

RMCC SUGGESTED RIVER TRIPS - CLASS I to III

River	Stretch	Class	Days	Time of Year	Comments [APR = Avoid Peak Runoff]	Freq.*
ARKANSAS	Fractions (above Buena Vista)	III(+)	1	May-Aug	APR	R
	Buena Vista Town Run	III-	1	May-Aug	APR	R
	Milk Run (Stone Bridge to Salida)	II+	1	May-Aug	APR - Lowhead dam has boat chute on left	R
	Salida to Rincon	III-	1	May-Aug	APR	R
	Rincon to Vallie Bridge	III-	1	May-Aug	APR	R
	Florence to Pueblo Reservoir	I+	1	May-Aug	APR - twisty with strainers	R
	Pueblo Reservoir Dam thru town	II	1	May-Aug	APR - 1 or 2 dams to portage	R
BLUE	Green Mtn Res Dam to Spring Creek Road	III(+)	1	July-Sept	APR - 2 diversion dam drops and a hopping narrows section; tough put-in is best done with ropes	R
CHAMA	El Vado Res Dam to Big Eddy Take-out	II+(III)	3	May-June (thru Aug on a wet year)	APR - Lottery Permit; Season varies widely by snowpack; weekend releases start late Friday mornings.	F
COLORADO	Pumphouse	III-	.5	May-Sept	APR - often combine 2 of these 3 sections	F
	Red Canyon (Radium to Yarm.Brg)	III-	.5	May-Sept	APR	F
	Yarmony Bridge to State Bridge	II+	.5	May-Sept	APR	F
	State Bridge to Landing Strip	I to II	.5	May-Oct	APR - usually paired with next stretch to Catamount	F
	Landing Strip to Catamount	I	.5	May-Oct	APR - usually start at State Bridge	F
	Catamount to Twin Bridges	II to III-	1	May-Oct	APR - portage Rodeo Rapid (III+ and sharp concrete) on right	U
	Twin Bridges to below Swtwtr Rd.	III-	1	May-Oct	APR - or start earlier at Pinball put-in	O
	Below Sweetwater Rd. to Dotsero	II+	.5	May-Oct	APR	O
	Dotsero to Hanging Lake	I+	1	May-Oct	APR - good beginner run with 3 small rapids	O
	Grizzly Creek to Glenwood Springs (2 Rivers Park)	III-	1	May-Oct	APR	R
	Glenwood to South Canyon	III-	.3	May-Oct	APR - can get very windy; done with Cemetery or Grizzly runs	R
	New Castle to Silt	I+	.7	April-Oct	APR	R
	Rifle to Rulison/Parachute	II+	1	April-Oct	APR	R
	Fruita to Westwater	I to II	2-3	April-Oct	APR - do <12,000cfs; summer's crowded; car vandals at Loma	U
	Cisco Landing to Dewey Bridge	I	1	April-Oct	APR - can do this with next 2 sections	O
Dewey Bridge to about Onion Crk	II	1	April-Oct	APR - can do this with next section	O	
Onion Crk to above Moab	III-	1	April-Oct	APR - also called the Day Run; popular with rafts	O	
Moab to Potash Mine	II?	1	April-Oct	APR	R	
Potash Mine to Spanish Bottom	II?	2-3	April-Oct	APR	R	
DOLORES	Cahone to Slick Rock	III+	2-3	May-earlyJune	MANY rapids; Portage Snaggletooth Rapid - class IV	R
	Slick Rock to Bed Rock	III	3-4	May-earlyJune	Prior section and this 1 depend on big snowpack	O
	Bed Rock or last bit of San Miguel to Gateway	III-	(2-)3	May-June	Runnable due to San Miguel water, even if the Dolores is not getting a release from McPhee Res.	O
EAGLE	Edwards to below Wolcott	II+(III)	1	May-July	APR	R
	Gypsum to Dotsero/BairRanch	II+	1	May-July	APR - No Eagle R. takeout at Dotsero, so add Colo. R. miles	R

GREEN	Below Fontanelle Dam to I-80	II	3	May-Sept?	No camping in Seedskaadee Refuge, so 2 segments; camp twice at the first location below the dam	R
	Flaming Grg Dam to Swallow Cyn	II+(III)	3	May-earlyOct	Must reserve 1st river campsite	O
	Lodore to end of Split Mtn	III+	4-5	May-midOct	APR - Lottery Permit; can't always get 5th day	R
	Deso-Gray, ends @ Green R, UT	III	6-9	April-Oct	Want 1500-6000cfs, but can do less	R
	Labyrinth - Green River, UT or Ruby Ranch to Mineral Bottom	I+	2-4	April-Oct		U
	Stillwater - Min. B. to Spanish Btm	I+	4-6	April-Oct	APR of Colo R last 2 miles; need jet boat up Colo R.	O
GUNNISON	Delta or Escalante Bridge to Whitewater	I-II+	2-3	April-August	APR - usually do a full day of hiking Dominguez Canyon; car vandalism at both ends, so park at motel in Whitewater	U
NIOBRARA	Near Valentine, Nebraska	I+	2	May-Sept	Spring fed river keeps fairly constant cfs	U
N. PLATTE	Six Mile Gap CO/WY line to Treasure Island Rec Site	II+(III)	3	midMay-midJune	APR when BIG snowpack; only runs for a week or less in low snowpack years	O
	Saratoga to I-80	I+(II)	(2-)3	May-earlyJuly	Put in at hot spring or Foote camp ground; great beginner overnigher except for difficulties at diversion dam	O
	Wendover Cyn - Glendo 2 Guernsy	I+(II)	1	May-midSept		U
POUDRE	Bridges	III+	.5	May-Aug	APR - 2nd bridge is dangerous/fatal at higher water	O
	Filter Plant	III-	.5	May-Aug	APR - Very popular	O
RIO GRANDE	Above Creede	III(+?)	1	May-June	Want around 500cfs; River Hill Campground to private trailhead	R
	Wagon Wheel Gap to S. Fork	III-?	1	May-June		R
ROARING FK	Cemetery - S. Glenwood to Colo R	III-	.7	May-July	APR - Usually combine with Colo R to S. Canyon	R
SAN JUAN	Sand I. (Bluff, UT) to Mexican Hat	II(III-)	(2-)3	lateApr-midOct	APR - Lottery Permit; extreme wind can add 1 day; flash floods	O
	Mexican Hat to Clay Hills Crossing	II(III+)	(4-)5	lateApr-midOct	APR - Lottery Permit; extreme wind can add 1 day; flash floods	O
SAN MIGUEL	Ledges - final miles before Dolores	III	1	May-June	APR?	R
S. PLATTE	Below Deckers - Bridge Crossing				APR - Water depends on Cheeseman Res. Release; can start at Scraggy View PG (mid of this run) and continue thru Chutes	R
	Picnic Ground to Pine Creek Rd.	II+	1	May-July?		
	Chutes and a few miles down	III+	.4	May-July?	APR - Chutes are very scary; car portage them to a bad put-in	R
	C470 to Union Chutes	II-III-	1	April-Oct?	APR - river is easy, but man-made drops/chutes are trickier	O
	Brighton to Ft. Lupton	I+	1	April-Oct?	APR - cfs varies; 1 dam portage when gate is down	I
	Evans to Kersey/Kuner	I+	1	midMarch-Oct?	2 dam portages	U
WHITE	Rangely/Bonanza 2 Enron GasWls	I-II	3	May-June(July)	Several put-ins to manage long mileage; shuttle is a maze	U
YAMPA	Craig to Duffy Mtn Ramp	I	2(-3)	midJune-earlyJuly	Want <9000cfs; tough to catch Duffy ramp at >6000cfs; may need to go extra flat/windy miles/half-day to Juniper Hot Spgs	U

NOTES:

1) This document puposefully is not listing class III+ to IV day trips such as Brown's, Shoshone, Westwater, and Numbers which are usually done by the "A" Team (A = Adrenaline-addicted).

2) Information given (especially in the Comments) are parameters designed to help decide if you want to lead a trip. Good points and trip description are left out due to space considerations. They are all good.

3) All trips listed are within a medium day's drive of the Front Range; 455 miles to the San Juan is the longest distance. To go further afield, consider:

- a. Montana - Smith River (lottery permit) or Missouri River
- b. Teton/Jellystone N.P. region - Snake and Yellowstone Rivers
- c. Minnesota - Boundary Waters or Quetico (Canada)
- d. Texas - Rio Grande - several sections in and near Big Bend N.P.
- e. Missouri - Buffalo River
- f. CANADA - Endless possibilities

4) The class rating and other details are subject to variation based upon water levels and many other factors. Other information in this listing is subject to change as well; so do your own research prior to selecting a trip to lead.

* **FREQUENCY (HOW OFTEN IS THIS ON THE CLUB ANNUAL CALENDAR):**

U = Usually - generally every year

O = Occasionally - every couple of years

R = Rarely

Version 2 of this document as of May 6, 2009. Created by Karen Amundson.

Version 3 of this document as of Jan 13, 2013 Amended by Bill Ashworth (added Frequency)