

ST CROIX RIVER (SC5)

Put-in Norway Point Landing
Take-out Highway 70 Landing
Distance 14.3 miles
Approximate Time 6-8 hours
Most Difficult Rapids Class 2+

Elevation Drop 68 feet
Average Gradient 4.7 feet per mile
Minimum Suggested Flow 4.4 feet @ Norway Point gage
Water Level Info / Phone Namekagon Visitor Center @ Trego
 715.635.8346

Paddler's Notes

104.0 Mile Norway Point Landing River: The landing is on the left bank in a right bend. After the landing you will paddle past a large island followed by numerous, smaller islands. **Shuttle:** On Highway F, turn north onto Norway Point Road and follow the signs to the landing. This is an excellent developed access. Trailer access ramp, trailer turnaround, parking, picnic area, group campsite.

Be sure to check the river gage near the landing and decide whether you want to run the more challenging rapids in the 'Kettle River Slough'. Optimal levels for running the Slough are approximately between 5 to 10 feet on the gage. The rapids can be pushy at levels above 8 feet. Above 10 feet is considered flood-stage and some of the rapids in both forks approach class 3 conditions.

102.2 Mile Bear Creek The creek enters from river right.

101.4 Mile Nelsons Landing River: The landing is on the left bank in the middle of a sharp right bend, downstream of a narrow island. **Shuttle:** On County F, turn north onto Nelson Landing Road, the landing is at the end. Trailer access ramp, trailer turnaround, parking, water, pit toilet, picnic area, campsite.

100.9 Mile Pike Rapids (Class 1) A pair of tiny wooded islands (campsite 101.0) head this easy 50 yard-long rapids that ends near a tiny sandy beach on river right. As you pass the small sandy point (campsite 100.8), the river forks around a larger, wooded island dead ahead named *Head of the Rapids Island*. It's decision time! Read below.

100.7 Mile "Head of the Rapids", Fork

Where the river forks around *Head of the Rapids Island* is appropriately named "Head of the Rapids". Here, the river splits into two channels around a pair of large islands which are situated one before the other. The first island is 1.5 miles long and the second is 2.7 miles long. These two islands are separated by a narrow, often-un navigable channel that flows diagonally from the right fork to the left fork.

At *Head of the Forks Island*, the main channel follows the wider and deeper left fork. This is the 'safer' (less whitewater) of the two routes. The right fork leads into the more difficult *Kettle River Slough*.

The character of the river in the *Kettle River Slough* changes between low and high water conditions. When levels are low (below 5 feet) the rapids are likely to be too shallow to navigate. When water conditions are at medium, (5 to 8 feet) the right fork is a fun run for novice and intermediate paddlers. When the river is high, the flow through the *Upper Kettle Rapids* in the right fork becomes fast and powerful, and big waves often develop. Most paddlers follow the main channel down the left fork.

You need to make your choice of channels - left or right - as you pass the small sandy beach at campsite 100.8, before "Head of the Rapids Island"!

Left Fork, Main Channel:

100.2 Mile Big Beef Rapids (Class 1-2) A series of boulder gardens and rapids run through several bends. The difficulty of the rapids depends on water flow, large waves occur in high water.

99.3 Mile Fox Landing River: The landing is on the left bank in a small clearing. More riffles follow the landing. **Shuttle:** On County F, turn west onto Fox Landing Road, and follow the signs to the landing. Hand carry access, trailer turnaround, parking.

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- 145.7 Mile August Olson Rapids (Class 2)** The rapids begin shortly before the river splits around a small island. Follow the right fork and watch out for a rocky shelf that extends out from the right bank after the island. The Kettle River Slough rejoins the main fork (from river right) shortly after the ledge and the rapids continue for a few hundred yards downstream.
- 96.7 Mile End Left Fork, Confluence with Kettle River Slough**
- Right Fork, Kettle River Slough** The river drops more than 44 feet in the next 3.9 miles.
- 100.6 Mile Head of the Rapids Landing** **River:** After the 'Head of the Rapids' fork, keep to the right and you should see the landing about 100 yards up an inlet on river right. **Shuttle:** Part of Minnesota's St Croix State Park, you will have to inquire for directions from the park headquarters. A beautiful scenic lookout is located before the landing. Hand carry access, trailer turnaround, parking, water, group campsite.
- 99.9 Mile Rapids (Class 1)** A series of shallow riffles and rocky rapids run down the right fork around a small island.
- 98.9 Mile Upper Kettle Rapids (Class 1-2)** A long, shallow rapids occur where the channel splits around a few narrow islands and runs through a sharp s-turn. Follow the main flow to navigate the rocks. Water levels definitely affect the rapids, in low water you may have to step out and push. In high water, the rapids become a fun wave train.
- This is a very scenic area with high cliffs, beautiful rock formations, and numerous, small wooded islands. The right bank is part of the Minnesota DNR's Chengwatana State Forest.
- 97.6 Mile Kettle River, Lower Kettle Rapids (Class 2)** There are two wooded islands where the Kettle River spills into the Right Fork which together form three 'mouths' along the right side of the channel. The rapids become challenging near the second mouth where the river drops several feet in a short distance. There are many boulders which can make maneuvering difficult. These rapids approach class 3 in high water! Scouting is recommended.
- 96.7 Mile End Right Fork, Confluence with Left Fork** The channel bends left and you'll encounter more white-water as you near the confluence. The rapids are fast and wavy and there is a ledge that extends out from the left bank just before the confluence which you may want to scout. August Olsen Rapids (class 2, see Left Fork description) run for several hundred yards below the junction. The river becomes wider and more shallow and flows past beautiful rock formations and stands of pine and spruce. A spring fed creek tumbles through a cut on the left bank.
- 95.4 Mile Seven Islands** The river widens and flows around a chain of scenic islands.
- 93.7 Mile Snake River** The Snake River enters from river right.
- 93.6 Mile Soderbeck (Wisconsin) - Snake River (Minnesota) Landings** **River:** The Snake River enters from river right. Downstream from the confluence, Soderbeck Landing is on river left, The Snake River Landing (Minnesota) is on river right. There are a series of islands below the landing. **Shuttle:** (Soderbeck Landing, WI) On County Highway F, turn west onto Ferry Road and continue to the landing. Trailer access ramp, trailer turnaround, parking, pit toilets, picnic area.
- 91.3 Mile Sandrock Cliff Landing, Campground** **River:** A narrow channel is on river left around a series of small islands. Go down this channel and you will see the landing on the left bank. Sandstone cliffs rise above the river with a trail that leads to a scenic overlook atop the cliff where a rustic hike-in campground is also located. The campground features several sites on top of the cliff, (none with views of the river however). **Shuttle:** From Highway 70, turn north onto Soderbeck Road, turn west onto Benson Rd, turn north (right) onto Tennessee Rd, the landing is at the end. Hand carry access, trailer turnaround, parking, rustic campsite, pit toilet, picnic area.

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89.7 Mile Highway 70 Landing, Marshland Visitor Center **River:** You will see the Highway 70 Bridge from far upriver. The landing is on the left bank, before the bridge. The Marshland Visitor Center sits on the opposite bank (river right). The Wisconsin DNR's St Croix Campground lies downstream of the bridge, on the left bank, below a wayside park. **Shuttle:** On Highway 70, the landing is east of the bridge (WI side) on the north side of the road. The entrance to the wayside park is on the opposite (south) side of the highway. The entrance to the St Croix Campground (Wisconsin DNR) is on River Road, behind the wayside park. The Marshland Visitor Center is on the northwest side (MN) of the bridge, overlooking the river. *Highway 70 Landing:* Trailer access ramp, trailer turnaround, parking, pit toilets.

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Driving Directions (Google Maps)



Norway Point landing



Nelson's landing



Fox Landing



Head of the Rapids Landing



Soderbeck Landing



Sandrock Cliff Landing



Highway 70 Landing

GPS - NAD83 / WGS84

Norway Point Landing	45.92402,-92.63996
Bear Creek	45.91591,-92.67286
Nelson's Landing	45.90562,-92.67710
Head of the Rapids	45.90116,-92.68961

Left Fork, Main Channel

Big Beef Rapids	45.89745,-92.69693
Fox Landing	45.89055,-92.71323
August Olsen Rapids	45.86374,-92.73598
Forks Confluence	45.85814,-92.73633

Right Fork, Kettle River Slough

Head of the Rapids Landing	45.90369,-92.69557
Upper Kettle Rapids	45.89404,-92.71772
Lower Kettle Rapids	45.87527,-92.73480

Forks Confluence

7 Islands	45.84080,-92.74945
Soderbeck Landing	45.82343,-92.76407
Sandrock Cliff Landing	45.79400,-92.76985
Highway 70 Landing	45.77417,-92.78017