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# Upper Colorado River Guide

## Kremmling to Glenwood Canyon

**BLM**

Colorado



# Welcome to the Upper Colorado River Special Recreation Management Area



Near Rancho del Rio

This area provides many outdoor recreation opportunities in a variety of scenic settings. Many activities, including rafting, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, camping, picnicking, sightseeing and wildlife viewing, may be enjoyed on public lands administered and managed by the Bureau of Land Management and Eagle County Open Space. This river guide provides information about some of the outstanding natural, cultural and historical features, as well as the recreation facilities along the Colorado River from Kremmling to Glenwood Canyon (76 miles).



The Colorado River headwaters begin in Rocky Mountain National Park in northwest Colorado, about 55 miles from Kremmling. From the trickle of



Gore Canyon



Lower Gore/Hartman Canyon

snowmelt starting in the Never Summer Range to the Colorado River Delta near the Gulf of California, the Colorado River runs about 1,450 miles. Seven dams/reservoirs on the main Colorado River or its tributaries are used to manage water flows above Dotsero. Most of the dams/reservoirs are above Kremmling and send the water to Colorado's Front Range. During dry years, these reservoirs actually assist with keeping water flows in the Colorado River. The Shoshone Power Plant in Glenwood Canyon has one of the oldest water rights for Colorado River water, which gives it priority over water rights on the Front Range. When the power plant is running, it keeps water in the Colorado River, benefitting wildlife and recreationists in the Upper Colorado River.

Once the river flows past Kremmling, it drops into Gore Canyon, cutting through the Precambrian gneiss and schist of the Gore Range. This section of river, which drops at 68 feet per mile for three miles, is considered the most challenging commercially-rafted stretch of river in Colorado—and possibly the United States! Once the pounding river gushes out of Gore Canyon, the river calmly continues its journey through Lower Gore/Hartman Canyon and Red Gorge Canyon, past Bull Gulch Wilderness Study Area, and into Glenwood Canyon.

The area between Pumphouse and State Bridge receives heavy public use. The stretch below State Bridge has traditionally seen far fewer boaters. In some cases, regulations may differ between these two sections of river due to the differences in public use.

Recent evidence uncovered by archaeologists suggests human occupation along the Colorado River from 5,000 to 6,000 years ago. ■



Hartman Ranch 1907. Photo courtesy of Grand County Historical Association, photo #5787.

You can still see the remains of the stagecoach route and ferry crossing near McCoy and along Highway 131. ■



Historic cabin on river right at bottom of Lower Gore/Hartman Canyon.

Removing arrowheads, tin cans, bottles and other artifacts is illegal and prevents others from discovering historical "footprints." ■

■ ■ ■  
Keep wildlife wild!  
■ ■ ■

## History

The State Bridge and Blue Hill areas contained seasonal and possibly year-round settlements. The Ute Indians occupied the area until the late 1800s, when settlers came over Dice Hill to homestead around Radium and up from Eagle and Wolcott to homestead around McCoy and State Bridge. The railroad was extended from the Front Range through the area in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Prior to railroad extension, stagecoaches provided freight, mail and passenger services to settlements along the river.

Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, disputes raged over the fate of Gore Canyon. Two power companies and the Bureau of Reclamation wanted to dam the canyon, which would have covered 20,000 acres and flooded Kremmling. Meanwhile, David Moffat was surveying the canyon for a railroad. Beginning in 1903 there were camps on both sides of the river at the mouth of Gore Canyon, with power plant workers on river left and the railroad workers on river right. After meeting with the interested parties in Washington, President Teddy Roosevelt made the final decision – a railroad would go through Gore Canyon. In 1906, the railroad survey began by anchoring ropes and logs in the canyon to make bridges. The railroad was completed through the canyon in September 1907 and ended in McCoy. The Dotsero Cutoff between McCoy and Dotsero was the final section, which was completed in 1934.

Much of the land along the Colorado River was homesteaded, irrigated and grazed, while other areas were mined for both gold and copper. The area around the Benches campsites was known as Copper Flats and the small towns of Copper Kettle and Copper Spur were built in the area. Most of the mines produced no paying ore and the mining pioneers eventually moved on. Schools were built throughout the Colorado River Valley, allowing most children to walk or ride a horse less than five miles each direction.

## Cultural Resources

The history of human use along the Upper Colorado River can be reconstructed and interpreted by examining the physical remains of previous inhabitants. The banks of the Upper Colorado River have both prehistoric and historic sites, early settlements and mining sites.

Help preserve these sites while you view and enjoy them. River users will appreciate and value your respect of the area. These ethics are vital in maintaining the Upper Colorado River as a special place.

## Wildlife

The Upper Colorado River is a spectacular wildlife viewing area. Opportunities abound to see bald eagles, golden eagles, Canada geese, and a

**Here are some hints for co-existing with bears:**

- The most important thing you can do is to keep your camp clean. Pick up food scraps and store your garbage overnight in a dry box or cooler, or hang it at least twelve feet off the ground between two trees, six feet from tree trunks. Remove food smells from tables, utensils and coolers with alcohol or ammonia.
- Remove food and food storage containers from your boat. Bears in search of food can get into and damage boats, even when boats are anchored offshore.
- Strap coolers and dry boxes together to make them harder for a bear to open or drag away. Booby trap coolers and dry boxes with empty pans or cans that will wake you up if a bear tries to raid your food.
- **DO NOT TAKE FOOD INTO YOUR TENT OR SLEEPING BAG!**

These steps will not only reduce the risk of problems for your camp, but also for all those who follow.



*A river trip is not a solo event; your actions directly and immediately affect the experience of other visitors. You are responsible for your actions. Please conduct your trip to nurture the "community" concept. Users of river resources are part of a community who actively and sincerely care about the river corridor and each other. ▪*

variety of ducks and songbirds. Look for river otters, muskrats and beavers in the water. You may spot ground squirrels, raccoons and deer on the shore. If you're lucky, you may catch a glimpse of an elk, moose, bear or mountain lion. View wild animals from a safe distance and do not feed them. Feeding wildlife – either intentionally or unintentionally by failing to keep a clean camp – creates nuisance and often dangerous situations for you and the people who follow. Food humans eat and the associated trash can be harmful to wildlife.

**You Are in Bear Country!**

The Upper Colorado River is home to the American black bear, *Ursus americanus*, ranging from dark black to brown, cinnamon and blond. These bears are interesting and beautiful to view from a distance. On the Upper Colorado River, bears may be a part of your camp experience (even at developed campgrounds such as Pumphouse and Radium). Drawn to food that is easy to get, "camp bears" repeatedly visit campsites looking for food.



*Photo courtesy of Mighty Upper Photos Above Warm Springs, 2013*

"Food-conditioned" bears can become dangerous.

While this is not common in this area, please help us not start the cycle.

*Fishing*

Fishing is popular on the Upper Colorado River. Anglers catch rainbow and brown, along with an occasional native cutthroat trout. Colorado Parks and Wildlife manages fishing. A valid state fishing license is required, and special regulations apply.

*River Etiquette*

The following tips help visitors be more caring and responsible members of the river community:

**Boat Ramps**

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

**Private Lands**

Public access is not available on private lands. Please respect private landowner rights. Do not stop, cross, or enter private land for any reason or for any length of time unless you have the owner's permission. Floating across private lands is legal as long as the river bottom or banks are not touched.



### Railroad Right-of-Way

Avoid the railroad tracks; do not walk along them. There is constant freight and passenger train traffic on the line. Crossing or walking on the railroad right-of-way is unsafe.



### Encounters on the Water

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

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

*More than 60,000 people float the Upper Colorado River between Pumphouse and Radium each season. A friendly, considerate attitude will help make your trip a success.*



### Selecting River Campsites

Popular river campsites are listed within this float guide. Many other unnamed campsites will accommodate camping along the river. Dispersed camping (no facilities provided) is allowed anywhere on BLM public lands along the river corridor unless otherwise posted. If your group is small and the river is busy, try to leave larger sites for larger groups, or offer to share a large site with another party.

*Cottonwood Bend Campground*

### Accessible Campsites

#### PUMPHOUSE

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant toilets are available at Launch Sites #1, #2 and #3. In addition, Launch #3 has ADA parking, a sidewalk to river, shade cabana, picnic tables and benches. The Lower Campground (downriver of Launch #3) features an ADA campsite (#11, open to all after 7 pm) located across from an ADA toilet.

#### RADIUM

The new Upper Launch features ADA toilets, bus and vehicle parking, a sidewalk to river, shade cabana, picnic tables and benches. Campsite #1 (open to all after 7 pm), closest to the toilets at the Lower Launch, is ADA compliant.



*Radium Upper Launch*

Upper Cottonwood and Benches #1 (RM 14.7 and RM 18.6) are the two ADA campsites on the river before State Bridge. There are ADA privacy screens

### ADA Campsites

*These sites are open to everyone for picnic/camping, but if an individual/group comes along that needs an accessible site, please share. ■*



*Below Pinball*

■ ■ ■  
*This river corridor cannot survive if you don't work to protect it.*  
■ ■ ■

*Please bring firewood with you on all overnight trips and leave live, dead and down wood where it is. Driftwood is an acceptable wood to collect for fires in the river corridor. ■*

■ ■ ■

*There are no longer outhouses along the Upper Colorado River outside the developed recreation sites. They have all been removed to comply with EPA regulations. ■*



*Groover Shelter at Upper Cottonwood*

for portable toilets and good shade. Cottonwood can accommodate multiple groups. Island (RM 17.9) is somewhat accessible (nice beach/eddy on the downstream side of the island with a gradual path up to the picnic table and fire ring). Outside the main area, it is very rocky and can be very difficult to maneuver.

Below State Bridge, Catamount Bridge Recreation Site is the only ADA campsite along the river. The Deep Creek tributary to the Upper Colorado River also has ADA accommodations, but is only accessible by vehicle, not from the Upper Colorado River. The Pinball Recreation Site is difficult to access from the river (the path is rocky and difficult to maneuver), but has ADA accessible accommodations by vehicle off of the Colorado River Road (County Road 301).

ADA toilets are available at State Bridge, Two Bridges, Catamount, Pinball and Dotsero.

## Minimum Impact River Use

You affect this river canyon when you pass through it. River users come to the Upper Colorado River for many reasons, but none of them come expecting to find vegetation hacked, beaches and banks scarred with fire rings or fouled with human waste and scattered litter. Here are ways you can care for the river:

### Fire Pans

It is recommended to use a fire pan that is at least 12 inches in diameter with at least a 1.5-inch lip. The fire pan should be elevated off the ground to prevent burning of soil and fire blankets are recommended to facilitate total ash removal. Outside of Pumphouse, Radium, and State Bridge Recreation Sites, please carry out ash and other unburned fire residue with other garbage.

### Human Waste

It is highly recommended to pack out all solid human and pet waste from the river corridor. Use developed toilet facilities at the developed put-in and take-out areas when possible. When on the river, use Leave No Trace Principles, including approved portable toilets.

Please set up an approved portable toilet as soon as practical upon arriving at the campsite. The toilet system should be adequate for the size of the group and the length of the trip. Using approved toilets and bags will reduce the risk of spills if in a leak-proof, animal-proof, hard-sided container with a screw-on or ratchet-locking lid. You must not empty portable toilets into a developed toilet facility.

Approved Portable Toilet Definition: Any non-biodegradable, durable container designed to receive and hold human waste in any container position



without leaking, equipped with a dumping system that allows the container to be emptied into a standard receiving or dump system designed for that purpose (such as a SCAT machine or recreational vehicle dump station) in a sanitary manner, without spills, seepage, or human exposure to human waste or any approved biodegradable landfill-approved bag system designed for landfill disposal (such as a “WAG” bag).

### Gray Water (Urine and Wastewater)

Current Leave No Trace practices recommend discarding urine and wastewater in the river. Imagine the smell and impact of nearly 70,000 visitors per year all urinating on land in the relatively small areas where people camp and congregate. The solution to pollution is dilution! Wastewater includes soap and dirty water from bathing, dishwashing and tooth brushing, as well as unwanted liquids from canned foods. Strain wastewater to separate solid food particles and carry food particles out with your trash. Discard strained wastewater directly into flowing water in the river.

## River Safety

Floating the Upper Colorado River is thrilling, enjoyable and generally safe; however, river running and camping have inherent risks. Remember these safety hints:

▪ ▪ ▪

*Think before you act, use common sense, and respect the strengths and hazards of the river.*

▪ ▪ ▪



*Always have at least one life jacket on board per person, and remember to wear your life jacket for safety.*

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

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

**Dress for Success; Wear Your Personal Floatation Device (PFD/Life Jacket).** Make sure to have a wearable U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket that is approved for whitewater boating. Plan for all kinds of weather by packing an accessible dry bag with clothing to keep you comfortable and safe from hypothermia.

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

**Most Accidents Happen in the Home.** On a river trip, your camp is your home. This is where you will encounter sharp knives, hot stoves, toe-stubbing rocks, bees, ticks, and possibly poison ivy and bears. Make sure you set up



Golden Eagles are among a wide variety of wildlife you may encounter along the Upper Colorado River.



The Upper Colorado River SRMA includes several developed recreation sites.

camp where you have little risk from flash floods (away from side canyons and tributary entrances, higher up in elevation). Make sure to give wildlife plenty of space.

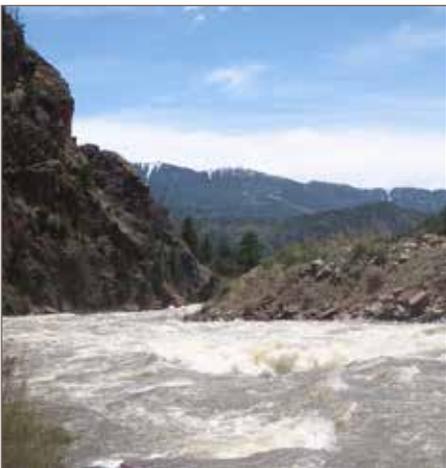
**Think Before You Drink.** Neither the river, nor any side streams, are tested or treated; they may or may not meet safe drinking water standards. Boil, filter, or chemically treat all drinking, cooking and dishwashing water.

## Fireworks and Firearms

Fireworks are prohibited on all federal public lands.

Pursuant to CFR 43 8365.1-6 and Upper Colorado River SRMA Supplemental Rules, discharging and or use of a firearm, or any other device such as a paintball or compressed air gun are prohibited within a developed recreation site. It is recommended that no firearms be discharged within 0.25 miles of either side of the Colorado River between the headwaters and State Bridge, unless in the lawful pursuit of hunting game during a valid hunting season.

▪ ▪ ▪  
*Scout when in doubt.*  
▪ ▪ ▪



Yarmony Rapid, Class III, 5,000 cfs.  
Photo courtesy Paul Killino

## The International Whitewater Scale

The rapids noted on the river maps are classified according to degree of difficulty. Higher flows generally require more decisive and demanding maneuvers. Use extra caution at high flows when fast currents require shorter response times.

- Class I      Very Easy. Moving water with a few ripples and small waves. Few or no obstructions.
- Class II      Easy. Easy rapids with waves up to three feet and wide clear channels visible without scouting. Some maneuvering required.
- Class III      Medium Difficulty. Rapids with high irregular waves capable of swamping an open canoe. Narrow passages often requiring complex maneuvering and scouting from shore.
- Class IV      Difficult. Long difficult rapids with constricted passages often requiring precise maneuvering in very turbulent waters. Scouting from shore is often necessary; conditions make rescue difficult. Not runnable in open canoes.



Needle's Eye Rapid, Class II-III, 3,800 cfs.



Broken canoe pulled out of river by River Ranger.

**Class V**

Very Difficult. Extremely difficult, long and very violent rapids with highly congested routes nearly always requiring scouting from shore. Rescue conditions are difficult. Significant hazards to life in event of a mishap. Ability to conduct a kayak roll is essential.

**Class VI**

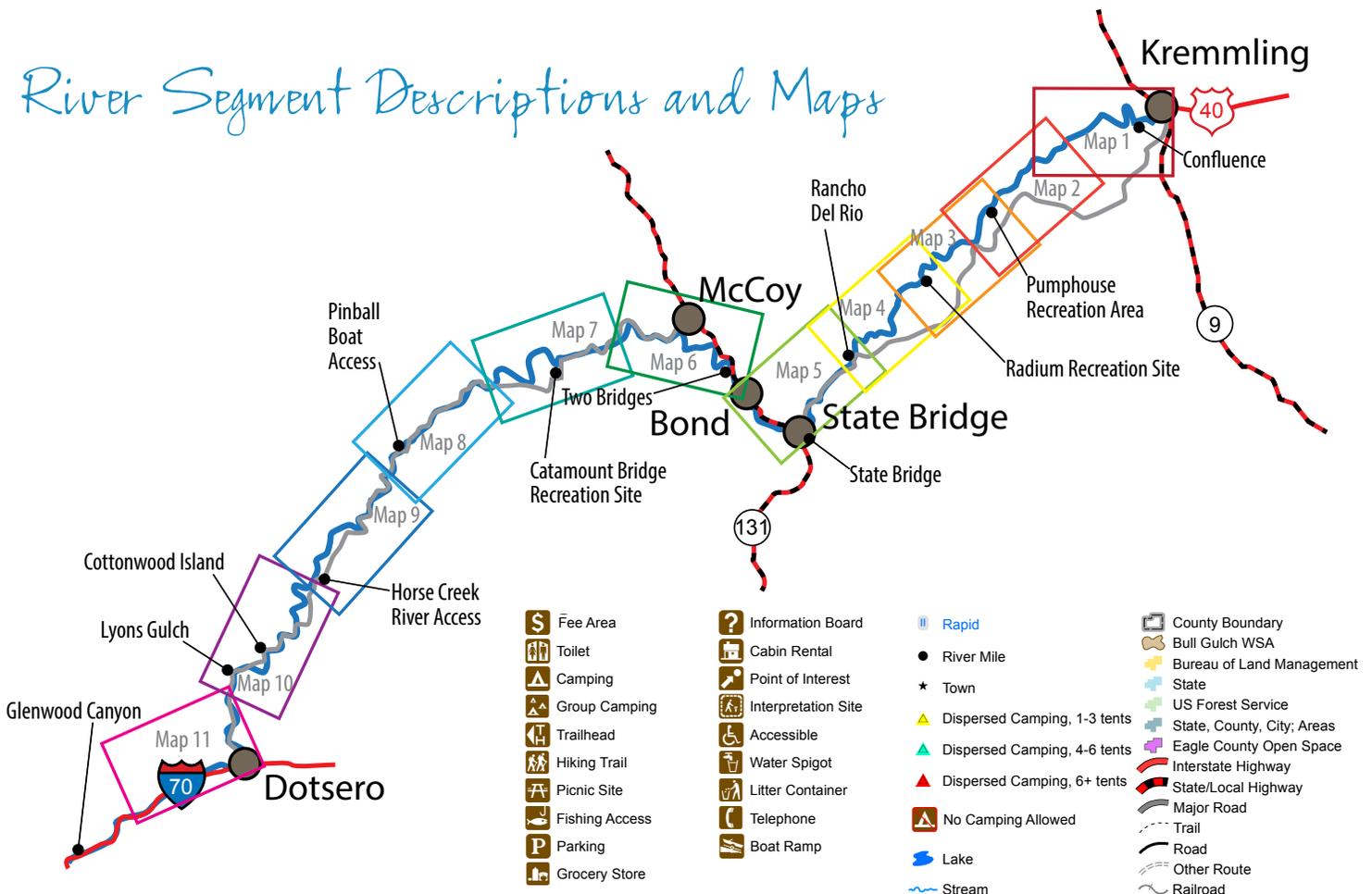
Extremely Dangerous. Nearly impossible to run and very dangerous.

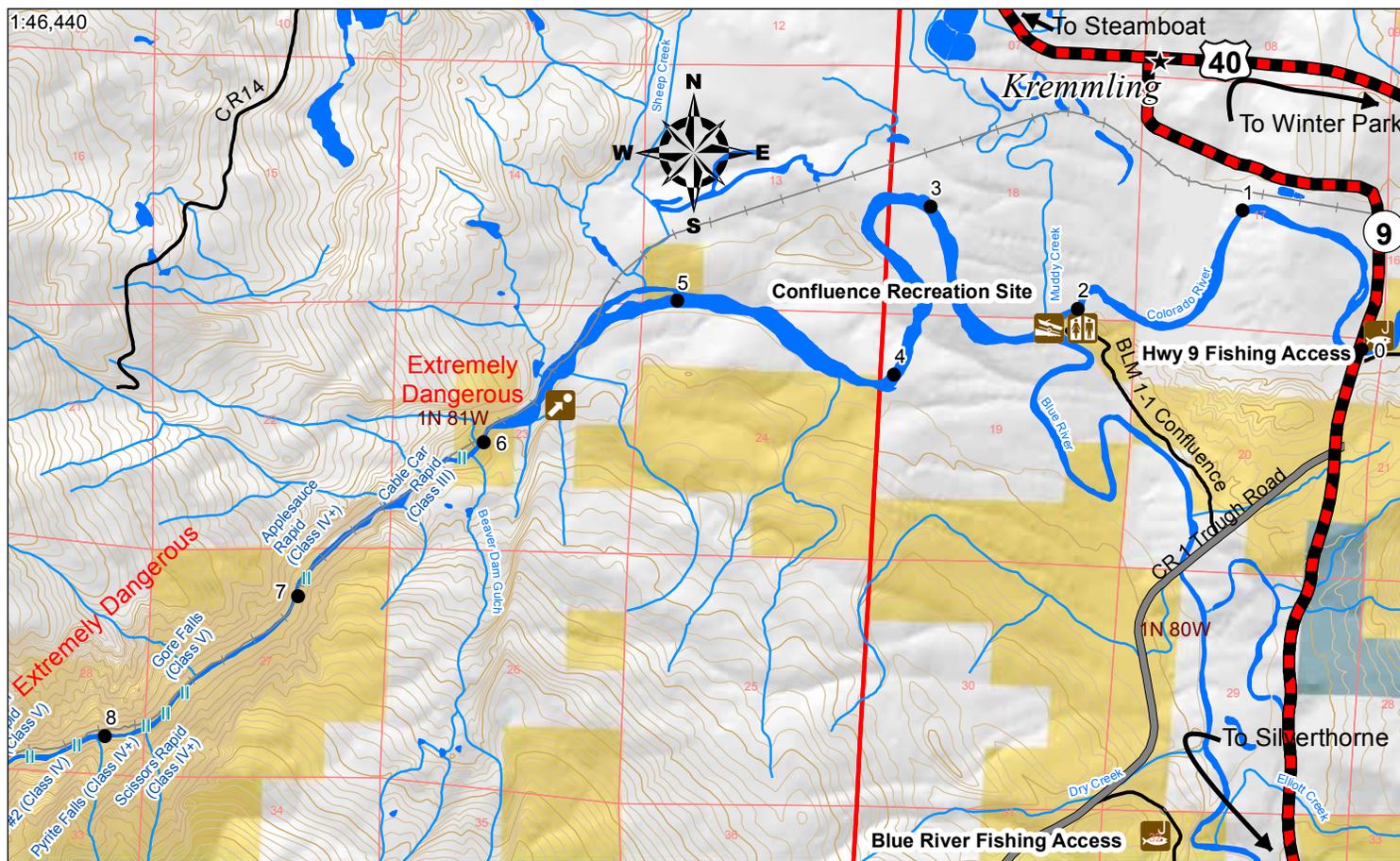
**Canoeing the Upper Colorado River**

Canoeing is not recommended from Pumphouse to Rancho del Rio. Pumphouse to Rancho del Rio is an intermediate to advanced stretch of whitewater for canoes. Every canoe **MUST** be a whitewater-outfitted boat with floatation, each person wearing a PFD and a helmet.

Anything above a Class II is not recommended for open-topped canoes. Class III is recommended for expert canoeists only and portage of hazards and rapids is advised.

River Segment Descriptions and Maps





**Highway 9 to Pumphouse** Map 1 of 2 Length: 11 miles Floating Time: *Floating Not Recommended*

- 0.0 Highway 9 Fishing Access (both banks)- Access from Highway 9, two miles south of Kremmling.
- 2.2 Confluence Recreation Site (on Blue River near RM 2.2 on Colorado River)- Access from Trough Road. A BLM day-use area featuring a toilet and a developed boat slide. **FLLOATING NOT RECOMMENDED** through Gore Canyon due to dangerous Class V whitewater with boulder fields, waterfalls, strong currents and steep gradients. The steep canyon sides and cliffs make rescue and portaging nearly impossible. Lands along the river from the day-use area to the canyon are private. After the Confluence Recreation Site, there is no public access for take-out before the dangerous Gore Canyon.

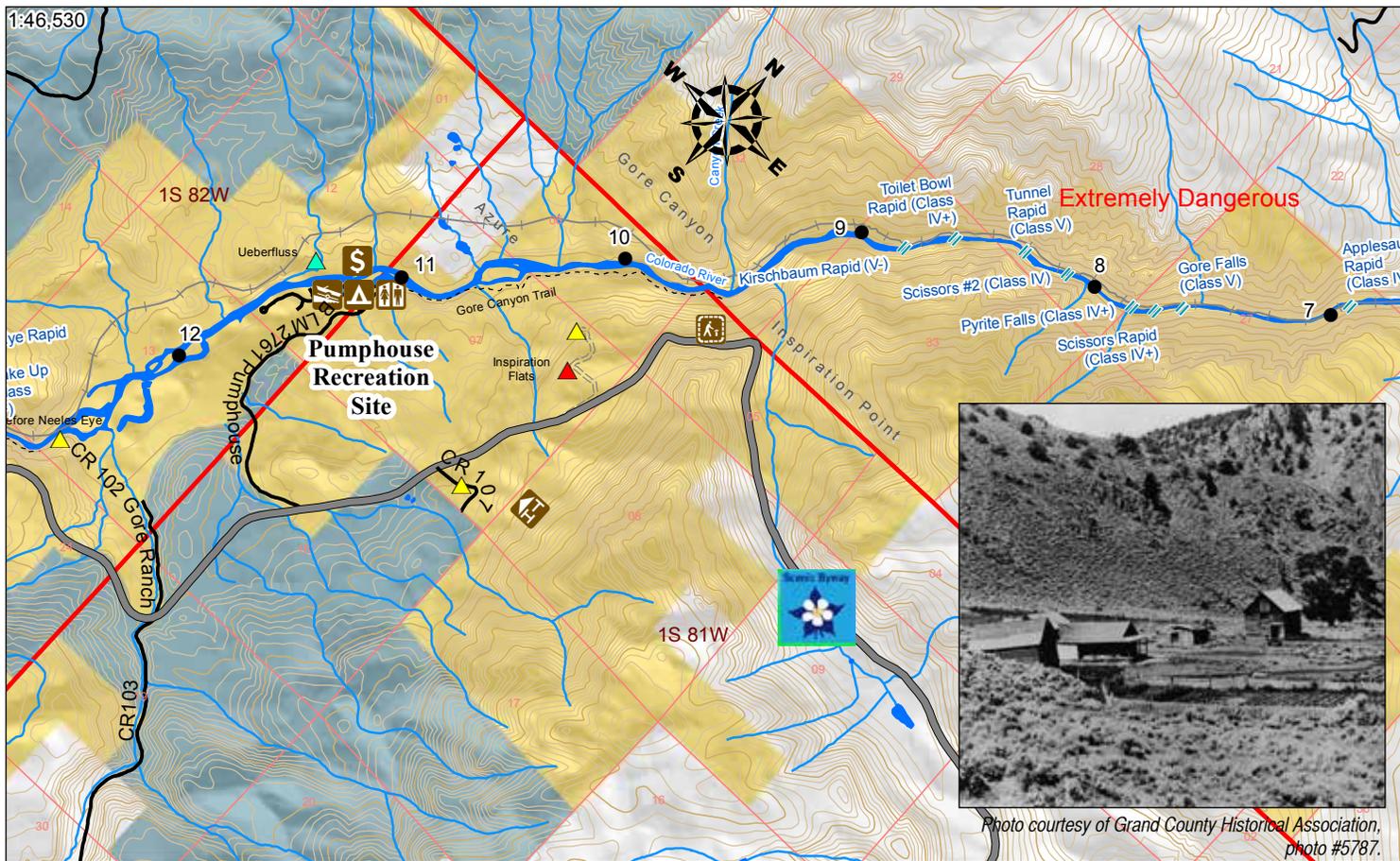
Gore Canyon was named after Sir St. George Gore, the Eighth Baronet of Manor Gore near Sligo in northwest Ireland. With Jim Bridger as one of his guides, Lord Gore spent three years (1855-1857) hunting big game in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota. Historical reports differ on the exact toll he took on the wildlife of the area, but it undoubtedly included thousands of bison, deer and elk, and more than 100 bear. ■

*\*Canoeing and tubing are MOST DEFINITELY NOT recommended on this stretch of river.*

See next map for continuation . . .



Gore Canyon Ranch and Pumphouse



...continued

### Highway 9 to Pumphouse

Map 2 of 2

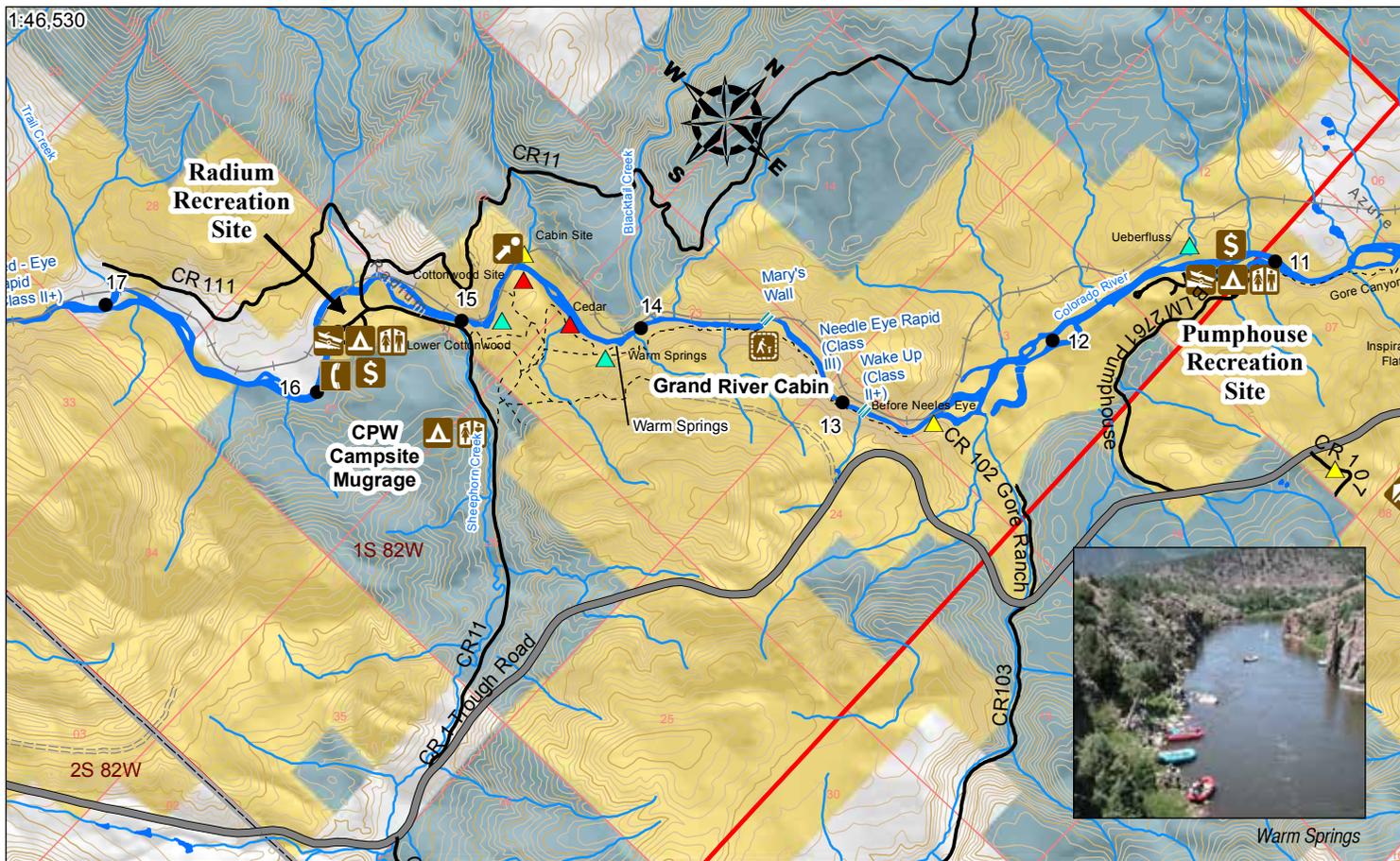
Floating Time: *Floating Not Recommended*

The first historical attempt to navigate Gore Canyon ended with Captain Samuel Adams' two boats smashed in the rocks in 1869. It would take another 100 years before anyone successfully navigated Gore Canyon. Today, a few expert rafters and kayakers make the trip each year, but water this challenging should be left to the experts. ■

Precambrian gneiss, schist and granite rock make up Gore Canyon (RM 7) and Lower Gore/Hartman Canyon (RM 13). This geologic layer is nearly 1,800 million years old, made of metamorphosed shale, sandstone and limestone deposits from early Paleozoic seas during mountain building processes. Uplifting of the formations and downcutting by the river created the canyons. ■

**\*Canoeing and tubing are MOST DEFINITELY NOT recommended on this stretch of river.**





**Pumphouse to Radium**

**Map 3**

**Length:** 4 miles

**Floating Time:** 2 - 2.5 hours

- 11.0  **Pumphouse Recreation Site** (left bank) A BLM fee site featuring three developed launch/take-out areas (Launch 3 is ADA accessible), 18 individual campsites (first-come, first-served), two group campsites (reservable by calling 970-724-3000), toilets, garbage service, firewood for sale, and drinking water during the summer. A camp host lives on site during the summer season. Gore Canyon hiking trail can be accessed from Launch 1.
- 11.3  **Ueberfluss Campsite** (right bank) Shade, four to six tents.
- 12.6  **Before Needles Eye** (left bank) Limited shade from canyon walls, very small site-- one tent only.
- 12.9 **Wake Up Rapid** (Class II)
- 13.1 **Needle's Eye** (Class II/III) Scouting rapid is advised above 4,000 cfs. Large rock in center left with two large holes above 4,000 cfs. *Canoes and tubes not recommended above Rancho del Rio.*
- 13.4 & 13.5  **Mary's Wall Rapid** (Class II) Watch out for wall on river right. **Historic Cabin** (13.5 left bank) The cabin was a chow hall for workers attempting to build a hydro-electric power dam in the canyon. The Historic East Argentine Trail (seen above river through the canyon right), built in 1903 to 1904, was constructed to provide access to the East Argentine tunnel for the dam. This dam site was one of many from the mouth of Upper Gore Canyon down to the existing Shoshone Power Plant. The Shoshone Power Plant was the only power plant that was constructed (completed in 1910) in this area. For more information on the power dams and railroads, please see Area Description.
- 14.1  **Warm Springs** (left bank) Small warm springs at the foot of the cliffs. Site can be accessed by trail with campsites on top of cliff. No shade.
- 14.4  **Cedar Campsite** (left bank) Good shade, trail access, six or more tents.
- 14.6  **Cabin Campsite** (right bank) Limited shade, one to three tents. The outhouse was removed in 2014 in accordance with EPA Regulations. Ed "Doc" Winslow was accidentally shot in the cabin while someone was cleaning a gun outside. His wife remarried a man with the last name of Maghee and the cabin is still known as the Maghee Place.
- 14.7  **Upper Cottonwood Campsite** (left bank) Two campsites, ADA privacy screen for portable toilets, good shade, trail access, six or more tents. This is one of two ADA sites on the river, everyone is welcome to picnic/camp, but if an individual/group comes along that needs an accessible site, please share. There is no longer an outhouse here.
- 14.8  **Lower Cottonwood Campsite** (left bank) Limited shade, trail access, four to six tents.

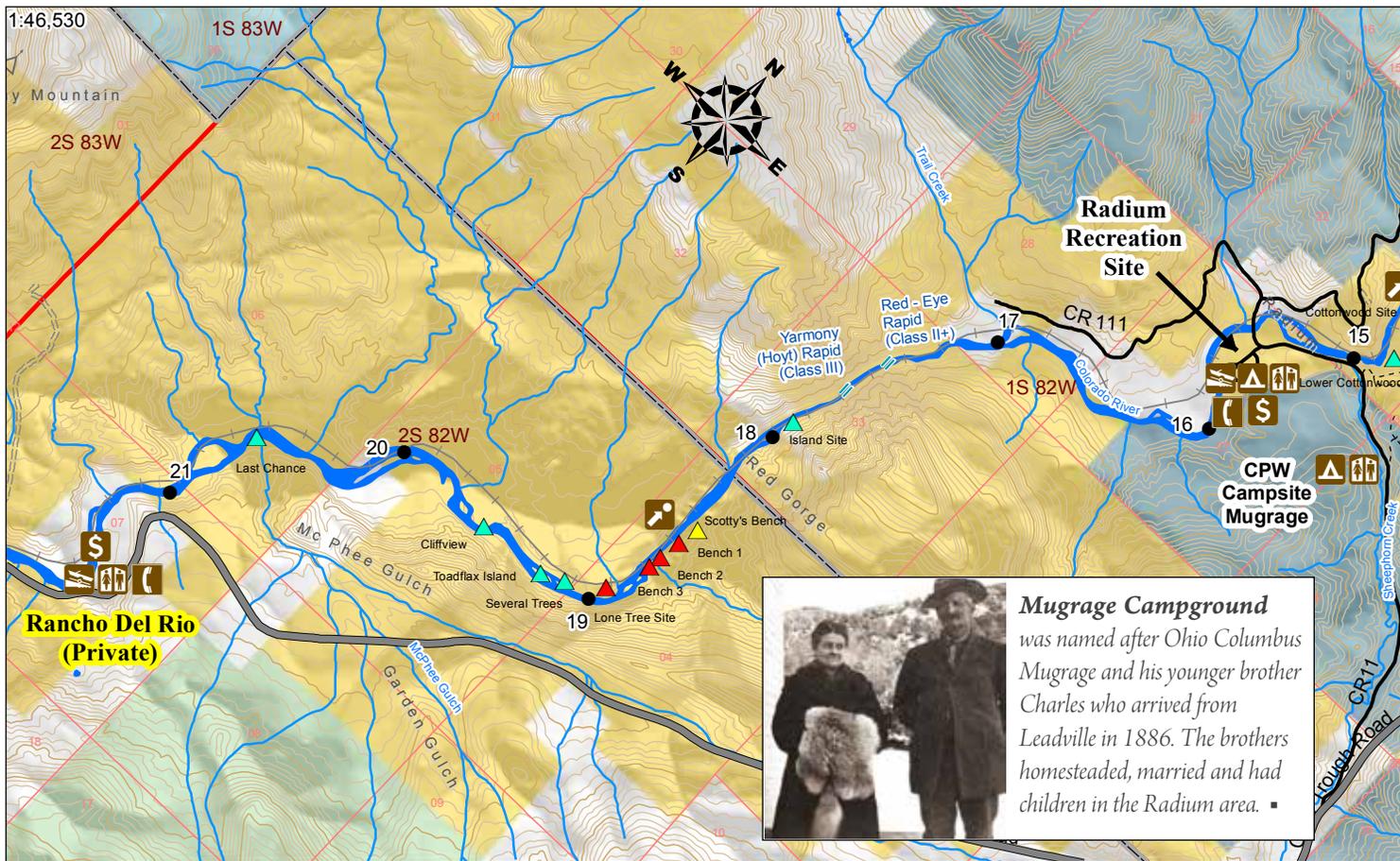


Photo courtesy of Grand County Historical Association, photo #5886.

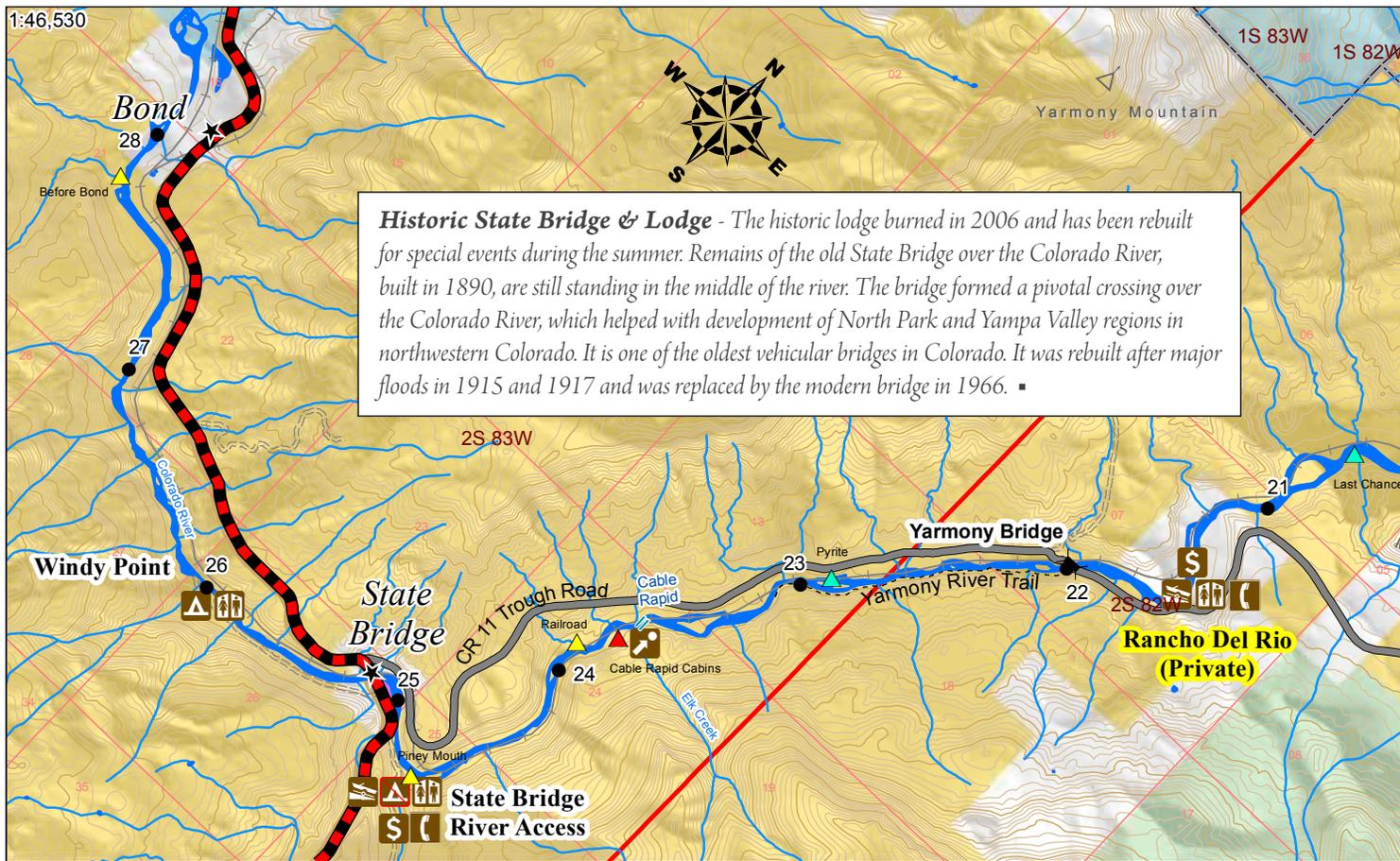
**Radium to Rancho del Rio**

**Map 4**

**Length: 6 miles**

**Floating Time: 3 - 4 hours**

- 15.5 **Radium Recreation Site** (left bank) A BLM fee site features 2 developed launch/take-out areas (Launch 1 is ADA accessible), 9 individual campsites (first-come, first-served), 2 group campsites (reserve 970-724-3000), toilets, garbage service, firewood for sale and a pay phone. A camp host lives on site during the summer season.
- Radium Road** **Mugrager Campground** (left side) BLM-managed CO Parks and Wildlife site. Free campground with 1 toilet, large cottonwoods for shade, no trash removal.
- 17.4 **Red-Eye Rapid** (Class II+)
- 17.6 **Yarmony (Hoyt) Rapid** (Class III) A Class II/III drop next to a huge boulder on the right. At 2,500 cfs and higher flows, the rock is submerged and forms a large hole and lateral waves that can easily flip a raft. Bottom of rapid has rocks on both sides of river. Scouting is advised from river left, please stay off railroad tracks on river right. **Canoes and tubes are not recommended above Rancho del Rio.**
- 17.9 **Island Campsite** (left bank) Good shade, four to six tents. No longer an outhouse here.
- 18.5 **Scotty's Bench Campsite** (high above river on left bank) Limited shade, one to three tents.
- 18.6 **Bench Campsite #1** (left bank) Limited shade, trail access, ADA privacy screen for portable toilets, six or more tents. One of two ADA sites on the river, everyone is welcome to picnic/camp, but if an individual/group needs an accessible site, please share. No longer an outhouse here.
- 18.7 **Bench Campsite #2 & #3** (left bank) Good shade, trail access, non-ADA privacy screen for portable toilets, six or more tents. No longer an outhouse here.
- 18.9 **Lone Tree Campsite** (right bank) Limited shade, four to six tents.
- 19.1 **Several Trees** (right bank) Good shade, four to six tents.
- 19.2 **Toadflax Island** (island) No shade, four to six tents.
- 19.6 **Cliffview** (right bank) No shade, water level dependent and see about all other campsites.
- 20.6 **Last Chance Riffle** (Class I)
- 20.7 **Last Chance Campsite** (left bank) Limited shade, trail access, four to six tents.



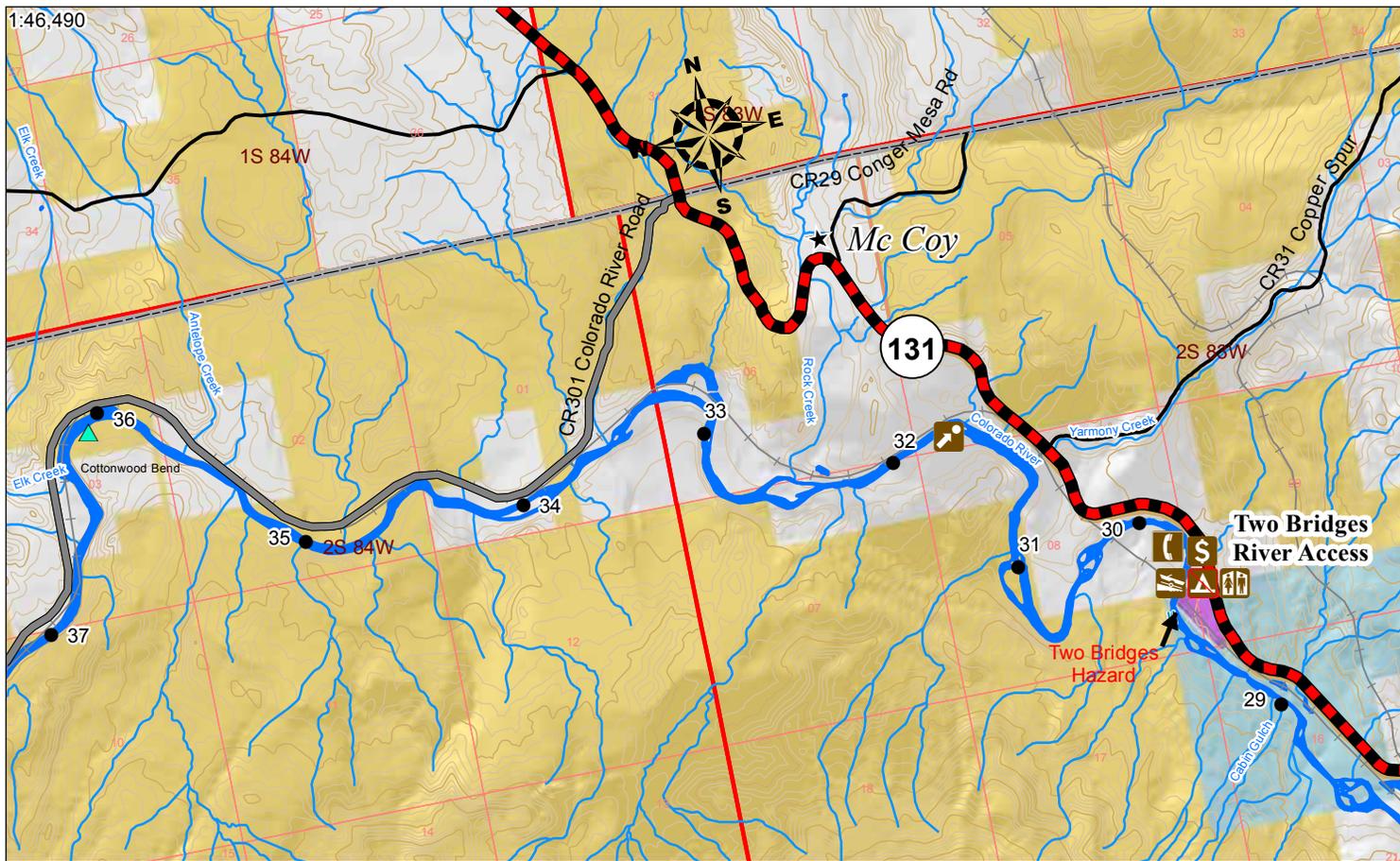
Rancho del Rio to State Bridge

Map 5

Length: 4 miles

Floating Time: 1 - 1.5 hours

- 21.5 **Rancho del Rio** (left bank) Private recreation fee site features a small store with some groceries, equipment and vehicle storage, toilets, dressing rooms, parking and a large beach-like stretch of river bank. Cabins, camping, picnic sites, parking and launching area are available for a fee.
- 22.9 **Pyrite Campsite** (right bank) Limited shade, four to six tents, very close to railroad tracks.
- 23.6 **Cable Rapid** (Class I) & **Elk Creek** (left bank) Provides hiking away from river up side canyon.
- 23.7 **Cable Rapid Campsite** (left bank) No shade, six or more tents. The cabin and outbuildings were built by a squatter on BLM lands in the 1940s. He grazed goats along the river and grew hops around the cabin.
- 23.8 **Railroad Campsite** (right bank) No shade, trail access, one to three tents, very close to railroad tracks.
- 24.7 **Piney River** (left bank) Provides hiking away from river up side canyon.
- 24.7 **Piney River Campsite** (Vehicle Access- up very steep bank from river) Site offers vehicle camping off high clearance road from State Bridge River Access.
- 25.0 **State Bridge River Access** (left bank) Eagle County Open Space recreation fee site. Site features one developed boat launch take-out and a small craft launch/take-out, toilets, dressing rooms, garbage service and non-potable water. Site host lives on site during the summer. *No camping at this location.*
- 25.1 **Historic State Bridge & Lodge** Information is on map.
- 25.8 **Windy Point Campground** (left bank) Less than a mile downstream from State Bridge. Features several natural boat landings (accessibility depending on river flow), four campsites and a toilet. Access by boat or a narrow dirt road (trailers not recommended) to the south side of the river.
- 27.7 **Before Bond Campsite** (left bank) Shade, one to three tents.
- 28.3 **State Land** (right and left banks) Eagle County leases the state land just upstream of Two Bridges River Access for public access, including camping.



**State Bridge to Two Bridges**

**Map 6**

**Length: 4.7 miles**

**Floating Time: 2 - 4 hours**

29.6 **Watch out for hazardous bridges before Two Bridges River Access.** Over 5,500 cfs second bridge cannot be floated under, emergency take-out/portage is on river right in-between two bridges. Scouting is advised from Two Bridges River Access.

29.7  **Two Bridges River Access** (right bank) Eagle County Open Space fee site provides a public boat launch, ample parking and toilets. *No camping at this location.*

31.7  **McCoy Waterwheel** (left bank) The more than 40-foot tall wooden waterwheel was built to provide irrigation for agricultural fields, and is the last of several built at this location. This wheel was constructed by local ranchers in the 1930s and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.



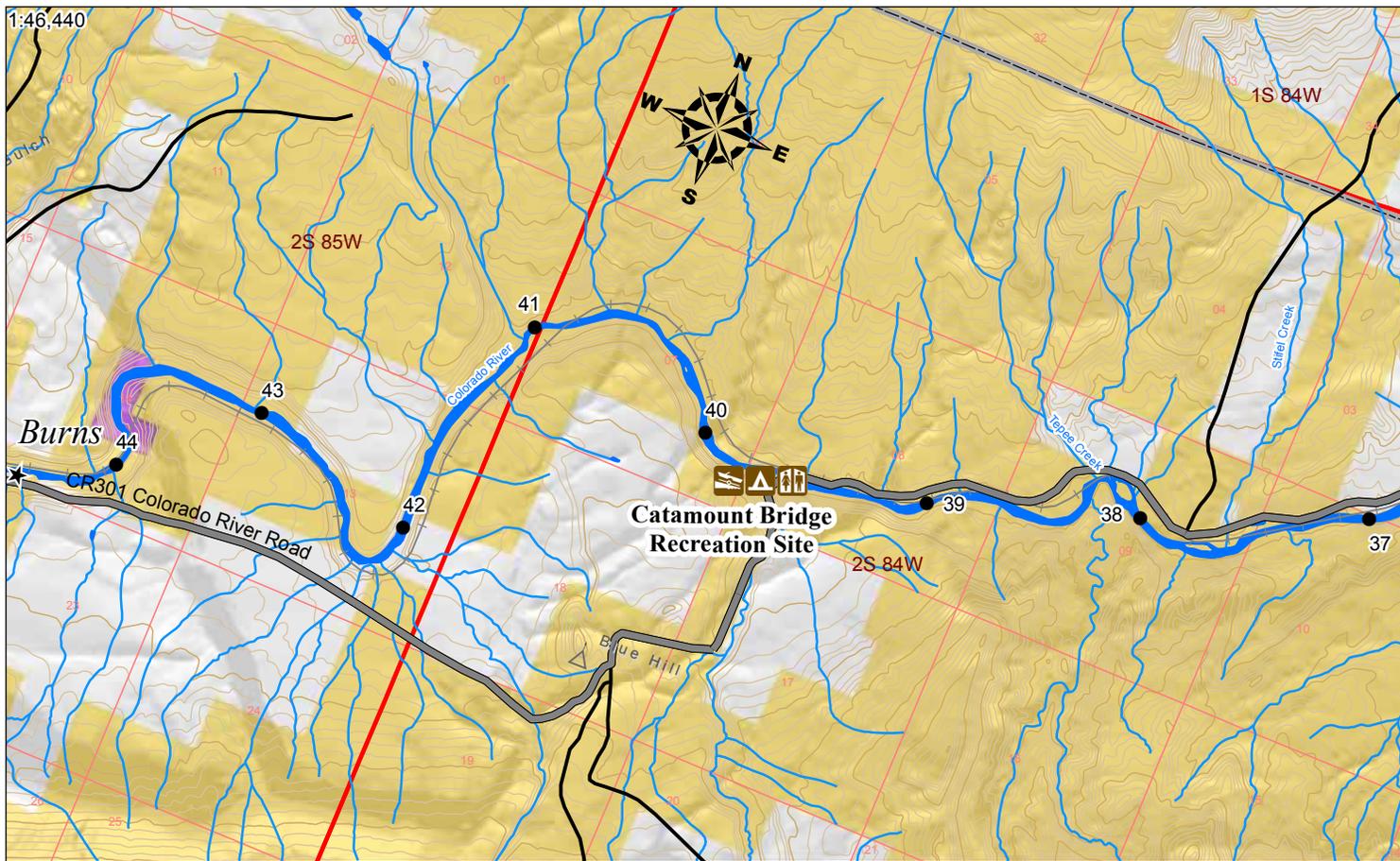
Two Bridges River Access



36.1  **Cottonwood Bend Campsite** (left bank) Shade, enough room for multiple groups, four to six tents.



Cottonwood Bend Campsite



**Two Bridges to Catamount Bridge**    **Map 7**    **Length: 10.1 miles**    **Floating Time: 5 - 7 hours**

39.8 **Catamount Bridge Recreation Site** (left bank) A free BLM site featuring a boat launch, toilets and five campsites.

44 **Burns** (left bank) Services include emergency phone only.

*Geologists call the folded geologic striations just prior to Catamount a “syncline.” It was formed 80 million years ago during the formation of the Rocky Mountains and demonstrates the tremendous geologic force that created the Rockies. ■*

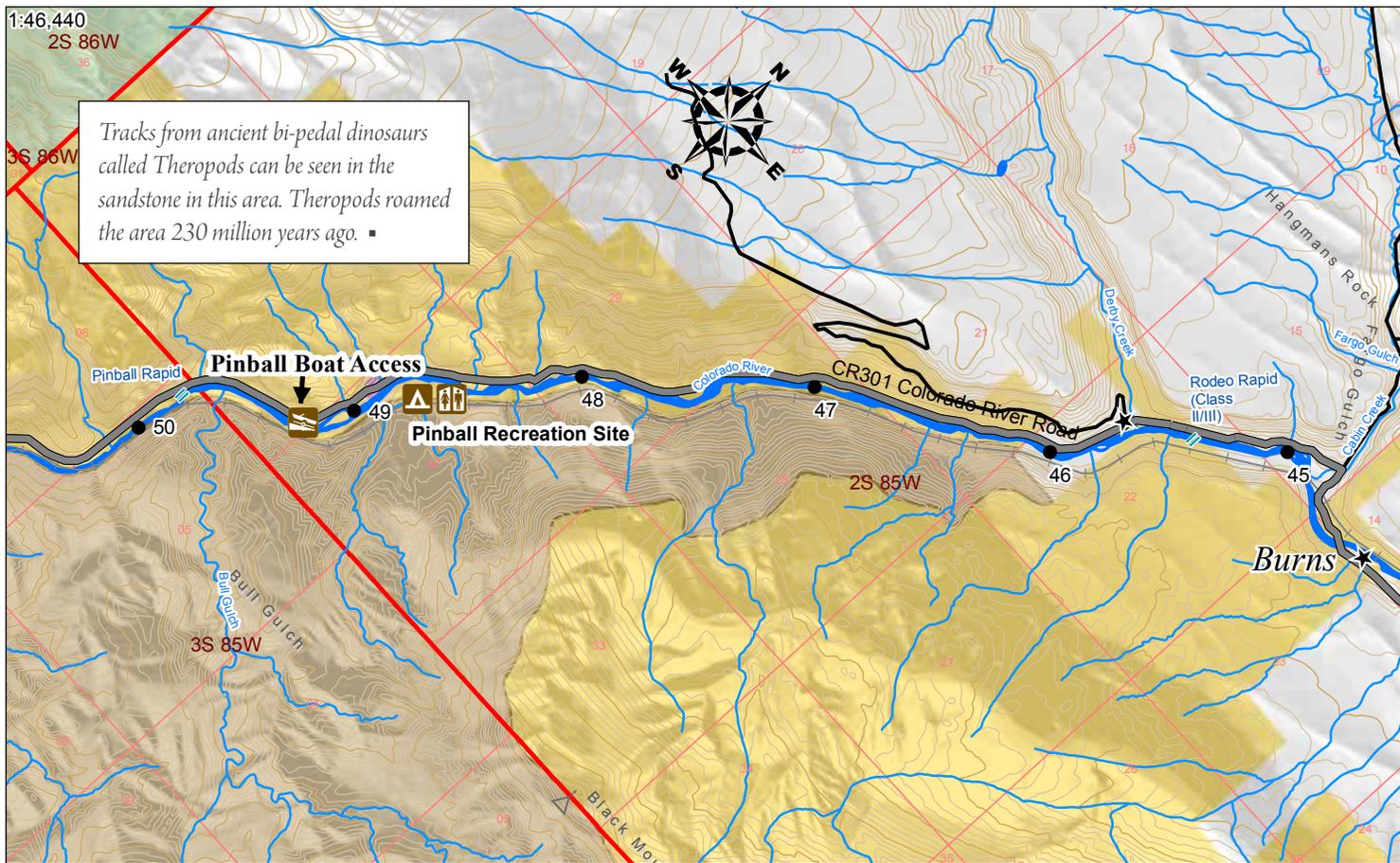
*The small town of Burns was named for a trapper who lived in the area named Jack Burns. ■*



Geologic Syncline



State Bridge to Catamount



Catamount Bridge to Pinball

Map 8

Length: 9.4 miles

Floating Time: 4 - 6 hours

45.4 **Rodeo Rapid (Class III)** Scouting is advised. Class III drop over large boulders. Portaging or lining of boats may be necessary, especially with canoes. Scouting advised along road before trip begins.

46.1 - 52.3 **Bull Gulch Wilderness Study Area (WSA)** (left bank) This WSA includes unique geological formations including colorful cliffs, pinnacles and volcanic intrusions. A wide range of topographic and ecological variation allows for solitude and excellent recreation opportunities. Visitors are reminded to leave no trace and erase any evidence of human impact within the WSA.

48.7 **Pinball Recreation Site** (right bank) A free BLM site featuring a toilet and one campsite (the boat launch is 0.5 miles downstream from this site).

49.2 **Pinball Boat Access** (right bank) A free BLM site featuring a boat launch. Sand deposits are common at the bottom of the ramp where vehicles may sink. Only take your vehicle as far as you are comfortable to prevent getting stuck.

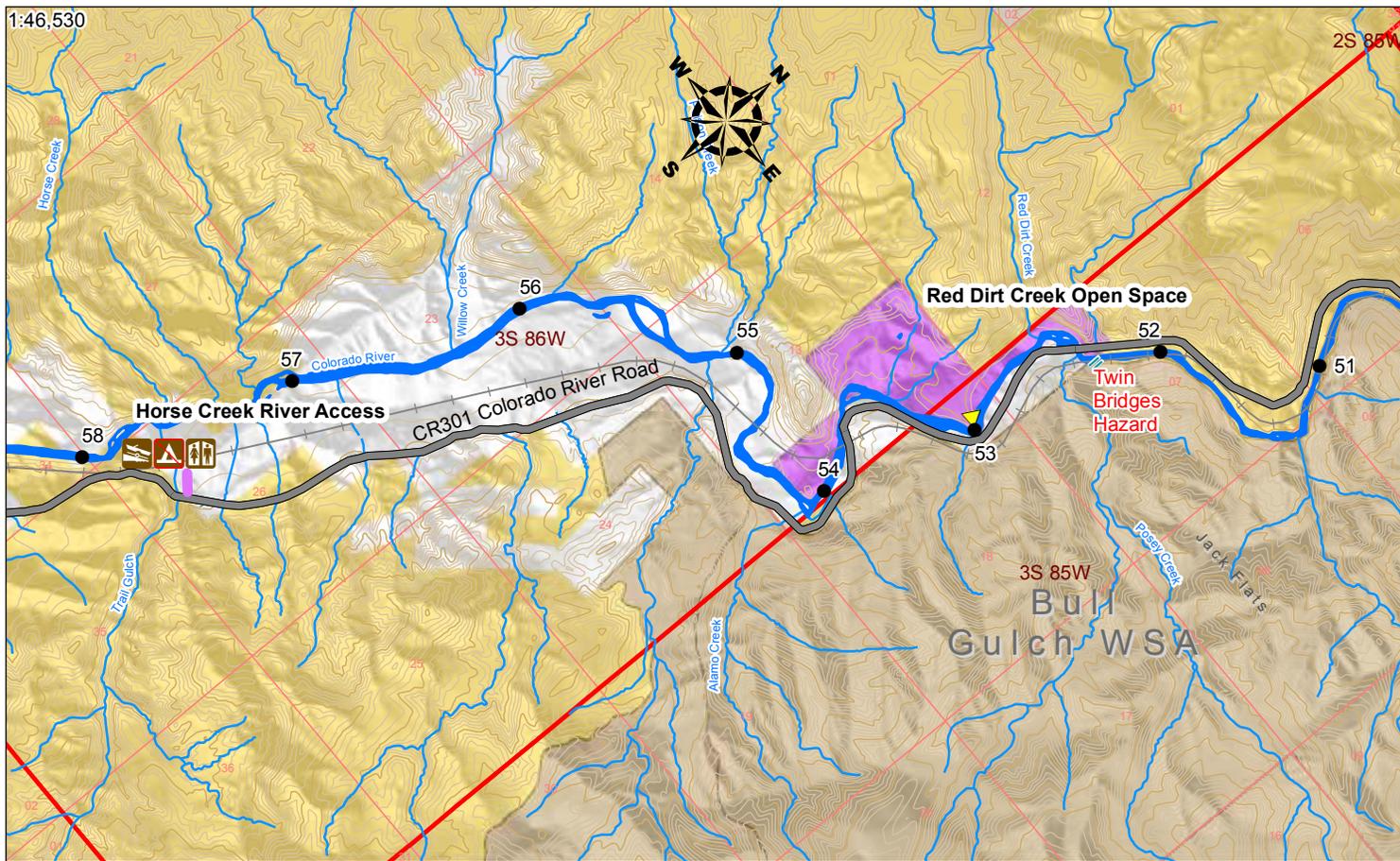
49.7 **Pinball Rapid (Class II/III)** Rocky rapid with a bridge abutment at the bottom. The most popular line is to stay left of the abutment to successfully clear the rapid.



Catamount to Pinball



Pinball Rapid Class II/III



**Pinball to Horse Creek**

**Map 9**

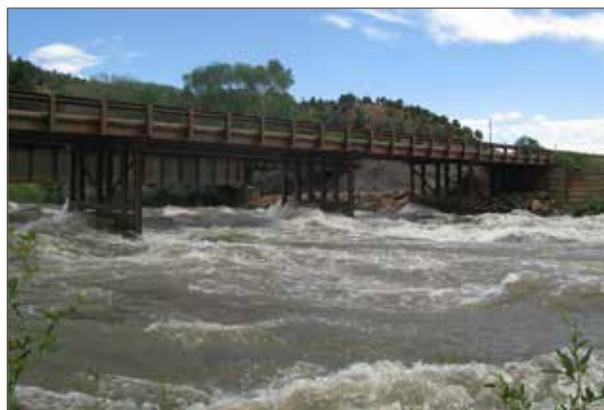
**Length: 8.5 miles**

**Floating Time: 4 - 6 hours**

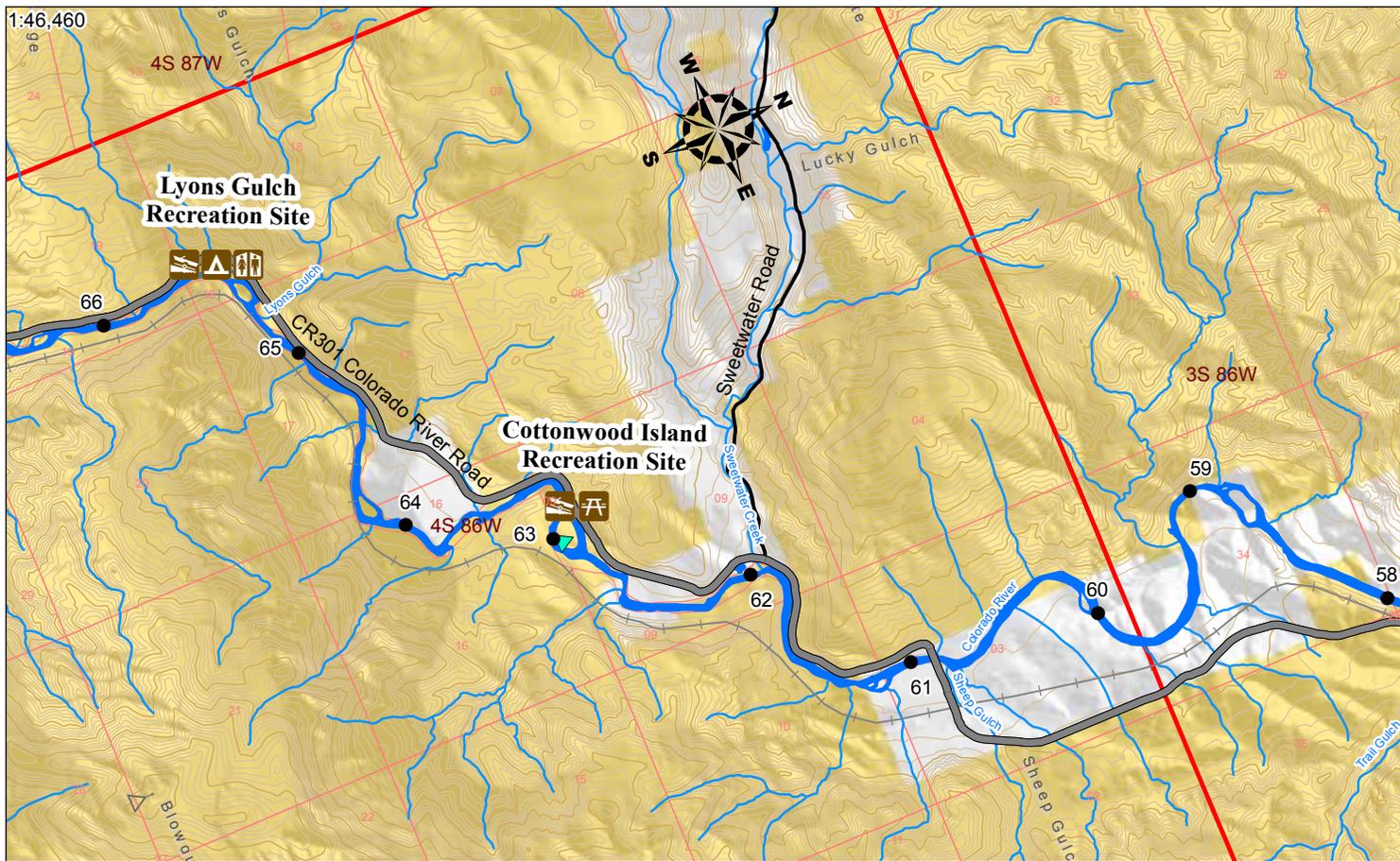
- 46.1 - 52.3  Bull Gulch Wilderness Study Area (WSA) continued (left bank)
- 52.4 **Twin Bridges Hazard** The railroad bridge and vehicular bridge cross the river at this point with several bridge abutments alternating across the river. Above 5,500 cfs, scouting is highly recommended and easy from the Colorado River Road. There is a right sneak that can be run at higher levels.
- 52.5 - 54.4  **Red Dirt Creek Open Space** (right bank) A free Eagle County Open Space site managed to provide backcountry camping, fishing and other recreational opportunities along the river.
- 54.6 **Fence Hazard** (right channel) There can be a fence across the river in the right channel, stay on river left.
- 57.7  **Horse Creek River Access** (left bank) This free site is a conservation easement on the Colorado River Ranch and managed by Eagle County Open Space. The site features a boat launch and toilets. *No camping at this location.*



Bull Gulch WSA, Photo by Bob Wick



Twin Bridges at 7,600 cfs



Horse Creek to Cottonwood Island

Map 10

Length: 5.3 miles

Floating Time: 2 - 4 hours

Cottonwood Island to Lyons Gulch

Map 10

Length: 2.5 miles

Floating Time: 1 - 3 hours

62.9 Cottonwood Island Campsite (island) Shade, enough room for several groups, four to six tents. *May be under water during high water (3,000+ cfs), so check campsite along the road before you float.*

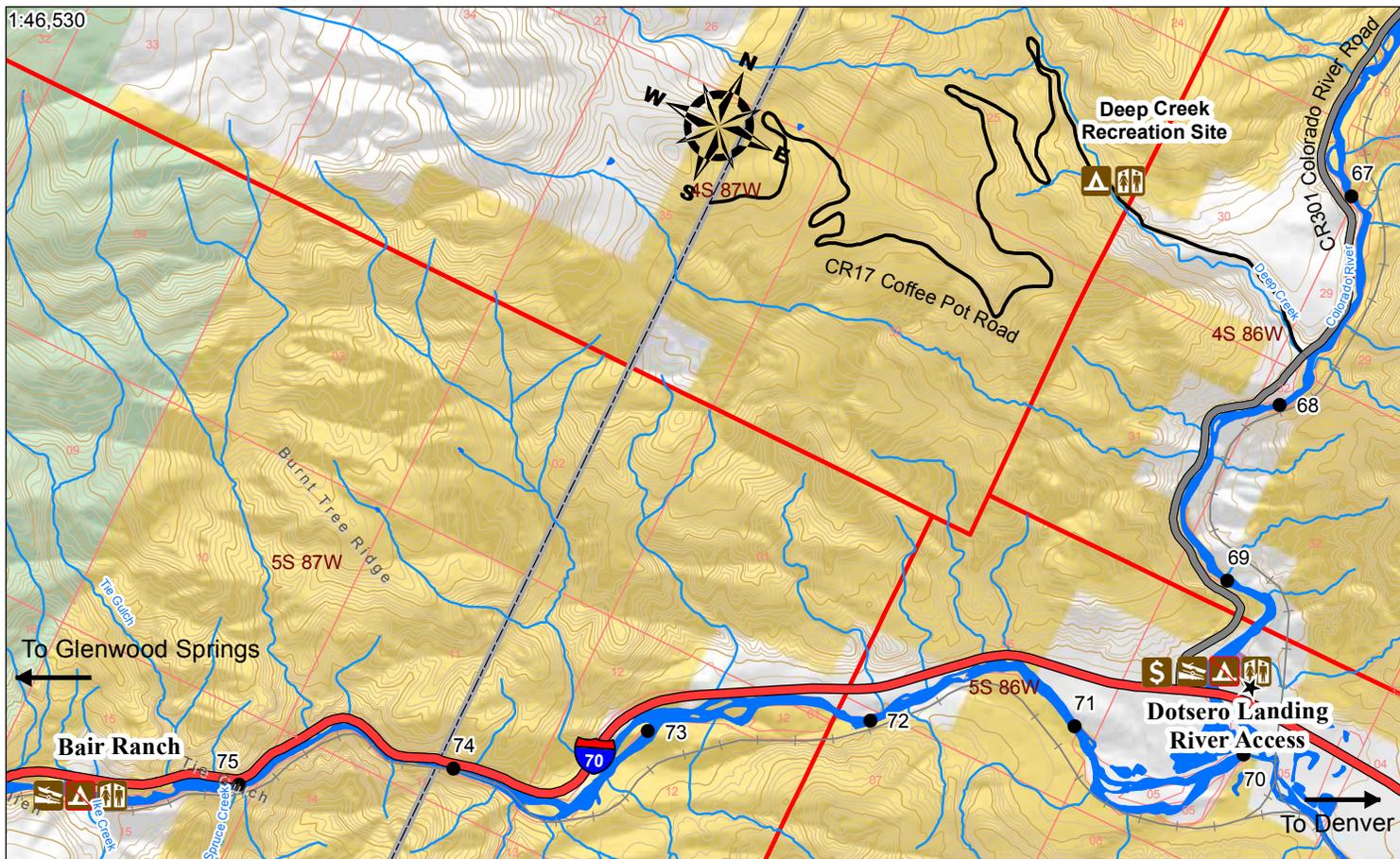
63.1 Cottonwood Island Recreation Site (right bank) A free BLM site featuring a boat launch and picnic site. There may be a seasonal toilet at this location. *Limited parking and no camping at this site.*

65.5 Lyons Gulch Recreation Site (right bank) A free BLM site featuring a boat launch, toilet and five campsites.



Horse Creek to Cottonwood Island

Cottonwood Island Recreation Site



**Lyons Gulch to Dotsero Landing**

**Map 11**

**Length: 4 miles**

**Floating Time: 2 - 4 hours**

**Dotsero Landing to Bair Ranch**

**Map 11**

**Length: 6.5 miles**

**Floating Time: 3 - 5 hours**

- 67.8 **Deep Creek Tributary** (right bank) Vehicular access up the Coffee Pot Road (County Road 17) to five free BLM campsites near Deep Creek Canyon. These sites are not accessible from floating on the Upper Colorado River. The Coffee Pot Road parallels Deep Creek and provides access to extensive public lands.
  
- 69.0 **Ute Trail** (right bank) Travel through Glenwood Canyon was difficult before the the railroad. The early "Nuche" or Ute peoples crossed the Flat Tops when travelling east or west following a number of routes collectively called the Ute Trail. Although you cannot see this trail system from the river, historic trails upland on the mesa were part of this system.
  
- 69.5 **Dotsero Landing River Access** (left bank) This Eagle County Open Space fee site is cooperatively managed with the BLM and provides a public boat launch, ample parking and toilets. *No camping at this location.*
  
- 71.5 **Siloam Springs Historic Town-** As you near the entrance to Glenwood Canyon, you float past the historic town site of Siloam Springs. Nothing remains today of this health resort, which was built in the late 1880s to take advantage of the warm springs surfacing along this section of the Colorado River. The resort could not compete with Glenwood Hot Springs and was abandoned within only a few years.
  
- 73.0 **Glenwood Canyon** is the largest canyon on the Upper Colorado River and was formed in the Pleistocene – fairly recently in geologic time. The upper layers are sandstone, while the lower canyon is comprised of Cambrian rock.
  
- 76.0 **Bair Ranch** (right bank)- A free Colorado Department of Transportation site with no trailer access; vessels must be hand carried between the boat access and the parking area. Toilets are provided. *No camping at this location.*