

POPPLE RIVER (PO1)

Put-in Forest Road 2398 Bridge
Take-out Morgan Lake Road Bridge
Distance 11.0 miles
Approximate Time 5-6 hours
Most Difficult Rapids Class 2

Elevation Drop 65 feet
Average Gradient 6.0 feet per mile
Minimum Suggested Flow 150 cfs @ FR 2159 Bridge (USGS Gage)
Water Level Info / Phone Wild Rivers Interpretive Center
 1.888.889.0049

Paddler's Notes

Suggested River Levels for Paddling

The river gauge referenced below is located in this segment and should provide an accurate indication of current conditions in this reach.

Scout the rapids and know your limitations!



Below 150 cfs	Paddling not recommended.
150 cfs to 250 cfs	Low runnable flow. Scenic river trip for novice paddlers, rapids may be scrappy.
250 cfs to 500 cfs	Medium runnable flow. Challenging whitewater river trip for novice paddlers. Rapids become pushy for less-experienced paddlers above 400cfs.
500 cfs to 800 cfs	High runnable flow. Intermediate and advanced whitewater paddlers only, rapids are wavy and pushy. Watch for strainers and deadfall. Novice paddlers should avoid the river.
Above 800 cfs	Paddling not recommended. Riverbanks overflowing, strainers and debris are very hazardous when present.

- 22.6 Mile FR 2398 Bridge Landing River:** A beautiful intimate setting as the river winds through marsh and small rolling hills covered in a lush forest. Conifers and birch are common. You will find a great deal of wildlife including many different species of songbirds. **Shuttle:** On FR 2398 Road, the put-in is north of a single lane bridge on either side of the road. Hand carry access, roadside parking.
- 22.1 Mile First Rapids (Class 1-2)** Several pitches of rapids and boulder gardens begin at the end of a long right bend, and continue for over a third of a mile. In one pitch, the river splits into two narrow forks around a wooded island.
- 20.7 Mile Unnamed Creek** The creek enters from river right. The river flows through open marsh for much of the next several miles. There are numerous pitches of riffles and low hazard rapids throughout this stretch.
- 20.0 Mile Podunk Dam** Remnants of the "Podunk Dam". A wooden dam used during the logging era. You won't have to portage here.
- 19.6 Mile Riley Creek** The creek enters from river left. Several sloughs branch off of, and a number of spring-fed streams feed into the river throughout this stretch. The marsh landscape continues for the next few miles.
- 18.2 Mile Suspension Bridge** A cable suspension footbridge spans the river with a home set back on the left bank.
- 16.9 Mile Burnt Dam Rapids (Class 2)** The rapids occurs in two sets. The first appears after a left bend where the river constricts into a short, rocky pitch with lots of overhanging trees. Morgan Creek enters from river left near the end. After the first set the river widens and slows, and passes through more marsh. The longer, more difficult second pitch begins downstream in a left bend. The river constricts to less than 30 feet wide as trees form a canopy over shallow, rocky rapids. The whitewater rumbles for about 250 yards, ending just below the FR 2159 Road Bridge (Newald Tower Road).

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- 16.3 Mile FR 2159 Bridge Landing (Newald Tower Road) Campsite** *River:* The rapids end just below the bridge, spilling into a wide pool. The access is on the right bank below the bridge. The river widens and slows for a while after the bridge. *Shuttle:* The access is fifty yards south of the bridge on the east side of road. A jeep track leads down to the river. A rustic, shady campsite is north of the bridge on the west side of the road. Hand carry access, roadside parking (small parking area for campers!).
- 16.1 Mile South Branch Popple River** The South Branch of the Popple joins the Popple River from river right.
- 14.2 Mile Rapids (Class 2)** Two pitches of rapids here. A short set of rapids (class I) lead into a stretch of easy boulder gardens. The main channel soon bends left around a wooded island. The right channel is little more than a bouldery stream. In the left (main) channel, the rapids begin again where the main flow bends right, around the island. The river constricts and runs through a fast, rocky, rapids. The most difficult part is at the end - a short series of wavy class 2 ledges. The rapids end in a wide pool surrounded by alder thicket.
- 13.9 Mile Rock Creek** The creek enters from river right.
- 13.4 Mile Mud Creek** The creek enters from river right.
- 12.0 Mile Bridge Abutments, Goodman Grade Bridge** Cement bridge abutments on either side of the river and a tiny, rocky island are all that remains of Goodman Grade Road Bridge.
- 11.6 Mile Morgan Lake Road Bridge Landing** *River:* The river constricts below the second FR 2159 bridge and forms a very short class 1 rapids with two small drops. The easiest takeout is on the right bank below the bridge and the rapids. *Shuttle:* From Highway 101, turn west onto Morgan Lake Road, and continue through several turns until you reach the bridge. You can access the river off both ends of the bridge with plenty of parking along the road or in a grass area at the north end of the bridge. Hand carry access, parking, trailer turnaround.

Driving Directions (Google Maps)



FR 2398 Bridge Landing



FR 2159 Bridge Landing



Morgan Lake Rd Landing

GPS - NAD83 / WGS84

FR 2398 Bridge Landing	45.76630,-88.60577
First Rapids	45.76799,-88.59798
Unnamed Creek	45.76401,-88.57856
Podunk Dam	45.76960,-88.57179
Riley Creek	45.77260,-88.56617
Footbridge	45.76772,-88.54866
Burnt Dam Rapids	45.76150,-88.53531
FR 2159 Bridge Landing	45.75770,-88.52758
Popple SB Confluence	45.75664,-88.52428
Unnamed Rapids, class 2	45.75222,-88.49126
Rock Creek	45.74959,-88.48703
Mud Creek	45.74960,-88.47872
GG Bridge Abutments	45.76058,-88.46843
Morgan Lake Rd Landing	45.76343,-88.46304