
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Information Bulletin #4 (First Amendment)

SUBJECT: Outstanding Rivers List for Indiana

I. INTRODUCTION

To help identify the rivers and streams which have particular environmental or aesthetic interest, a special listing has been prepared by the division of outdoor recreation of the department of natural resources. The listing is a corrected and condensed version of a listing compiled by American Rivers and dated October 1990. There are about 2,000 river miles included on the listing, a figure which represents less than 9% of the estimated 24,000 total river miles in Indiana. The natural resources commission has adopted the listing as an official recognition of the resource values of these waters.

A river included in the listing qualifies under one or more of the following 22 categories. An asterisk indicates that all or part of the river segment was also included in the "Roster of Indiana Waterways Declared Navigable", 15 IR 2385 (July 1992). In 2006, the commission updated this citation, and Information Bulletin #3 (Second Amendment) was posted in the Indiana Register at [20061011-IR-312060440NRA](#). A river designated "EUW" is an exceptional use water. A "river designated "HQW" is a high quality water, and a river designated "SS" is a salmonoid stream.

1. Designated national Wild and Scenic Rivers. Rivers that Congress has included in the National Wild and Scenic System pursuant to the National Wild and Scenic River Act, Public Law 90-452.
2. National Wild and Scenic Study Rivers. Rivers that Congress has determined should be studied for possible inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
3. Federally Protected Rivers other than Wild and Scenic. Rivers subject to federal legal protection other than pursuant to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, such as National Rivers and Waterways and National Recreation Areas.
4. State designated Scenic Rivers. Rivers included in state river conservation systems or otherwise protected pursuant to an act of the state legislature.
5. Nationwide Rivers Inventory Rivers. The 1,524 river segments identified by the National Park Service in its 1982 "Nationwide Rivers Inventory" as qualified for consideration for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
6. Hydro Ban Rivers. Rivers on which Congress has prohibited future hydropower development.
7. Rivers Identified in State Inventories or Assessments. Outstanding rivers from state inventories or assessments, i.e., rivers identified as having statewide or greater significance.
8. Atlantic Salmon Restoration Rivers. Rivers undergoing active Atlantic salmon restoration efforts and identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for planned restoration.
9. Federal Public Lands Rivers. Rivers identified in U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management resource planning as potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
10. State Fishing Rivers. Rivers identified by states as having outstanding fishing values, such as Blue Ribbon Trout Streams.
11. State Heritage Program Sites. Rivers identified by state natural heritage programs or similar state programs as having outstanding ecological importance.
12. Priority Aquatic Sites. Rivers identified in "Priority Aquatic Sites for Biological Diversity Conservation," published by the Nature Conservancy in 1985.
13. Canoe Trails. State-designated canoe/boating routes.
14. Outstanding Whitewater Streams. Rivers listed in the American Whitewater Affiliation's 1990 Inventory of American Whitewater.

15. Locally Protected Rivers. Rivers protected through local and private protection strategies.
16. State Park Rivers. Rivers protected by inclusion in a state park or state preserve.
17. Other Rivers. Miscellaneous rivers identified as having outstanding ecological, recreational, or scenic importance.
18. High Water Quality Rivers. "Outstanding Resources Waters" designated by states and other rivers identified by states as having outstanding water quality.
19. National Natural Landmark Rivers. Rivers designated as, or included within, National Natural Landmarks.
20. State Study Rivers. Rivers that have been formally proposed for state protection or designation.
21. BOR Western Rivers. Rivers listed in the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation's 1982 "Western U.S. Water Plan" proposal as exhibiting identified free-flowing values.
22. State legislated Wabash River Heritage Corridor.

II. LISTING OF OUTSTANDING RIVERS AND STREAMS

River	Significance	County	Segment
Bear Creek River	11, 18, EUW	Fountain	C.R. 250W to confluence with the Wabash
Big Blue*	5, 11,	Johnson, Rush, Shelby	Flatrock River to Carthage
Big Creek	17	Jefferson	East side of Jefferson Military Reservation boundary to Graham Creek
Big Pine Creek	7, 11, 13, 18, 20, EUW	Warren	S.R. 18 to confluence with Wabash River
Big Walnut Creek	5, 7, 11, 13, 19, 20	Putnam	Hendricks/Putnam Co. Line to Greencastle
Black River	11	Posey	Confluence with Higginbotham Ditch to confluence with Wabash River
Blue*	4, 5, 7, 11, 13,	Crawford, Harrison, Washington	Confluence of Middle Fork Blue to confluence with Ohio River
Blue, South Fork	11, EUW	Washington	S.R. 135 to confluence with Blue River
Buck Creek*	11	Harrison	Headwaters to confluence with Ohio River
Cedar Creek	4, 7, 11, 18 HQW	Allen, Dekalb	Dekalb C.R. 68 to St. Joseph River
Clifty Creek	11, 18, EUW	Montgomery	Headwaters to confluence with Indian Creek
Cypress Slough Creek	11	Posey	Confluence with Castleberry Creek to Southwind Maritime Center
Deep	13, 17	Lake, Porter	1 mile south of U.S. 30 to Little Calumet River
Driftwood	11, 13	Bartholomew	Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area to Columbus
Eel, North	13	Miami, Wabash	South Whitley to Logansport
Elkhart	13	Elkhart, Noble	S.R. 13 to Island Park in Elkhart
Elkhart, South Branch	7, 11, 13, 20	Noble	C.R. 100N to U.S. 6

Fall Creek	11, 18, EUW	Warren	U.S. 41 to confluence with Big Pine Creek
Fawn*	11, 13	Lagrange, Steuben	Nevada Mills to Indiana/Michigan Line and Indiana/Michigan to Indiana/Michigan line
Fish Creek	11	Dekalb, Steuben	Ohio/Indiana line to Indiana/Ohio Line
Flatrock*	13	Bartholomew, Shelby	S.R. 9 to East Fork White River
Fourteen-Mile Creek*	11	Clark	Confluence of East and West Forks to confluence with Ohio River
Graham Creek	17	Jefferson, Jennings, Ripley	New Marion to confluence with Big Creek
Indian Creek*	11	Harrison	Floyd/Harrison Co. Line to confluence with Ohio River
Indian Creek	11, 18, EUW	Montgomery	C.R. 475W to confluence with Sugar Creek
Indian-Kentuck Creek*	17	Jefferson, Ripley	Confluence with Vestal Branch to confluence with Ohio River
Iroquois*	13	Newton	S.R. 16 to Indiana/Illinois line
Kankakee*	11, 13	LaPorte, Newton, Porter	Upstream boundary of Kingsbury Fish and Wildlife Area through LaSalle State Fish and Wildlife Area to Indiana/Illinois line
Kilmore Creek	17	Clinton	U.S. 421 to confluence with South Fork Wildcat Creek
Laughery Creek*	5, 9, 11	Dearborn, Ohio, Ripley	Source just east of Morris in Ripley Co. to confluence with Ohio River
Little Blue*	5, 11	Crawford	Town of English to confluence with Ohio
Little Calumet East Fork	10, 13, SS	Porter	C.R. 600E to S.R. 249
Little Creek	17	Jefferson	Kent to Big Creek
Little Indian Creek	11	Harrison	Pfrimmer Church to confluence with Indian Creek
Little Mosquito	11	Harrison	Headwaters to confluence with Mosquito Creek
Little Pine Creek	11	Warren	Bridge SW of Green Hill to confluence with Wabash River
Little River*	22	Allen, Huntington	Source to confluence with the Wabash River
Lost River*	9,11,19,EUW	Martin, Orange	Potato Road to confluence with East Fork White River
Mosquito Creek*	11	Harrison	Buena Vista to confluence with East Fork White River
Mississinewa*	17	Miami	Mississinewa Reservoir to confluence with Wabash River
Mud Pine Creek	11,18, EUW	Warren	S.R. 352 to confluence with Big Pine Creek
Muscatatuck*	5	Jackson, Jennings, Scott	Confluence of Graham Creek and Big Washington Creek to confluence with East Fork White River
Muscatatuck, Vernon	11, 13	Jackson, Jennings	Zenas to confluence with Muscatatuck Fork*
Oil Creek*	11	Perry	St. Croix to confluence with

			Ohio River
Otter Creek	17	Jennings, Ripley	Covered Bridge North of Holton to confluence with Vernon Fork Muscatatuck
Patoka River	17	Dubois, Gibson, Pike	Patoka Reservoir to confluence with Wabash River
Pigeon	11, 13	Lagrange	S.R. 327 to Indiana/Michigan Line
Rattlesnake Creek	18, EUW	Fountain	C.R. 350W to confluence with Bear Creek
Rattlesnake Creek	11	Parke	C.R. 400/450S to confluence with Sugar Creek
Roaring Creek	11	Parke	1 mile upstream of S.R. 41 to confluence with Sugar Creek
Sand Creek	17, 20	Bartholomew, Decatur, Jackson, Jennings	Confluence with Cobbs fork to confluence East Fork of White River
Stinking Fork	11	Crawford	Headwaters to confluence with Little Blue River
Sugar Creek	5,7,11,13,16,20	Montgomery, Pike	Darlington Covered Bridge to confluence with Wabash River
Sugar Creek*	11	Johnson, Shelby	Inclusive within Johnson and Shelby Counties
Sugar Mill Creek	17	Fountain, Parke	Wallace to confluence with Sugar Creek
Tippecanoe	5, 13, 16	Carroll, Fulton, Kosciusko, Marshall, Pulaski, Tippecanoe, White	Source (Lake Tippecanoe) to Norway and from Oakdale Dam to the confluence with Wabash River
Turkey Fork	11	Crawford	I-64 to confluence with Little Blue River
Wabash*	22	Adams, Allen, Carroll, Cass, Fountain, Gibson, Huntington, Jay, Knox, Miami, Parke, Posey, Sullivan, Tippecanoe, Vermillion, Vigo, Wabash, Warren, Wells,	Indiana/Ohio Line to confluence with the Ohio River including the Little River and the portage between the Little River and the Maumee River
West Branch Mosquito	11	Harrison	Headwaters to confluence with Mosquito Creek
White, East Fork	5, 11, 13	Bartholomew, Daviess, Dubois, Jackson, Lawrence White River, Martin, Pike	Columbus to confluence with West Fork
White, West Fork*	5, 11, 13	Daviess, Delaware, Gibson, Knox, Greene, Hamilton, Madison, Marion, Morgan, Owen, Randolph	Farmland to confluence with Wabash River
Whitewater*	7,11,13,20	Dearborn, Fayette, Franklin	Cambridge City to Indiana/Ohio line Wayne (West Harrison, OH)
Wildcat Creek	4,7,13,1,7,18 HQW	Carroll, Tippecanoe	S.R. 29 to confluence with Wabash River
Wildcat Creek, Middle	17	Clinton, Tippecanoe	S.R. 26 (Edna Mills) to confluence with Fork Wildcat, South Fork
Wildcat Creek, South	4,7,11,13,17, 18, HQW	Clinton, Tippecanoe	U.S. 421 to confluence with Wildcat Creek Fork

III. HISTORY

In 1993, the Natural Resources Commission adopted its "Outstanding Rivers List for Indiana." The listing was published in the Indiana Register on March 1 of that year as Information Bulletin #4 (16 IR 1677). The listing has also been specifically incorporated by reference into statutes and rules. Notably, the listing is referenced in the standards for utility line crossings within floodways, at [312 IAC 10-5-0.3](#), [312 IAC 10-5-0.6](#), and [312 IAC 10-5-2](#)

through [312 IAC 10-5-4](#). See, also, the general permit for logjam removals at [312 IAC 10-5-6](#) and [312 IAC 10-5-7](#). Except where incorporated into a statute or rule, the listing is intended to provide guidance rather than to have regulatory application.

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