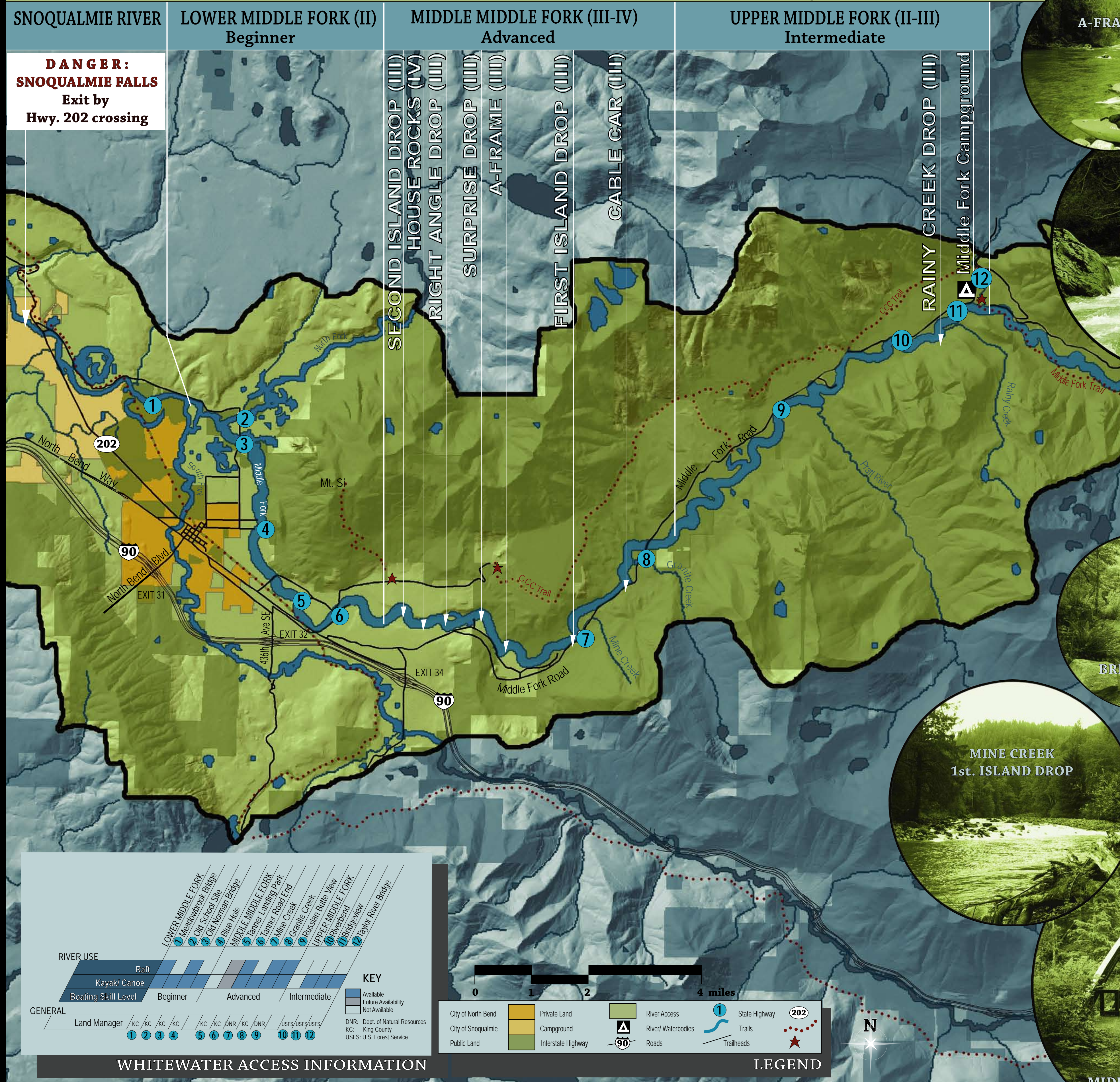


WHITEWATER ACCESS MAP

MIDDLE FORK of the SNOQUALMIE RIVER

For current river information, visit americanwhitewater.org



The Middle Fork: A Precious Opportunity

The Middle Fork is revered for its challenging Whitewater rapids, attracting advanced paddlers nationwide, while simultaneously providing unparalleled practice runs for local paddlers and beginners.

Along the way, paddlers discover that the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River is indeed one of Washington's most scenic rivers, even as it sits right in Seattle's backyard! This free-flowing river stretches from the Alpine Lakes Wilderness through its valley surrounded by agricultural floodplain, wetland forests, and majestic mountains, before it joins with the North and South forks and forms the Snoqualmie River.

Over the last decade, planning and implementation for safer recreational access has sensitively addressed the increased demand on the river, allowing paddlers of all skill levels an experience they won't soon forget.

To help maintain river access sites or help with other volunteer opportunities in the Middle Fork, please contact:
General Volunteer Opportunities: Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust: www.mtsgreenway.org or 206-812-0122
Paddler Related Volunteer Opportunities: American Whitewater at www.americanwhitewater.org

BOATING SAFETY!

- Know your skills: You should be able to stop or reach shore before encountering danger. Do not enter a rapid unless you are sure you can run it safely.
- Be a competent swimmer,
- Wear a life jacket,
- Wear a helmet that is solid and fits correctly,
- Boat with a friend! Minimum parties include 3 people or 2 craft,
- Know the universal river signals to communicate with other paddlers.

KNOW THESE SIGNS!

- HIGH WATER:** Be cautious judging water level at time of put-in as conditions may be different downstream or could change rapidly.
- COLD:** Dress appropriately for the cold water. Wear a wet or dry suit if the water is less than 50 degrees. Cold water submersion can take away strength and mental agility needed for making sound decisions while on the water.
- RIVER OBSTACLES:** Know how to read the river and its obstacles including: strainers, dams, weirs, edges, holes, and hydraulics in order to avoid entrapment, pinning, and difficult rescues. (for more information visit the "Safety Code of American Whitewater" at americanwhitewater.org)

BOATING ETIQUETTE!

- Be respectful and helpful toward others,
- Be mindful of the time you are spending putting in, taking out, and playing, especially when others are waiting,
- Allow enough space upstream and downstream between you and other paddlers in order to avoid collisions,
- The upstream craft always has the right of way,
- When exiting the river, avoid occupied eddies. Use caution when entering those eddies that are occupied.
- Always provide assistance to others who are in trouble.

UNIVERSAL RIVER SIGNALS

STOP!
POTENTIAL HAZARD AHEAD!

When you see this signal, pass it back to others. Wait for the "All clear" sign or scout ahead before proceeding.

HELP!

Give three long blasts on a police whistle while waving a paddle, helmet, or life jacket. Assist ASAP whenever you see this signal.

I'M OK!

With elbow out to side, repeatedly pat top of head. Signal is same from a boat as it is from a standing position.

ALL CLEAR!

Wave flat side of paddle or fist with index finger pointing up to side WITHOUT obstacle.

Never point towards the obstacle!

WHITewater SAFETY