

POPPLE RIVER (PO2)

Put-in Morgan Lake Road Bridge
Take-out Pine River Confluence
Distance 11.7 miles
Approximate Time 6-8 hours
Most Difficult Rapids Class 3

Elevation Drop 174 feet
Average Gradient 15.1 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 the previous 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 for intermediate and advanced whitewater enthusiasts. Falls and rapids will be scrappy. You may have to portage Big Bull Falls and Washburn Falls.
250 cfs to 400 cfs	Low to medium runnable flow for an enjoyable run through the falls and rapids for intermediate and advanced whitewater enthusiasts.
400 cfs to 600 cfs	Medium runnable flow for intermediate and advanced whitewater enthusiasts. The falls and rapids should be producing nice waves. Less technical in this range.
600 cfs to 1000 cfs	High runnable flow for intermediate and advanced whitewater enthusiasts. Big waves and sticky holes in the falls and rapids. Watch for strainers and deadfall anywhere the river constricts!
Above 1,000 cfs	Paddling not recommended. Riverbanks overflowing, strainers and deadfall are very hazardous.

11.6 Mile Morgan Lake Road Bridge Landing **River:** The easiest put-in is off the south end of the bridge below a short, class 1 rapids. The first stretch of river is calm and slow until you approach Little Bull Falls.

Shuttle: From Highway 101, turn west onto Morgan Lake Road, and continue through several turns until you reach the bridge. There are access paths 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.

11.1 Mile Little Bull Falls (Class 2-3) The river winds through a stretch of boulder gardens and rapids before Little Bull Falls. The main feature of the Falls is a challenging two to four-foot ledge (*depending on water levels*) with a sticky hole that can produce powerfull hydraulics in high-water conditions. The falls are followed by 250 yards of class 2 rapids, ledges and boulder gardens through several bends. You must scout the falls and rapids! If you decide to portage, the trail along the left bank is easiest.

10.6 Mile Rapids (Class 2) The whitewater begins again after a few hundred yards, the river constricts into a short, rocky, class 2 rapids that can produce fun waves in high water. Several more sets of class 1-2 rapids and boulder gardens occur in the next mile.

9.5 Mile Big Murphy Rapids (Class 2) The river widens and slows before plunging into another narrow and fast rapids. Big Murphy features about 300 yards of rocky whitewater and will test your maneuvering skills in a couple of sharp turns.

8.0 Mile Nine Day Rapids (Class 2) After a long stretch of mostly flatwater, the river rushes into 600+ yards of continuous class 1 and class 2 rapids through several bends. Most of the rapids rate as class 1 with a stretch of class 2 whitewater about 250 yards from the start. The rapids end in a wide scenic pool. A campsite is on river-right near the end of the rapids.

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- 7.5 Mile Hendricks Creek** The creek enters from river left just before a sharp right bend. After the bend, the river runs through a long series of class 1-2 rapids all the way to Big Bull Falls.
- 7.1 Mile Big Bull Falls (Class 3)** You should hear the roar from the Falls before you see them. The river splits around a small island with 6 to 8 foot drops in both channels. The left fork is usually too narrow to safely navigate. The right fork features a short series of challenging ledges that are fun in moderate to high water, but will be 'bony' in low water conditions. You can scout from either the right bank or the island. The easiest portage route is on the left bank.
- After the falls, the river widens into a large pool followed by several pitches of class 2 rapids. West River Road is occasionally visible on the left bank.
- 6.3 Mile Highway 101 Bridge Wayside Landing** **River:** Riffles start above the bridge and continue down to the access, about 100 yards downstream from the bridge. **Shuttle:** The river access is part of the wayside park, north of the Highway 101 Bridge. A trail leads a short distance from the parking area to a small gravel beach. Hand carry access, parking, trailer turnaround, picnic tables, bbq grills, no toilets, no water.
- 6.3 Mile Rapids and Boulder Gardens (Class 1-2)** 1.7 miles of almost continuous rocky rapids and boulder gardens begin just downstream of the wayside. Some of these rapids will 'wash out' in high flows.
- 4.6 Mile Lamon Tangué Creek** The wide mouth of the creek is on river right
- 3.9 Mile Washburn Falls (Class 3)** A boulder garden leads into a left bend where the river constricts into Washburn Falls. You should hear the roar from the falls ahead. A huge boulder and a landing with a small portage sign are on the right bank in the flat-water before the falls. You must pay attention or you will be in the middle of the falls before you realize what is happening. The falls feature a series of 1 to 2-foot drops in rapid succession. Big, fun wave-train develops in higher water. Very picturesque setting. Scout or portage on the right bank and watch your footing!
- 1.8 Mile Woods Creek** Woods Creek enters from river left in a right bend.
- 1.4 Mile Jennings Falls (Popple Rapids) (Class 3)** Not as dramatic as Washburn Falls. The river narrows and winds through several sharp turns with a granite wall on river-right shortly before Jennings Falls. The falls begin in a sharp left bend and feature several ledges which can be a big-wave joy ride in high water flows. Scout or portage on the right bank.
- 0.0 Mile Pine River Confluence, White Birch Rd Landing** **River:** The river access is on the Pine River, about 30 yards downstream from the confluence, on river right. **Shuttle:** From County C, turn north onto Fire Lane Road. This road soon changes into White Birch Road after it passes over Halls Creek. Turn west (left) at the T-intersection onto White Pine Road. Turn north onto White Ash Road. The landing is at the end. The roads are a little rough in places and White Ash Road is sometimes under a couple inches of water about a mile before the landing. The roadbed seems solid in the 'flooded' area and seems able to handle most SUV's and trucks. Hand carry access, parking, trailer turnaround.

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Driving Directions (Google Maps)



Morgan Lake Rd Landing



Hwy 101 Wayside Landing



**Pine River,
White Birch Rd Landing**

GPS - NAD83 / WGS84

Morgan Lake Rd Landing	45.76343,-88.46304
Little Bull Falls	45.76605,-88.45766
Big Murphy Rapids	45.77629,-88.43612
Nine Day Rapids	45.78942,-88.41692
Big Bull Falls	45.79697,-88.40861
Hwy 101 Wayside Landing	45.80005,-88.39733
Lamon Tanguie Creek	45.80466,-88.37362
Washburn Falls	45.81138,-88.36517
Jenning's Falls (<i>Popple Rpd</i> s)	45.83693,-88.36399
White Birch Rd Landing	45.83957,-88.3389