

## WVWA's Ranked Lists of Rivers, Streams and Creeks

The following two lists are a ranking of river sections by paddling difficulty, from easier to more difficult.

The rivers were ranked at a flow that a paddler is likely to encounter at an enjoyable level. The sections of larger rivers were ranked assuming a flow somewhere between 1,000 and 3,000 cfs. The creeks and smaller rivers were ranked with a flow somewhere between 200 and 1,000 cfs. A minimum stage or flow is also listed but was not used for ranking purposes. This minimum level may be easier or more difficult and is only listed to indicate a minimum "doable" level.

When a classification appears in parentheses it indicates one rapid which is harder than the rapids on the rest of the run. For example, Class II-III+(IV) indicates that one rapid of class IV difficulty may be expected.

An \* appearing after a river name indicates that adjoining river mileage may be paddled but the additional mileage is harder and may affect the ranking of the river.

An \*\* appearing after the minimum level indicates that a visual gauge is commonly used and a paddler may have to use a conversion factor to obtain that reading.

These rankings began with a compilation of rivers and creeks by WVWA member Turner Sharp. The compilations were sent to 25 WVWA members for ranking. Eleven were returned and were used in these rankings.

These ranked lists are an attempt to have a consistent method of labeling rivers by difficulty when organizing a trip schedule. It also permits the paddler to assess the river difficulty relative to rivers which he or she has run. It was inspired by similar compilations by the Blue Ridge Voyagers, the Monocacy Canoe Club, and the Keelhaulers. Also consulted was Monte Smith's Southeastern Rivers (Trip) Rating Scale.

The first list appeared in the 2001 WVWA Roster book. It has been slightly revised over the years.

Additions and comments should be sent to Chuck Brabec.

### Beginner

River	Section	Class	Miles	Gauge	Minimum Level
Cheat River	St. George to Erwin	I	19.6	Cheat River at Parsons	600 cfs
Guyandotte River	Justice to Gilbert	I	5.1	Guyandotte below RD Bailey Dam	4.0'
Gauley River	Swiss to Gauley Bridge	I	9.6	Gauley River above Belva	600 cfs
Goose Creek	Petroleum to Freeport	I	10.0		
Greenbrier River	Denmar to Renick	I	17.5	Greenbrier River at Buckeye	3.5'
Knapp Creek	Huntersville to Marlinton	I	7.1	Greenbrier River at Buckeye	6.0'
Little Kanawha River	Wildcat to Falls Mill	I	12.0	Little Kanawha River at Wildcat	5.5'

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### Novice

River	Section	Class	Miles	Gauge	Minimum Level
Anthony Creek	Blue Bend Recreational Area to Greenbrier River	I-II+	5.4		
Big Coal: Marsh Fork	Arnett to Dry Creek	I-II+	6.3	Coal River at Tornado	11.5'
Birch River *	Cora Brown bridge to bridge at Herold	I-III-	6.1	Elk River below Webster Springs	5.0'
Buffalo Creek (Elk Tributary)	Confluence of Taylor Creek to Swandale	I-II	4.7	Elk River below Webster Springs	6.5'
Buffalo Creek (Elk Tributary)	Cressmont to Clay	I-II	8.2	Elk River below Webster Springs	6.2'
Cheat River: Dry Fork	Snyder Road (CR 32/4) bridge over Dry Fork to Jenningsston	I-II	7.0	Dry Fork at Hendricks	3.3'
Elk River: Back Fork	Big Sycamore to Webster Springs	I-II+	5.8	Elk River below Webster Springs	5.0'
Elk River: Old Field Fork	Confluence of Crooked Fork to town of Slatyfork	I-III	8.2	Elk River below Webster Springs	7.5'
Gauley River	Donaldson to Camden-on-Gauley	I-II(III)	10.5	Gauley River near Craigsville	11.9'
Gauley River	Camden-on-Gauley to Curtin Bridge (Rt 20)	I-II	9.8	Gauley River near Craigsville	11.7'
Greenbrier River	Talcott to Willowood Bridge (WV 12 & 3)	I-II	5.5	Greenbrier River at Hilldale	1.5'
Greenbrier River	Willowood Bridge (WV 12 & 3) to Bellepoint	I-II	5.5	Greenbrier River at Hilldale	1.5'
Greenbrier River	Ronceverte to Fort Spring	I-II	9.2	Greenbrier River at Hilldale	1.5'
Greenbrier River	Fort Spring to Alderson	I-II	6.1	Greenbrier River at Hilldale	1.5'
Middle Fork River	Laurel Fork to Audra State Park	I-III	5.0	Middle Fork River at Audra	3.0'
New River	Glade Creek to Grandview Sandbar	I-II(III)	4.7	New River at Thurmond	1.25' ** (728 cfs)
New River	Thurmond to Cunard	I-II(III)	7.2	New River at Thurmond	1.25' ** (728 cfs)
Potomac: North Branch	Bloomington to Keyser	I-II	7.5	North Branch at Luke, MD	400 cfs
Potomac River: NFSB	Seneca Rocks to head of Hopeville Canyon	I-III	8.5	North Fork at Cabins	5.4'
Potomac: South Branch	Big Bend CG to US 220 bridge south of Petersburg	I-II (III-)		South Branch at Franklin	2.5'
Potomac River	Dam #3 to US 240 bridge	II+	2.5	Potomac at Shepherstown	2.8'
Second Creek	U.S. 219 bridge to Greenbrier River	I-II	8.8	Visual staff gauge	1.5'
Shavers Fork	Bridge at Clifton Run to Porterwood	I-II	13.1	Shavers Fork at Bowden	4.9'
Shavers Fork	Bowden to bridge at Clifton Run	I-II+	14.6	Shavers Fork at Bowden	5.0'
Williams River	Bridge at Three Forks to the Gauley River	I-III	10.2	Williams River at Dyer	2.8'
Youghiogheny River (Middle)	Confluence to Ohio pyle	I-II	10.4	Youghiogheny River below Confluence, PA	1.5'

## WVWA's Ranked Lists of Rivers, Streams and Creeks

### Intermediate

River	Section	Class	Miles	Gauge	Minimum Level
Anglins Creek	CR 17/2 bridge to Runa bridge (CR 24/7)	II-IV	5.8	Meadow River near Mt. Lookout	6.5'
Big Coal: Clear Fork	Clear Creek to Ameagle	II-III-	9.4	Clear Fork at Whitesville	14.5'
Big Coal: Marsh Fork *	Saxton to Arnett	II-III	6.5	Coal River at Tornado	12.0'
Birch River	Boggs to Skyles Creek	III-IV	4.2	Elk River below Webster Springs	7.0'
Bluestone River	Eads Mill to tramway at Mountain Creek Lodge	II-III-	10.9	Bluestone River near Pipestem	4.0'
Brush Creek *	Beaver Branch to CR 3 bridge	III-IV	5.6	Bluestone River near Pipestem	6.0'
Buckhannon River	Alton to Tenmile	I-III	6.1	Buckhannon River at Buckhannon	7.0'
Buckhannon River	Tenmile to Sago	III-IV	4.7	Buckhannon at Buckhannon	7.0'
Camp Creek	Church near Camp Creek Exit to Bluestone	II-III	2.0	Bluestone River near Pipestem	6.0'
Cheat River	Limestone Mine to Lick Run	II-III	5.0	Cheat River at Albright Power Station	0.6' **
Cheat River: Dry Fork	Elklick Run to Hendricks	II-III	8.4	Dry Fork at Hendricks	3.0'
Cheat River: Dry Fork	Gandy Creek to former wayside park	I-III	12.0	Dry Fork at Hendricks	3.5'
Cherry River	Richwood to Curtin bridge (WV 20)	II-III	9.0	Gauley River near Craigsville; also visual gauge at Fenwick	11.6' 0.0'
Cherry River: North Fork	Third bridge to Richwood	II-IV	13.0	Gauley River near Craigsville	14.0'
Cherry River: South Fork	Beech Lick Run to Richwood	II-III	6.0	Gauley River near Craigsville; also visual gauge at Fenwick	13.5' 2.5'
Elk River	Slatyfork to Elk Springs	II-III	10.4	Elk River below Webster Springs	6.2'
Elk River	Elk Springs to Bergoo	II-III (IV-)	11.8	Elk River below Webster Springs	5.4'
Elk River	Bergoo to Webster Springs	II-III (IV-)	11.6	Elk River below Webster Springs	5.0'
Elk River	Below Webster Springs	II-III	10.0+	Elk River below Webster Springs	4.6' (456 cfs)
Elk River: Back Fork	Confluence of Big Run to Sugar Run	II-III (IV)	8.6	Elk River below Webster Springs	6.5'
Gauley River *	Curtin Bridge (WV 20) to Panther Creek	II-III-	4.6	Gauley River near Craigsville	11.0' (510 cfs)
Gauley River (Middle)	Mason Branch to Bucklick	II-III+(IV)	6.0	Gauley below Summersville Dam plus Meadow near Mt. Lookout	600 cfs
Holly River: Left Fork	Hacker Valley to Mill Dam	II-III	10.3	Elk River below Webster Springs	6.0'
Hominy Creek	Hominy Falls to Summersville Lake	II-III (IV)	13.8	Gauley River near Craigsville	13.0'

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### Intermediate (continued)

River	Section	Class	Miles	Gauge	Minimum Level
Laurel Creek (Cherry tributary)	Jettsville to Fenwick	III+	5.3	Gauley River near Craigsville; also visual gauge at Fenwick	13.2' 3.0'
Leatherwood Creek	Forks of Creek to Bergoo	III-IV	3.3	Elk River below Webster Springs	8.0'
Lick Creek	Green Sulphur to New River	II-III (IV)	5.8		
Loop (Loup) Creek	North Page to Deepwater	II-III (V)	9.3		
Meadow River (Middle)	Nallen to US 19 bridge	III-IV	5.0	Meadow River at Mt. Lookout	4.4'
Mill Creek (New River tributary)	Hopewell Road bridge to Chestnut bridge at Ansted	II-III	5.0	Visual gauge	9"
Muddlety Creek	Below Rt 41 bridge to Summersville Lake	III-IV	3.5	Gauley River near Craigsville	12.5'
New River	Cotton Hill bridge to Gauley Bridge	II-IV	4.6	New River at Thurmond less 10,000 cfs	600 cfs
New River	McCreery to Stonecliff	II-III-	10.8	New River at Thurmond	1.25' ** (728 cfs)
Paint Creek	Laurel Grove Church to low water bridge below Mossy	II-IV	4.6	Clear Fork at Whitesville. Also, culvert bridge below Mossy	13.5' Water on surface of bridge
Paint Creek	Mossy to culvert bridge below former coal yard	II-III	4.1	Clear Fork at Whitesville; Culvert bridge below Mossy	12.8', 3" below bridge surface on upstream side
Paint Creek	Culvert bridge at former coal yard to Mahan	II-IV	6.4	Clear Fork at Whitesville. Also, culvert bridge below Mossy	12.7' 4" below bridge surface on upstream side
Potomac: North Branch	Barnum to Bloomington	II-III	6.5	North Branch below Jennings Randolph Dam at Barnum	400 cfs
Potomac: NFSB	Head of Hopeville Canyon to Hopeville	II-III	6.1	North Fork at Cabins	5.4'
Potomac: South Branch	U.S. 220 bridge north of upper Tract to Big Bend CG	I-III	16.0	South Branch at Franklin	2.5'
Potomac: SFSB	Fort Seybert to Milam	II-III (IV)	12.1	South Fork at Brandywine	2.0'
Savage River	Dam to Bloomington	III-IV	4.5	Savage at Bloomington	300 cfs
Second Creek	Hollywood to US 219 bridge	I-III	8.2	Visual staff gauge	1.5'
Seneca Creek	Forest Service CG to Seneca Rocks	II-III+	6.2	North Fork at Cabins	6.0'
Shenandoah River	Millville to Harpers Ferry	II-III-	7.0	Shenandoah River at Millville	1.5'
Williams River	Tea Creek CG to Three Forks	III-IV	11.0	Williams River at Dyer	3.0'
Youghiogheny River	Ohiopyle to Bruner Run	II-III+	7.5	Youghiogheny River at Ohioopyle	1.2'

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### Advanced

River	Section	Class	Miles	Gauge	Minimum Level
Big Coal: Marsh Fork	Dry Creek to Sundial (Pettry Bottom)	III-IV	4.2	Coal River at Tornado	11.0'
Big Beaver Creek	Alderson Church to Gauley	III-IV (V?)	5.5	Gauley at Craigsville; Visual at the put-in	13.3' Water on the iron pins
Cheat River	Albright to Jenkinsburg	III-IV	11.0	Cheat River at Albright Power Station	0.5' **
Cranberry River	Cranberry Recreation Area to Big Rock camping area	III-IV	6.0	Cranberry near Richwood	3.5'
Dunloup Creek	Harvey to Thurmond	III-IV (V?)	6.0		
Elk River: Back Fork (incl. Sugar Creek)	Sugar Creek to Big Sycamore	III-IV	6.4	Elk River below Webster Springs	6.0'
Gauley River (Lower)	Bucklick to Swiss	III-IV	11.0	Gauley below Summersville Dam plus Meadow near Mt. Lookout	600 cfs
Laurel Creek (Elk River tributary)	Erbacon to Centralia	III-IV	9.4	Elk River below Webster Springs	6.0'
Meadow Creek *	Claypool to town of Meadow Creek	III-IV	4.0		
Meadow River (Upper)	Corliss to Russellville	III-IV	8.0	Meadow River at Mt. Lookout	4.8'
New River	Cunard to Fayette Station	III-IV	7.3	New River at Thurmond	1.25' (728 cfs)
Tygart Valley River	Above Arden to Big Cove Run	III-IV	8.0	Tygart Valley River at Phillippi	400 cfs

### Expert

River	Section	Class	Miles	Gauge	Minimum Level
Gauley River (Upper)	Summersville Dam to Mason Branch	III-V	9.8	Gauley below Summersville Dam	600 cfs
Glade Creek (New River tributary)	Reservoir to New River	III-V	10.5	Piney Creek at Raleigh	3.0'
Laurel Creek (New River tributary)	WV 41 bridge to Quinnimont	III-V	5.0		
Meadow River	U.S. 19 bridge to Gauley River	III-V ?		Meadow River near Mt. Lookout	250 cfs
Piney Creek	Beckley to McCreery	III-V	12.0	Visual gauge at takeout	1.5'
Tygart Valley River	Belington to confluence with Buckhannon River	III-V	11.6	Tygart Valley River at Belington	3.5'