

FLAMBEAU RIVER SOUTH FORK (FS3)

Put-in County M Wayside
Take-out Hervas Landing
Distance 8.3 miles
Approximate Time 3-4 hours
Most Difficult Rapids Class 4

Elevation Drop 56 feet
Average Gradient 6.8 feet per mile
Minimum Suggested Flow No USGS Gage
Water Level Info / Phone Flambeau River State Forest HQ
 715.332.5271

Paddler's Notes

6.1 Mile County Highway M Wayside River: Right after put-in you'll paddle under the County M Bridge. Below the bridge, the river bends sharply to the left and runs through several pitches of boulder gardens.
Shuttle: On County M, the landing is south of the bridge in a small and well-maintained wayside park with plenty of shade. Hand carry access, parking, pit toilets, grill, picnic table.

Slough Gundy Rapids and Little Falls This area is known as the "Little Falls, Slough Gundy Scenic Area" with a parking lot just off of County M, 0.9 mile south of the bridge. There are well-maintained trails along the river which help make this a great place for whitewater paddlers to spend an afternoon running laps down Slough Gundy and Little Falls.

Scenic rock formations form a small dells that surround the river at Slough Gundy Rapids. This is some of the most beautiful scenery of the Flambeau. Stands of white pine canopy small granite rock formations. There are a couple of beautiful shaded spots beneath the pines where you can stop and rest.

The character of the rapids and falls from County Highway W to the North Fork confluence can change dramatically depending on water levels.

At high river levels:

- *The first three pitches of Slough Gundy become a solid class III with waves as high as 5 feet.
- *The right channel of Little Falls can become dangerous and you may not be able to land and scout.
- *The left channel of Little Falls is runnable but a little too pushy for some. Strong paddlers will really enjoy this route, probably more so than the wider right channel.
- *Many of the rapids and boulder gardens below Little Falls tend to wash out.

At medium to medium-high river levels:

- *Best conditions for paddling??, numerous playspots form in Slough Gundy, but will often change from day-to-day.
- *The right channel at Little Falls becomes very runnable and fun. A slide occasionally forms on the left and a nice 5' to 6' drop on the right - though the base of the drop can be sticky at times.

At low river levels:

- *At low water levels, most of Slough Gundy Rapids becomes one long boulder garden with a few low-hazard rapids down the center.
- *The left channel at Little Falls becomes too shallow to run.
- *The right fork of Little Falls is not as challenging, but still runnable and enjoyable. The drop on the right becomes 'tame' and a lot less sticky at the base. The slide on river-left becomes very boney and is not recommended.

5.6 Mile Slough Gundy Rapids (Class 2-3) A class 2 boulder garden leads to a flat rock ledge which forces the river into a sharp right bend. This rock ledge is the north end of a small wooded island. A tiny, narrow channel splits from the main channel to the left of the ledge. Slough Gundy Rapids is in the larger right channel and starts with three distinct pitches of whitewater interspersed with pools of calm water. The first two pitches are short, wavy class 2's. The third is the longest with the largest waves and is a class 2+ in medium flows and class 3 during high flows. Land on the sloping rock ledge on river left and scout all three pitches from the island. You will also find a couple of tiny, sandy beaches.

FLAMBEAU RIVER SOUTH FORK (FS3)

Several sets of class 1-2 boulder gardens/rapids follow the third pitch of Slough Gundy.

- 5.0 Mile Little Falls (Class 4)** Shortly after the final pitch of Slough Gundy Rapids, the river takes a right bend and you'll hear the roar from Little Falls directly ahead. The falls occur where the river splits around a small rocky island. The main channel runs down the right and roars over a 5 to 6 foot drop. Land above the falls on the right bank to scout, but the easiest portage is on the left bank. For advanced and expert paddlers, the right channel is the most navigable drop. The left channel will be too narrow and rocky to run in 'low' to 'medium' flows, but becomes rather exhilarating for strong paddlers during high flows.
- 4.8 Mile Scratch Rapids (Class 2-3)** This is a long series of class 2 rapids with a large number of boulders that require good maneuvering skills to navigate. During low water, the rapids become almost impassable, while in medium flows many of the boulders become submerged producing fun waves.
- 3.7 Mile Gunners Rapids (Class 1)** The rapids are a series of boulder gardens and riffles and will seem to be a whimper compared to the previous two miles.
- 2.5 Mile Otter Slide Rapids (Class 1)** A series of boulder gardens run through a long right bend. Downriver, Otter Slide Rapids occur in a constriction in another right bend, shortly after a small island. Skinner Creek enters on river left near the end of the rapids.

The remaining 4.5 miles is mostly flat-water with a few sets of scrappy riffles during medium to low flows.

- 0.0 Mile Confluence with Flambeau North Fork, Forks Camp (Canoe Campsite #11)** The South Fork joins with the North Fork to become the Flambeau River. Forks Camp is located on the left bank just below the confluence. The camp has two sites. The river widens considerably after the confluence and wind can sometimes be a factor, especially when blowing from the south or west.
- (48.6 Mile)**
- (47.0 Mile) Bear Run Camp (Canoe Campsite #12)** The camp is on the left bank shortly after a right bend. There are three sites offering plenty of shade with fire rings and a pit toilet.
- (47.0 Mile) Hervas Landing & Campsite (Canoe Campsite #13)** River: A little more than a half mile past Bear Run Camp you will see Hervas Camp Landing on the left bank. The landing and camp are a few yards past a patch of tall marsh grass surrounding the mouth of a creek. Hervas Camp features three shaded sites. The spring fed creek is named George Ladd Creek. Shuttle: From County B, turn north onto River Road and continue for several miles all the way to the road's end. Trailer access ramp, parking, pit toilets, water.

(48.6 Mile) in parentheses is North Fork mileage

Driving Directions (Google Maps)



County M Wayside



Hervas Landing

GPS - NAD83 / WGS84

County M Wayside	45.65787,-90.73591
Slough Gundy Rapids	45.65106,-90.73782
Little Falls	45.64427,-90.73835
Scratch Rapids	45.64170,-90.73968
Otter Slide Rapids	45.62413,-90.76746
North Fork	45.64647,-90.79372
Hervas Landing	45.64051,-90.83491