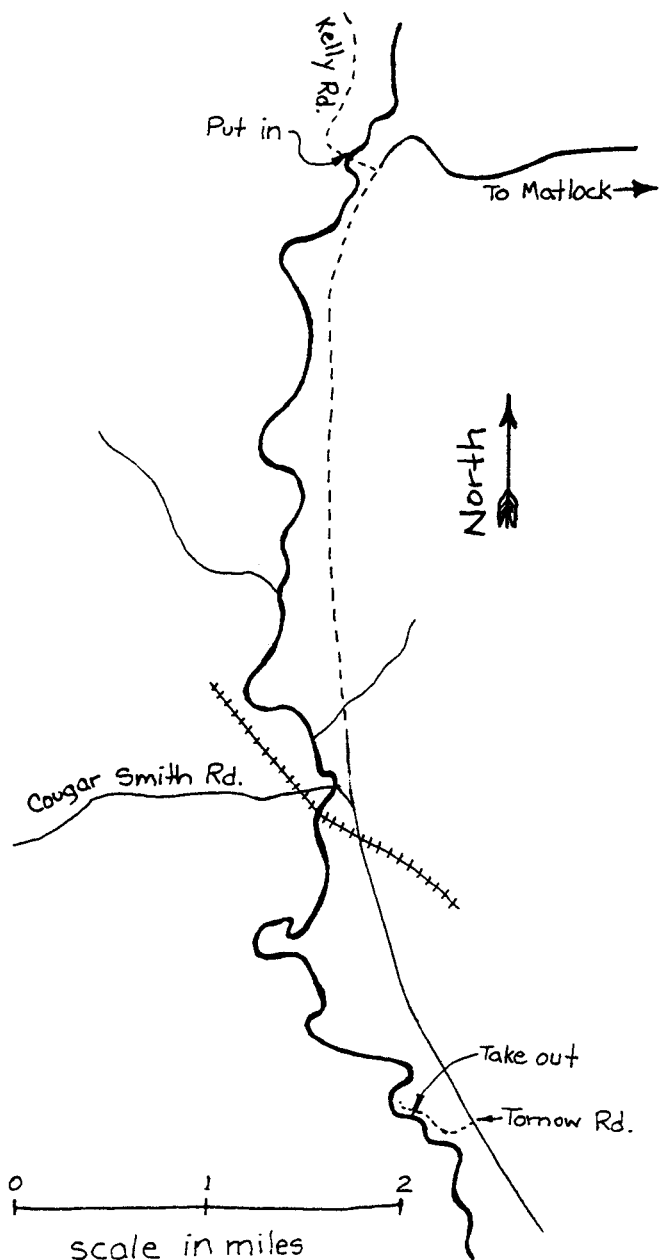
The put-in is at Kelly Road Bridge. See the Upper Middle Fork Satsop run for directions.

To reach the take-out, drive south along the river for 5.4 miles and turn right onto Tornow Road. Follow it to the public fishing access and park.

Season:

November to May. Best after heavy rains.

LOWER MIDDLE FORK OF THE SATSOP



CANYON RIVER

Run:	Canyon River
Length:	12.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class II @ 500cfs
Gradient:	20 feet/mile
Scenery:	A-

The River:

The Canyon is a small river sandwiched between the Middle Fork and West Fork of the Satsop. It's a beautiful river with high smooth sandstone walls and nice waterfalls. This area is thick with elk in winter so keep your eyes open.

The first half of the run is very prone to landslides and there are usually some portages around newly fallen trees. In some sections these can come up fast so be cautious. After reaching a fun ledgy rapid the river will begin to enter the canyon section. This section is very beautiful and has one nice rapid with large rocks in it. Once to the confluence with the West Fork Satsop the riverbed becomes much larger and the flow about triples. The river remains very scenic almost to the take-out.

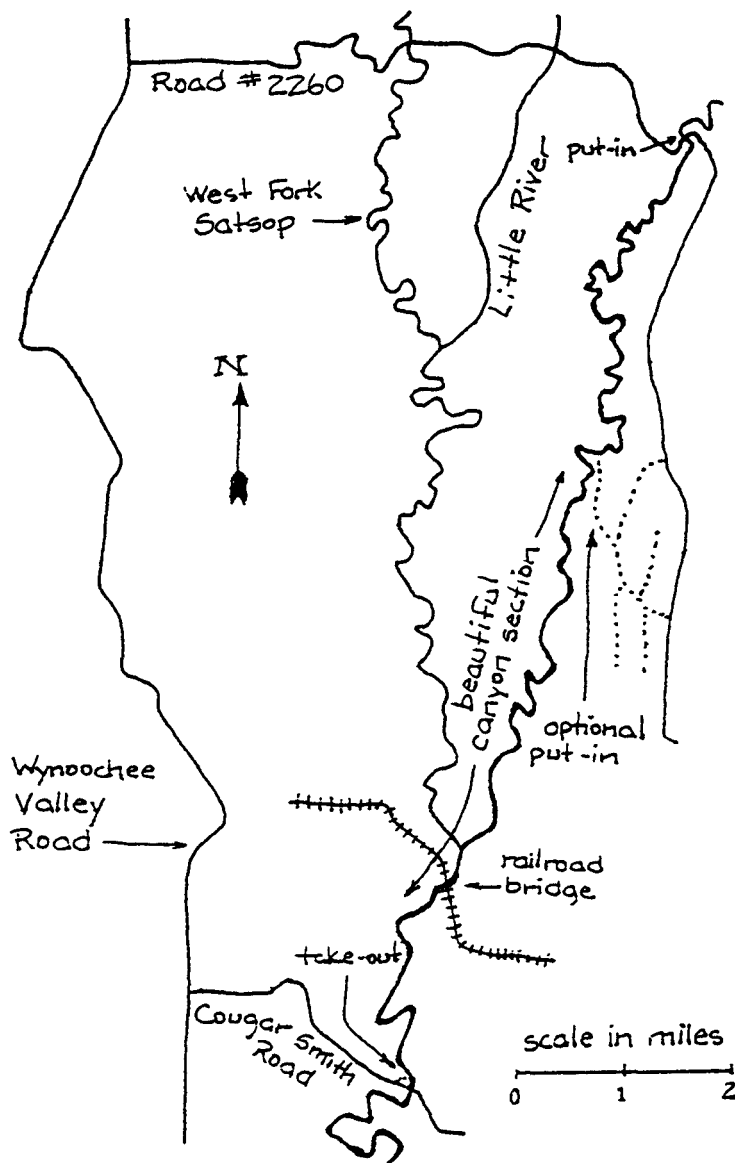
The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out, see the Upper West Fork Satsop take-out description at Cougar Smith Road.

To reach the put-in, go back to Wynoochee Valley Road and continue north for 10 miles. Turn right here onto Road #2260. Continue on for a few miles and cross the West Fork Satsop, then after a few more miles you cross the Canyon River. There is another access almost halfway, but it's difficult to describe and there are new logging roads every year.

Season: November to May.

CANYON RIVER



WEST FORK SATSOP RIVER

Run:	Gorge Run
Length:	4 miles
Difficulty:	Class IV+ (VI) @ 300cfs
Gradient:	88 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+

The River:

The run starts in an open riverbed but soon enters an extremely narrow gorge. This section should be treated with respect and caution because in some years logjams block the gorge. After passing under the bridge, the next mile has many easy rapids and is more open. The next major obstacle is "Jaws," a Class VI cascade that is plugged with logs and boulders. Scout from the left and portage on the right. Below here the rapids are very enjoyable. Some are so rocky that you have trouble seeing where you're going.

This is a very dangerous run and should only be paddled at low water. High water would make it very difficult to portage "Jaws" and this is not a happy thought. To decide on water level look at the bridge pier on river right at the take-out. If the water is even with the top of the wood 4 X 8 along the concrete you're about right. If you don't see any wood, go somewhere else and boat.

The Shuttle: To reach the take-out, take the Wynoochee Valley Road off Highway 12, just west of Montesano. Drive north for 29.1 miles. Then turn right onto road #2260. Follow this road about four and a half miles to the bridge across the river.

To reach the put-in, drive back to Wynoochee Valley Road and go right. Drive 4.7 miles and turn right on FR 23 to Satsop Lake/Swell. In about a mile, you'll come to a fork in the road. Stay left and continue on FR 23 toward Swell & Satsop Lakes. Just after passing

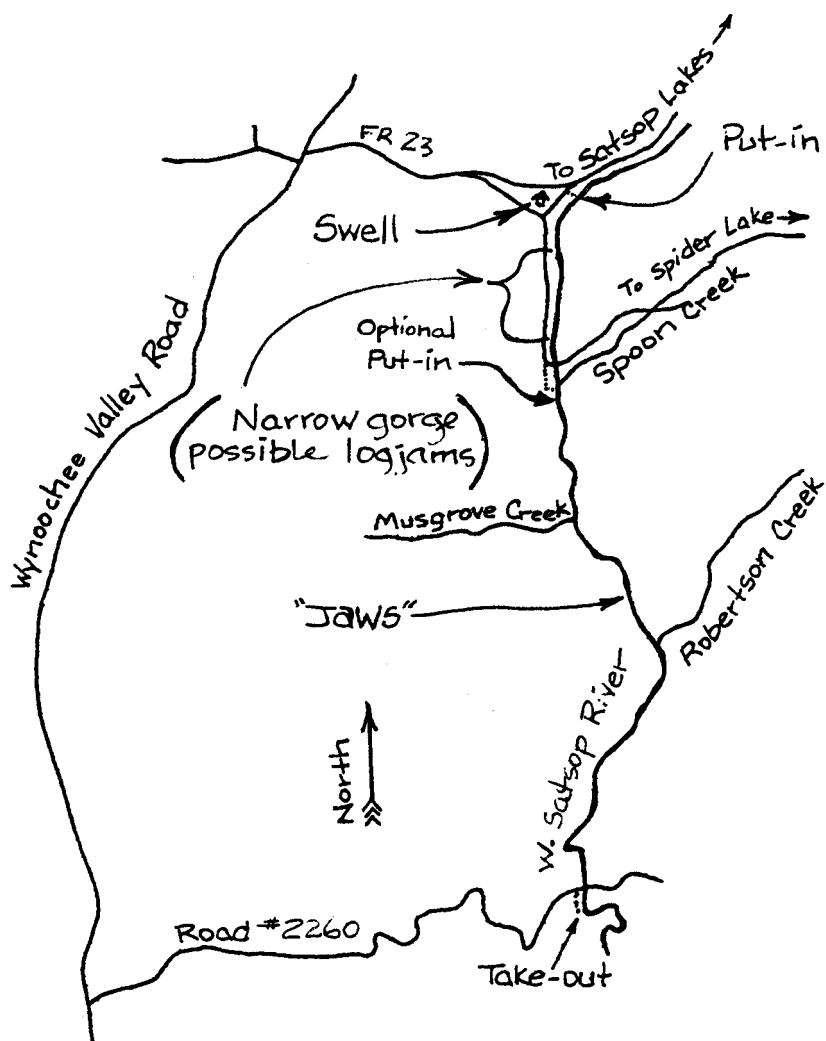
Swell, turn right and scramble down to the river.

The Season: November to May, following moderate rainfall.



Ron Killen on the West Satsop Gorge

WEST FORK SATSOP GORGE



Scale in miles
0 1 2

A QUESTION IN JUDGEMENT . . .

In spring of 1986 Carol Volk, Jack Moss, Ron Killen, Bob Cihak and I put in to run the West Fork Satsop Gorge. I'd scouted it the best I could on foot, but I was nervous that it was going to turn into a trap. The next three miles dropped 300 feet through a narrow, inaccessible, basalt gorge so we proceeded with extra caution.

The first mile dropped moderately through technical Class II rapids in a beautiful gorge. After making a short portage around a 10-foot falls we came to "Jaws"--a Class VI drop that flows underground. To portage this drop there is a "must catch" eddy right at the entrance. We all made the slippery portage and stopped for lunch in this unique gorge.

Just as we were leaving, a solo kayaker appeared along the wall portaging "Jaws". The first thing I noticed was that he wasn't wearing a life jacket. He didn't have much to say to us as he put his shiny new fiberglass kayak in the water. I asked him if he had run this stretch before and he said he had. I ran the next rapid and pulled in to scout a big drop. The next thing I heard was a whistle blowing upstream. I turned around to see the shiny new kayak standing up at a 45 degree angle with the stern pinned to the bottom. He was able to get out but the boat remained solid. Carol came by and offered help and he told her "leave me alone." He tugged, kicked and stomped until he broke the boat free. The boat had no float bags and now weighed about 400 pounds. He managed to line it down to where I was and we emptied the water from it. I assessed the boat--no float bags, big hole in the stern and a split seam most of the way around. I assessed

the paddler--no life jacket and wearing just blue jeans with his wallet in his back pocket. He was shivering badly and he told me he had never done this stretch before. It was now obvious to me that he was a beginner in way over his head.

He got back in his boat and immediately had a hairy swim. He then just started walking along the river carrying his boat. I wondered how he made the eddy above "Jaws" without being swept into it. This guy had come very close to dying today. When the river let up he was able to paddle again, but barely. He was hypothermic and could hardly speak.

When we reached the take-out we helped him warm up. He had left a mountain bike and no dry clothes so we gave him a ride to his Jeep. When he got back and tied his broken kayak on, we all told him to find some boating partners and some telephone numbers were exchanged. He told us he didn't know the run was going to be so rough and wanted to do some easier rivers.

On the way home Jack and Bob found him along the road waving them down. He had rolled his Jeep, so they gave him a ride to Montesano.

Talk about having a bad day!!



WEST FORK SATSOP RIVER

Run:	Upper West Fork Satsop
Length:	15 miles
Difficulty:	Class II @ 500cfs
Gradient:	23.3 feet/mile
Scenery:	A

The River:

This is a long run, so get an early start or take two days. The river provides some fine camping spots and a very beautiful canyon section. Though the run is only rated Class II, it's long and has hazardous trees in the first couple of miles.

The run begins with an open area with trees down everywhere. Expect a few portages here. The beautiful canyon section begins at about mile 8.5. Between here and the Canyon River are some nice rapids with some smooth waves. Some rapids flow over ledges between high smooth walls. At very high water levels, this stretch provides some of the best surfing on the southern Peninsula. Below the Canyon River confluence the river becomes slower but has one of the most unique waterfalls of the trip. This falls marks the end of the canyon section and you'll have about two miles to the take-out. There are also some great fossils in the cliffs on the left near the end of the run.

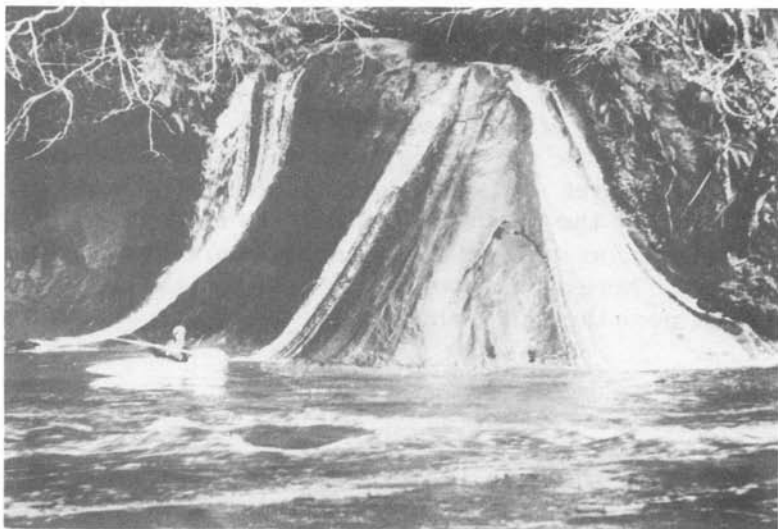
The Shuttle:

From Highway 12, west of Montesano, take the Wynoochee Valley Road toward Grisdale. Drive on this road 19.1 miles and turn right at the sign to Matlock onto Cougar Smith Road. Continue 2.6 miles to the bridge over the river.

To reach the put-in, go back to Wynoochee Valley Road and continue north for 10 miles. Then turn right onto road #2260 (older maps will call this #2153). Follow this road to the bridge across the river.

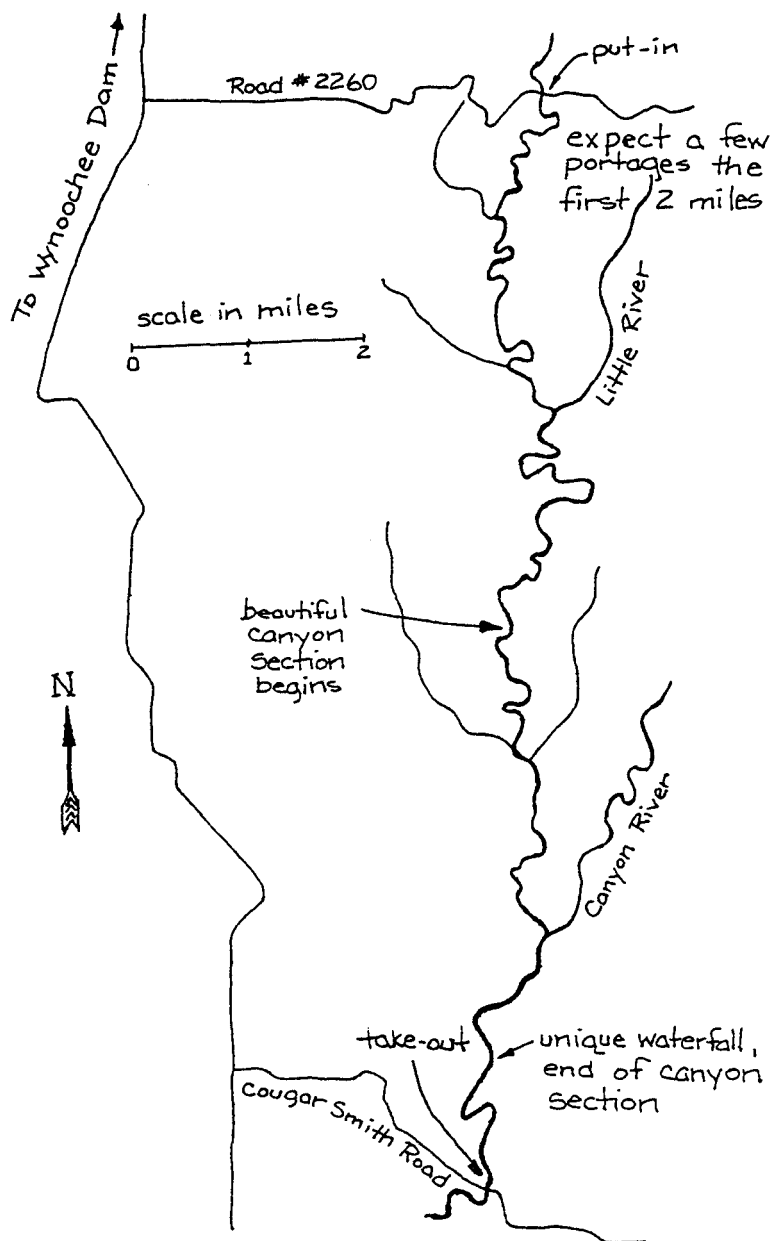
The Season:

November to May. When the gauge on the main river is above 10,000 cfs this is one of the best surfing runs in the book.



This beautiful falls is near the end of the
Upper West Fork Satsop run.
At high water, this spot is squirt boat paradise!

UPPER WEST FORK SATSOP



WEST FORK SATSOP RIVER

Run:	Lower West Fork Satsop
Length:	10 miles
Difficulty:	Class I+ @ 500cfs
Gradient:	9.5 feet/mile
Scenery:	B

The River:

This run is an excellent choice for novice boaters. The scenery is nice and the hazards are few. There are a couple of nice waves and eddys to practice on but most of the run is pretty flat.

The Shuttle:

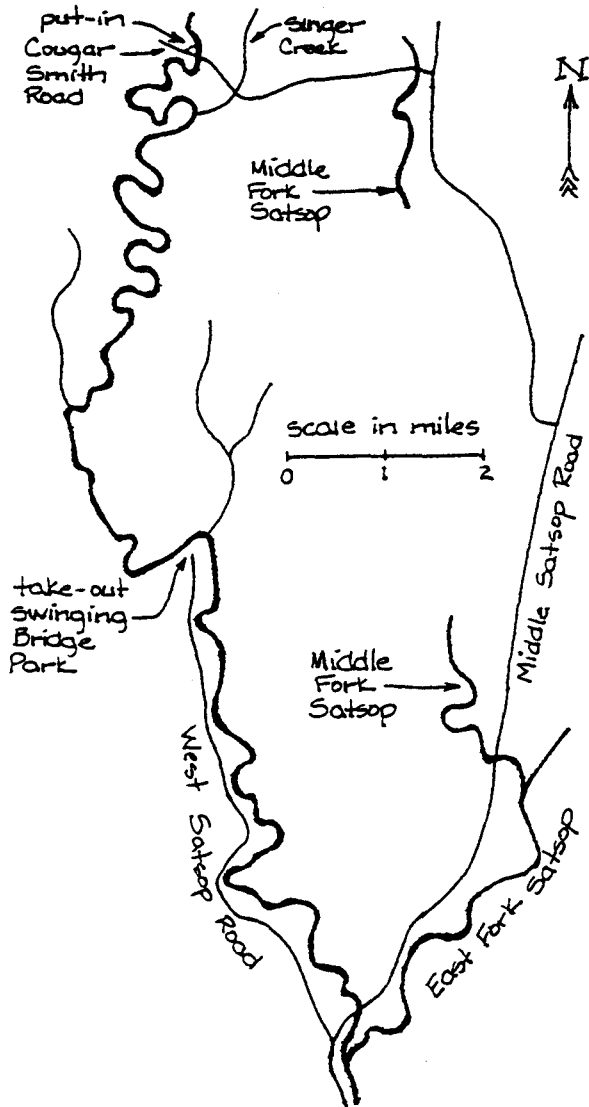
To reach the take-out, turn off Highway 12 at the sign to "Schafer State Park," one mile west of the bridge over the Satsop. Follow this for 3.7 miles and turn left. Follow this about 5.5 miles to what used to be Swinging Bridge Park, which is at the end of the road.

To reach the put-in, go back out to Middle Satsop Road and go left. Follow this for 5.8 miles and turn left onto an unmarked road. Follow this for 8.6 miles and turn left and cross the Middle Fork Satsop River. Continue on until you reach the West Fork bridge and put in.

The Season:

November to May.

LOWER WEST SATSOP



WYNOOCHEE RIVER

Run:	Dam to Dam
Length:	2 miles
Difficulty:	Class II @ 400cfs
Gradient:	20 feet/mile
Scenery:	A

The River:

The run starts with a few nice rapids in an open river bed. After about a mile you enter a fantastic gorge. There are no rapids in the gorge because the fish dam has flooded it. However, this makes it easy to drift along and enjoy the superb scenery. Be sure to get out before the dam. You can also portage the dam and continue on another 3.7 miles to the put-in for the gorge run.

The Shuttle:

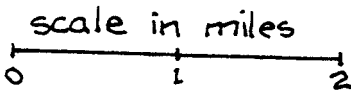
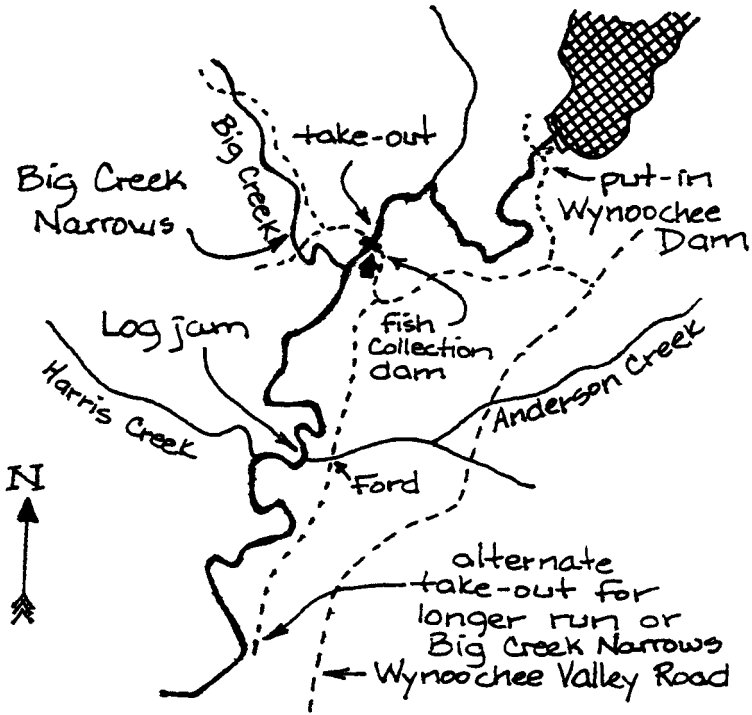
To reach the take-out, turn onto Devonshire Road just west of Montesano and follow the sign to Wynoochee Dam. Follow Wynoochee Valley Road for 34.2 miles and turn left at the sign to Wynoochee Dam. In .3 mile stay left away from the dam and follow the road down to where it crosses the river. There is a trail on river right just above the fish collection dam.

To reach the put-in, go back toward the dam 1.6 miles and turn left. Turn left again just before crossing the bridge. This road leads down near the river.

Season:

Year 'round. Minimum release from Wynoochee Dam is 200cfs.

WYNOOCHEE DAM-TO-DAM & BIG CREEK RUNS



BIG CREEK

Run:	Big Creek Narrows
Length:	2 miles
Difficulty:	Class III @ 250cfs
Gradient:	40 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+

The River:

This is a beautiful stretch and can be used as a put-in for the Wynoochee Gorge. Be sure to bring your camera. The run starts as a swift creek with a possible carry or two around logs.

The surprise will come when you come around a bend and the river disappears over a drop and into a narrow gorge. The "Big Creek Narrows" is so confined that at high water you should scout the gorge for logs during the shuttle. The hole in the entrance drop is more powerful than it looks. (On our first trip we ran this drop at 7:30 in the morning--and it had me for breakfast!) After the Narrows you'll come to the bridge and take-out or continue on down to the Wynoochee.

The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out, drive up Wynoochee Valley Road 34.2 miles and turn left toward Wynoochee Dam. Follow this in .3 mile, stay left away from the dam, and cross the bridge over the Wynoochee River. Continue on for a half-mile, where you'll cross Big Creek. This would be the take-out for the short run, but I'd recommend going on down to the Wynoochee.

To reach the put-in, go back .2 mile and turn left. Follow this 1.5 miles to the bridge, or (to avoid some trees to portage) put in where you first see the creek, about .3 mile after starting up the road.

Season: November to May, following heavy rainfall.

"GRIM FERRY TALES"

-by Jack Moss

If you haven't paddled down the Wynoochee River, you have a special treat yet to be enjoyed.

It wasn't long ago that Gary Korb led a Washington Kayak Club trip on the Wynoochee which seemed to include about 30 percent of King County and a few stragglers from Olympia and Kitsap County, plus North Carolina and Ethiopia!

This huge contingent of boaters made for some interesting shuttle dynamics, made more interesting by the necessity of fording a foot-deep stream to reach the put-in and the use of a small Japanese one-wheel drive automobile to attempt the shuttle.

The put-in shuttle went well, without loss of life or vehicle and the small Navy got underway, over a period of about 45 minutes---which was pretty fast for a group this big.

Our first mile was an uneventful float down a Class I section of river, during which the boaters exchanged names, phone numbers, viruses, etc.

We were brought up short by our first obstacle, a Class V rapid which was to be portaged on river right. It included entertainment such as a must-make eddy over a must-hit rock into the arms of the must-be-crazy trip leader. (Only one boater lost his boat, but it was a C-I, so we overlooked the incident.)

After a bit of rock climbing down the side of the rapid, we were able to put back in the water---and make an unmakeable ferry between an undercut wall and a rock with a keeper hole. Almost no one pulled off the move so the

entertainment value of the trip immediately skyrocketed. The more we observed the difficulty of the ferry move, the more tense we got. After all, watching 15 or 20 people ferry into a headwall, flip, roll up in a huge hole, flip, and usually roll up some more didn't instill confidence in the watchers.

It therefore became my personal duty to "do it right" and encourage the last paddlers to give it a try. Naturally, I ferried effortlessly out of the eddy, hit the wall, flipped and rolled up in the hole. As I looked upstream, I could see Gary restraining a couple of boaters who were trying to escape up the cliff!

We all made it, eventually, past the grim ferry and enjoyed a playful five or so miles of beautiful Olympic rivers scenes and play spots without another problem.

Until the return shuttle---we almost lost a small toy car in the creek, but saved it, with no more damage than some wet carpets and a trunk full of water.

And so ended a typical Korb-led trip to the deepest, darkest Olympic Peninsula. I can't wait for the next one!



WYNOOCHEE RIVER

Run:	Wynoochee Gorge
Length:	4.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class III @ 650cfs
Gradient:	24.4 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+

The River:

This run is extremely beautiful and has many enjoyable rapids in a narrow gorge. The first mile is slow and allows you to warm up and watch for eagles. After the "Oxbow" the river abruptly enters the gorge. Before 1986, there were several nice rapids with good playspots in the first half-mile. However, in 1986 a large landslide gave birth to the "Landslide Cascade." It's a Class V rapid that made a lake out of the first half mile of the gorge. Portage on the right. This drop is changing all the time. In 1991, new rocks fell on the right making the rapid harder, but the portage on the right became easier.

After a few nice rapids you'll see a train wreckage on the left. This was left here after they burned the bridge for the movie "Ring of Fire." The rapid below it has huge boulders and can be run right or left. We named this rapid "Ring of Fire" after the movie.

The river continues to drop through interesting rapids in a beautiful gorge. This gorge has a couple of waterfalls that should be in a scenic calendar. There is a gauge across from the take-out.

The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out, turn onto Devonshire Road just west of Montesano and follow the signs toward Wynoochee Dam. After driving 29.8 miles, turn left onto an unmarked dirt road. Turn left onto O-602 in 0.2 of a mile. Follow this road 2 miles and look for the steep trail

down to the river on the left. This used to be the end of the road but recent logging has torn this area a new one.

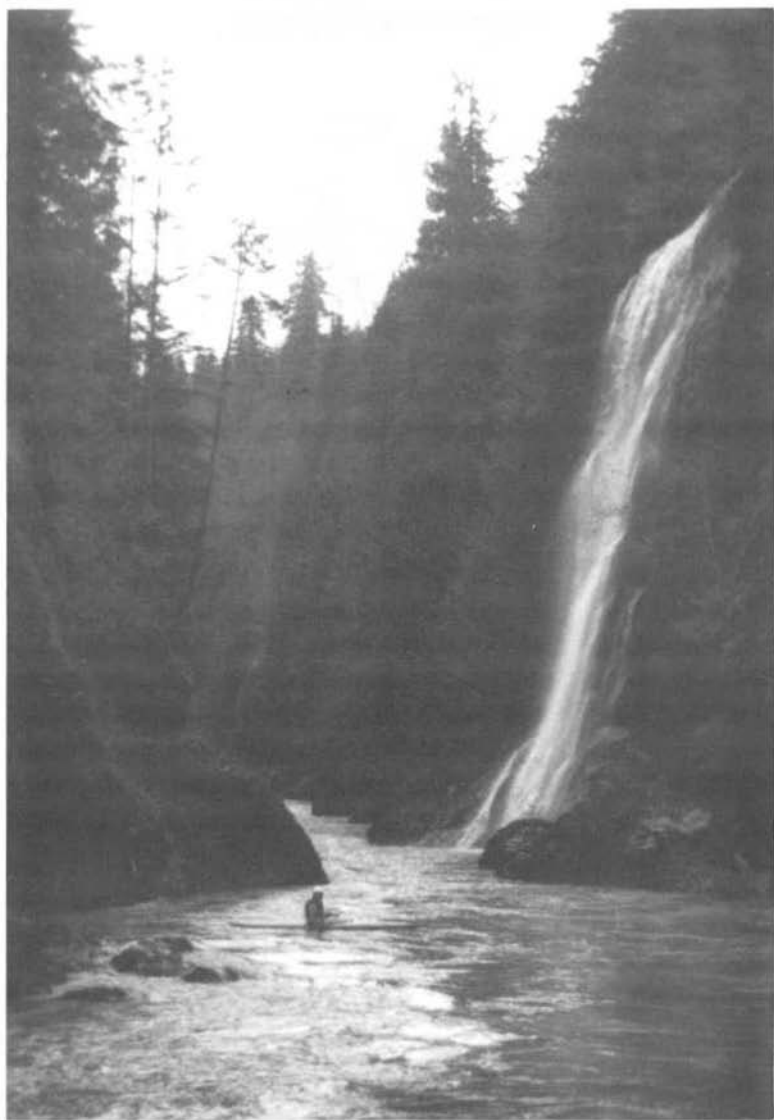
To reach the put-in, go back out to Wynoochee Valley Road and drive toward the dam 4.4 miles then turn left. In .3 mile go left away from the dam and drive 1.1 miles before turning left onto a gravel road. Follow this road to the end. You must ford a creek on this road--if it's running too high use the optional put-in at the fish collection dam.

Season:

Year 'round, but best November to May. Dam controlled, never drops below 200cfs. This is enough water to scrape down and it's a very enjoyable run.

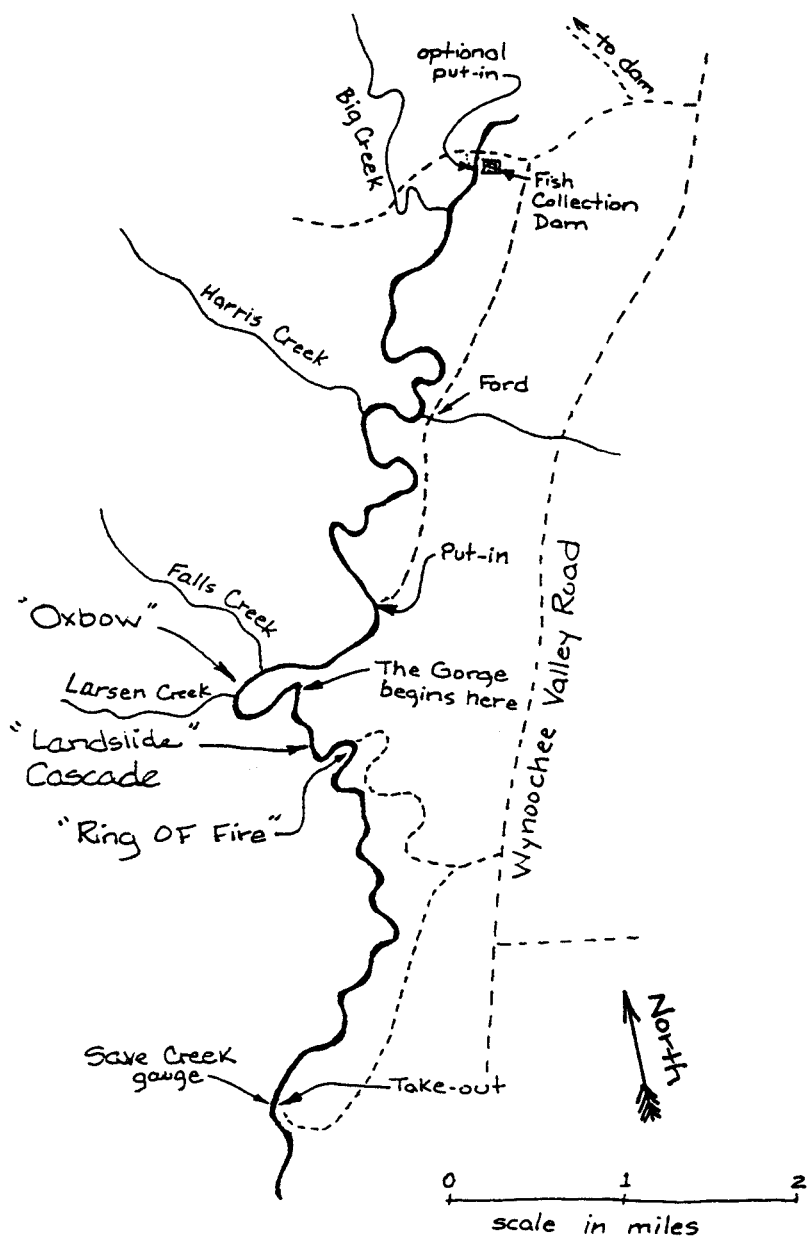


Kayaks heading into "Ring of Fire"



Waterfall in the Wynoochee Gorge

WYNOOCHEE GORGE



'FIRE, ICE, AND THE WYNOOCHEE RIVER'

-by Mike Deckert

Winter paddling on the Olympic Peninsula is a special treat. The rest of the world seems distant as one paddles through quiet solitude created by the moisture and deep green vegetation. The remarkable beauty of the canyons appears framed by luxuriant moss hanging from gnarled maples.

Beauty of the maples notwithstanding, the cold weather causes us to formulate plans which can only be attributed to temporary insanity. Early in the boating season, January 5th, 1991, we (Gary Korb, Carol Volk, Paul Thompson, Jack Moss, Becky Deckert and myself) came up with one of those plans. After some minor confusion concerning where, when, and who to meet we eventually got organized to run the Wynoochee River gorge. Because the temperature was somewhere around the freezing point, we decided to shorten our trip rather than subject our hands and bodies to the mile or so of freezing cold Class II water that precedes the canyon. Exploring an alternate put-in and paddling only the gorge sounded like a reasonable decision.

The canyon at the Ring-of-Fire rapid was covered with ice and snow. Beautiful ice sheets and stalactites festooned on the gorge walls created a magical wonderland. We wondered how we'd land at the bottom. We carried the boats down into the gorge as far as we could. The steepening walls finally forced us to lower our boats down the first of three throw-rope pitches. The first two sections were fairly straightforward and uneventful.

The train wreck, perched vertically in the

canyon, half encased in ice, was the final landing of the third pitch. From the top of the wreck we were forced to clamber precariously down, around, and through the icy hulk. We hoped that the rusty and rotted handholds wouldn't break loose and send us crashing to the ground.

While we were climbing down the gorge, the boats were poised on an icy patch of ground near the bottom, waiting for their chance to make a break for freedom. That chance came when Gary let go of Carol's boat momentarily. Quicker than greased lightning, the boat leapt for the cold waters of the frozen gorge below, leaving Gary grasping only the frigid arctic air.

Freed from its human constraints, the kayak quickly found a clean route through the rapids below and started down the canyon. Fortunately, this particular kayak was not very good at negotiating the flat water following the rapid. It quickly became lodged in a shallow quiet pool, pinned between the canyon wall and a small rock.

The kayak was recaptured and returned to Carol only after a large steep rock outcropping completely encased in 2-6 inches of solid ice was traversed. Jack paddled in place with his stern hanging over a large drop while the renegade kayak was carabineered to his stern grabloop. And finally, the empty kayak in tow, he paddled upstream past sheer gorge walls to safety.

With adrenaline now subsiding, the day proceeded to be one of the most beautiful days I've seen. The bright sunlight was sparkling through millions of frozen water droplets hanging from the moss. Rainbow bursts were flying from icicles and leaping from the ice sheets clinging to the canyon walls. Winter paddling on the Olympic Peninsula is indeed a special treat!

WYNOOCHEE RIVER

Run:	Lower Wynoochee
Length:	19 miles
Difficulty:	Class I-II
Gradient:	11 feet/mile
Scenery:	B

The River:

This is a nice overnight run for open canoes or beginning kayakers. The 19 miles of slow river is too long for a day trip unless you're into exercise. The river flows through a broad valley with pleasant scenery and nice campsites. This stretch flows through mainly private timberlands---so be considerate when camping on private property.

The Shuttle:

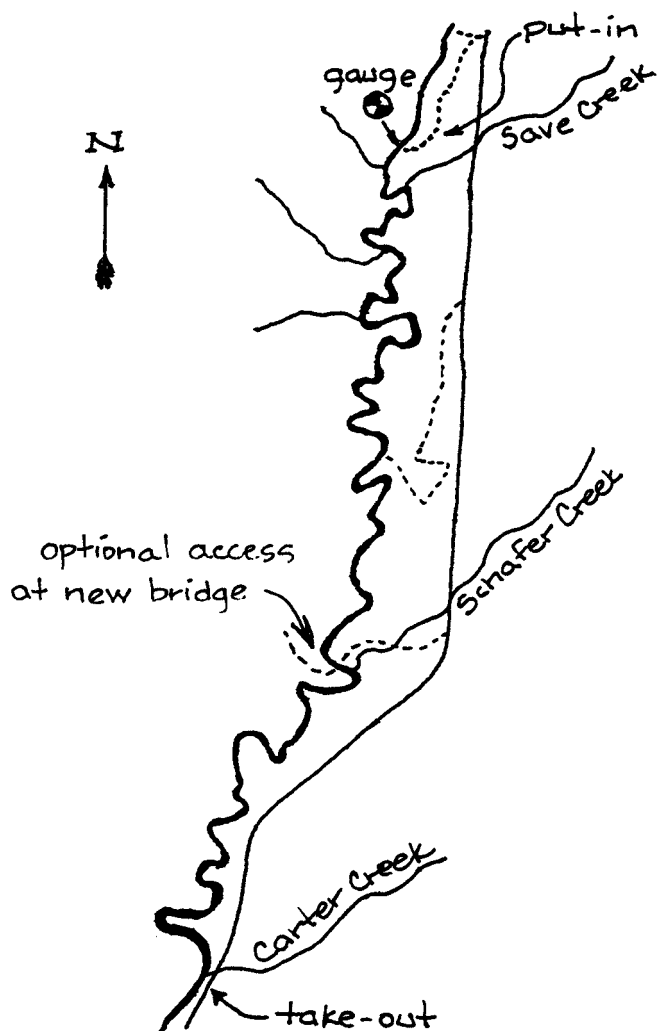
To reach the take-out, turn onto Devonshire Road just west of Montesano and follow the sign toward Wynoochee Dam. Continue on Wynoochee Valley Road for 5 miles to where Carter Creek joins the river. There is limited parking here where the river flows alongside the road. There is now an access at a new bridge about halfway through the run.

To reach the put-in, see the take-out description for the Wynoochee Gorge run.

Season:

Year 'round. Minimum release from Wynoochee Dam is 200cfs which is enough water to make the run.

LOWER WYNOOCHEE



EAST FORK HUMPTULIPS RIVER

The East Fork Humptulips is a small river with almost all of its drainage below 4000 feet. It's characterized by small chutes and rapids cut through narrow basalt gorges. Being such a narrow river, it can be enjoyably run at levels as low as 150cfs. On the other hand, high water levels become very pushy and logs can easily bridge the narrow gorges. For this reason I'd recommend making your first runs at low water.



Kayaks on the Narrows Run

EAST FORK HUMPTULIPS RIVER

Run:	Narrows Run
Length:	5 miles
Difficulty:	Class III @ 300cfs
Gradient:	24 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+

The River:

This stretch of river runs through a supernatural fantasy gorge so narrow there are places you can't even turn around. The rapids are typically small chutes with walls on both sides. I once tore the arm of my paddling jacket doing a shoulder block off the right wall. This section was rated A + * for scenery in my first edition, but recent logging along the river has degraded the run to A+.

After about a mile of open easy river you'll come to a falls at the mouth of Flatbottom Creek. You can carry around this on the left or scout and run the fish ladder. Below here you are in a narrow gorge. Be very cautious of logs in here! The river then opens up briefly before entering the second gorge. After about .5 mile start looking for another major rapid. It's recognized by large rocks in the river and a HUGE waterfall at the mouth of Goforth Creek just downstream. A log often blocks the open chute in the center, so always scout this drop. Below here is a technical rapid where you start in the center then move far left to avoid a log. This rapid is nearly impossible to scout or portage. Below here are some wonderful chutes through a beautiful mini gorge. After passing under the bridge you'll leave the gorge.

The Shuttle: To reach the take-out for this beautiful stretch, take Donkey Creek Road off Highway 101. It's located 3.6 miles north of where 101 crosses the Humptulips River. Follow Donkey Creek Road for 12.3



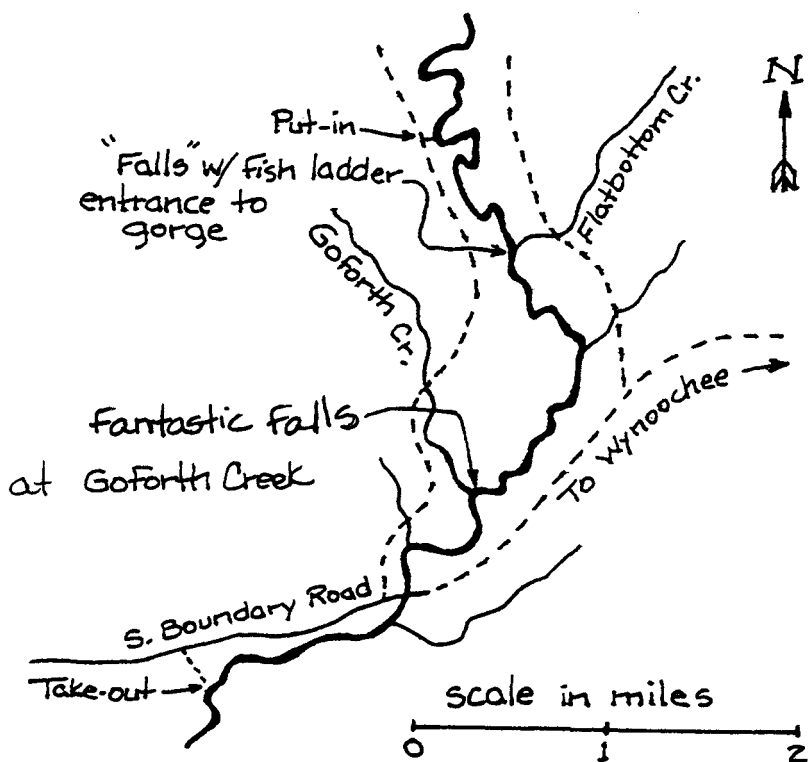
**Ron Killen on the East Fork
of the Humptulips**

miles and turn right onto a small dirt road. Follow this road a short distance to where it ends at the river. The little chute here will give you an idea of the rapids you'll encounter on this run. If this chute is more that about 10 feet wide the water is probably too high.

To reach the put-in go back to Donkey Creek Road (actually, this is now South Boundary Road but I'm not sure where the change occurs.) Go right and follow it for .8 mile and turn left onto a dirt road just before crossing

the bridge over the river. Follow this road for 3.2 miles and park at a SMALL turn-out on the right. You'll be able to make out what used to be a road leading straight into the woods. Follow this road by foot and at the end veer right into the woods. Follow some small elk trails and listen for the river to give you direction. There is also a ravine to keep you from wandering too far left.

Season: Mid-October to May. This run is a good choice when other runs are too low to run. On your first run don't put in with more than about 400 cfs. If it's high go run the gorge instead.



EAST FORK HUMPTULIPS RIVER

Run:	Falls Section
Length:	5.7 miles
Difficulty:	Class III- with one portage
Gradient:	23 feet/mile
Scenery:	A-

The River:

Immediately after putting in is the first rapid which can be seen from the bridge. For the first mile there are small rapids alternating with quiet stretches. At mile 1.3 you enter a gorge that is short but very scenic with interesting rapids as the river opens up.

After about two miles of Class I the river hits a steep rapid followed by a nasty undercut rock slot known simply as the "Falls." In 1980 a kayaker drowned here who had planned to portage. There is a high water route around the right side of the "Falls."

Below here is a rocky rapid followed by easy water to the rapid at the take-out bridge. This rapid is more difficult that it looks from the bridge above.

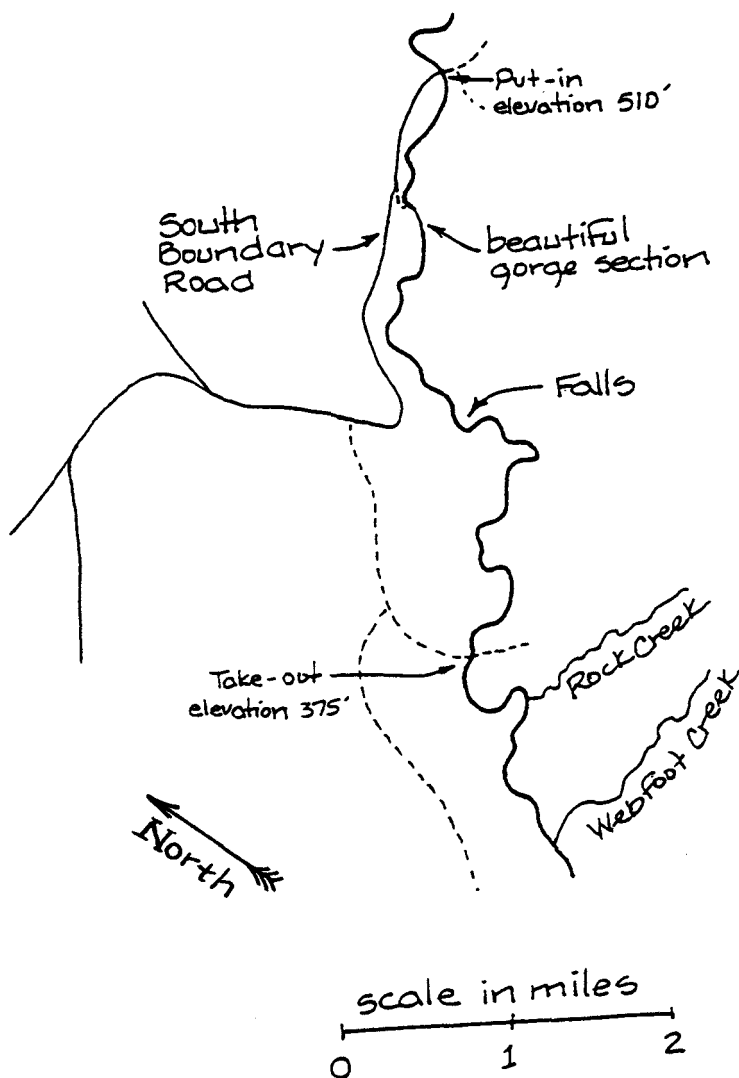
The Shuttle:

Driving north on Highway 101 you will cross the Humptulips River. From here continue for 3.6 miles to Donkey Creek Road. Follow it for 7.5 miles and stay right onto South Boundary Road. Drive for 1.4 miles and turn right onto an unmarked dirt road. Follow it for 2.3 miles to the take-out at the bridge.

To reach the put-in drive back to South Boundary Road and turn right. When you come to the bridge, cross it and park on the right. There is a steep trail down to the river here.

Season: November to May.

EAST FORK HUMPTULIPS FALLS SECTION



EAST FORK HUMPTULIPS RIVER

Run:	Gorge Run
Length:	8.4 miles
Difficulty:	Class III @ 500cfs
Gradient:	21.4 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+

The River:

Below the bridge is about a mile of easy river before entering the gorge. The gorge is very narrow and intensely beautiful. From the beginning of the gorge to the end you'll enjoy exceptional rapids and great scenery. There are two nice ender spots in the gorge, even at 250cfs. The first one is the second drop in the gorge. We call it "Surf & Turf" because it likes to launch boats up onto the left wall. The second is a ledge further down where we often stop for lunch.

Below here you come to a drop known as the "Weir." It consists of a riverwide drop of about 4 feet. It's preceeded by a long rapid that leads you into the drop before you know it. At low water scout it from the left. At high water be prepared to run it without scouting. At either level run just left of center.

After the gorge you'll have almost 5 miles of easy river with a couple of interesting ledges. Take out on river left just above the bridge.

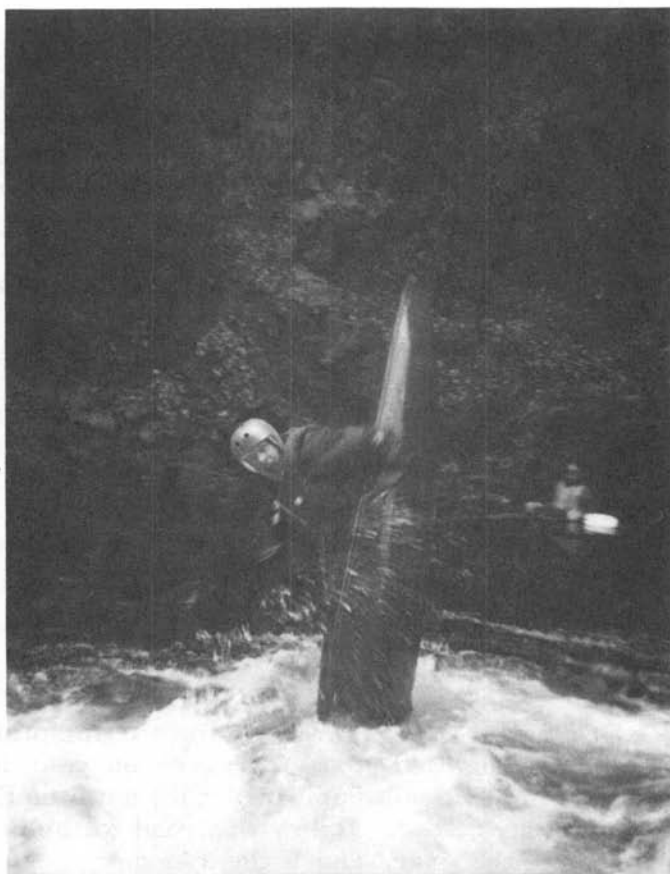
The Shuttle:

Driving north on Highway 101 toward Humptulips you will pass the Red Rooster Tavern on your left. Continue on for two miles and turn right onto the East Fork Humptulips Road. Follow this road to the "Boise Bridge" across the river. This is the take-out.

To reach the put-in, continue across the bridge

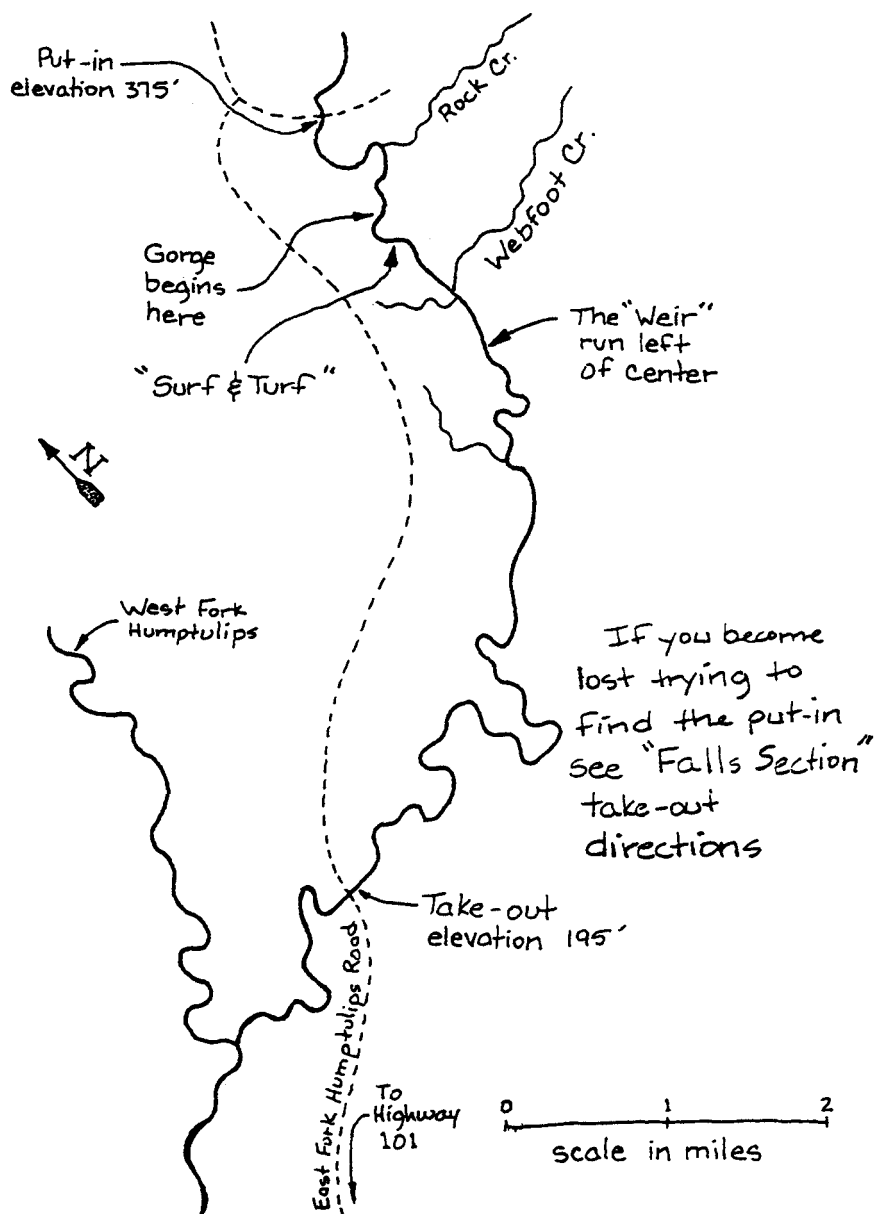
and follow this road. This can be confusing as there are many roads branching off of it. The general rule is to stay on the high road with one exception: 1.8 miles past the bridge stay left. Finally this road will end at a "T". Go right and follow the road to the put-in at the bridge. If you get too lost, go back to 101 and use the take-out directions to the "Falls Section."

Season: November to May.



Jack Moss flying around at the "Lunch Spot"

EAST FORK HUMPTULIPS GORGE RUN



KAYAK CLUB TRIPS

Every year I like to lead a few kayak club trips on the Olympic Peninsula. This is hard because you never know what kind of water levels you'll end up with. Things like flat tires, running out of gas and getting vehicles stuck always seem to make it an adventure. Add this to large groups and all that once was simple, becomes very complicated. Even running shuttle can take hours of precious winter daylight. Here are a couple of trips that turned out to be memorable.

In February of 1991 I led a trip down the East Fork Humpulips Narrows and had about 30 boaters show up. The river was running a hair below floodstage (about 1500cfs), which was about 700cfs more than I had ever done it. I decided to go ahead and run the trip but announced to everyone that the run would be very risky; as in trees blocking the channel. It turns out only 6 or 7 boaters had good enough sense to go run a class II section on the lower river. This left me with about 24 boats, which we divided into two groups. The first group left about 10 minutes ahead of us and contained several boaters who knew the run. I led the second group and we caught the first at the fish ladder.

Here we got word that a tree that is usually six feet above the water allowing passage underneath, was at river level demanding a portage. As I started to portage I scanned the woods to see 23 kayaks wandering around like lost "Wild Rainiers." Some are heading higher and higher as the cliffs get bigger, others stall waiting for someone to find the way back to the river, while a few of us eat lunch in the pouring rain enjoying the show. After several hundred yards we start realizing that there is no

way back into the river because of the smooth steep walls. I scout around and find a steep route down to the water where there appears to be a nice seal start. It took a long time as each boat was lowered down, then I held each one as they got their sprayskirts on. I would then let them slide into the river and watch as they sped out of view down the basalt highway.

Below here the river was clean and everyone enjoyed the speedy ride through the beautiful gorge. At this level we found the river to be very friendly but also dangerous. The threat of another tree across kept our attention the rest of the trip.

Looking back I probably should have cancelled the trip. The group in front of us had a couple of swims that lasted long distances because of the high water and smooth cliffs. Our group had no problems, so I'm glad so many people had the chance to enjoy the run at high water.

Even worse than having high water for a trip is having low water. In May, 1990 we had a Kayak Club trip on the Dungeness River. We were having really cold weather so no snow was melting and the river was low. About 24 people came of various skill levels including one rafter. The raft would join us at the "Forks" along with one other kayaker while the rest of us headed up to do the upper 2.5 miles.

We split into two groups and headed down the steep boulder gardens. It was mass chaos as people became pinned and started piling up on top of each other in one-boat eddies. I knew things were getting out of hand when two boaters of questionable skills emerged from a massive logjam. They didn't realize when they saw 20 kayaks portaging there may be a problem downstream.

This went on throughout the upper river, although I think there were only five or six near

fatality incidents. At the take-out it occurred to me everyone had a great time, and I was the only one who was bothered by the low water or concerned about safety. So it seems no matter how terrible I try to make a trip, these boaters just overcome the gloom and have a great time any way.

So maybe next year I'll try and lead a trip on Stequaleho Creek!



**Whit Deschner showing proper use
of his shuttle vehicle**

WEST HUMPTULIPS GORGE

Run:	West Humptulips Gorge
Length:	3.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class IV+ @ 900cfs
Gradient:	26 feet/mile
Scenery:	A

The River:

This intimidating gorge is steeper than it looks from the bridge. Though short, it contains four major drops, only two of which can be seen from the bridge. After leaving the gorge the river turns to Class I and II for the rest of the run.

You can combine this run with Donkey Creek if the water is high enough. This will require a little shuttle work but if you have three vehicles you can leave one at Fish Trap Road for a midway ride to the Donkey Creek put-in.

The Shuttle:

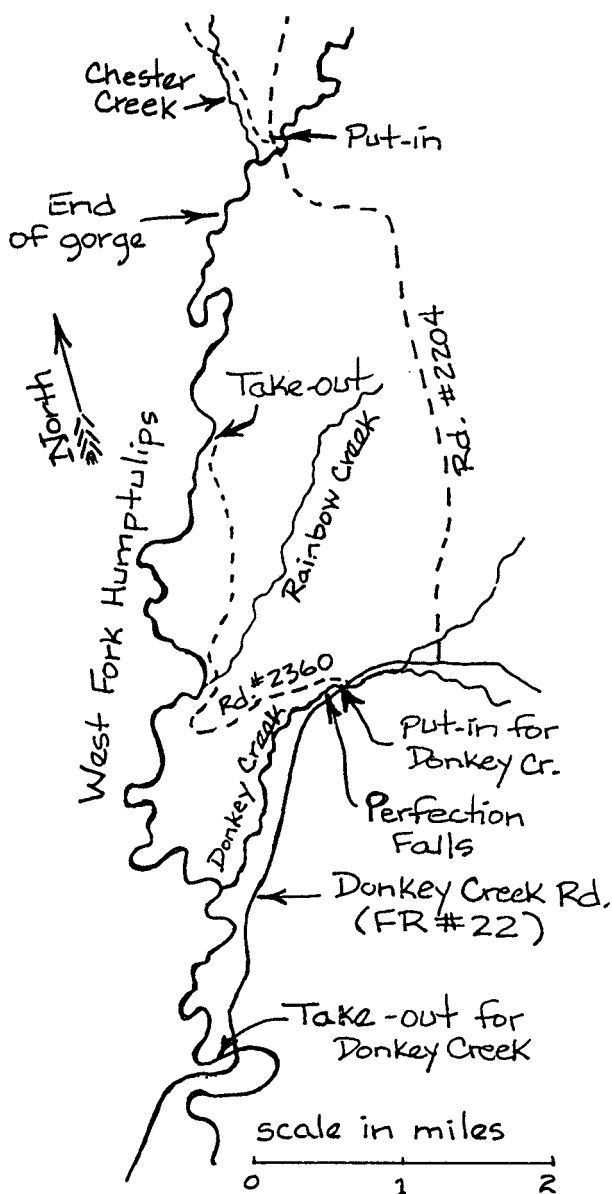
To reach the take-out, turn onto Donkey Creek Road off of Highway 101, 3.5 miles north of Humptulips. Follow it 7.9 miles and turn left onto Fish Trap Road #2360 (unmarked) just after crossing the bridge over Donkey Creek. Follow this road down to a nice access on the river.

To reach the put-in, go back out to Donkey Creek Road and go left. In one mile turn left onto Road #2204 and follow it to the bridge over the gorge. Scout the first couple of rapids from here. To put in, go just past the bridge and hike down to the river just above the gorge.

Season:

November to April following rainfall.

WEST HUMPTULIPS GORGE



WEST FORK HUMPTULIPS RIVER

Run:	Fish Trap to Donkey Creek
Length:	6.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class I-II @ 500cfs
Gradient:	17 feet/mile
Scenery:	B+

The River:

This run despite its low rating has several hazardous log jams that may require portages in some years. The river winds back and forth between high bluffs and huge big leaf maples. These maples are covered with moss and ferns. This is a very wet area and its rainfall probably exceeds 150 inches annually.

The Shuttle:

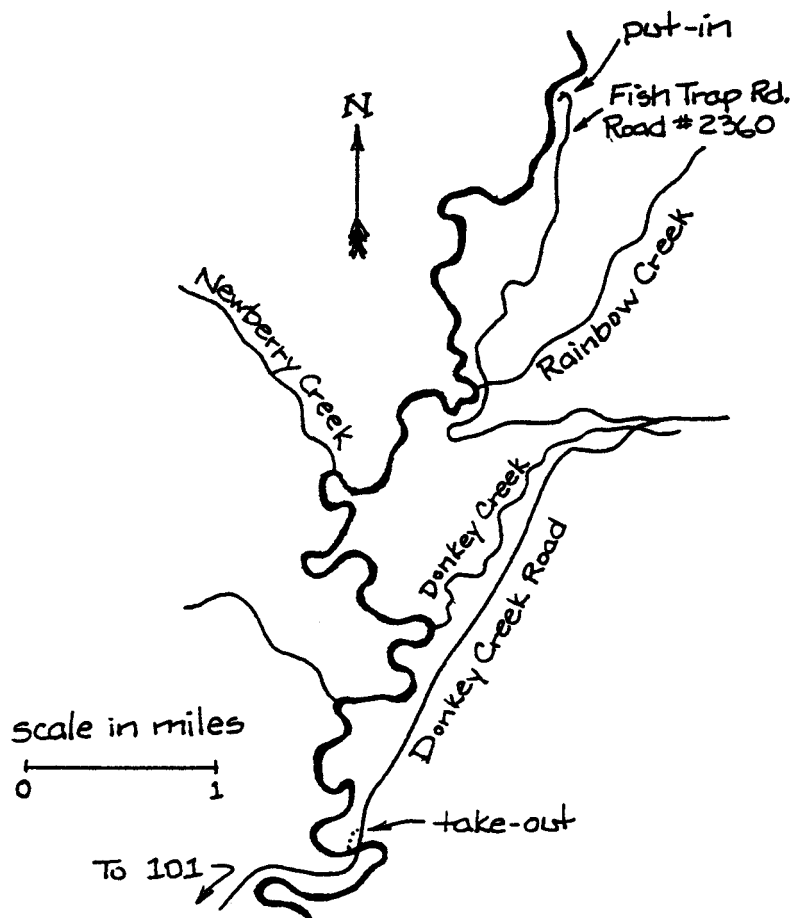
To reach the take-out, turn onto Donkey Creek Road off Highway 101. Donkey Creek Road is located 3.6 miles north of where 101 crosses the Humptulips River. Follow it 4.9 miles and turn left onto a small access road just after crossing the river. This is the take-out.

To reach the put-in, go back out to Donkey Creek Road and turn left. Drive for 2.9 miles and turn left onto Fish Trap Road (unmarked). This is just past the bridge over Donkey Creek. Follow this road down to a nice access on the river.

Season:

November to May.

WEST FORK HUMPTULIPS



DONKEY CREEK/WEST FORK HUMPTULIPS

Run:	Donkey Creek
Length:	1.6 miles on Donkey Creek; 2.2 miles on West Fork of the Humptulips
Difficulty:	Class IV on Donkey Creek @ 250cfs; Class I on West Fork of the Humptulips.
Gradient:	75 feet/mile on Donkey Creek; 17 feet/mile on Humptulips.
Scenery:	B+

The River:

This is a fun little run despite the small size of Donkey Creek. The highlight of the run is "Perfection Falls" just below the put-in. This clean 16-foot falls has an easy portage route for those who want to run it multiple times looking for that perfect photograph! Below here a gnarly 20-foot falls demands an easy portage on the right. The next drop around an island is runnable after scouting. The difficulty eases below here though several sections of bedrock keep it scenic and interesting.

Once on the West Fork Humptulips it's just a float to the take-out.

The Shuttle:

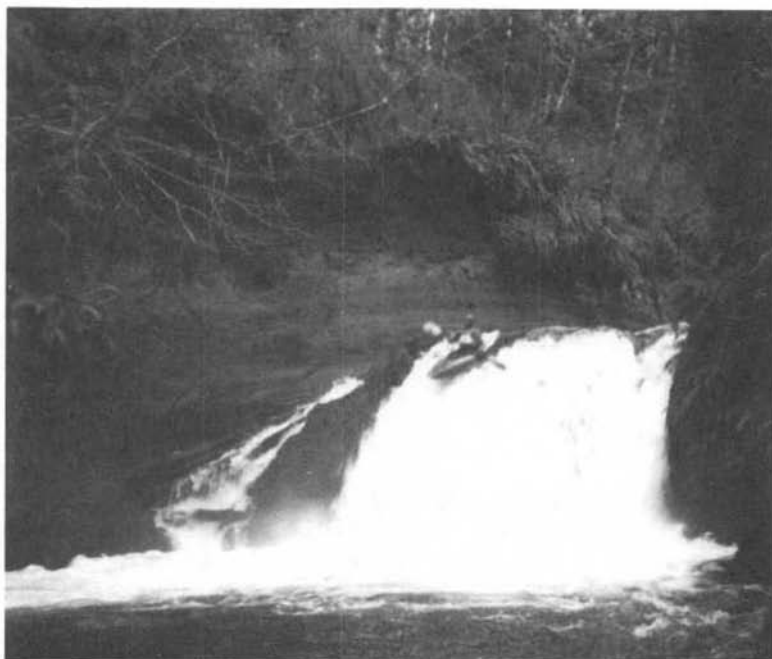
To reach the take-out, turn onto Donkey Creek Road off Highway 101. Donkey Creek Road is located 3.6 miles north of where 101 crosses the Humptulips River. Follow it 4.9 miles and turn left onto a small access road just after crossing the river. This is the take-out.

To reach the put-in, continue east on Donkey Creek Road (FR 22) for 2.8 miles and put in below the

bridge over the creek. There is a neat little ledge drop just above the bridge, but it looks pretty shallow. You can see "Perfection Falls" from the road if you look for it.

Season:

November to May following heavy rainfall.



The author at "Perfection Falls"

QUINAUT RIVER

Run:	Quinault Gorge (Pony Bridge to Graves Creek)
Length:	3 miles
Difficulty:	Class IV-V @ 150cfs
Gradient:	108 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+

The River:

This premium section of water is so wonderful that the hike in is a joy. The river runs through a pristine gorge with giant boulders creating dozens of Class IV and V rapids. There are many 3- to 5-foot vertical drops: some are clean; some aren't.

The key to making a safe run on this section is having low enough water to portage "Dolly Falls", the first rapid about one-fourth mile below Pony Bridge. Below here a couple of narrow chutes will set the pace for the run. At the optimum low water levels you can boat-scout almost everything.

One other drop worth mentioning is the "Wolf Trap." This is about half-way through the run where a giant boulder forces the river against the right wall and creates a room-of-doom-type spot. On our first trip Tom Wolf was rear-ended here and rolled up to find he was sort of trapped. Some calm maneuvering at the base of the drop finally allowed him to exit the narrow slot.

Expect to make about four carries, depending on water level and logs. The only mandatory rapid to portage is the Class VI "Dolly Falls."

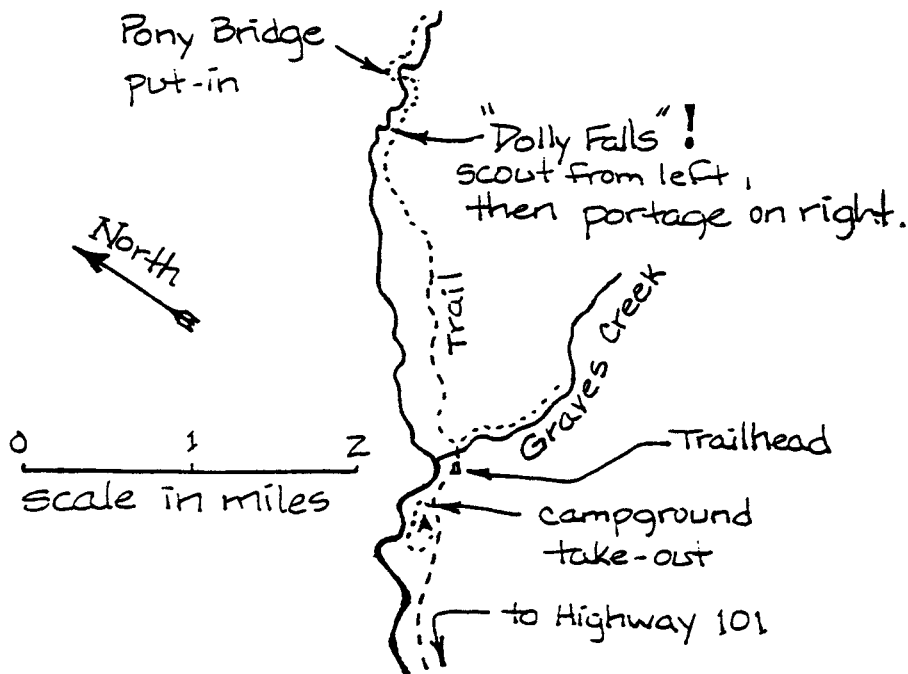
The Shuttle: To reach the take-out, drive up the Quinault Valley all the way to Graves Creek

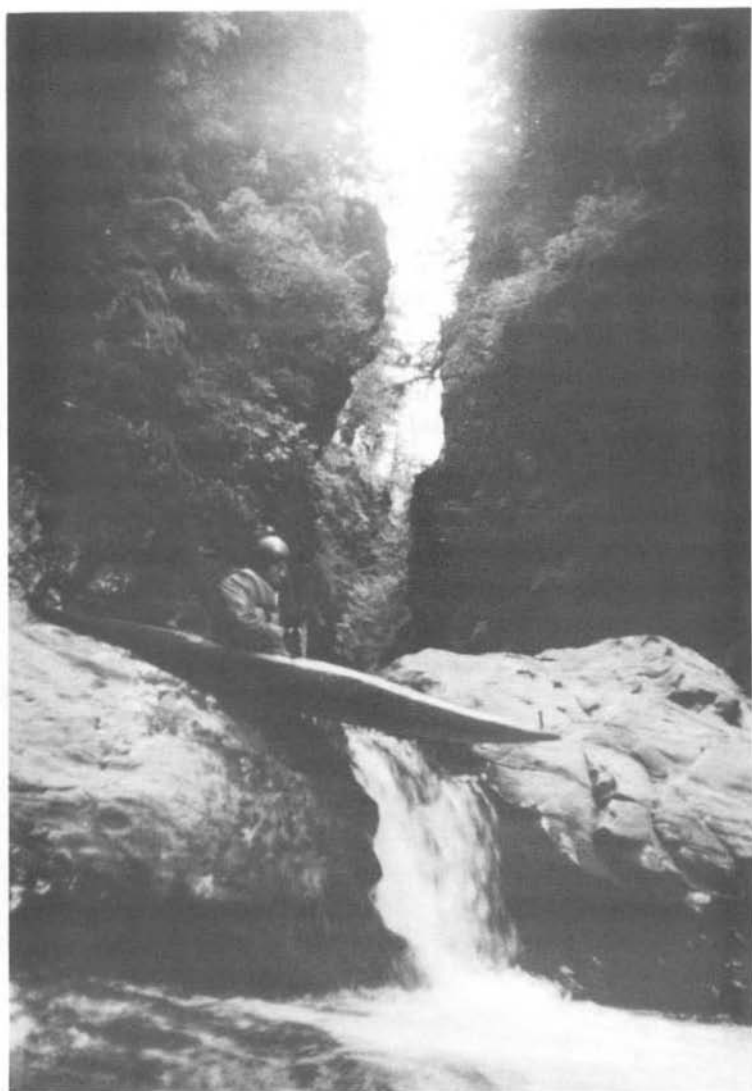
Campground.

To reach the put-in, continue another quarter mile up the road to the trailhead. From here it's a 2.5 mile hike to the "Pony Bridge" put-in.

Season: August to October. Low Water.

QUINULT GORGE





**Tom Wolf finds a dry sneak route
through a Quinault Gorge rapid.**

QUINULT RIVER

Run:	Lower Quinault
Length:	6.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class II- @ 900cfs
Gradient:	20 feet/mile
Scenery:	B-

The River: This river was almost left out of this guide due to its uninteresting nature. After the first mile the river winds back and forth between log jams. Don't try to paddle to the lake or you'll run into a maze of log jams blocking the river.

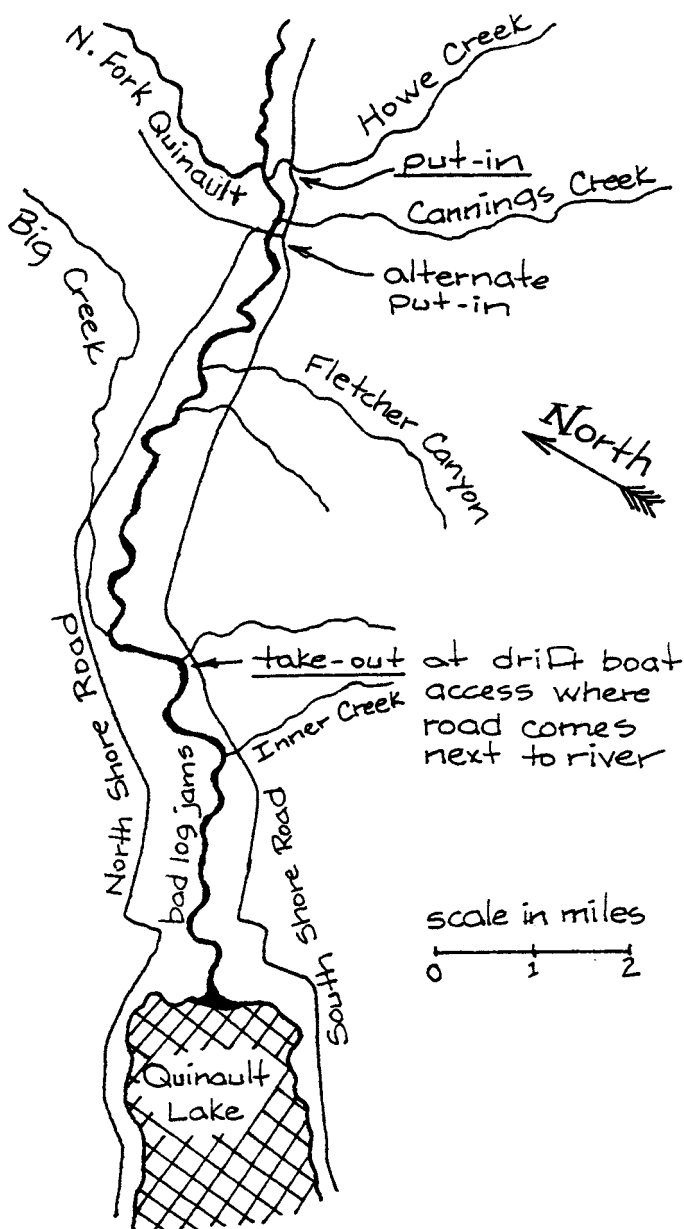
The Shuttle: Put in at either Howe Creek or the bridge crossing the river. Putting in at Howe Creek gives you some good whitewater, although the access is rough.

See map for the take-out.

Season: November through July. Drains a large area with several glaciers.



LOWER QUINAULT



QUEETS RIVER

The Queets drains several large glaciers. It's a large river protected by Olympic National Park for nearly its entire length. Although the river is included in the Park the surrounding forest has been logged. Some giant Sitka spruce remain along the river to remind us how the forests once were. In fact, the world's largest Douglas Fir is about 2 miles above the campground.

During winter the river has heavy driftboat traffic and they're serious about their fishing. Some river information is posted at the campground.



Polished core rocks on the Sam's River

TSHLETSKY CREEK

Run:	Tshletshy Creek
Length:	11.6 miles, plus 7.5 miles on the Queets River
Difficulty:	Class IV-V (VI) @ 600 cfs
Gradient:	169 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+—extraordinary!
Hike-in:	8.9 miles/3100 vertical feet

The River:

The most challenging part of Tshletshy Creek is getting to the river. The Grand Canyon of the Elwha is just a stroll compared to this hike. For those who accept the challenge however, the rewards are great! This pristine watershed is so special all who pass through it will be left stunned for weeks afterward. There are several mandatory portages and dozens of Class IV & V rapids to run, demanding caution and respect. If you lose your boat and gear in one of the gorges you're in for a survival experience . . . outside help is not an option.

The Shuttle:

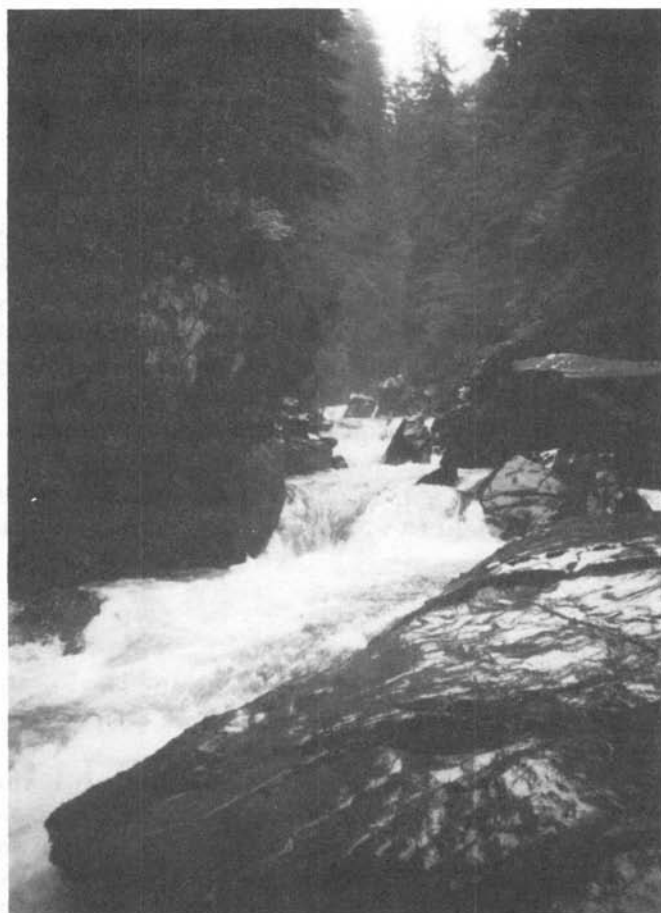
To reach the take-out, drive up the Queets Valley Road 14 miles to Queets Campground, just below the confluence with the Sams River.

To reach the put-in, go back out to 101 and go south toward Amanda Park. Before reaching Amanda Park take North Shore Road and follow it all the way to North Fork Quinault Campground. Actually you get to the Irely Lake/Three Lakes trailhead 1/4 mile before reaching the campground.

Check maps before heading out. It's 6.6 miles to

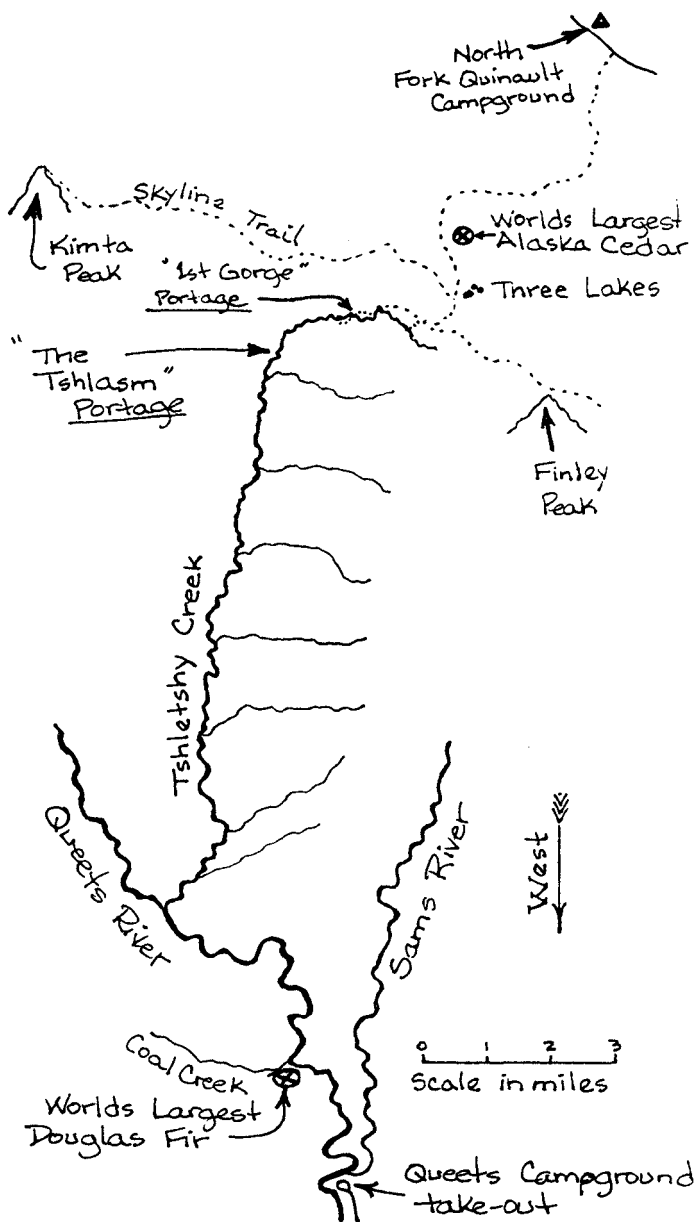
Three Lakes where you branch to the left onto a much smaller trail to go over a low saddle then drop into the Tshletshy drainage . . . good luck!

Season: April is the month to catch a nice water level with decent weather. But as with all the runs in this book conditions are hard to predict.



One beautiful Class IV & V rapid after another on
Tshletshy Creek

TSHLETSHY CREEK



Tshletshy Creek

--the Best Whitewater in Washington?

Hanging from my perch 80 feet above the river I was thinking we could have run the class VI canyon with less risk than we were taking on these crumbly gorge walls. I was facing my own worst nightmare---a flooded class VI canyon with no apparent portage. . . .

This whole nerve racking trip had started two years earlier when I had seen slides from Scott Matthew's and Sprague Ackley's exploratory trip. "The best whitewater in Washington," they claimed. I was seduced by slides of nice vertical ledge drops through amazing gorges. Scott sent me some notes from his trip that looked like this:

Tshletshy Creek

Class:	IV-V, logged at 150-200 cfs
Length:	12.8 miles + 7 miles on Queets
Gradient:	143 feet/mile (50 to 340)
Time required:	3 to 4 days; 1 day to hike in 11 miles; 2 days to boat.
Rapids:	Class III: 104 Class IV: 67 Class V: 20 Class VI to unrunnable: 10

I showed this to Mike Deckert and we were off. For those of you not familiar with Tshletshy Creek, it's a tributary to the Queets River on the west side of Washington's Olympic Peninsula. Not

only is Tshletshy hard to say and spell it's even more difficult finding access. There are no roads anywhere near this watershed. The entire watershed lies within Olympic National Park and is an untouched temperate rain forest. The world's largest Douglas Fir and Alaska Cedar are attractions along the trip.

First we hiked the empty kayaks seven miles and 3100 vertical feet to the divide separating Tshletshy from the Quinault. This was in April and snow make sliding the boats through the upper meadows very easy.

Two weeks later we returned with three day's worth of self-support gear and we headed off for "the best whitewater in the state." When we reached the boats we loaded some gear in them and carried the rest in packs. Once we started into the Tshletshy drainage the trail went from bad to non-existent and after several sections of blowdowns and avalanche chutes we were exhausted zombies. We sat and rested staring at the entire headwaters of the creek. Small chutes of snow fed several tiny creeks and I wondered how far until it would be big enough to paddle. We traversed down about a half mile and reached the creek, it was about 15 cfs. We stared in disappointment wondering how much further until we could go kayaking, our main objective. We were so exhausted we made camp just as the rain began, no surprise for one of the wettest valleys in the U.S.. We each had small tarps and soon we are resting comfortably and cooking ramen on Mike's stove. We joke about waking up in the morning and having enough water to paddle and soon I'm asleep on my bed of moss.

The next morning we awaken to find our dreams have come true and we have about 75 cfs of

rusty brown water flowing past our camp. An amazing flow considering the drainage area is only about 4 or 5 square miles! We put on and after a half mile we came to the first gorge. Scouting revealed about 100 feet of drop in about five falls. As easy portage on river left put the gorge behind us. At the second gorge we scouted a big drop that went around a turn to the right. I walked down and scouted the turn, there was a clear route along the left wall. Looking down on it from above what I didn't realize was it dropped about ten feet. I told Mike it was OK along the left wall and headed down. I eddied out just in time to see Mike's eyes bulging open as he flew around the corner and over the drop. We were starting to have some real fun. Just below here we spotted a huge bull elk whose antlers were adorned in rich velvet.

Another mile brought us to the "Tshlasm." This is the third gorge and it drops about 150 feet in several falls. Another easy portage on the left and we were back in our boats making good time through endless class III-V drops. The water level was now about 500 cfs and the creek was starting to have a real push to it. By afternoon several close calls had left us tired and scared. The water level was at least 750 cfs now and holes were becoming a real terror. At one point we ran a trashy boulder-choked mess on the left to avoid a small falls with a benign hole on the right. Our judgement was warped. We needed to find a camp but we hadn't seen anything but gorges for hours. Then there it was, the perfect camp. This turns out to be the only campsite in six miles of demanding canyon. At lower water levels it would take quite a push to get there your first day.

We set up camp while the rain continued to

fall. As we sat comfortably cooking our dinner we knew the river would continue to rise making us terrified. I sat there thinking, "you got yourself into this mess and now your going to have to get yourself out."

The next morning we looked at the river and it was huge. Brown exploding waves carried debris speeding off around the corner. We estimated the flow to be about 1800 cfs. As we ate breakfast we talked about laying over a day or so for the water to drop, but decided if we didn't show up on schedule our wives may start a rescue mission.

We put on and blasted the first mile of brown raceway only stopping to scout one giant drop ending in a huge hole. We finally stopped to scout a class IV drop that slammed into and under a logjam with amazing force. I wanted to portage but the cliffs were vertical or worse. There was one place to go under the logs on the right, but the water wanted to sweep you left. As I got into my boat I felt I was taking a big chance. My fear made the rapid seem like class VI, one missed stroke and I'd face my probable demise. I watched Mike hit a few holes and pull right safely. This gave me more confidence and I made the move easily. But after ducking under the trees I saw Mike scrambling along the left trying to get into an eddy. I pulled into the slow water on the right and started treading water along the wall. Mike could get out of his boat but he couldn't see much, he signaled the right looked better. It didn't matter I couldn't tread water much longer anyway so I headed down the right side. Bumbling through the class V drop that followed seemed anti-climactic after all our close calls.

We burned off another mile of great water even stopping for several playspots, easing our

anxiety a bit. Then we came to a narrow gorge with a severe horizon line. Scouting revealed a ten foot falls ramping into a violent flush around a blind turn where we could just see what appeared to be another significant falls. Smooth high walls kept us from viewing around the corner and I couldn't even think of running these drops. One small crumbly gully headed up on the right side so up we went. After a horrendous workout pulling loaded boats up the cliffs by rope we got dead ended about twenty feet from the top. We were so exhausted we just sat for awhile, the boats and us supported by a Yew tree that was threatening to tear loose from the crumbling walls.

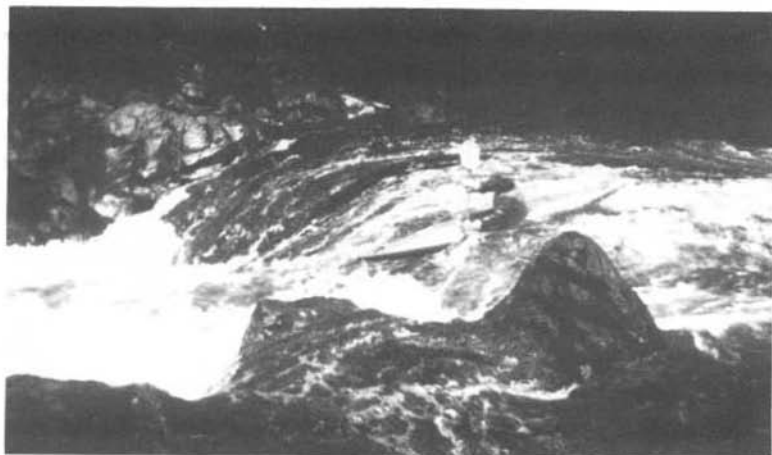
Mike decided to go back and try another route then lower a rope from above. Hanging from this perch I was thinking how effortless it would have been to run the canyon and flush over the falls as compared to crawling along these cliffs tooth and nail. After contemplating these kind of thoughts for about twenty minutes I heard Mike yelling from above. He lowered the rope and pulled the boats up. He said his route had been exposed and scary, so I decided to use the rope for the last pitch also. With nothing but crumbling rock to climb on I went for it hand over hand but about 3/4 of the way up my strength ran out. I just hung for awhile with my foot stuffed into a root hold. Looking up at Mike I could see he was concerned, I thought about going down but I was too tired. I had about a five second talk with myself and went for it using all the strength I had left to reach the top.

From here we started what was to be an hour long trudge covering about 200 yards. When we got back to the river it treated us to a great mile of boating, class III and IV with a couple of class V's.

In one of the bigger drops Mike was pushed left into a big hole. A long ride followed by a rear ender into a bigger hole with another long ride found us at the bottom laughing. This was some great boating. As the river eased up a bit we found some great playspots and soon kayaks were flying and paddles were twirling. Confident grins accompanied us as we emptied out into the mighty Queets. We enjoyed the last few miles of big water while we tried to spot the worlds largest Douglas Fir.

By the time we reached the take-out we were flying high with a great sense of accomplishment. As we drove the shuttle we relived the events of the last three days. Neither of us had experienced a watershed so untouched, so remote, so special. The vegetation we had passed through was enchanted. The gorges were stunning and the whitewater was humbling. I felt I had really pushed myself both physically and mentally. Taking four days instead of three would make it easier.

So is this really the best whitewater in the state? Well, it isn't my favorite, that would probably be the Grand Canyon of the Elwha. But I daydream of going back someday at a more reasonable water level, maybe next year.



UPPER SAMS

Run:	Upper Sams
Length:	2.8 miles
Hiking Distance:	2.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class IV-V @ 250cfs
Gradient:	100 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+

The River:

This is an extremely beautiful run. Bring your camera. It features challenging chutes carved through solid bedrock. The highlight is the "Pothole Falls" at the end of the first gorge. When scouting from above, I thought I could boof this 10-foot drop, but it ramps down causing boats to disappear at the bottom. Coming up behind the falls may be a frightening possibility!

The entrance to the first gorge is also demanding. I boofed the eight-foot drop but my stern hit so hard I thought I broke my boat. There is one mandatory portage just below a clean, runnable split falls, where a fresh rockslide has occurred. This drop isn't very big and may clean up in the near future.

Below here the river backs way off as it opens up before reaching the bridge.

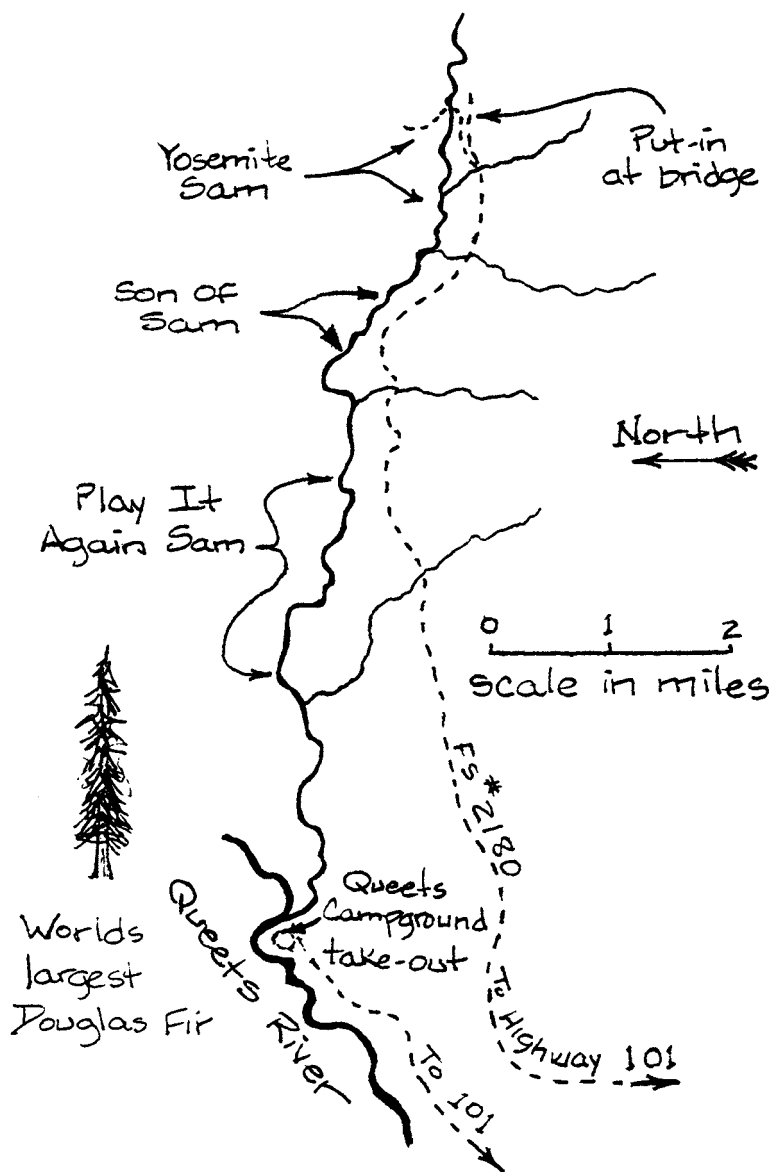
The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out, see put-in description for Lower Sams run.

To reach the put-in, go back 0.7 miles to #2180 road and go left. Follow it to the gate and start walking. Follow the old road about 2.5 miles (it will seem further) and follow the creek down to the river.

Season: November to May, following periods of rain.

SAM'S RIVER



SAM'S RIVER

Run:	Lower Sam's River
Length:	8 miles
Difficulty:	Class IV-V @ 600cfs
Gradient:	85 feet/mile
Scenery:	A +

The River:

This is one of my favorite rivers in Washington for several reasons. The first is the outstanding whitewater. The second is the diversity of scenery, from the narrow canyons to the open distant vistas. The third is the massive old-growth forest. Unfortunately this unreplaceable entity is going fast and new clearcuts can be seen from the river. Although the lower river is the National Park boundary, most of the impressive timber is in the National Forest. So see this river soon---the old-growth won't live much longer.

The whitewater is very challenging, dropping 160 feet in the first 3/4 mile. The first drop below the bridge is a good indication of difficulty.

The first gorge is called "Yosemite Sam" and is the most intimidating of the three gorges. Shortly after the first rapid you'll be at the brink of the "Yosemite Sam Slam!" This is a Class V+ double drop that we portaged (with difficulty) on the left. The rest of the gorge contains many big Class IV drops in a beautiful gorge. The final drop as you leave the gorge is another smokin' Class V that we carried on the left.

After leaving the gorge you'll encounter a huge log jam requiring another carry. Soon you're into the second gorge, "Son of Sam." It has great scenery and rapids and at the end of the gorge is a beautiful Class V split falls we called "Son of Sam Slam." Below, fun rapids continue through an open valley with some great old-growth.

A steep rapid funnels into the final gorge at the National Park boundary. This gorge is "Play It Again, Sam." Naturally the first ledge drop in the gorge is the "Play It Again Sam Slam!" This final gorge, though longer than the other two, is easier and has some nice playspots.

After leaving the gorge the river lets up for the remaining distance to the take-out.

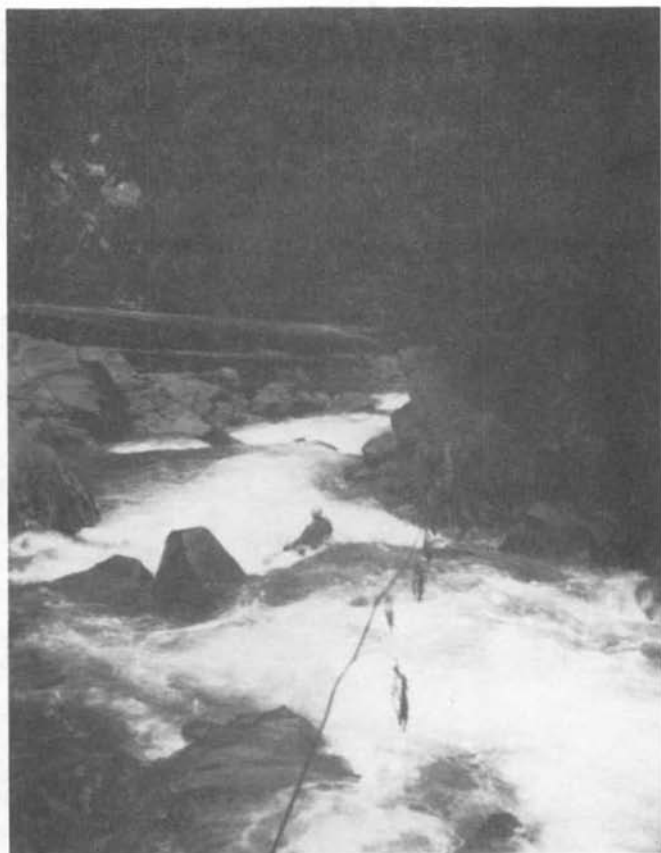
The Shuttle: This is a long shuttle but well worth it for this outstanding river. To reach the put-in, take Queets River Road off of Highway 101, about 20 miles north of Amanda Park. It's well-marked with a large brown "Queets Valley" sign. Follow this 12.9 miles to "Queets Campground" at the end of the road.



Portaging "Yosemite Sam Slam"

To reach the put-in, go back to Highway 101 and go left (south). Follow 101 6.5 miles and turn left onto West Boundary Road (FS 21). Drive 7.8 miles and go left onto #2180. #2180 is the first left after crossing Matheny Creek. Follow it 9.6 miles and turn left onto a spur marked #2180 and "500." This road leads you .7 mile to the put-in bridge.

Season: November to May, following periods of rain.



Outstanding whitewater on the Sam's River

QUEETS RIVER

Run:	Campground to "River View"
Length:	9.3 miles
Difficulty:	Class I+ with one Class II+ rapid.
Gradient:	17 feet/mile
Scenery:	B

The River:

The run begins with "Sam's Rapid." This rapid is on the U.S.G.S. map and is long and rocky. Enjoy these rapids because the river becomes slow below here. There are a few isolated waves and holes to play in, along with views of Mount Olympus.

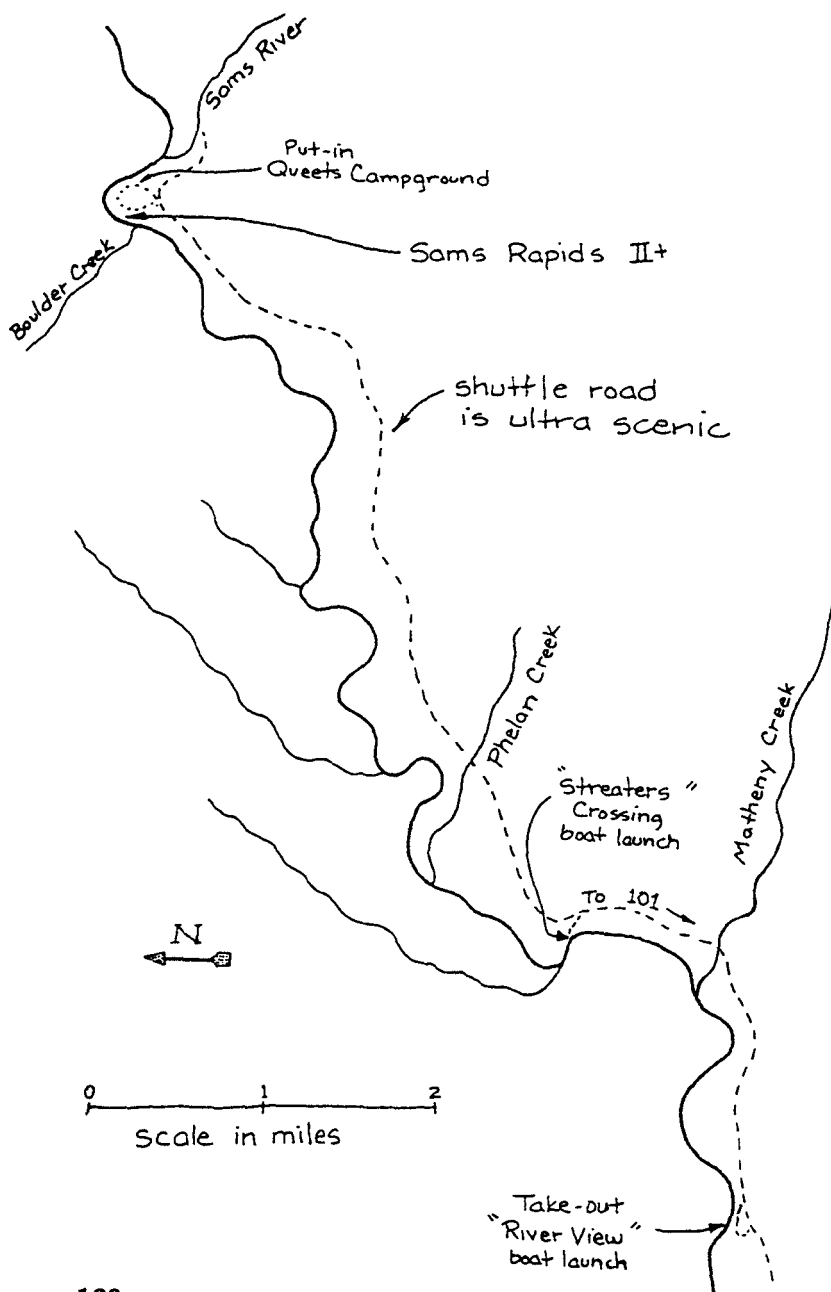
The Shuttle:

Driving north on Highway 101 turn right at the sign that reads "Queets Valley." Follow this road along the river for 5.6 miles to River View boat launch. It consists of a parking area next to the river with no formal boat ramp. This is the take-out.

To reach the put-in, continue on this road 8.4 miles to the campground and put in above the first rapid. This shuttle road is extremely beautiful.

Season: November to August.

QUEETS RIVER



MATHENY CREEK

Run:	Upper Matheny Creek
Length:	2.5 miles
Difficulty:	IV+ @ 300cfs
Gradient:	98 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+

The River:

This run contains some of the best and most scenic whitewater in Washington. Though this section ends at the bridge, the access here is not friendly. I'd recommend adding this to the Middle Matheny run for a great 9-mile stretch.

After joining the main "creek" you'll be in a beautiful gorge with many fantastic rapids. One of these first few will be the "Tongue of Pleasure." It's a clean vertical drop that will leave you laughing.

After being hypnotized by beautiful scenery, you'll be awakened by "Shark's Fin Falls,"---a big drop at the confluence of a major creek. The next half mile is pool/drop heaven. Every time you see the next pool it's six feet below, with challenging Class IV drops separating them. This section lasts all the way to the bridge. The final big drop is just below the bridge. Below here it's six miles of Class II and III rapids in a long, beautiful gorge.

The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out, see the take-out description for the Middle Matheny run. Another option is to take-out at the huge culvert just upstream of Hook Branch Creek. This is a steep hike up to the road, but not too bad.

To reach the put-in, continue up West Boundary Road and turn right onto #2160 in .1 mile. Follow this for 7.3 miles and go right down to where the bridge

crosses the "North Fork". From here you have two options, the first is just running the creek. You'll hit about 200 rocks and pin several times, but it's fun! If the water is low the other option is to cross the bridge and continue about 200 yards and park on the right. From here you walk through the woods about a quarter mile and put-in above the confluence with the "North Fork". If you follow your nose some elk trails provide an easy walk to the river.

Season:

November to May, following moderate rainfall.



Moss grows on everything in the Western Olympics---don't stay too long!

MATHENY CREEK

Run:	Middle Matheny Creek
Length:	6.2 miles
Difficulty:	Class III @ 500cfs
Gradient:	68 feet/mile
Scenery:	A-

The River:

This run can be paddled by itself or added to the "Lower Matheny Creek" stretch for a long day.

The first drop below the bridge is the hardest drop on the run, and those seeking a class III experience should put-in below it. The river flows through beautiful gorges with deep pools and numerous Class II and III rapids. Even though it's called a "creek" the riverbed is large and has very few trees to worry about. One unique feature of this river is the steel culverts strewn about the run. We thought "Matheny" must be an Indian word meaning "river of many abandoned culverts."

The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out, take West Boundary Road (FS 21) off of Highway 101 about 10 miles north of Amanda Park. Follow it for 7.5 miles to the bridge across Matheny Creek.

To reach the put-in, continue on West Boundary Road .1 mile and turn right onto Road #2160. Follow this road 4.7 miles, then turn right and follow this road to the bridge. There is a steep trail leading down on river right just below the bridge--some rope will help to lower the boats down. If the Class IV drop at the beginning looks too mean you can put in one-half mile downstream by hiking across the clearcut area.

Season: November to May, following heavy rainfall.

MATHENY CREEK

Run:	Lower Matheny Creek
Length:	4.2 miles
Difficulty:	Class III-IV @ 800cfs
Gradient:	72 feet/mile
Scenery:	A-

The River:

This great run can be paddled by itself or added to the middle run for a good, long day. The river starts with enjoyable drops in a beautiful gorge. Then you enter a clearcut section with many enjoyable Class III + drops and some nice playspots.

After a brief open section you'll enter the final gorge. The third rapid in the final gorge ("Call 911") deserves scouting and at low water is one of the hardest on the river. The next rapid is a short steep chute that Mike Deckert dubbed the "Bowling Ball." When you see the Volkswagon-sized boulder with finger holes in the rapid you'll know how it got its name. After a few more rapids the river opens up and you'll see the gauge on river right. The take-out follows shortly.

The Shuttle:

To reach the put-in, take West Boundary Road (FS 21) off of Highway 101 about ten miles north of Amanda Park. Follow it for 7.5 miles to the bridge across Matheny Creek. Another option is to put-in at the huge culvert just upstream of Hook Branch Creek, this adds about three miles of nice class III river.

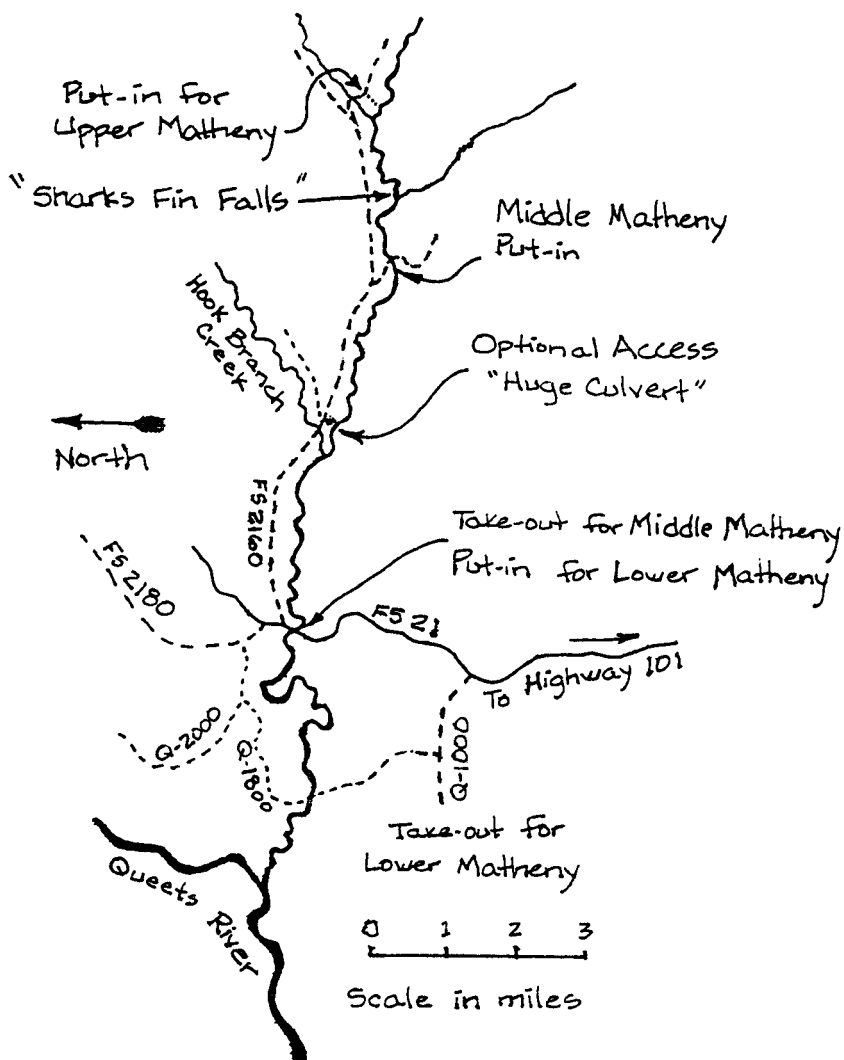
To reach the take-out, continue on across the bridge for .3 miles and turn left on road #2180. In .2 miles go left again onto road Q-2000. In 1 mile turn left onto road Q-1800 (a closed gate forces you to turn here), and follow it 1.3 miles to the bridge over the river.

The Season: November to May after periods of heavy rainfall.



**Mike Deckert doing his "Iguana Move" over
a log everyone else portaged.**

MATHENY CREEK



SALMON RIVER

Run:	Salmon River
Length:	8.2 miles
Difficulty:	Class II (Class IV in first mile) @ 600cfs
Gradient:	40 feet/mile (90 feet/mi in first mile)
Scenery:	A-

The River:

This is really a nice run with an outstanding gorge. The problem is with the open section---it has many trees across the river. We only had three or four portages, but were constantly sneaking under, over or around trees.

The first mile is very beautiful and contains some great rapids. Several steep rapids will lead you into "Slabs-'o-Fun." This Class V rapid has a Class IV+ sneak that is good clean fun. The sneak's on the right, in a slot that drops six feet into a foamy pool. Boats either disappear or perform spectacular tallstands. The left side of this drop is a recirculating cauldron of smoke and mist. The rapids above this drop are a little pushy, so approach with caution. This drop can be carried on the right.

Several more rapids lead you out into the open section where the river turns Class II for the rest of the trip.

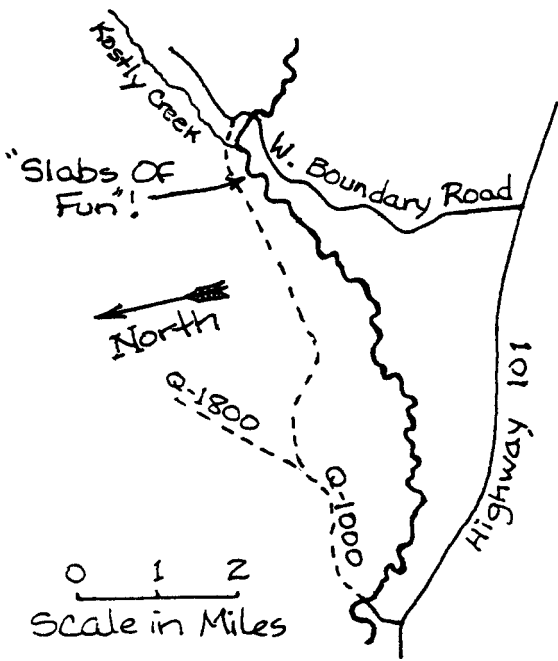
The Shuttle:

To reach the put-in, take West Boundary Road (FS 21) about ten miles north of Amanda Park on Highway 101. Follow it for four miles to the bridge crossing the Salmon River.

To reach the take-out, continue on West Boundary Road .2 mile and turn left onto Q-1000. Follow it 6.7 miles to the take-out at the bridge crossing the river.

The Season: November to May, following rainfall.

SALMON RIVER



CLEARWATER RIVER

Run:	Upper Clearwater
Length:	9.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class III-IV (V) @ 1500cfs
Gradient:	52 feet/mile
Scenery:	A-

The River:

This run has one of my favorite canyons on the Olympic Peninsula. It also contains some great playspots which invite you to spend time in this beautiful place.

The first mile below the put-in has many trees across---proceed with caution. After about two miles you'll arrive at an obvious gorge. The entry into this gorge involves a 7-foot drop into a smoking hole. At the high levels I've seen the drop, I'd advise portaging on the right.

Then you'll be treated to some really nice Class III and IV drops. This section lasts about two miles before opening up. Below Kunamakst Creek the river enters a wonderful canyon with great playspots. One short section has layers of sandstone and shale turned completely vertical. These layers extend into the river forming some smooth waves in an unreal setting.

The river lets up below the Solleks River and soon you'll be at the take-out.

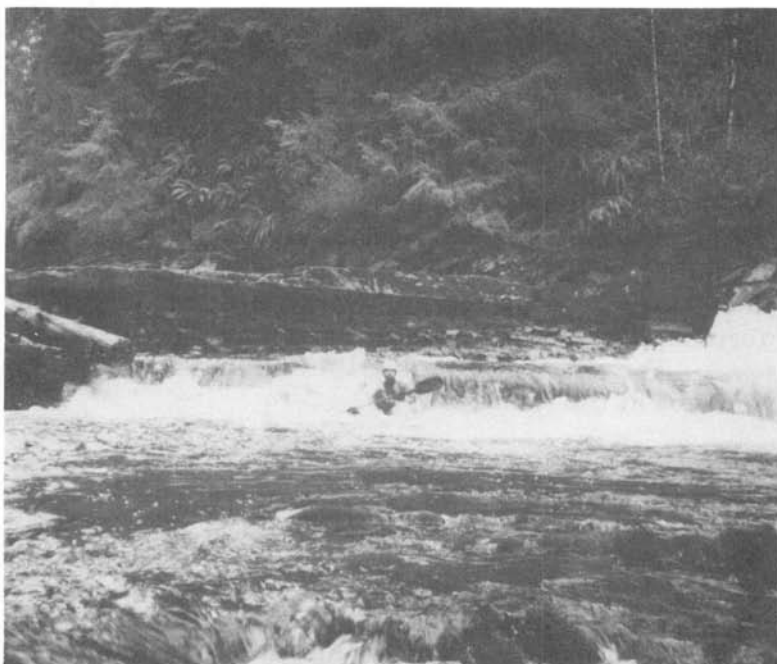
The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out, take the Hoh Mainline which is the paved road one-half mile south of the Hoh River. Follow this 15.5 miles and turn left toward Upper Clearwater Campground. Follow this 3.4 miles to the campground.

To reach the put-in, drive back to the Hoh Mainline and turn right. Drive 4 miles and turn right onto the paved "Upper Clearwater Road" (C-2000).

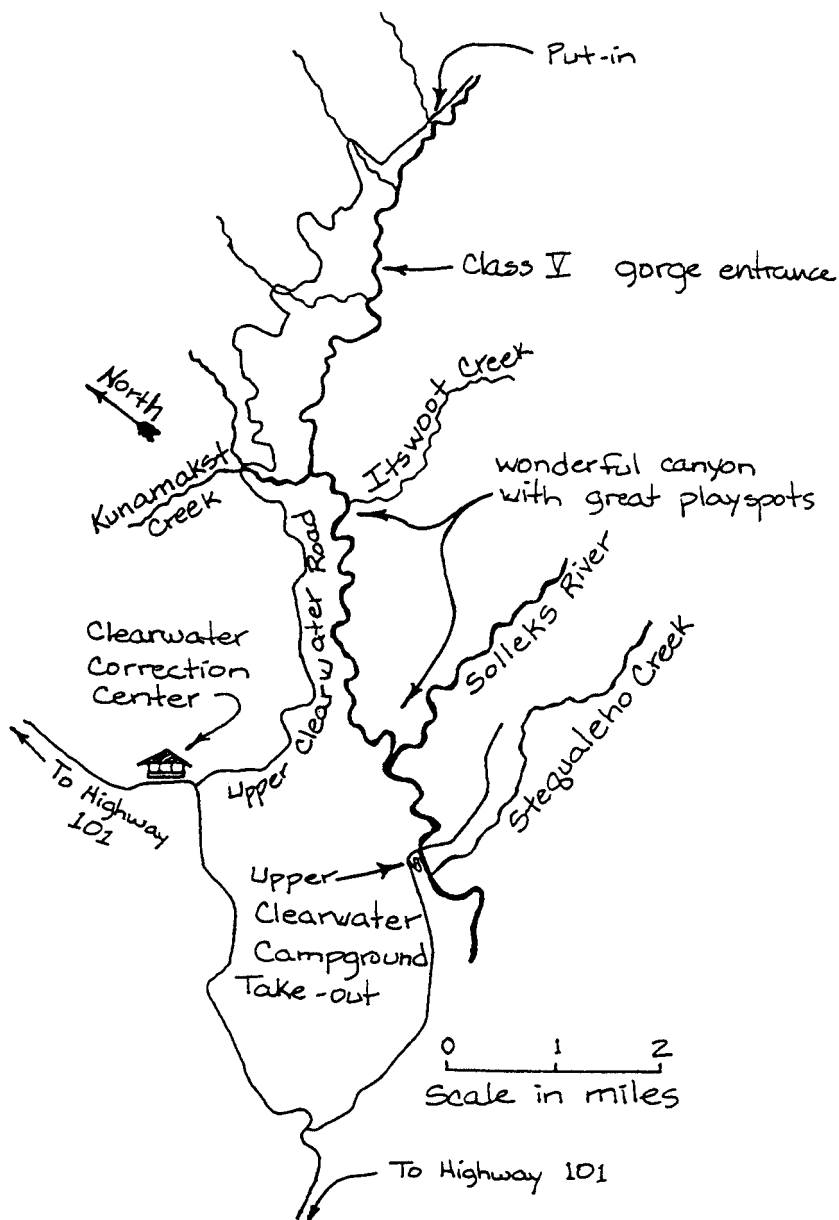
Follow this road 12 miles to where it comes next to the river.

Season: November to May, following heavy rainfall.



Snahapish Falls on the Snahapish River

UPPER CLEARWATER



CLEARWATER RIVER

Run:	Middle Clearwater
Length:	10.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class II @ 600cfs
Gradient:	17.2 feet/mile
Scenery:	B

The River:

Immediately after putting in, Stequaleho Creek adds substantially to the flow from the left. In fact, between the put-in and take-out the river picks up about 50% more water.

The run has many Class II rapids that are straightforward and easy to read. Be alert for sweepers--on our trips there have been portages. Crooks Rapids, listed on U.S.G.S. maps, is no harder than the rest of the run.

The scenery alternates between very beautiful and recent clearcut areas.

The Shuttle:

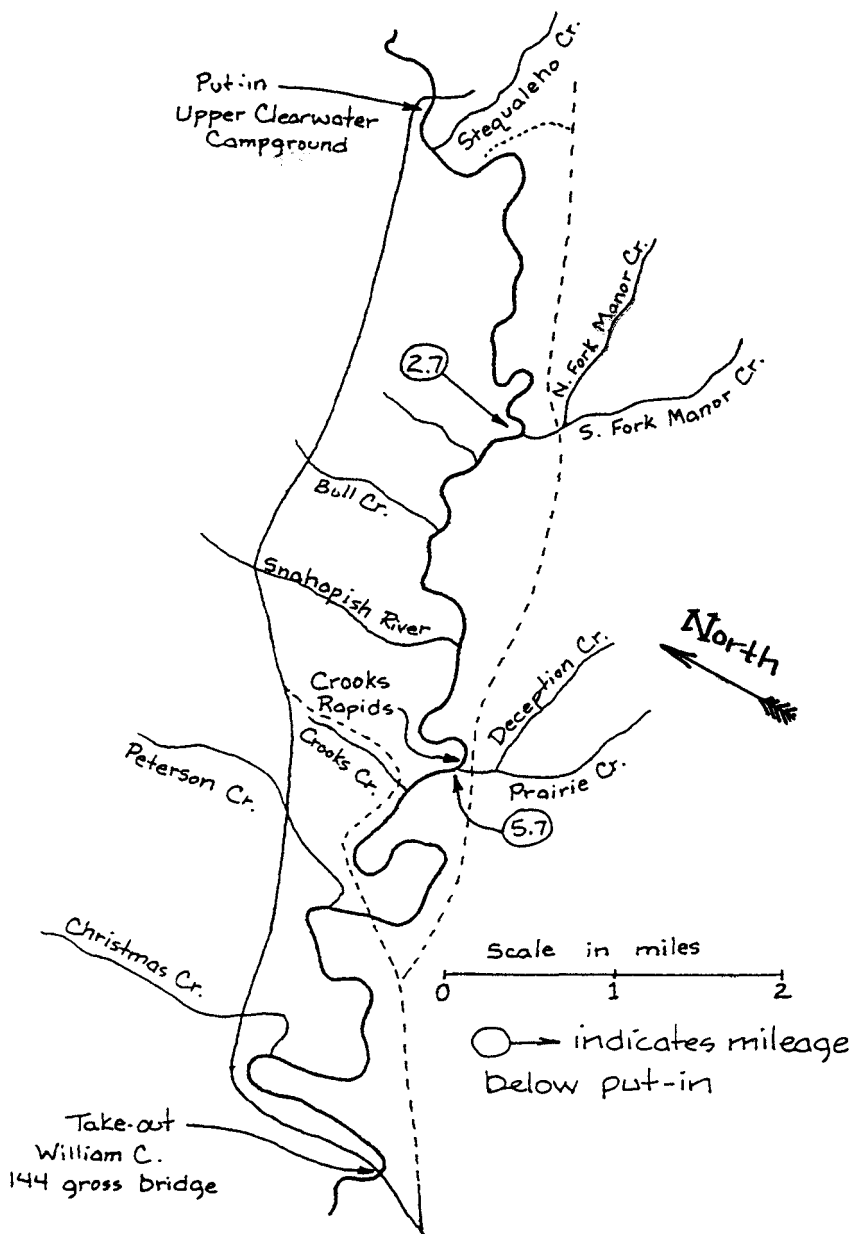
To reach the take-out, take Clearwater Road off Highway 101. Follow it 9.6 miles to the "144 Gross Bridge"--this is the take-out.

To reach the put-in, continue on the road to Upper Clearwater Campground.

Season:

November to May. Best after several days of rain.

MIDDLE CLEARWATER



CLEARWATER RIVER

Run:	Lower Clearwater
Length:	11.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class II- @ 600cfs
Gradient:	10 feet/mile
Scenery:	B

The River:

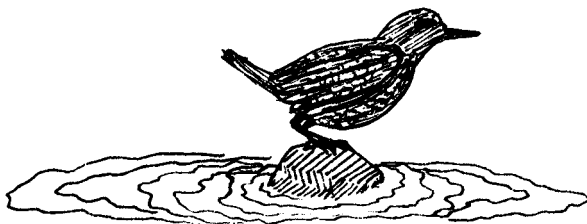
The first 4 or 5 miles of this run are very pretty and contain several nice little rapids. Although these rapids are labeled on U.S.G.S. maps, they are very easy. Below here the river becomes very slow and so does the scenery.

The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out, turn onto Clearwater Road off Highway 101. After crossing the Queets, there is an access on the left or you can continue ahead to where the river runs along the road.

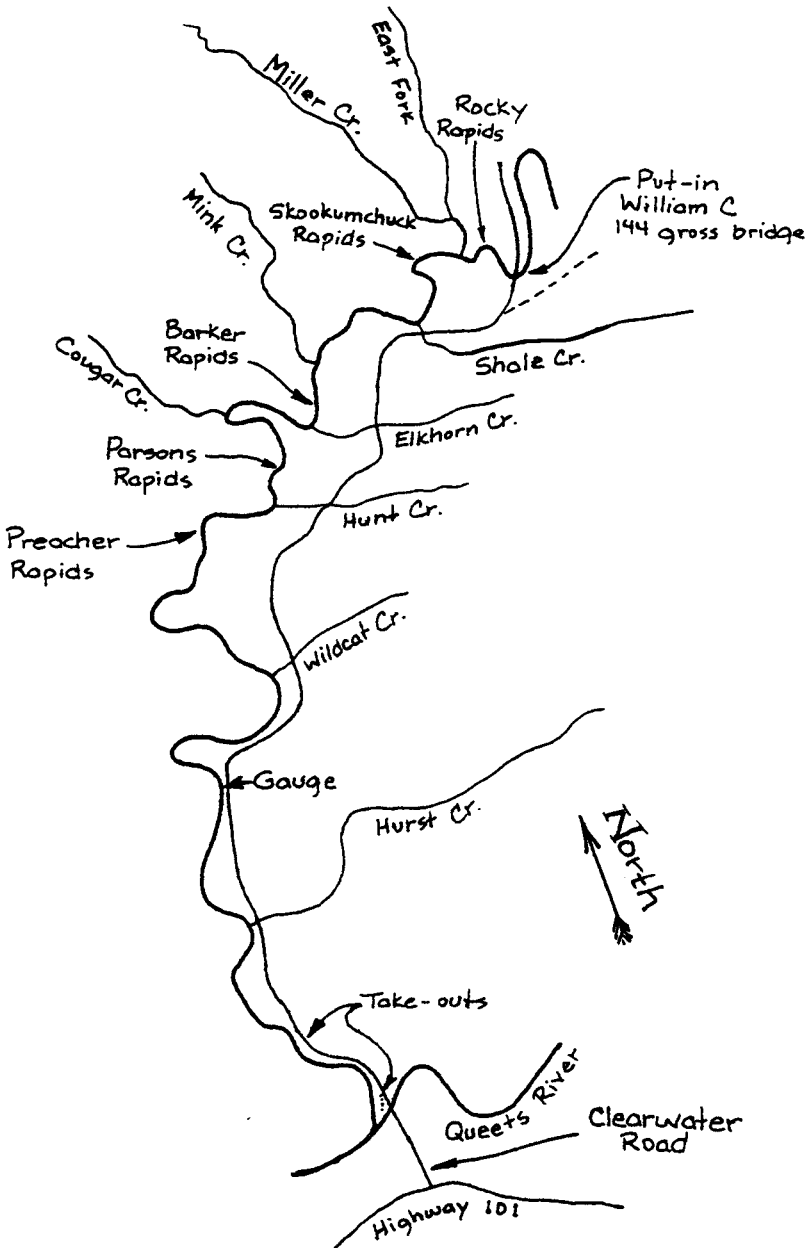
To reach the put-in, see the take-out directions for the Upper Clearwater run.

Season: November to May.



American Dipper (Ouzel)
--found in rapids on the Olympic Peninsula
(Considered Dangerous!)

LOWER CLEARWATER



SOLLEKS RIVER

Run:	Lower Solleks
Length:	6 miles
Difficulty:	Class III-IV @ 650cfs
Gradient:	95 feet/mile
Scenery:	A-

The River:

Before the old-growth was logged off, this was probably one of the most beautiful runs on the Peninsula. Despite the logging, I still give it a high scenic rating.

After a mile of fairly easy river, you'll get to a ledge drop that signals the beginning of the bedrock riverbed that makes the drops on this run. There are two Class IVs and numerous Class III rapids that make this run a gem if you can catch it with water. One area you should approach with caution is the gorge at the bridge. This narrow section has had a log to duck under in fast water. If this gorge became blocked you would be required to go up and around--which doesn't look like a good time.

Once on the Clearwater you'll have about a mile of easy water, although the old-growth Sitka spruce scenery and a couple of good playspots will keep you entertained.

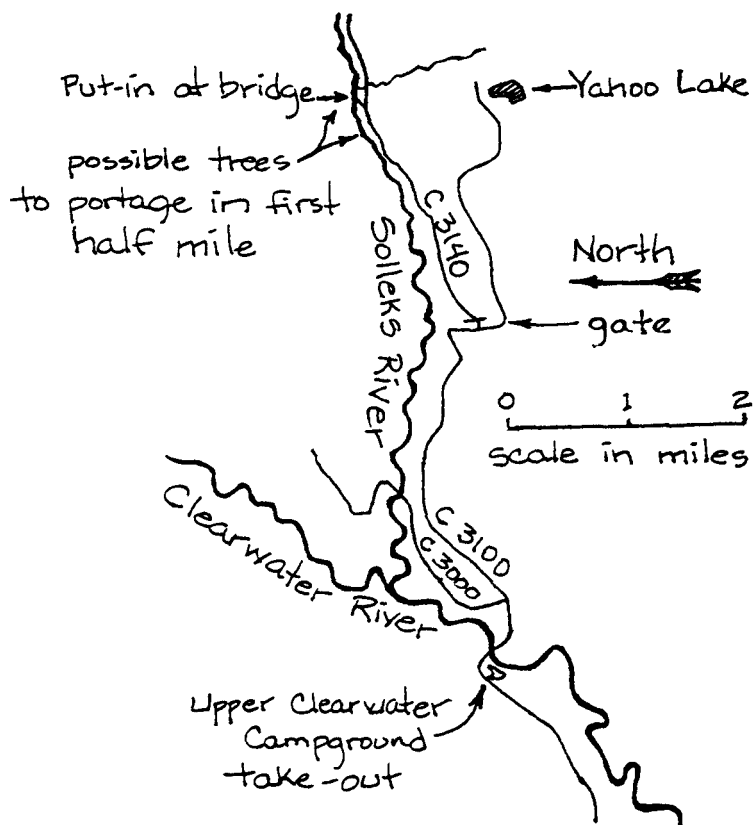
The Shuttle: To reach the take-out, take Clearwater Road off of Highway 101 near Queets. Follow it about 15 miles to the "Upper Clearwater Campground." This is the take-out.

To reach the put-in, continue on across the Clearwater River. (at about 0.7 mile stay with C3100). About 3.8 miles from the take-out, go left onto C3140. Follow this road about two miles and go left down to where the old bridge was, just upstream of Kloochman Creek.

NOTE: The C3140 road may be gated for elk closure, but the remaining two miles down to the put-in is a downhill hike!

Season: November to May, following heavy rainfall.

SOLLEKS RIVER



STEQUALEHO CREEK

Run:	Lower Stequaleho Creek
Length:	4 miles
Difficulty:	Class II-III (VI)
Gradient:	130 feet/mile
Scenery:	A

The River:

Unless you're interested in seeing a mountain sawn in half, you should avoid this run. Although the upper part has great rapids and scenery, the second half is filled with portages.

After hiking down to the river you'll be treated to some great rapids through beautiful scenery. This section seems to pick up as you go, and then after a short Class IV rapid comes "The Gradient", where the creek is actively cutting the hillside to pieces. This section drops about 70 feet. Portage on the left and choose your put-in, as several Class V drops follow the mandatory portage of the first drop. This area is a mess of sandstone and trees.

Below "The Gradient" the creek slows and many trees block the path requiring portages.

The Shuttle:

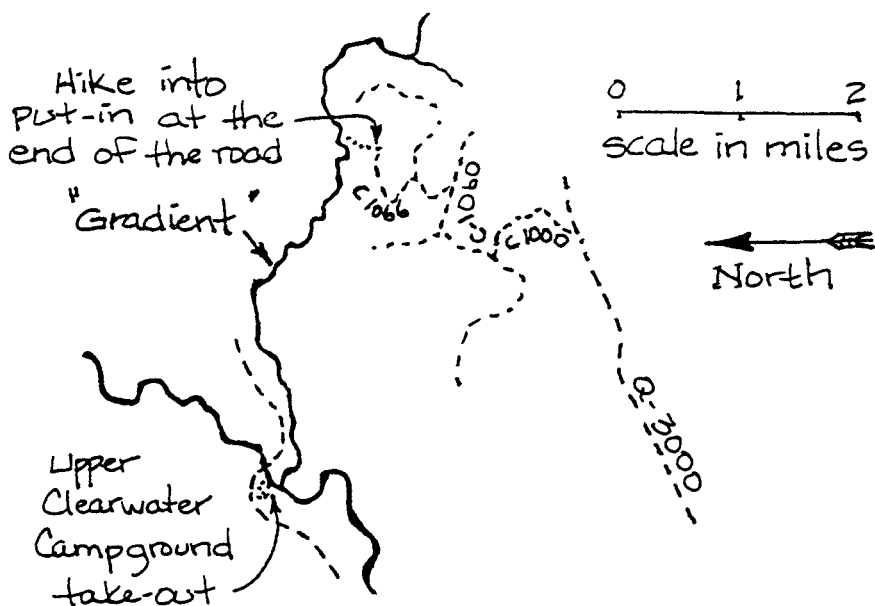
This is a long shuttle. From Highway 101, take Clearwater Road about 21 miles north of Amanda Park. It's well-marked with a sign "Hoh-Clearwater State Forest." Follow it 1.2 miles and turn right on Q-3000. Follow it 11.6 miles and turn left onto C-1000. Follow it 1.1 miles and turn right onto C-1060. Stay on C-1060 avoiding 1064 for one mile and go left onto C-1066. Follow it .9 mile to the end of the road and hike down the hill a quarter-mile to the river.

To find the take-out, go back to the Clearwater Road and go right. Follow it for 11.7 miles and go right after crossing the Snahapish River towards "Upper

Clearwater Campground." Follow this 3.1 miles to the campground. This is a strange take-out because the campground is upstream of the mouth of Stequaleho Creek. This means taking out on the right before you enter the Clearwater, portage across the woods and paddle about 200 yards up to the campground. Just one more reason not to do this run!

Season: November to May.

STEUQALEHO CREEK



SNAHAPISH RIVER

Run:	Lower Snahapish
Length:	3.5 miles, plus 1 mile on the Clearwater
Difficulty:	Class II+ (with one Class IV+ rapid) @ 350cfs
Gradient:	69 feet/mile
Scenery:	A-

The River:

This very beautiful run has been victim to major clearcuts on DNR lands. However, there are still some huge old-growth Sitka Spruce that were left along the river.

Below the put-in, the river winds back and forth through a beautiful forest where logs may require a carry or two. The river picks up as you enter a sandstone gorge. Pull in on the right to scout "Snahapish Falls." This rapid is formed by two big ledges. A portage of one or both ledges is easily made on the right. This beautiful gorge section ends after passing under the bridge. Below here expect a portage or two as the river meanders through logjams near the confluence with the Clearwater River. After some Class I and II on the Clearwater you'll reach the take-out.

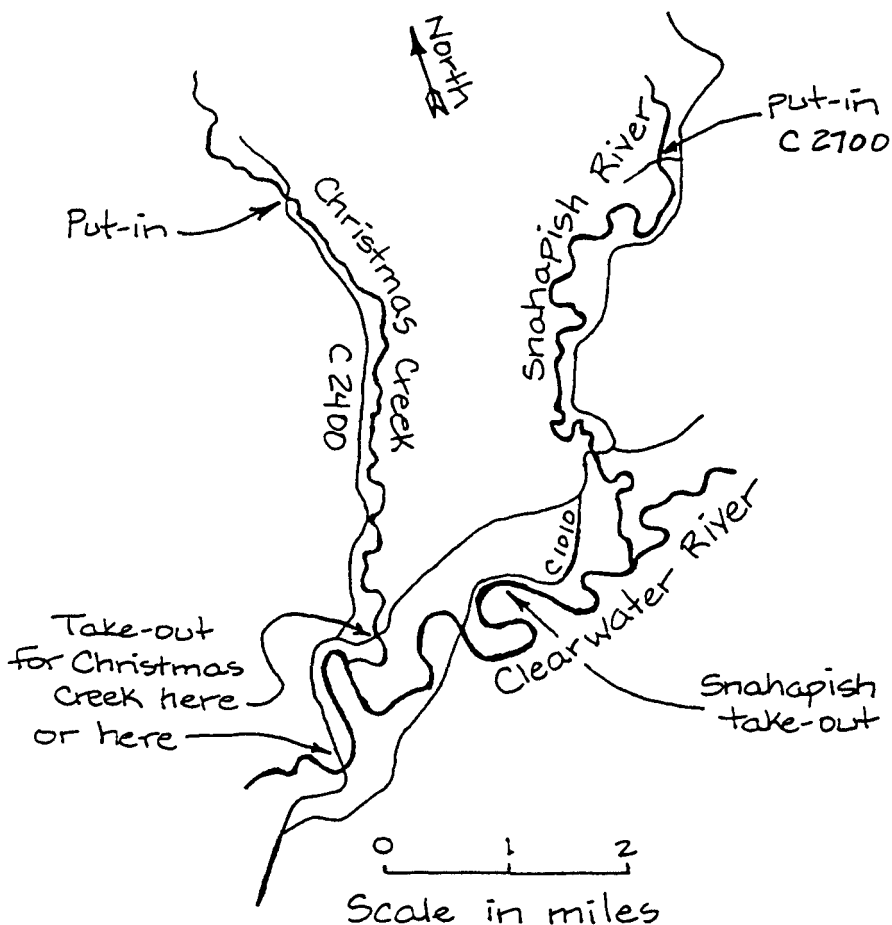
The Shuttle: To reach the put-in, take the Hoh mainline, which is about one-half mile south of the Hoh River on Highway 101. It's marked with a sign that reads "Clearwater Correction Center." Drive for 13 miles and turn right onto C-2700, about a mile and a half past the Clearwater Correction Center. Follow this .2 mile to the bridge.

To reach the take-out, go back to the mainline and go right. After crossing the Snahapish in three miles you continue another one-half mile and turn left toward "Coppermine Bottom Campground." Follow this road

about a mile to where it runs along the Clearwater River, or you can go a bit further and take out at the campground.

The Season: November to May, following good rains.

SNAHAPISH RIVER & CHRISTMAS CREEK



CHRISTMAS CREEK

Run:	Christmas Creek
Length:	4.0 miles
Difficulty:	Class II+ (V) @200cfs
Gradient:	70 feet/mile
Scenery:	B+

The River: This is a nice run with one steep short gorge and several nice groves of huge Sitka Spruce. Fallen trees blocking the river will require several portages, however. The run starts with a technical small creek character. Soon you arrive at two Class IV drops followed by a Class V+ falls that has a possible route. This all happens in a short sandstone gorge. Below here you'll cruise through some groves of giant Sitka Spruce--- a great place for lunch.

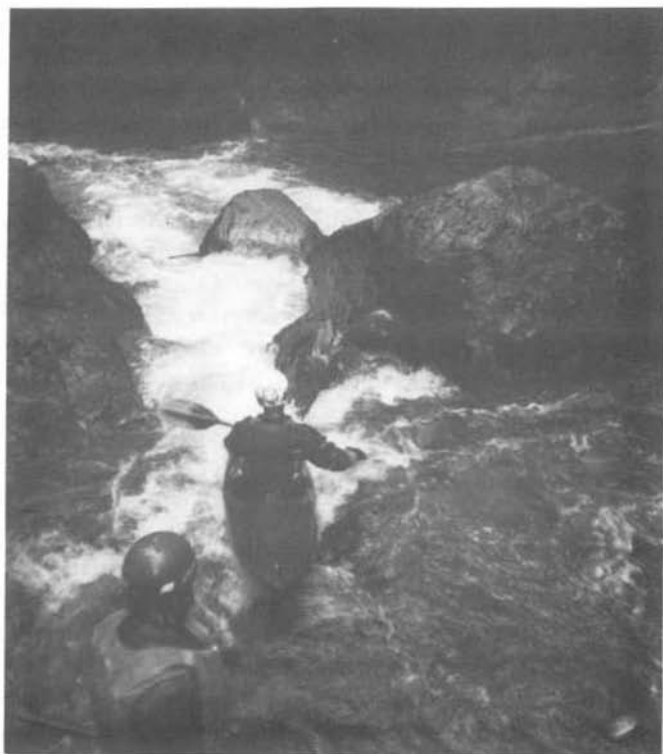


Spawning salmon have the right-of-way
on the Olympic Peninsula

The Shuttle: To reach the take-out, take the Hoh mainline, which is the paved road about one-half mile south of the Hoh River off Highway 101. The road is marked "Clearwater Correction Center." Follow this road about 18 miles to where it crosses Christmas Creek. This is the take-out.

To reach the put-in, cross the bridge and take your first right. Drive 3.8 miles and put in where the creek is alongside the road or continue another half mile to where the road crosses it. The creek is very small at the put-in.

Season: November to May following periods of heavy rainfall.



Last rapid in Christmas Creek gorge.

SOUTH FORK HOH RIVER

Run:	South Fork Hoh
Length:	6.7 miles
Difficulty:	Class III @ 1000cfs
Gradient:	37 feet/mile
Scenery:	B+

The River:

Be sure to check the gauge just downstream from the bridge at the campground. It's on river right and has a small road leading to it. The run is best around 5.0, but anything over 4.1 is fine.

The run starts with great Class III rapids that continue for several miles. These rapids provide great waves and holes to play in. As the river slows a bit you'll reach a logjam where the river takes a shortcut to the left. The portage here is best made by following the old riverbed around to the right. At high water you can boat this small channel.

After the portage you'll come to the rapids at the campground. There are some great playspots in the next mile before reaching the main Hoh. Once on the Hoh it's about a mile to the take-out. If you stay right and follow the flow you'll end up just downstream from the take-out. In this case portage across the gravel bar and ferry across to the take-out.

The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out, take the road marked "Clearwater Correction Center" off Highway 101, just south of the bridge over the Hoh River. Continue on it for 7 miles and turn left toward "South Fork Hoh Campground." Follow this road 6.4 miles and turn left to the "Hoh Rainforest Lots." Follow this to the right as you reach the first house. Continue to where the road makes a 90 degree right turn away from the river and park.

This is private property that is for sale. The neighbors have been friendly to us, so unless this lot sells it's probably all right to use as access. Be sure to scout the take-out carefully so you don't miss it.

To reach the put-in, go back up to the main road and continue 1.4 miles to the South Fork Hoh Campground. Continue on past the river bridge for 2.6 miles to the trailhead at the end of the road. Drag your boats down the trail about .5 mile to where the trail starts to go up a hill. From here if you back up about 50 feet there is a short path leading down to the river.

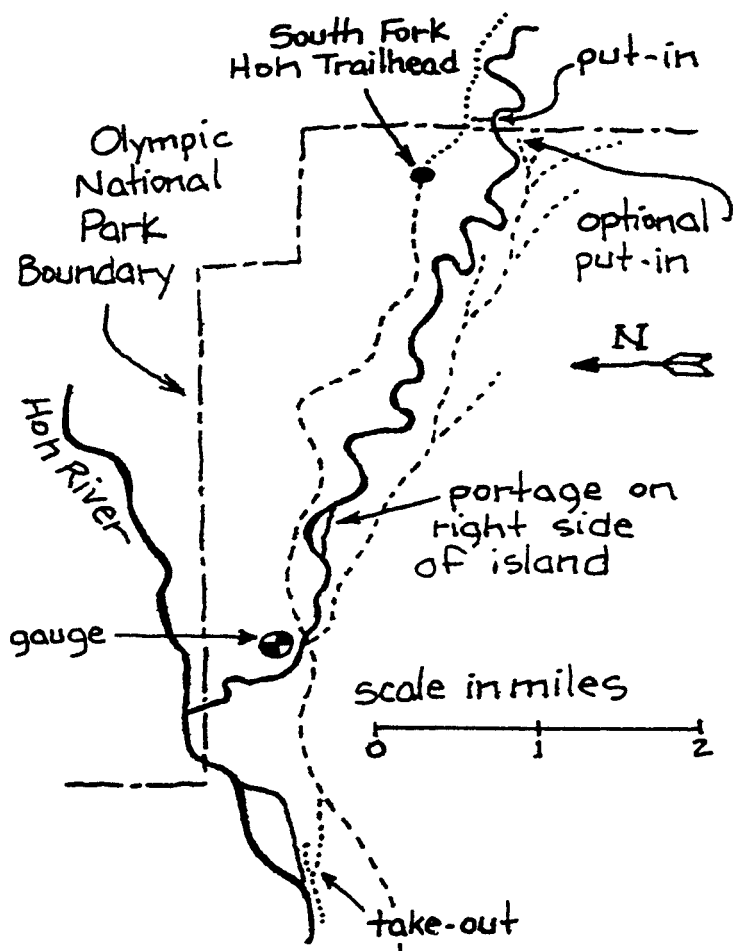
If this sounds like too much walking you can put in on the other side of the river. To do this stay on the south side of the river and follow the logging roads to the Park boundary where the road goes near the river. This is still a long carry across logging slash. I use the trail approach.



Misty morning on the South Fork Hoh

Season: November to July. I don't have a conversion but 5.0 feet on the gauge is about 1500 cfs and 4.2 feet is about 500cfs.

SOUTH FORK HOH RIVER



HOH RIVER

Run:	Ranger Station to Oxbow
Length:	20 miles
Difficulty:	Class II @ 1500cfs
Gradient:	24 feet/mile
Scenery:	B

The River:

From the campground to the South Fork the river is fast and has many hazardous sweepers. There are usually portages on this section. Beginners can avoid this stretch by putting in below the South Fork confluence. Below the confluence it slows a bit and you're treated to some nice views of the Olympic Mountains. Below Maple Creek the river has some nice rapids and good play spots. This short stretch ends at the gauge. Below here are 8 miles of Class I before reaching the gorge stretch below Winfield Creek. The gorge section isn't much of a gorge, but when compared to the rest of the river it's heaven. The last rapid above the take-out is the best of the trip and has some great waves and holes to play in.

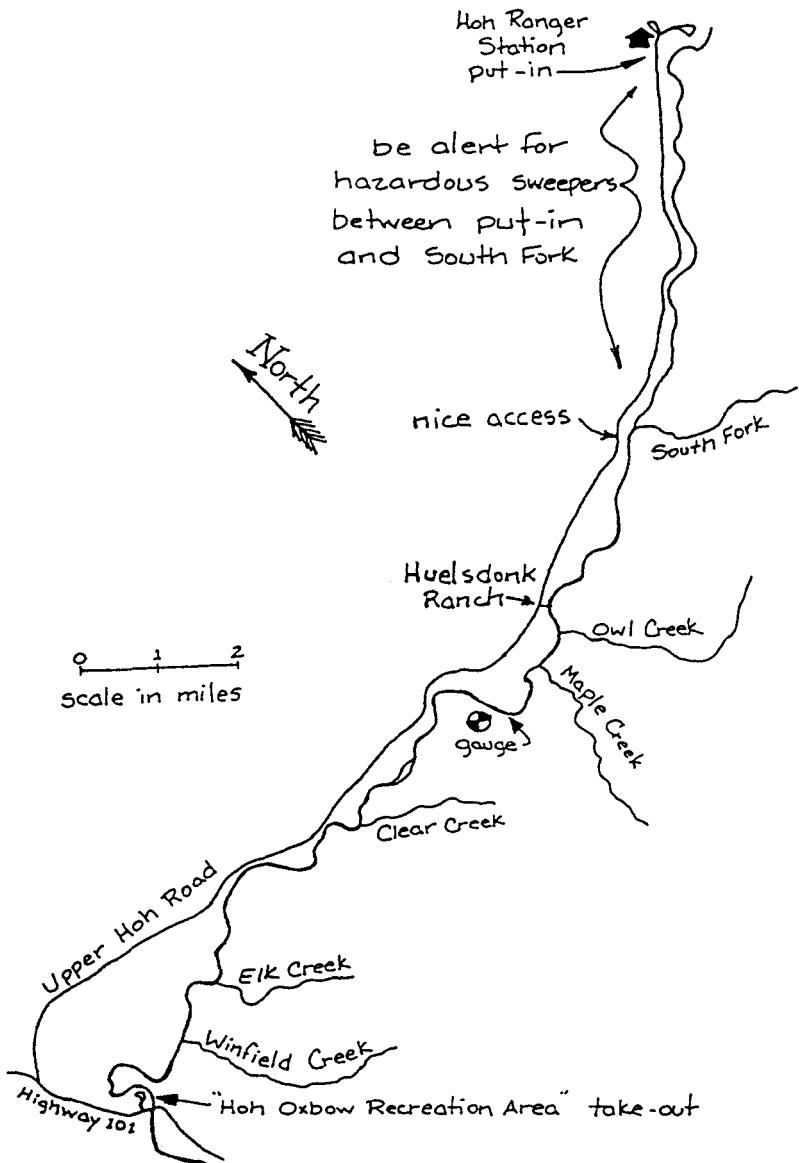
The Shuttle:

The take-out is the "Hoh Oxbow Recreation Area", just north of the Highway 101 bridge over the river.

To reach the put-in, go north on 101 for 1.7 miles and turn right onto the Upper Hoh Road. Follow this road for another 18.4 miles to where the road ends at the Hoh Ranger Station. Refer to map for other access points for shorter runs.

Season: November to September.

HOH RIVER



BOGACHIEL RIVER

Run:	Upper Bogachiel
Length:	5 miles
Difficulty:	Class II @ 650cfs
Gradient:	24 feet/mile
Scenery:	B

The River: This run contains nice rapids in an open riverbed making it a good choice for beginners. Paddle this in the fall and you'll be treated to some fine colors from the maples.

The Shuttle: The take-out is at Bogachiel State Park, where Highway 101 crosses the river.

To reach the put-in, take North Bogachiel Road which is located across from the State Park just before crossing the 101 bridge over the river. Follow this to where it ends at the gate.

Season: November to May.

Kayakers

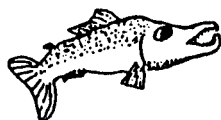
Common year round but most abundant in Spring and Summer often seen throwing themselves down falls and rapids and terrorizing Salmon.



Life as they know it cannot exist without free flowing rivers.

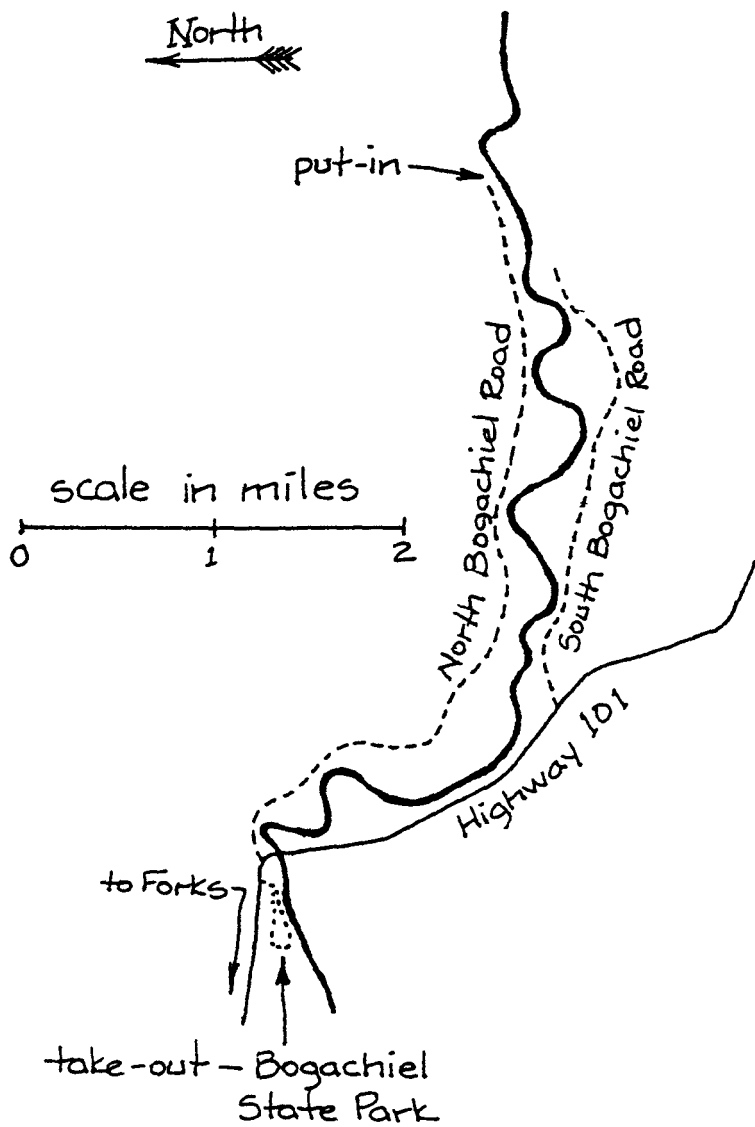
Salmon

Common year round but most abundant in Fall and Winter often seen throwing themselves up falls and rapids and terrorizing Kayakers.



Life as they know it cannot exist without free flowing rivers.

UPPER BOGACHIEL



BOGACHIEL RIVER

Run:	Lower Bogachiel (State Park to ITT Bridge)
Length:	8.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class I-II @ 800cfs
Gradient:	11 feet/mile
Scenery:	B

The River:

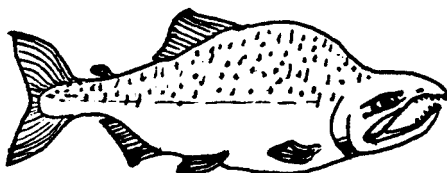
Most of the run is Class I but scenic, especially in late fall when the leaves are changing. This run is very well-suited to novice boaters. There is one very enjoyable rapid just below the confluence of the Calawah River. This rapid can provide excellent surfing at higher water levels.

The Shuttle:

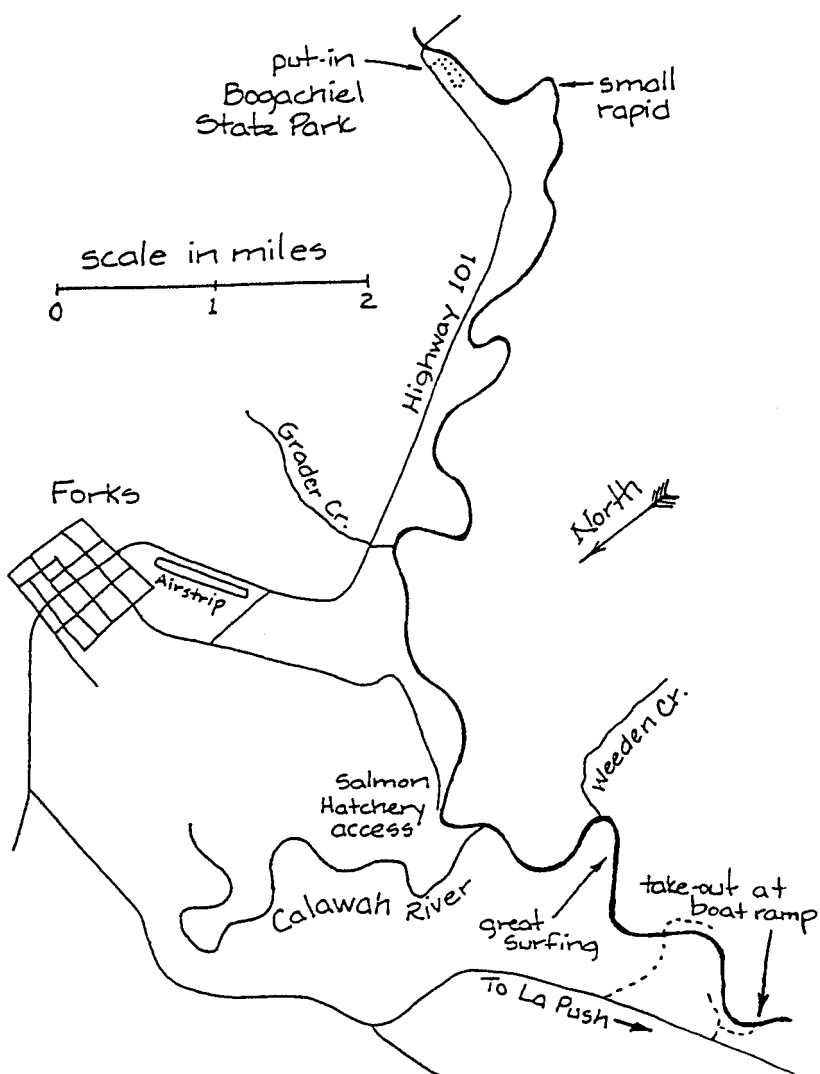
The put-in is at Bogachiel State Park where Highway 101 crosses the river.

To reach the take-out, go north on 101 past Forks and turn left on the road to LaPush. Drive 5.5 miles and turn left to the fishing access/boat ramp.

Season: November to May.



LOWER BOGACHIEL



CALAWAH RIVER

The Calawah is a large river with several boatable tributaries. Most of the drainage is below 3000 feet and responds quickly to heavy rains. A typical high water level after rain is about 3500cfs at the mouth. At this level the river is brown and starting to carry some wood.

Though the drainage has been heavily logged, the scenery along the river is generally beautiful. Deep gorges and cascading side creeks typify the upper reaches while open bottomland forest is the scene below Klahanie Campground. Expect to see bald eagles along the river, especially in the lower reach.



Paul Thompson cruises down Hyas Creek

SITKUM RIVER

Run:	Upper Sitkum
Length:	9.6 miles
Difficulty:	Class V (VI) @ 250cfs
Gradient:	68 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+

The River:

Really this run adds about 3.5 miles to the Middle Sitkum run, so I'll only describe the upper section. These upper miles drop about 100 feet/mile. This is a long run, so get an early start. This run also contains many undercuts, potholes, and pinning opportunities---be very cautious!

After the slippery trail down to the river, you'll be treated to two great drops. In the third drop close inspection will reveal a severe rebar hazard. The portage is very short. A couple of more drops into deep pools brings you back out into the open. As the river opens up there's a great funneling slide drop that should be scouted.

After a tight right turn blocked by a huge! tree (limbo move), things will start to pick up. Keep your eyes open for "Severe Reality." This Class VI section is pretty easy to portage, and the scenery is great. It consists of three big rapids that drop about 32 feet.

The river then opens up, and several steep ledge drops lead up to a big ledge that we portaged. It's a Class V+ drop that may be runnable on the left at higher levels. You'll then arrive at the entrance to a gorge. This blind Class V double drop we called "Claustrophobia." We ran the first drop and carried the second on the left.

A few more drops bring you to the "Boulder Factory." This section of boulders is about one-half mile long and begins with a Class VI rapid "The Big Ugly." It has an easy portage on the right. After the portage you'll

be treated to a long boulder garden--beware of pins!

Below here you'll feel the river slow a bit for about a mile to the North Fork Sitkum confluence.

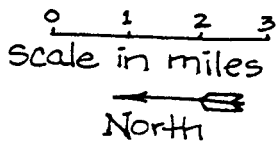
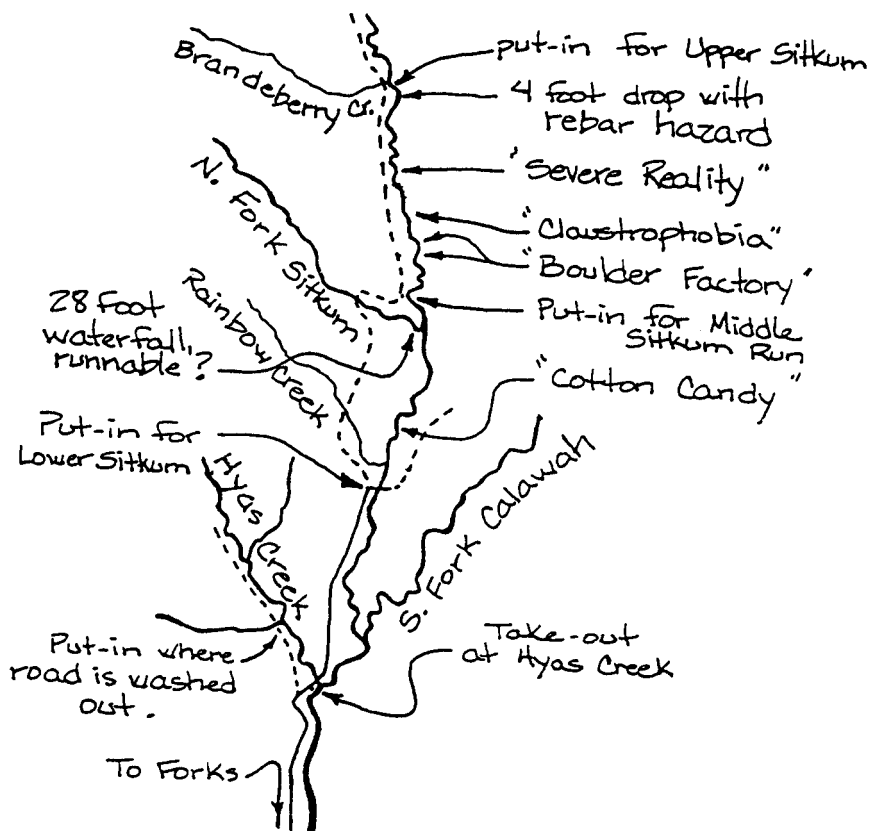
The Shuttle: To reach the take-out, turn onto FR#29 which is marked "Rugged Ridge Trail." It's located off Highway 101 about a mile north of Forks. Follow this for 8 miles and pull off on the right, just downstream from Hyas Creek.

To reach the put-in, continue up river about 8.5 miles to where a bridge crosses Brandeberry Creek. There is a steep trail down to the river here just downstream from the creek.



Carol Volk takes a beating on the Sitkum

UPPER SITKUM / HYAS CREEK



SITKUM RIVER

Run:	Middle Sitkum (North Fork to Hyas Creek)
Length:	6.1 miles
Difficulty:	Class IV @ 400cfs
Gradient:	51 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+

The River:

The run is mostly Class II except for about a mile of excellent Class IV water. This stretch has some of the most enjoyable drops of any river in this book. You'll want a low water level for this stretch so the holes behind the ledges don't become too nasty. The most difficult drops can be portaged.

The run starts with about 1.5 miles of Class II in a beautiful gorge. The action begins when you get to a steep "S"-turn that we call "Little Pistol." This is followed by 5 great drops, one of which is a 7-foot falls with a sticky hole at the bottom that I call "Cotton Candy." Scout and enjoy this section. Also the ledge 20 yards below "Cotton Candy" is an excellent ender spot. The river becomes Class II below the bridge and remains easy for the rest of this intensely beautiful run.

The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out at Hyas Creek, see the take-out description for the South Fork Calawah run.

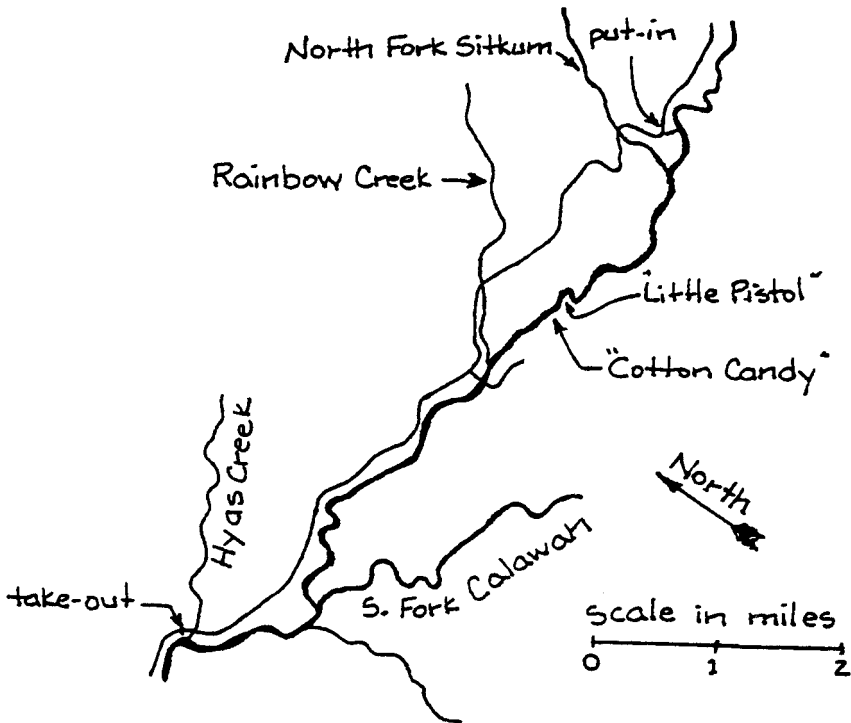
To reach the put-in, continue on up the road along the river and stay right in .8 mile. At 3.2 miles past Hyas Creek stay left away from "Rugged Ridge Trail." At 6.0 miles you'll cross over the North Fork Sitkum. In another .4 mile park alongside the road overlooking a logged area. You have to drag your boat about .2 mile across this area, then find the hidden trail into the gorge.

This isn't as bad as it sounds and it's well worth it for this excellent run.

Season:

November to May. At high levels (above 700cfs) "Little Pistol" and "Cotton Candy" are Class V drops.

MIDDLE SITKUM



SITKUM RIVER

Run:	Lower Sitkum (Rugged Ridge to North Fork)
Length:	8.0 miles
Difficulty:	Class II-III @ 600cfs
Gradient:	32.5 feet/mile
Scenery:	A-

The River:

The run starts in a very beautiful gorge with tall trees and cascading side creeks. If you're fortunate enough to have a high water level this run is a kayak playground. Large smooth waves provide excellent surfing while several large holes will entertain even the most hardcore freestylers.

After Hyas Creek enters from the right the river becomes Class I for about three miles. But to reward the boater for paddling this the river kicks off with about 1.5 miles of great whitewater. The last big rapid above the take-out is called the "Island Rapid" and is the best of the run.

The Shuttle:

On Highway 101 a mile north of the Calawah River bridge is a road marked "Rugged Ridge Trail." Follow this road to where it crosses the North Fork Calawah and look for a small access road on the right just past the bridge. This is the take-out. You can add another 3.5 miles of nice river by taking out at the Highway 101 bridge.

To reach the put-in, continue on up the road. The road follows the river, so always stay right at any forks. When you see the sign to Rugged Ridge Trail, follow it to the bridge. There is a VERY steep trail down to the river

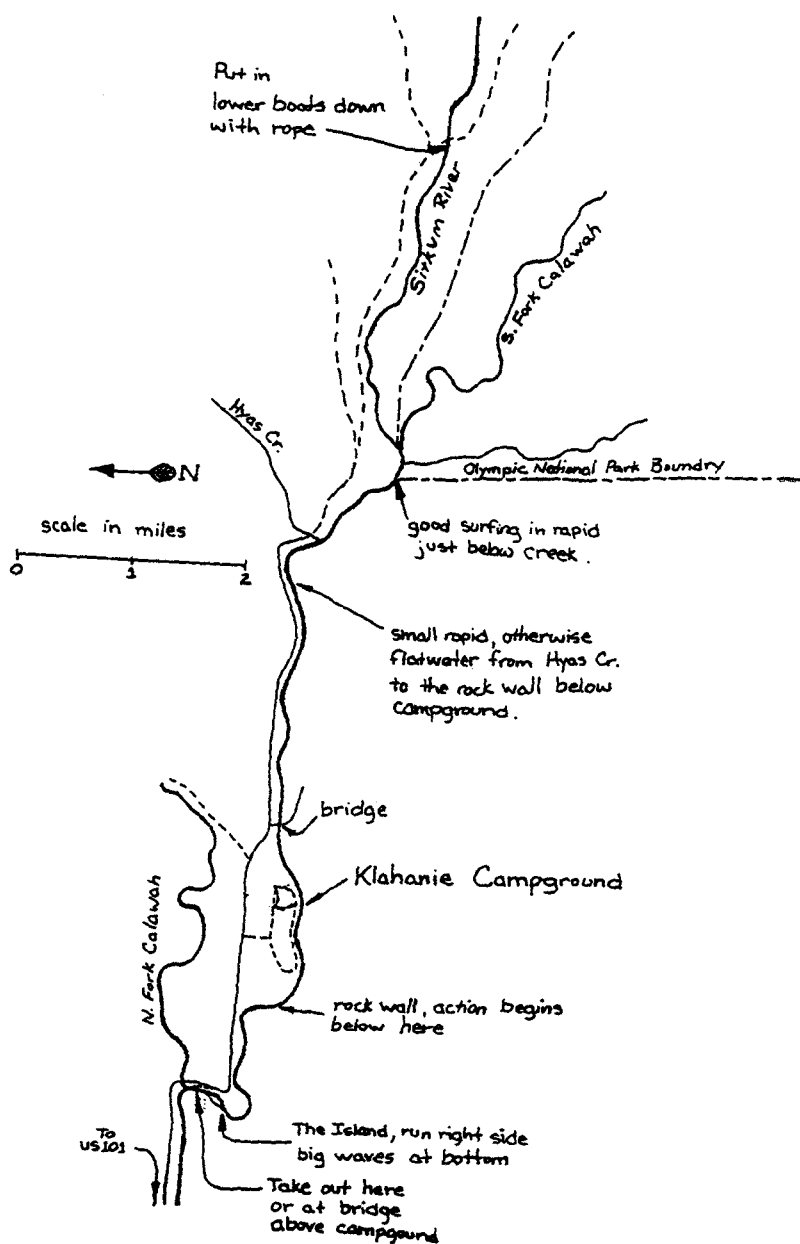
on the right side. Some rope to lower boats can come in handy.

Season: November to May.



Lower Sitkum below the bridge.

LOWER SITKUM



SOUTH FORK CALAWAH RIVER

Run:	South Fork
Length:	7 miles
Difficulty:	Class IV- @ 650cfs
Gradient:	53 feet/mile
Scenery:	A+

The River:

Your reward for hiking this trail will be paddling this rare stretch of pure wilderness. The run--from the put-in to its confluence with the Sitkum--is totally within Olympic National Park.

Shortly below the put-in you'll reach a ledge drop leading into a beautiful gorge. We called this drop "West Virginia." I enjoy running if far left over a four-foot vertical drop. Below this is another big drop--again, I like to run it along the left. The river keeps dropping through many long boulder gardens. There is a pretty solid log jam where you need to make a portage about 2 miles below the put-in.

The last 2 miles above the Sitkum are slow and allow you to enjoy the fine scenery. On our first trip about 20 elk crossed the river in front of us. After you reach the Sitkum there will be a few nice playspots before reaching Hyas Creek.

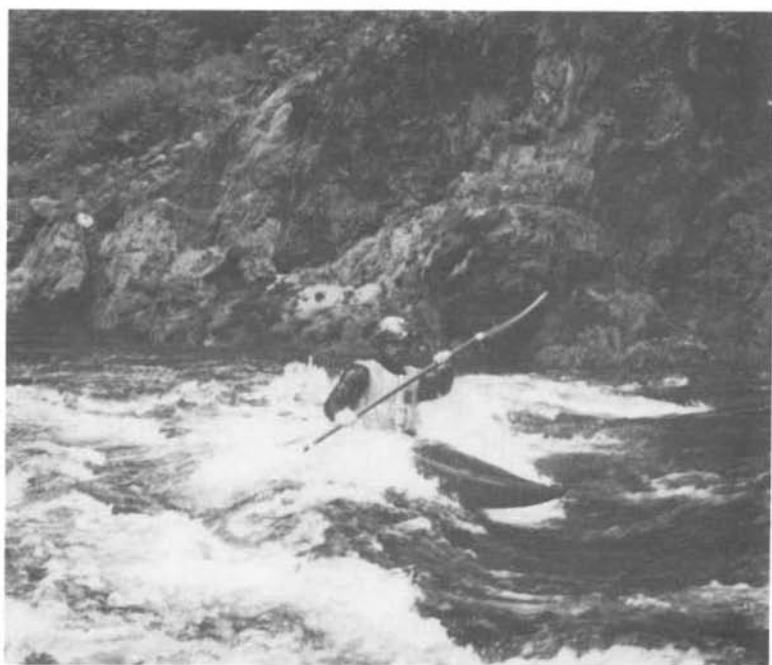
The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out, turn onto a road marked "Rugged Ridge Trail". It's located off Highway 101 about a mile north of Forks. Follow this for 8 miles and pull off on the right onto a short road where Hyas Creek joins the river.

To reach the put-in, continue on up the road staying right at any forks for 3.3 miles. This will bring you to the bridge over the Sitkum River. Continue

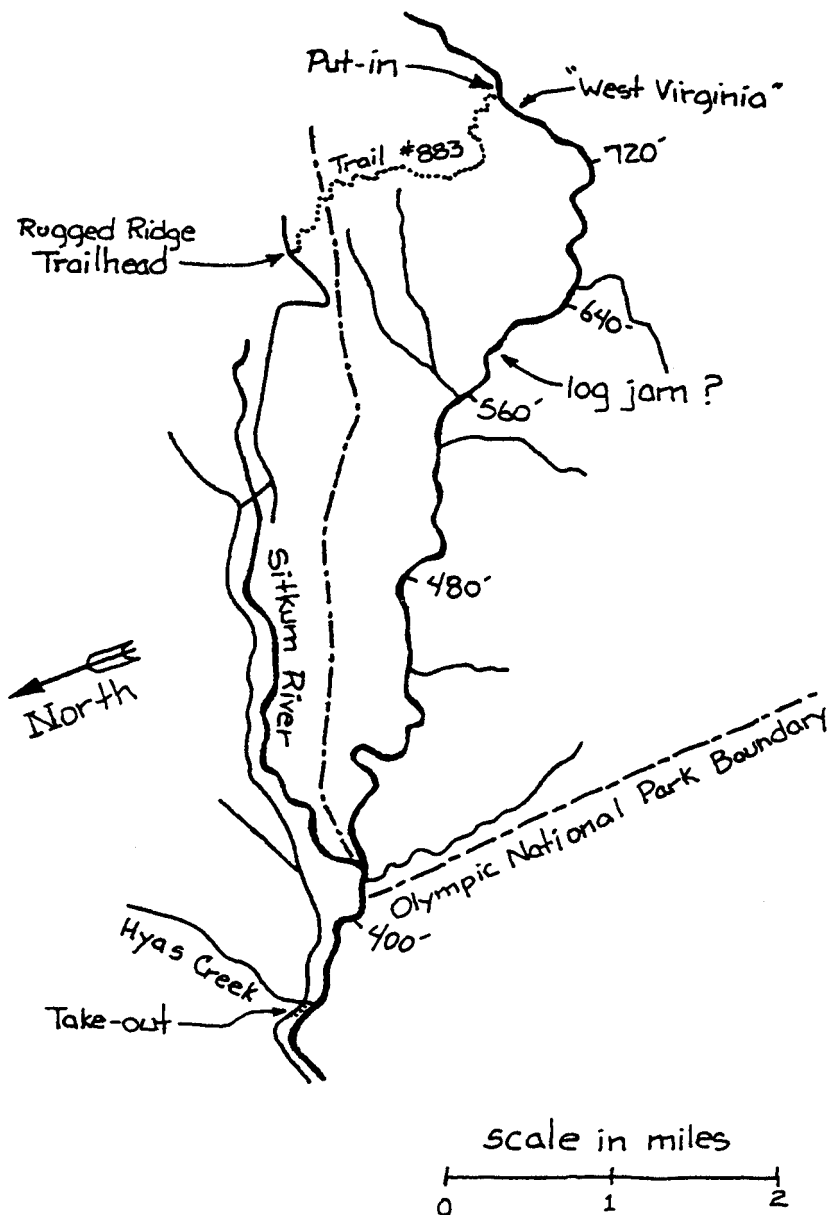
across it and drive another 2 miles to the parking area at the "Rugged Ridge Trailhead". From here you must hike 2.8 miles to the put-in. The hike is strenuous and only recommended for true pure wilderness lovers. I drag my boat about 80% of the way which makes it a little easier. I would allow two to three hours to make the hike.

Season: November to May.



One of several nice playspots below Sitkum confluence.

SOUTH FORK CALAWAH RIVER



HYAS CREEK

Run:	Lower Hyas Creek
Length:	1.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class II-III (IV) @ 350cfs
Gradient:	75 feet/mile
Scenery:	A

The River:

This is a beautiful run, with one big ledge drop. One drawback is that someone has cabled logs into the creek to provide fish habitat. (It's a wonder that the salmon could have ever survived without us here to improve upon nature.)

You can see the Class IV from the road on the drive in. If it's a little too spooky you can portage it on the left. Unless you want to have an ultra-short run, I would recommend continuing on down the Calawah to either the North Fork Calawah or to Highway 101.

The Shuttle:

Since I recommend adding this run to the Calawah, we'll use the North Fork as our take-out. To reach the North Fork take-out, take FR#29 which is marked "Rugged Ridge Trail." It's located about a mile north of Forks off of Highway 101. Follow it for 3.7 miles to the North Fork Calawah bridge. Take out at the small road on the right just past the bridge.

To reach the put-in, follow FR#29 upstream for 4.3 miles to where it crosses over Hyas Creek to check and see if there's enough water. If it looks good, go back one-fourth mile and turn right. Follow this road to where it's washed out at a major tributary. There is a way down right where the tributary joins the main creek.

This shuttle is shown on the Upper Sitkum map.

NORTH FORK CALAWAH RIVER

Run:	Balch Bridge to mouth
Length:	9.2 miles
Difficulty:	Class II+ @ 600cfs
Gradient:	33 feet/mile
Scenery:	A-

The River:

The river flows through a young forest in a beautiful steep valley. The entire drainage was burnt to the ground in the famous "Forks Fire" of 1951, so it will be many years before logging will spoil the beauty of this run. The first time we made this run we came upon one of the largest elk herds I've seen. Rapids also compliment the scenery. They continue one after another for the entire run. A couple of them on the second half of the run are easy Class III. One nice thing about this stretch is there are no log hazards, as of now. This make this a perfect run for the beginner-intermediate boater.

The Shuttle: To reach the take-out, turn onto the road marked "Rugged Ridge Trail." It's located off Highway 101 about a mile north of Forks. Follow it for 3.7 miles to the bridge over the North Fork Calawah.

To reach the put-in you have two options. One is to drive back to 101 and turn right. Drive 18.9 miles and turn right onto Cooper Ranch Road. In .4 mile stay right. At 2.2 miles from 101 stay straight on Cooper Ranch Road. At 4.4 miles stay left away from Regume Ranch. At 5.5 miles turn right onto Road #2937. Follow this for 1.1 miles to Balch Bridge.

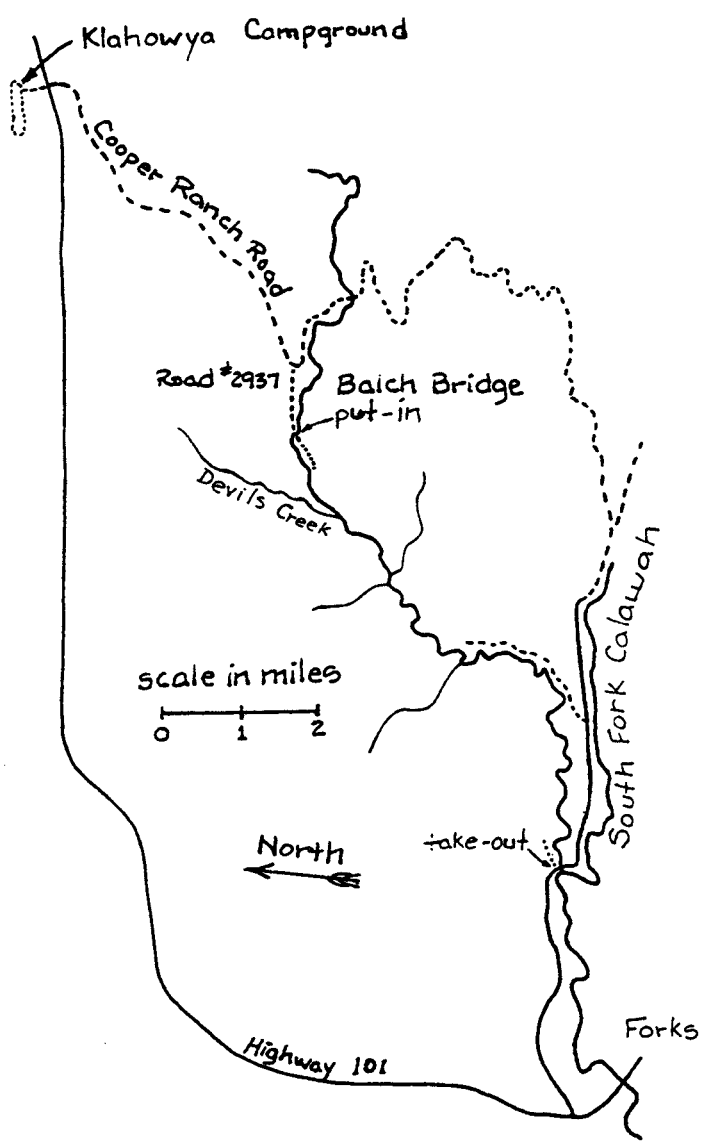
The other option is to drive the shorter, winding, cliffhanging and very scenic road over Hyas Mountain. This road is in pretty good shape but is slow going. I'd suggest going this way once just for the experience. To

drive this route from the take-out cross the North Fork bridge and head up along the South Fork. At 5.2 miles from the bridge go left. Just follow the main road up and over the ridges and enjoy the view. When you come down to a bridge across the North Fork continue on for 1 mile and turn left at the MP 13 marker which is Road #2937 to the put-in. One way mileage for this route is 19 miles. The other route is 29.2 but is paved and faster.



Scott Shipley paddling in the "other Olympics"

NORTH FORK CALAWAH



CALAWAH RIVER

Run:	Lower Calawah
Length:	14.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class II-III @ 1400cfs
Gradient:	18 feet/mile
Scenery:	B

The River:

This really fine run has many rapids and nice surfing waves. The scenery is nice in a large open riverbed. We have always seen eagles on the stretch below Highway 101.

The first mile is slow and allows some warm-up. Below this is over a mile of great whitewater ending with the "Island Rapid." Stay to the right of the island and pick your way through some holes followed by a series of big waves. This is the most difficult rapid on the run. Below here the rapids are spaced by flat stretches.

Near the end the Bogachiel and Calawah join forces to provide a couple of great surfing waves.

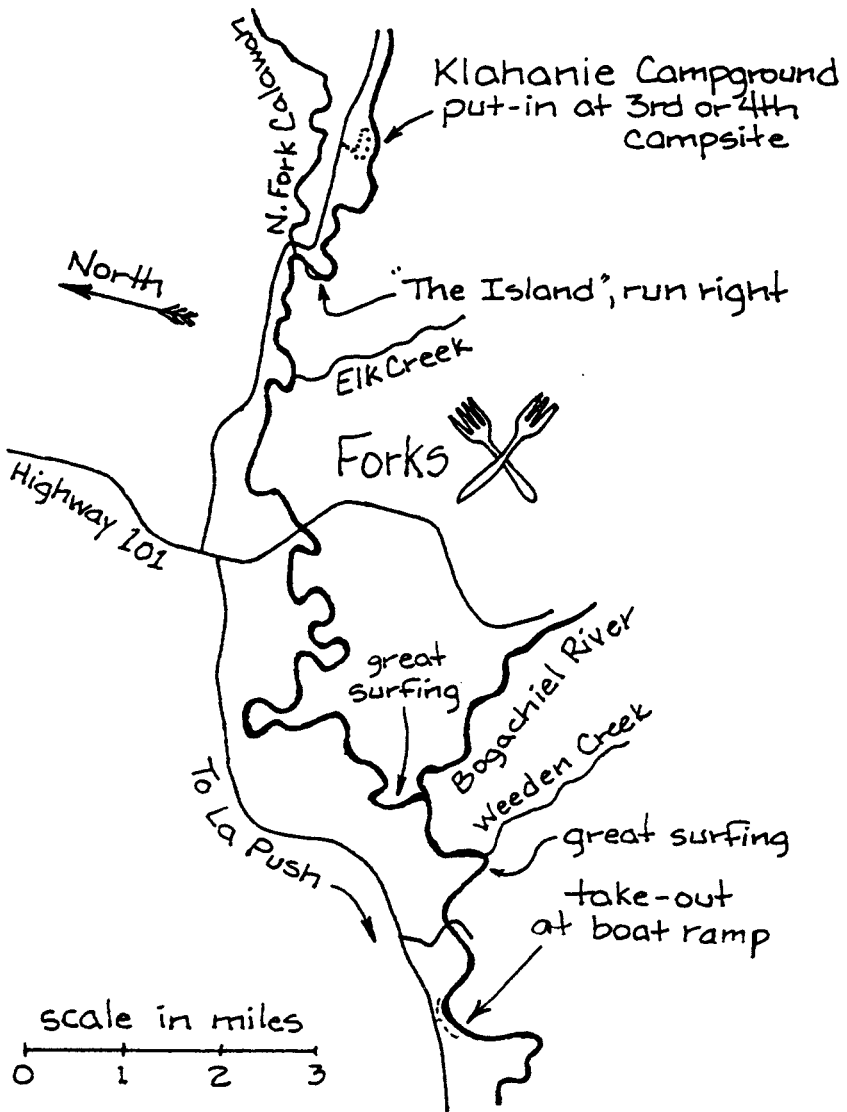
The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out, turn onto the road to LaPush about a mile north of Forks. Drive 3.2 miles and stay left toward LaPush at the junction. Continue for 2.3 miles and turn left to the fishing access/boat ramp.

To reach the put-in, drive back to Highway 101 and go left. Take a right in 0.1 mile on a road marked "Rugged Ridge Trail." Continue on this road 5.4 miles and turn right into Klahanie Campground. The best launching is at the first few sites along the river. You can shorten this trip by using the Highway 101 bridge as an access, but you will miss the best rapids.

Season: November to May, following heavy rainfall.

LOWER CALAWAH



HOKO RIVER

Run:	Hoko Falls Run
Length:	8.3 miles
Difficulty:	Class II-III (IV+) @ 600cfs
Gradient:	18 feet/mile
Scenery:	A

The River:

As you can see from the low gradient, this isn't a run with continuous whitewater. Most of the river is Class I. However, it does have several short gorges that have great whitewater and superb scenery.

The first four miles above Hoko Falls alternates between Class I and several stretches of nice rapids. When you arrive at Hoko Falls, scout from the left shore. The Falls is a seven- or eight-foot drop that enters a short narrow gorge. In the middle of the gorge is another Class IV+ drop. This is one of my favorite gorges on the entire Peninsula. Though short, its two rapids make it very memorable. You can portage the entire gorge by going up to the road at Hoko Falls, crossing the bridge and putting back in. You can scout this gorge on the shuttle.

Below the Falls section, the river cruises through a very scenic canyon where you'll come to a Class III+ boulder garden, followed by several great playspots in a beautiful grotto. The river then lets up to Class I for the rest of the run.

The Shuttle:

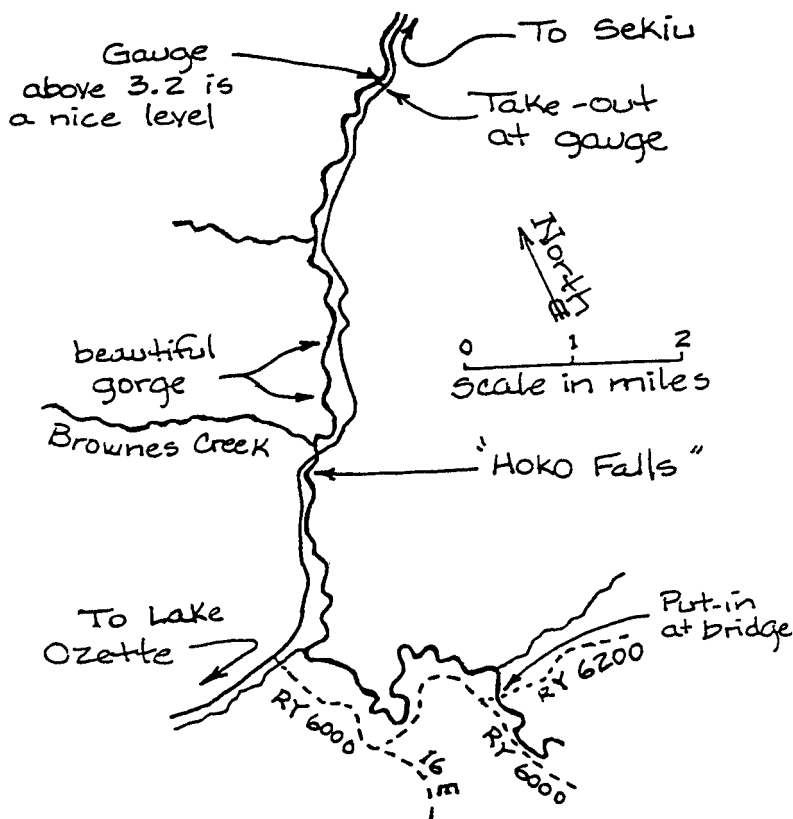
To reach the take-out, turn left toward Lake Ozette off of Highway 112, one and one-half miles west of Sekiu. Follow this road 3.1 miles to the gauge.

To reach the put-in, continue on up the road 3.5

miles and after crossing the bridge stop and scout Hoko Falls Gorge. Then continue up the road another 1.9 miles and turn left onto RY 6000. Follow this 1.6 miles and stay left toward the river. Continue on another 1.3 miles and turn left onto RY 6200 which leads to a bridge over the river.

Season: November to May, with rains.

HOKO RIVER

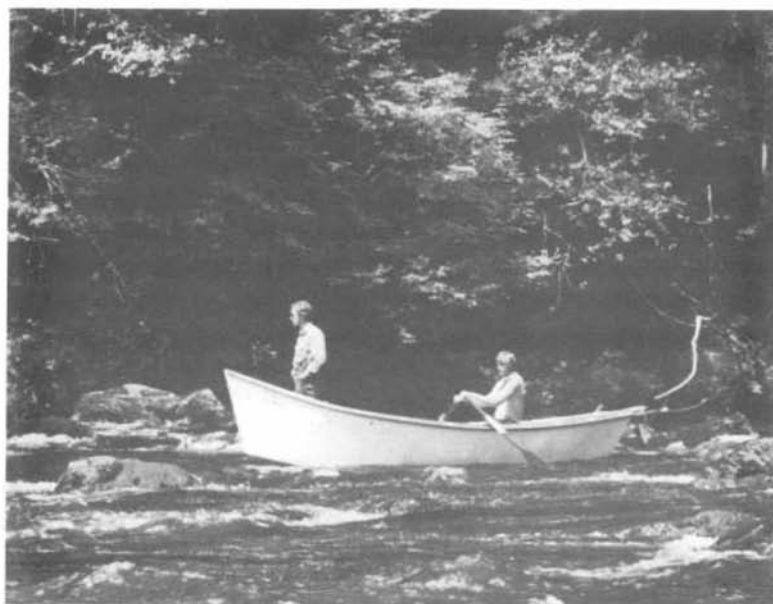


SOLEDUCK RIVER

The Soleduck is a beautiful river with many miles of great boating. It drains the High Divide with many peaks above 5000 feet. Draining the Seven Lakes Basin the river flows very clear, even when high. These lakes provide natural flood control. The river will run fairly clear with moderate flooding when other rivers in the area have gone mad.

This river is a good choice for intermediate boaters in the spring. The large boulders provide solid eddies and good playspots. Some of the long rapids give a feel for eddy-hopping and scouting from your boat.

During winter the river is very popular with driftboaters below Riverside.



Driftboats are popular on the Soleduck

SOUTH FORK SOLEDUCK RIVER

Run:	South Fork
Length:	1.8 miles, plus 1.5 miles on the Soleduck
Difficulty:	Class IV @ 300cfs
Gradient:	130 feet/mile on South Fork
Scenery:	A

The River:

This beautiful run starts with about three-fourths mile of continuous boulder gardens. You'll reach a major logjam at the gorge entrance which will require a portage on the left.

After entering the gorge you'll encounter several steep drops leading to "Ross' Rapid." This drop is a short Class V that requires a long boof into a foaming mess. The first time I ran it I boofed the drop and cleared the rocks but I finished the rapid in a vertical tailstand--a little too exciting! After a couple of other great drops the river lets up and you'll come to the bridge.

My favorite way to do this run is to stash squirt boats under the South Fork bridge and switch boats there. This leaves you with a fantastic six-mile squirt stretch down to Highway 101 if the water's over 4 feet on the gauge.

The Shuttle:

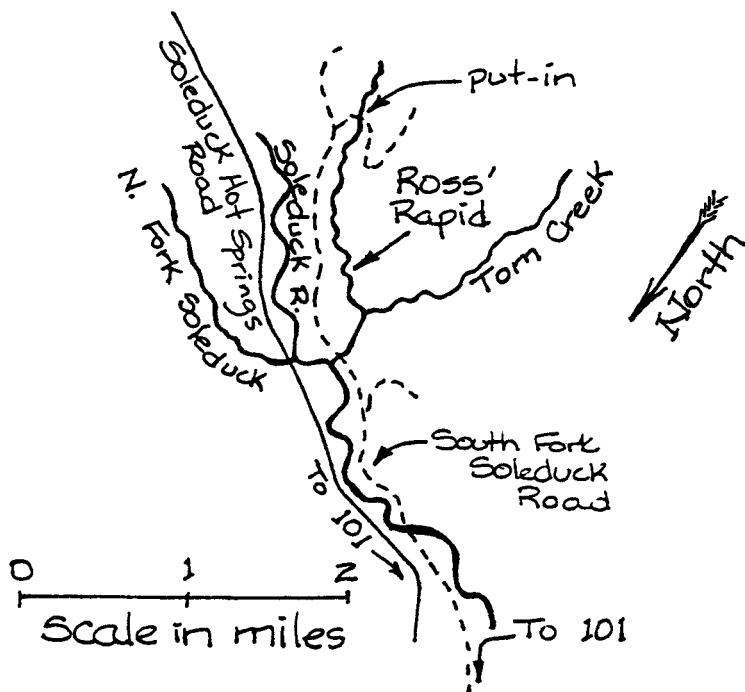
To reach the take-out, take South Fork Soleduck Road off Highway 101 about five miles west of Lake Crescent. Follow it 3.8 miles to where it crosses the river.

To reach the put-in, continue across the bridge and stay left in .6 mile. You'll cross the South Fork in .4 mile where it empties into the main river. Continue on

about 1.5 miles and turn right to where the road crosses the South Fork again.

Season: November to May, following heavy rainfall.

SOUTH FORK SOLEDUCK



NORTH FORK SOLEDUCK RIVER

Run:	North Fork
Length:	5.3 miles
Difficulty:	Class IV with portages @650cfs
Gradient:	85 feet/mile
Scenery:	A

The River:

Once at the put-in you'll have 4.1 miles of pure wilderness preserved by the Park Service. The river starts fast and leads right into a stretch with islands dividing up the river. These usually required portages around fallen trees. We've made as many as seven portages--all of which were short and easy. The rapids on this run are steep drops that run one into the next for the entire distance on the North Fork. Boaters not experienced with steep small rivers should use **EXTREME** caution on this stretch. The stimulation of constant action in pure wilderness make this run a gem for the advanced boater.

To check the gauge on the main river drive .8 mile toward the put-in from the take-out. Look for a **SMALL** dirt road on the left. Across from it is a steep trail down to the gauge. For a nice run it should be about 3.5 feet. The first time we ran it the gauge read 5.3, which I felt was a perfect level. Generally the main river is flooding when this run has good water.

The Shuttle:

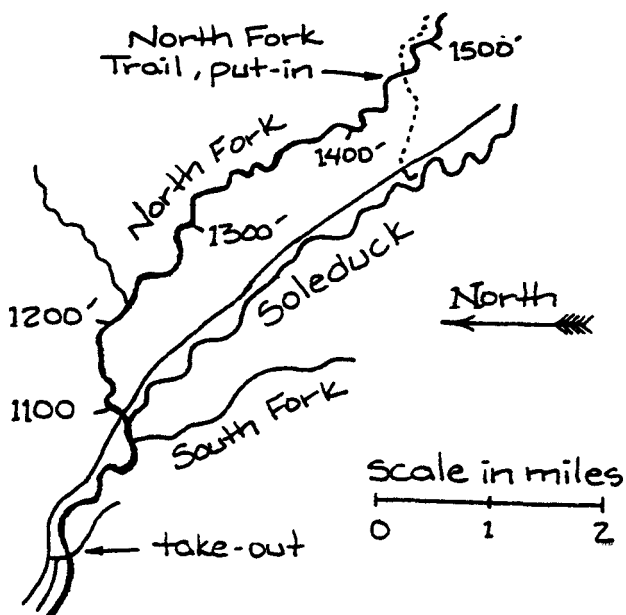
To reach the take-out, turn onto Soleduck Hot Springs Road off 101 about 2 miles west of Crescent Lake. Follow it for 4.2 miles and leave a take-out vehicle in view of the bridge.

To reach the put-in, continue on up the Soleduck

Hot Springs Road for 4.1 miles to the North Fork trailhead. You'll have to hike 1.2 miles to the put-in which is only about half as bad as it sounds.

Season: November to May, following good rains.

NORTH FORK SOLEDUCK



GOODMAN CREEK

Run:	Goodman Creek
Length:	1.3 miles
Difficulty:	Class III (V) @ 350cfs
Gradient:	145 feet/mile
Scenery:	B (A)

The River:

This run wouldn't be run alone, but as an alternative put-in for running the Soleduck. You can take out along the South Fork Road for a 3.5-mile run or continue to Klahowya Campground for an 11.5-mile run.

We wanted to explore more of Goodman Creek, but the road has a closed gate for elk habitat. From the gate you can drag your boat. We hiked a mile, then headed downhill to the river. I'd recommend heading down as soon as you see the creek (about a half mile).

If you get to the creek at the right spot (good luck!) you'll avoid a couple of major log jams and start with a Class IV ledge drop. This will then lead you around several corners to a Class V drop on a left turn. This is an obvious scout as you approach it, and we portaged it, although there is a line. Below here it becomes very beautiful with constant Class III rapids all the way to the Soleduck, where great playspots will be calling you.

The Shuttle:

To reach the take-out, let's use Klahowya for the 11.5-mile run. Klahowya campground is one-half mile west of the first Soleduck bridge you cross heading west on Highway 101. Pull into the campground, where you'll find deluxe accommodations.

To reach the put-in, drive back east on Highway 101 4.7 miles and turn right onto South Fork Soleduck

Road. Follow it 3.1 miles, cross the Soleduck and continue on .8 mile and go right onto 2931. Continue on .7 mile and go right again onto 100 where there will probably be a locked gate. Start hiking from here. If the gate is open, explore whatever you feel like!

This shuttle is shown on the Park to Riverside Soleduck map.

Season: November through May.



Gary Korb, Bob Flagan, Bill Petty, and Ray & Martha Parker pose at the old sign at the Bear Creek ramp

SOLEDUCK RIVER

Run:	Upper Soleduck
Length:	8.7 miles
Difficulty:	Class IV with portages @700cfs
Gradient:	66.6 feet/mile
Scenery:	A

The River:

There are two gauges on this run. The first is at the put-in and is upsidedown--it's measured in clearance under the bridge. The first time we made the run it was 10.8 feet.

The other one is the official one near the take-out. It can be reached by driving from the take-out .8 mile toward the put-in and look for a SMALL dirt road on the left. Across from it is a steep trail down to the gauge. Any reading 3.0 or higher is a nice water level.

The first 1.5 miles are a real mess with lots of trees down. About seven portages are required here, but they're short and easy. After you clear this section it starts to drop continuously. The thing to keep in mind is recognizing Salmon Cascade as you approach it. This nasty drop is preceded by a big rapid that should be scouted on your shuttle. Salmon Cascade is a big Class V drop that is pretty straightforward, though I haven't run it myself. The portage is short and easy.

The best part of the run is below Salmon Cascade. It has many fine rapids and some beautiful playspots.

This entire run is in the Olympic National Park and is extremely beautiful. It's a great feeling to know nobody can take this great stretch away from us. This is one of my favorite runs in Washington. Actually I usually run from Salmon Cascade down to Klahowya Campground on 101. This makes a great 12-mile stretch.

The Shuttle:

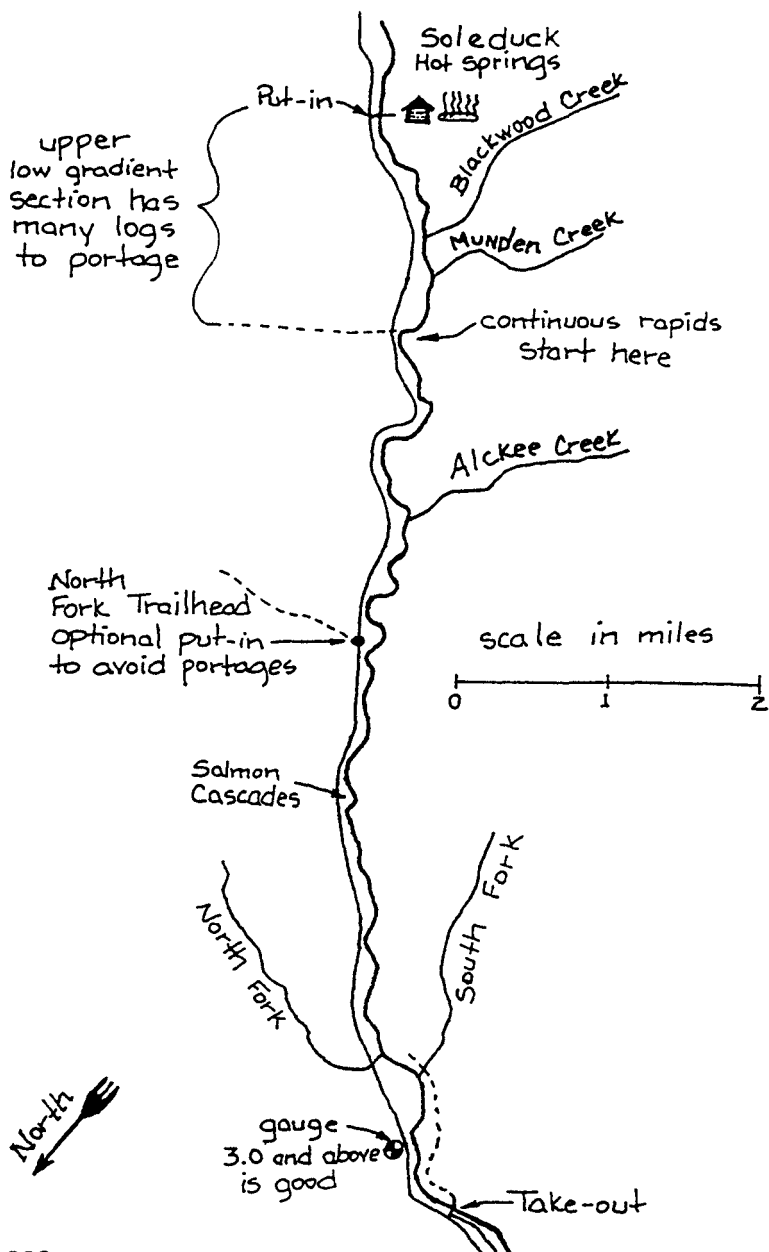
To reach the take-out, see the put-in description for the "Park to Riverside" run.

To reach the put-in, continue on up the Soleduck Hot Springs Road for 8 miles to the resort. There is a bridge over the river here. On the drive up you can see some of the drops and you should scout Salmon Cascade.



**Kayaker enjoys the wonderful rapids
of the Upper Soleduck**

UPPER SOLEDUCK



"JUST ANOTHER WALK ON THE WILD SIDE"

—by Ed Schmid

The pre-Thanksgiving floods of 1990 were especially memorable for two reasons: I was a recent Northwest transplant and had yet to experience a true "Pineapple Express" weather system, and secondly, because of my long-time association with "Kid Kayak" (henceforth referred to as Gary Korb). I knew I would be seeing, feeling, tasting, and living this flood as no non-kayaker could ever imagine.

So there I was, sitting in my living room on this particular Friday evening, listening to the sound of the rain hammering on my roof, rehearsing all of my standard flood condition excuses (i.e. my swine flu is acting up, emergency meeting of my men's drumming group, etc.) when the phone rings. "Hello? . . . sure Gary---why not?"

On Saturday, November 10th, 1990, Gary Korb, Mike Deckert, and myself navigated ourselves to the Soleduck River, a fine river on the northern end of the Peninsula. In retrospect it all becomes very clear. I remember wondering "Where is Carol, Paul, Jack?" Now I fully realize what to others was common knowledge---that being invited to run a flood stage river is something akin to being invited to a party by the Marquis de Sade or Attila the Hun.

The road to the put-in offers a great view of the river. "Yep, Jethro!! ---She's a 'floodin'!" After a lengthy one-minute debate on the wisdom of running this section, we stopped and untied the boats. We had decided to put in below a falls known as "Salmon Cascade." The description in Gary's book says that the scenery is beautiful (yes), that it drops

about 66 feet/mile (yes), and that the river has lots of rocks and eddies (where?). After prying on my sprayskirt with fingers as nimble as rebar, I began to feel better, until I watched Gary and Mike peel out of the eddy. ---Wow! The first corner was a hundred yards away and they were already out of sight! The experience of slamming into that madness has never dulled with the passing of time---instant, bone-jarring acceleration. What looked like smooth wave depressions from the road became waves of astonishing depth, speed and power. I was instantly putting 110% of my power and concentration to just staying upright. I had absolutely no say in where the river was taking me. A glimpse of a boat downstream in an eddy . . . try to turn the boat a little sideways and paddle. . . . not going to make it . . . paddle HARDER! . . . can't miss this eddy! . . . YEEYYOWWWWWWWWW . . . I made it!!!

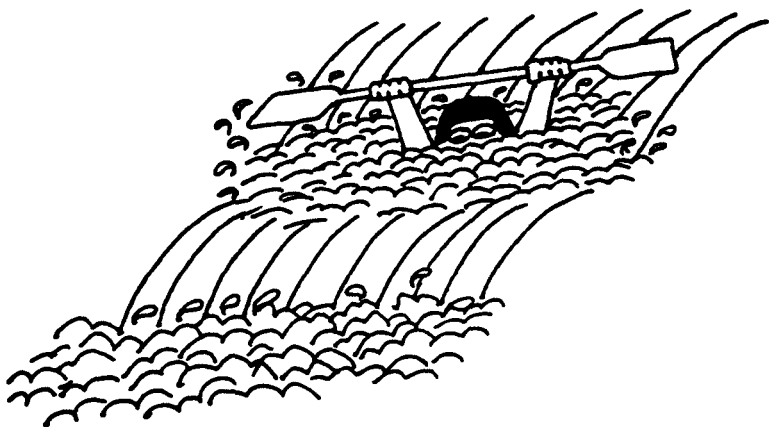
Well, from here it's all history. We made many scouts from the road which lasted in excess of 30 minutes, which took all of 15 seconds to run in our boats (exaggeration omitted). On one such scout, Gary eddied out on river left against a cliff, so Mike and I scouted from the right. From the road, we could see Gary spinning around and around in a small, surging eddy. As we were walking back to the boats, I heard Mike scream and saw something huge and dark falling from the sky. A giant Doug fir had snapped in half and had fallen into the river only a short distance downstream from Gary, but because of the tremendous river noise, he hadn't even heard it! Mike later said he thought it was a plane coming in for a crash landing.

Well, now that my nerves were just cables conducting psychotic voltages from hell, I was really hoping Deckert would turn around and say, "Ya know Ed, this is really insane---why don't we do the

right thing and call it quits," but NOOOOO! Back in the boats. At the last major drop (which I had to roll above just in time to catch the last eddy), my entire system turned to jelly and I portaged. To run this one correctly you tried to run a hole which under normal circumstances you would avoid at all costs. I described it as a "plunging hole," which eventually led to Deckert's rule of hole description which states that "no hole shall be described by plunging, surging, exploding, or any similar adjectives."

After the run, we were all rewarded with "paddler's nirvana," one of the best feelings around. To be alive, with the certainty that all of life's trivial problems are truly trivial in comparison to what had just transpired.

The level that day was 9 feet on the gauge, -- what that translates to in cfs is anybody's guess. To anyone who contemplates running this section at similar levels, contact Gary or Mike. As for myself, I'll be partying with "Attila the Hun!"



SOLEDUCK RIVER

Run:	Park to Riverside
Length:	11 miles
Difficulty:	Class III @ 750cfs
Gradient:	28.2 feet/mile
Scenery:	A-

The River:

The run starts out with some small rapids followed by a braided area with about three channels to choose from. If the water is high there is a narrow channel on the right that winds through the woods. The other channels are wide and shallow so expect to scrape if you take them. After this the rapids pick up and you run through a short gorge section.

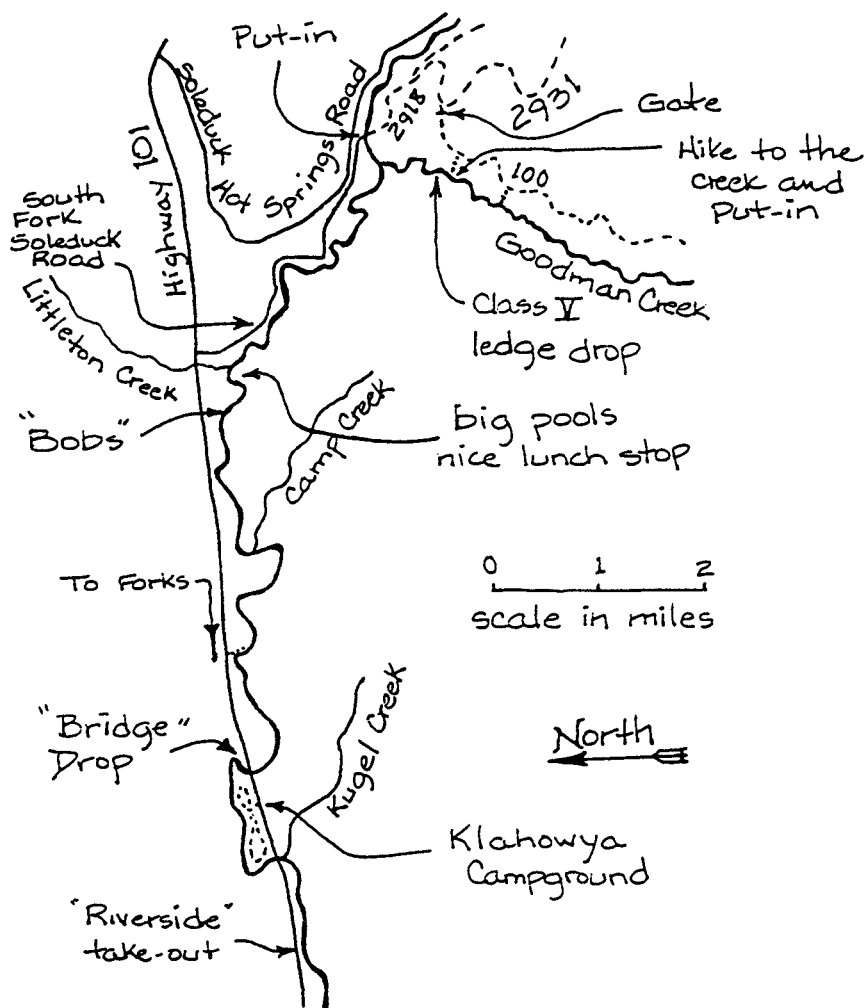
At mile 3.8 you'll come to a big deep pool that makes a nice lunch stop. One-half mile below the pool is "Bob's Rapid", a short rocky rapid with some good holes at higher water levels. Below here rocky rapids become more frequent as you approach the highway bridge. Below the bridge is the most difficult rapid of the run called "Bridge Drop." It's a long rocky rapid with a drop at the end. The rule is to pick your way down, then run far right at the bottom. Below the next bridge is an easy Class III rapid followed shortly by the take-out. Scout your approach carefully so you don't miss it, as there are no landmarks.

The Shuttle:

While driving west toward Forks on Highway 101 you will cross the Soleduck five times. From the first bridge drive 1.7 miles and pull over to the left side at a small turn-out. This is "Riverside", the take-out.

To reach the put-in, drive back toward Lake Crescent for 5.7 miles and turn right onto South Fork Soleduck Road. Follow this road to the bridge for the put-in.

SOLEDUCK PARK TO RIVERSIDE



SOLEDUCK RIVER

Run:	Riverside to Bear Creek
Length:	7.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class II+ @ 750cfs
Gradient:	23.3 feet/mile
Scenery:	B+

The River: There are many enjoyable rapids and some nice waves and holes to ride on this run. Despite its lower rating, it has almost as much to offer as the "Park to Riverside" and "Bear Creek" runs. You can add about 2 miles with some Class III water by putting in at the first highway bridge. The scenery is nice but there's really nothing unique.

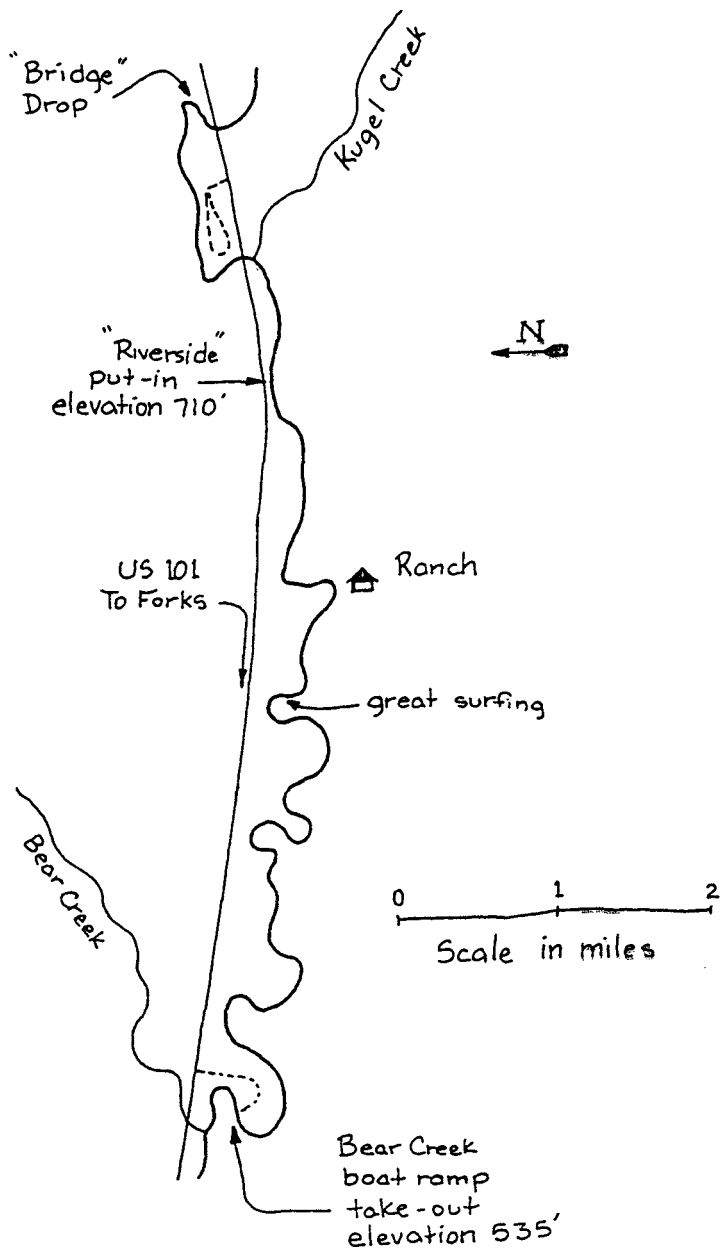
The Shuttle: To reach the put-in at Riverside, see the take-out description for the "Park to Riverside" run.

To reach the take-out from Riverside, drive west on 101 4.6 miles and turn left onto Hillstrom Road across from the tavern. Follow this road to the boat ramp.



Squirtboaters on the Soleduck

SOLEDUCK RIVERSIDE TO BEAR CREEK



SOLEDUCK RIVER

Run:	Bear Creek to Hatchery
Length:	6.3 miles
Difficulty:	Class III @ 750cfs
Gradient:	27 feet/mile
Scenery:	B+

The River:

The first mile is pretty slow with a couple of Class II rapids. Below here the rapids become steep and rocky with several routes to choose from. Below the old bridge piers at mile 4 is my favorite rapid of the run. It's a long rocky rapid filled with waves, holes and eddies.

After passing under the bridge you'll enter Tumbling Rapids State Park. At medium water levels a nice wave forms here. Below here the last mile to the take-out is mostly flat except for a few small waves. At high water, the highlight of the run will be surfing at the hatchery weir. When the river is flooding this is the best playspot I've ever seen. When it breaks all the way across I call it the "Mosh Pit." Run the hatchery dam and take out at the boat ramp on the left.

The Shuttle:

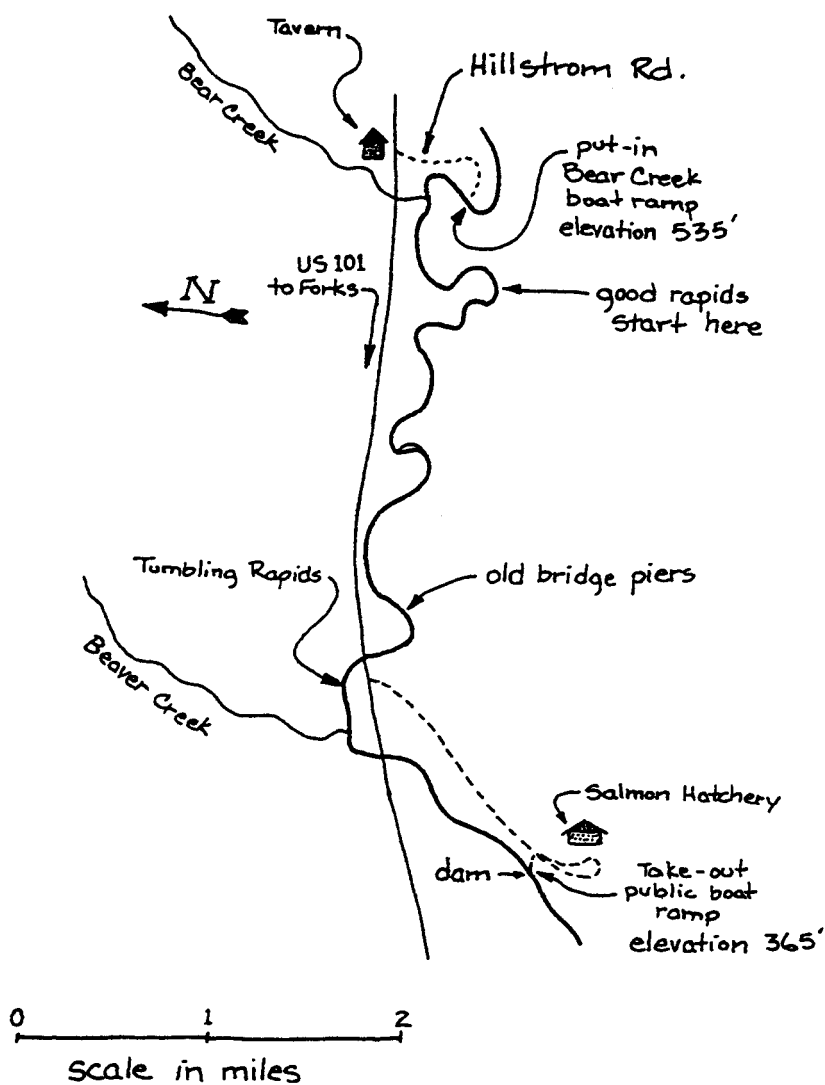
To reach the put-in, see the take-out description for the "Riverside to Bear Creek" run.

To reach the take-out, go back to Highway 101 and go west toward Forks. After you cross the bridge over the river take a left on the road to the salmon hatchery. Follow this road to the boat ramp on the right.



Sam Drevo surfs the "Mosh Pit" at 10,000 cfs

SOLEDUCK BEAR CREEK TO HATCHERY



SOLEDUCK RIVER

Run:	Hatchery to Salmon Drive
Length:	7.5 miles
Difficulty:	Class II+ @ 750cfs
Gradient:	16.6 feet/mile
Scenery:	B-

The River:

The first couple of miles are slow with nice scenery. Then you come to several rapids with some very nice waves and holes. Though there are some fine rapids with nice playspots on this run there is also a lot of flatwater and a lot of houses lining the river.

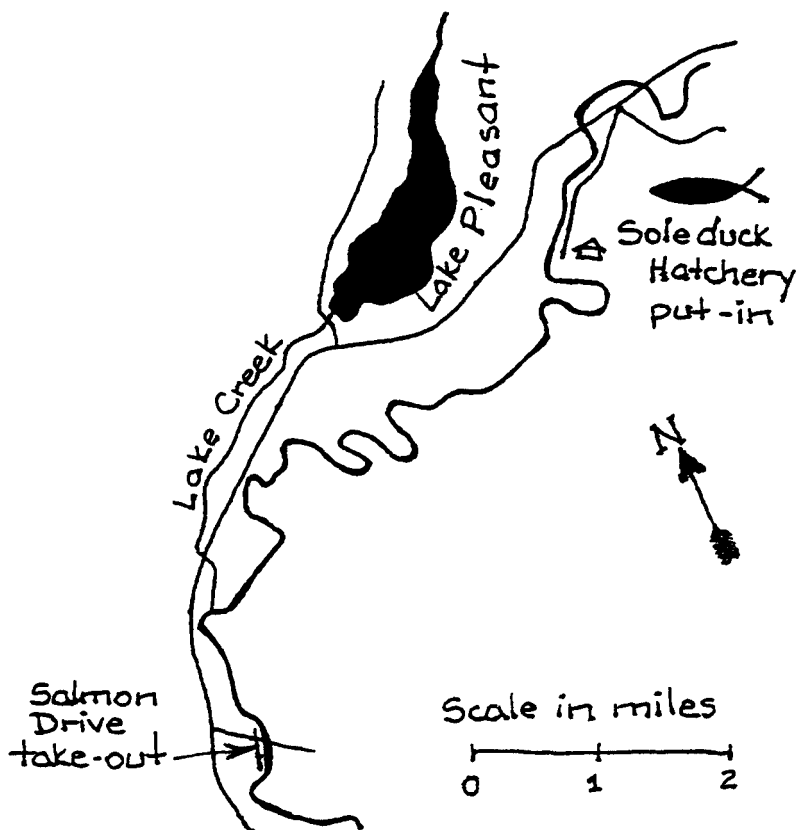


Another fine playspot on the Soleduck

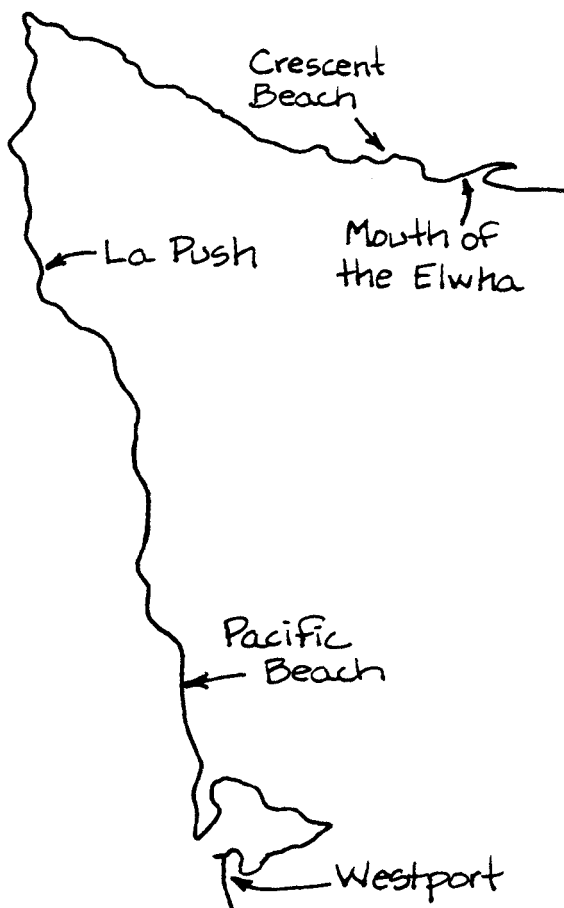
The Shuttle: To reach the put-in, see the take-out directions for the "Bear Creek to Hatchery" run.

To reach the take-out from the hatchery, go back out to 101 and turn left toward Forks. Drive 6.1 miles and turn left onto Salmon Drive. Continue to the boat ramp at the bridge.

SOLEDUCK RIVER HATCHERY TO SALMON DRIVE



SURFING SPOTS ON THE PENINSULA



Surf Spot: Crescent Beach
Scenery: A

This is my favorite spot for surfing because of the scenery and variety of surf caused by the shape of the bay and the island. The drawback of this spot is that like

the Elwha it has great days and flat days. If the surf goes flat on you, paddle west along the rocky cliffs to Agate Beach for some great scenery.

To reach Crescent Beach, go to "Salt Creek Recreation Area" off of Highway 112 east of Joyce.

Surf Spot: Mouth of the Elwha
Scenery: B+

This is the best spot to try your first surfing. It has small spilling breakers that form at an offshore bar. This means no problem getting out through the break. When surf is 4 to 6 feet it has the best-formed waves I've ever seen. One drawback to this spot is long periods between sets. Sometimes it can be flat for 10 or 15 minutes.

To reach the Mouth of the Elwha, see the take-out description for the Lower Elwha run.

Surf Spot: Westport
Scenery: C

Westhaven State Recreation Area has excellent surf to make up for its uninteresting scenery. It's very popular with board surfers, so expect some crowd on summer weekends. It also provides showers (for \$.25), a changing room, toilets and an outside shower for rinsing off your equipment.

Surf Spot: Pacific Beach
Scenery: C+

This beach provides good access to good surfing. Usually this beach has about three break zones. The inner zone is good for enders and sidesurfing; the middle is usually dumping and isn't good for anything but spectacular wipeouts. The outer zone is usually where

the great rides are.

To reach this spot, follow the signs to Pacific Beach off Highway 101 just north of Hoquiam.

Surf Spot:	LaPush
Scenery:	A

LaPush is a beautiful place with lots of seals and a rugged coastline. The waves are usually big and nicely formed. Boaters can explore some beautiful coves by paddling around James Island. There are also nice cabins to rent at reasonable prices. You can find out current wave height by calling NOAA's whitewater hotline at (206) 526-8530. However, surf can change radically from one day to the next.



Surfing at LaPush

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Soleduck:

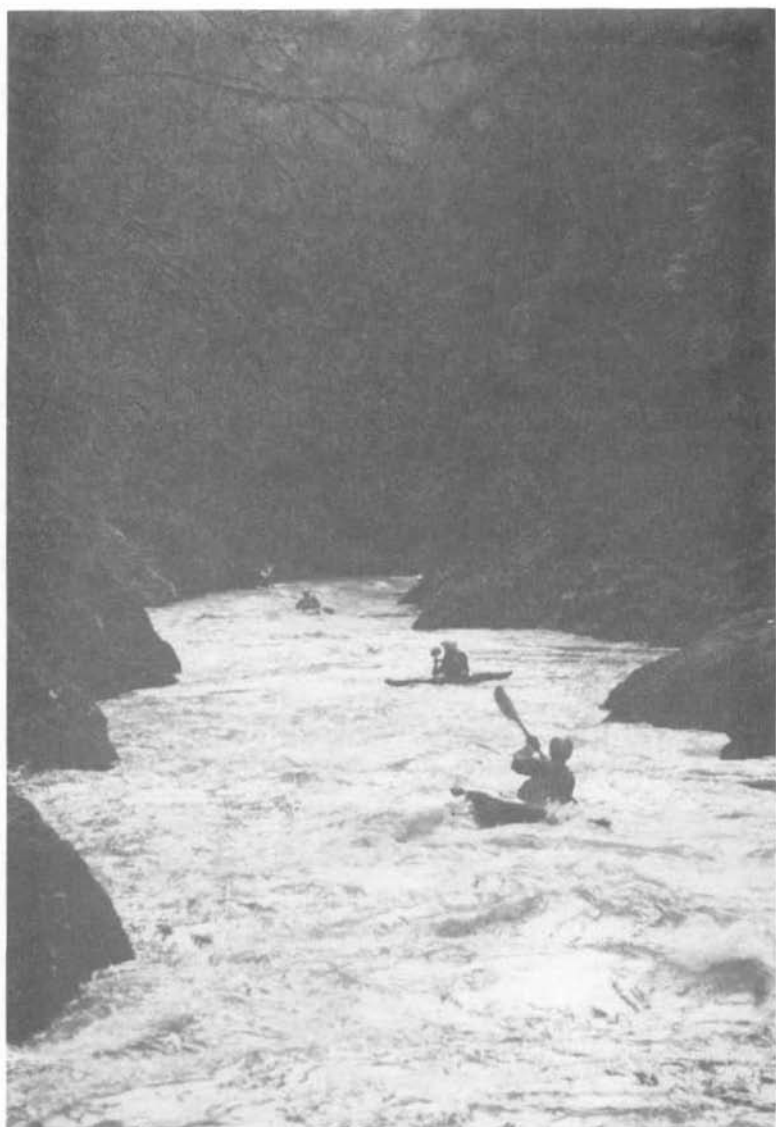
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**Paddlers disappear into the East Fork
Humptulips Gorge**

-HAPPY PADDLING!!



Olympic Peninsula is a land of rivers, a land that owes its beauty, and the incredible richness of its natural systems to flowing water. Peninsula rivers radiate out from the heart of the Olympic core in thunderous rapids and quiet blue pools only to become bright dancers through the deep green forests of the coast. Each Olympic river has its own character, its own personality. The Duckabush like a coiled spring as it cuts through the forest below Big Hump, or the quiet power of the Elwha as it flows over its rock walls above the temporary nuisance of Glines Canyon. The Soleduck in fall when wild Coho fling themselves into the rushing waters of Salmon Cascades; or the Queets in winter when a centuries-old spruce or calves off a section of the forest and were its plaything.

There is no other place where the wealth, diversity, and wild character of rivers is more abundant than the Olympic Peninsula. I can think of no one more intimate with the Olympics' rivers than Gary Korb. Gary's knowledge of Peninsula rivers and the personal stories that accompany his descriptions make this book a must-read. Read on as he unlocks some of the best kept secrets of the Peninsula for you. The company is always excellent!

--Tim McNulty, author of
Washington's Wild Rivers

A PADDLER'S GUIDE TO THE OLYMPIC PENINSULA

THIRD
EDITION

A Paddler's Guide To The OLYMPIC PENINSULA



A comprehensive guide to 75 rivers
Washington's beautiful Olympic Peninsula

By Gary Korb



printed on recycled paper

