

Campsites - Camp only on Federal or State land unless you have received prior permission from the private landowner! Select unused campsites; avoid heavily used areas. Use only dead wood for your camp needs. Use camp stoves or charcoal, if possible.

Fire - Select a site on level ground, sheltered from high wind, and away from heavy brush, logs, tree trunks, and overhanging branches. Clear the ground to mineral soil. Keep your fire small; use a circle of small stones to contain it. Never leave your fire unattended. Put the fire dead out. Take care while smoking on shore.

Pack in - pack out - Keep the river clean. Pack out everything in a litter bag. Use burnable containers, if possible. Remove all evidence of any temporary structure when you leave. Leave the river scene undisturbed. Stay well back from the river when cleaning camp utensils. Keep soap and detergent out of the river. Dump wash and waste away from camp and the river. Dispose of wet organic garbage and fish parts the same as human waste. Clean fish away from the river in water you have carried for the purpose.

Human waste - Select a screened spot at least 100 feet from the river or camp. Dig a hole no deeper than eight inches. After use, replace the soil and tramp in the sod. Nature will do the rest.

Water - Surface or spring water along the river should be considered unfit for human consumption. Boil it vigorously for 3 to 5 minutes, or bring water from home.

Difficulty Level - At the peak run-off period, (April to June) you may encounter some class III Rapids. Always scout ahead. Snags and deadheads are common.

International Scale for Grading the Difficulty of River Cruising Routes:

Grade I is easy enough for the beginners who know the basics of boat handling technique for white water. It is preferable for a beginner to ride in a two-man boat with an experienced partner on Grade II water. Additionally, during high water the river grades increase, usually one grade.

I EASY - (Practiced Beginner) Sand banks, bends without difficulty, occasional small rapids with waves regular and low. Correct course easy to find; but care is needed with minor obstacles like pebble banks, fallen trees, etc., especially on narrow rivers. River speed less than hard back-paddling speed.

II MEDIUM - (Intermediate) Fairly frequent but unobstructed rapids, usually with regular waves, easy eddies, and easy bends. Course generally easy to recognize. River speeds occasionally exceeding hard back-paddling speed.

III DIFFICULT - (Experienced) Maneuvering in rapids necessary. Small falls, large regular waves covering boat, numerous rapids. Main current may swing under bushes, branches, or overhangs. Course not always easily recognizable. Current speed usually less than fast forward paddling speed.

IV VERY DIFFICULT - (Experienced) Long, rocky rapids with difficult and turbulent passages requiring precise maneuvering. Scouting from shore is necessary and rescue is difficult. Not for open canoes or kayaks.

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IMAGINE YOURSELF AS PART OF THE LAST LOG DRIVE ON THIS RIVER IN 1933... Or you're bringing up a pack string loaded with supplies; or just take pleasure in the present with a scenic float trip down the Coeur d'Alene River.

The river meanders 55 miles between Senator Creek and the town of Cataldo on I-90. Mountain scenery, various rock formations, wildlife, and fish are among the sights waiting for you.

Floaters should check water levels before setting out on a float trip, since navigation can be greatly affected by a relatively small change in streamflow.

In the late spring, the river is swift and high with the snowmelt from the mountains. As the warm summer months arrive the water gradually slows and the river depth drops.

Canoes and rafts may float most of the river until late July. At this time due to water depth, floating is best from Shoshone Creek downstream. Low water spots may still be encountered in this river stretch. Innertubing and some rafting may still be done on the upper section of the river. Life jackets should be worn by everyone floating the river.

Coeur d'Alene River Ranger District
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Website: www.fs.usda.gov/ipnf

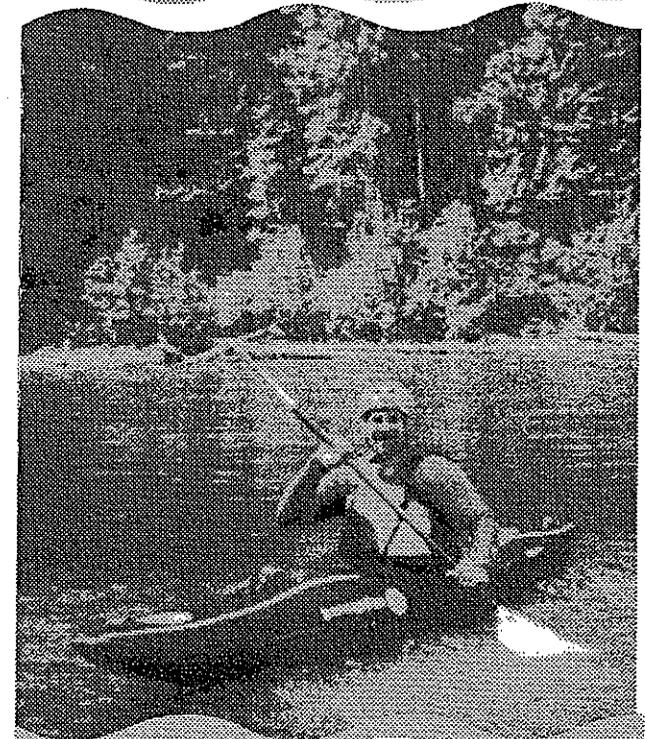


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Floating The Upper Coeur d'Alene River



Coeur d'Alene River
Ranger District

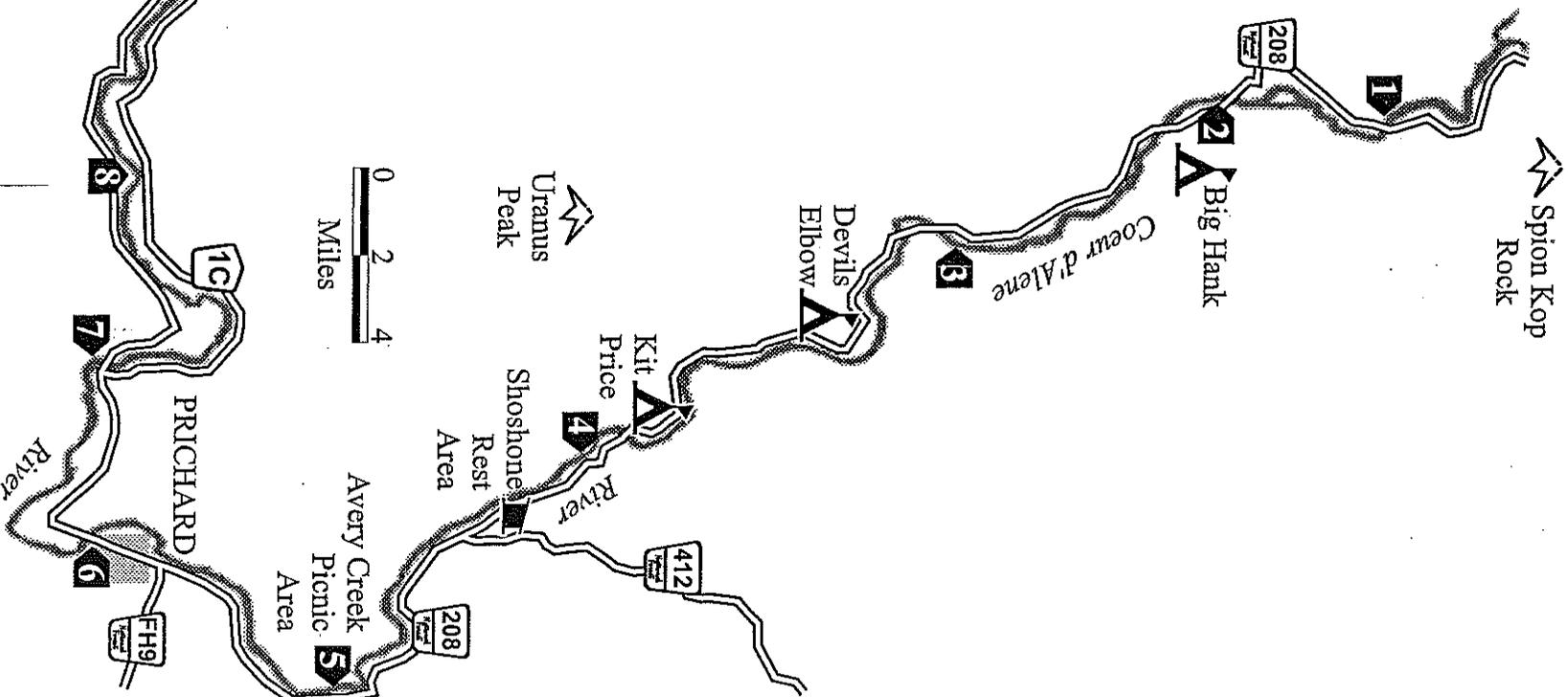
Idaho Panhandle National Forests



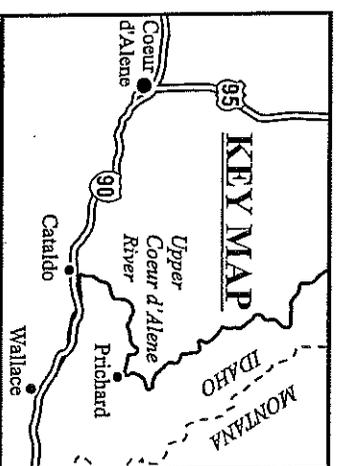
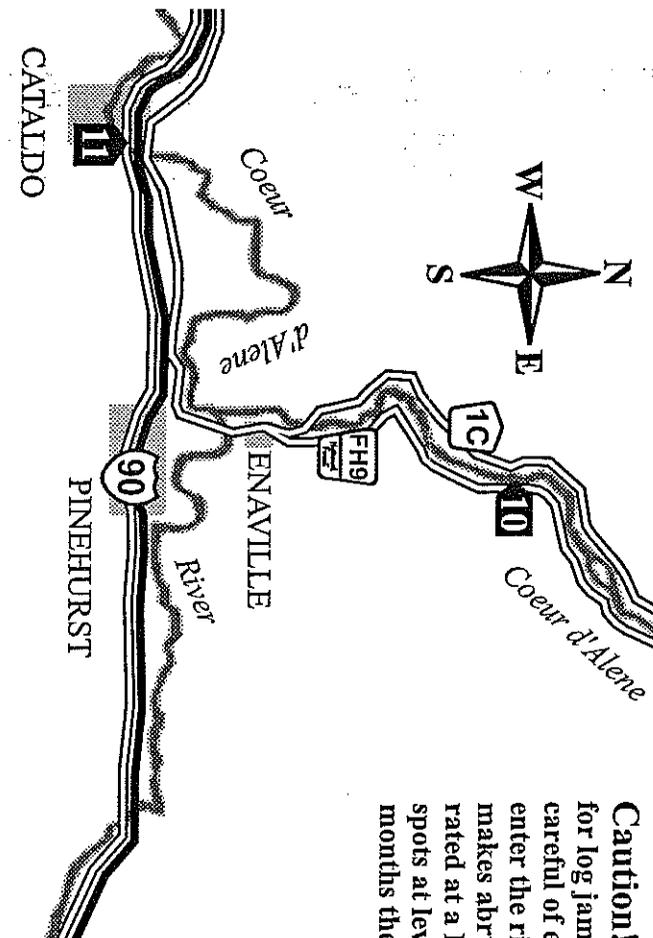
Floating the Upper Coeur d'Alene River

Several access points to the river are listed and shown on the map in sequence. There are other areas by the highway that may be used. The time listed after the access point is an average canoe paddling time between that access point and the next in the sequence. These times are shown to allow you to develop your own river trips.

- #1 Stoney Creek-Swift Creek Bridge (Forest Service) Undeveloped roadside parking. (1 - 1½ hours)
- #2 Big Hank Bridge (Forest Service) Access is available from the meadow across from Big Hank Campground. (1 hour)
- #3 Long Pool Bridge (Forest Service) Undeveloped camping and parking. (1 hour)
- #4 Jupiter Creek Landing (Forest Service) Undeveloped parking. (2 hours)
- #5 Avery Creek Picnic Area (Forest Service) Developed picnic area and parking. (2 hours)
- #6 Prichard Bridge (Forest Service) Undeveloped parking. (1 - 1½ hours)
- #7 Bridge at Roads 9 & 530 Junction (Forest Service) Undeveloped roadside parking. (4 hours)
- #8 Graham Meadow (Forest Service) Undeveloped roadside parking. (1½ hours)
- #9 Spring creek Access Point (2 hours)
- #10 Bumblebee Bridge Access Point Undeveloped parking area. (5 hours)
- #11 Cataldo Access Point Undeveloped roadside parking. (5 hours)



Caution! During high flow watch for log jams and debris. Also be careful of eddies where streams enter the river and where the river makes abrupt turns. The river is rated at a II level with occasional spots at level III. Into the summer months the rating drops to I.



**BE SURE TO USE PROPER BOATING SAFETY
AT ALL TIMES!**

