

River Run One:
Row River and
Coast Fork of
the Willamette
River. Cottage
Grove to
Creswell

Map info
updated
9/29/12

Photo data: Fall
2011

**THIS IS A
GUIDE.**
Conditions are
always
changing.

Skill level:

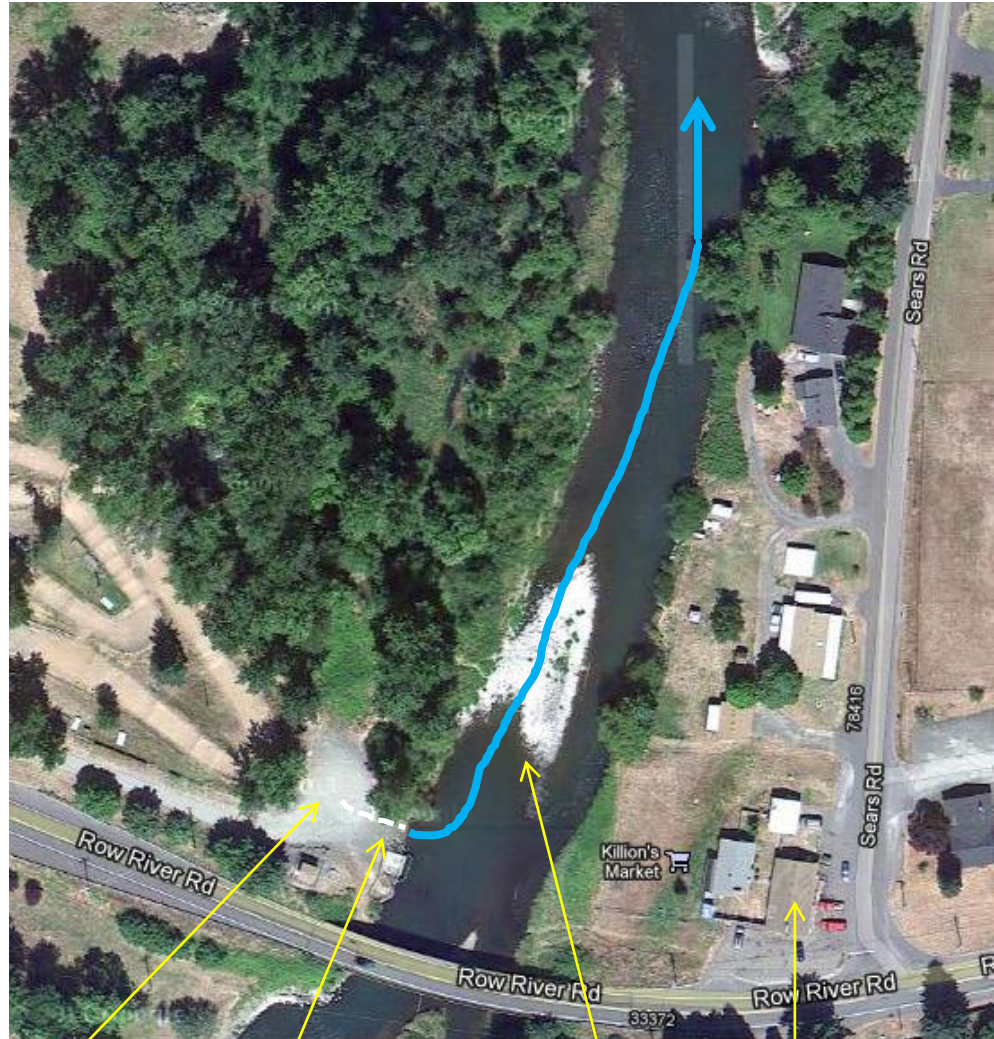
**Class 1 and 2
rapids. Basic
boat control
and safety skills
needed.**

Distance: 10.5
miles

Time: 4 hrs

Season: year
round if water
flow is aprox
**1000cfs to
2500cfs** . check
www.wkcc.org/

Cautions: High
fall winter and
spring runoff
flows. Low
water late
summer and
fall. **Low head
dam below Lynx
Hollow Park**



Parking Put-In Ramp Riffles Food

This is a pleasant and interesting fun run suitable for Canoe, Raft and Recreational Kayak. There are several areas of rural scenery and nature, islands and a mix of short rapids and flat moving water. It features a convenient shuttle along **Sears Road** and can be extended to take outs further downstream. The river **uniquely flows north** and is the threshold of the majestic Willamette River watershed.

Put In location: Exit I-5 at **Cottage Grove** and turn (east) onto **Row River Road**. The **boat landing** is next to the **BMX track** on Row River Rd. just before the **Row River Bridge**. There is ample and safe parking. **Killions Market** is on the corner for supplies.

Take out Location: Exit I-5 at **Creswell** and turn (east) onto **Cloverdale Road**. Just after the **River Bridge** turn right onto **Sears Road** south to the **Cloverdale Wayside** right off Sears Road.

The Shuttle Route on **Sears Road** paralleling the river on the east side.



Riffles

You begin paddling along the **East Regional Park** a nature park buffer on the left Bank. Watch for a few **short riffles** as you start because the current can push you into brush along the left bank.



You will encounter some **riffles** as you pass the Cottage Grove airport on River left.

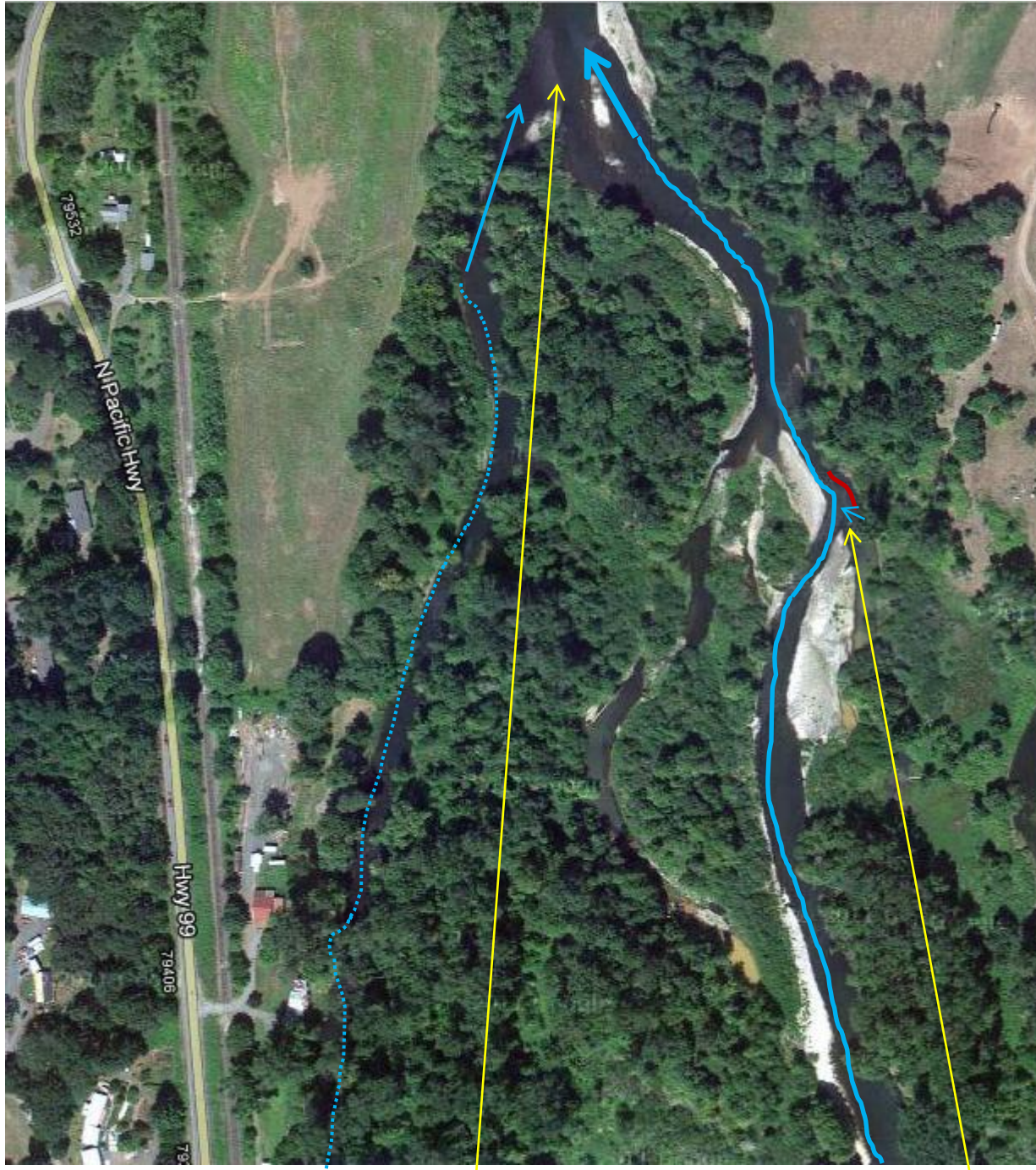
If you are lucky, a plane will pass right over your head as it lands or takes off, depending on the wind.



As you paddle this pretty section you will encounter a short **class 1 rapid** that drops you about a foot or so. There are **rocks on both sides**, but **the current will try to push you into rocks on the right as the river bends left**. This is a nice place for a picnic, pictures or for your group to catch up. The Sears Road shuttle route is next to the river on the right.



As the river bends to the right, you will cross under the I-5 freeway bridge. Watch out for any **brush** that might have collected around the piers. The water can be **shallow** along here, but the shade can be nice on a hot day. There are often ducks here too.



Willamette River

Confluence

Sharp turn stay left

After passing under the I-5 freeway bridge you encounter a very interesting section of the river. There are several sandbars and side channels (depending on river levels and season). **CAUTION:** Watch for a rapid section where the river bends to the right followed by sharp left turn where the current can push you into the eroded right bank. Paddle to stay on river left. Soon after on the **River Left** you will see where the smaller stream of the **Coast Fork of the Willamette** joins the **Row River** to become the main stem of the **Coast Fork of the Willamette**.



Drop rapid

Riffles

This section is quite flat and calm, passing by the **Saginaw Lumber Mill** on the left bank. Soon you pass under the **Saginaw Road Bridge**. There are a couple of **minor riffles** depending on water level. A **drop rapid along the Mill site** can be bumpy but is fun.



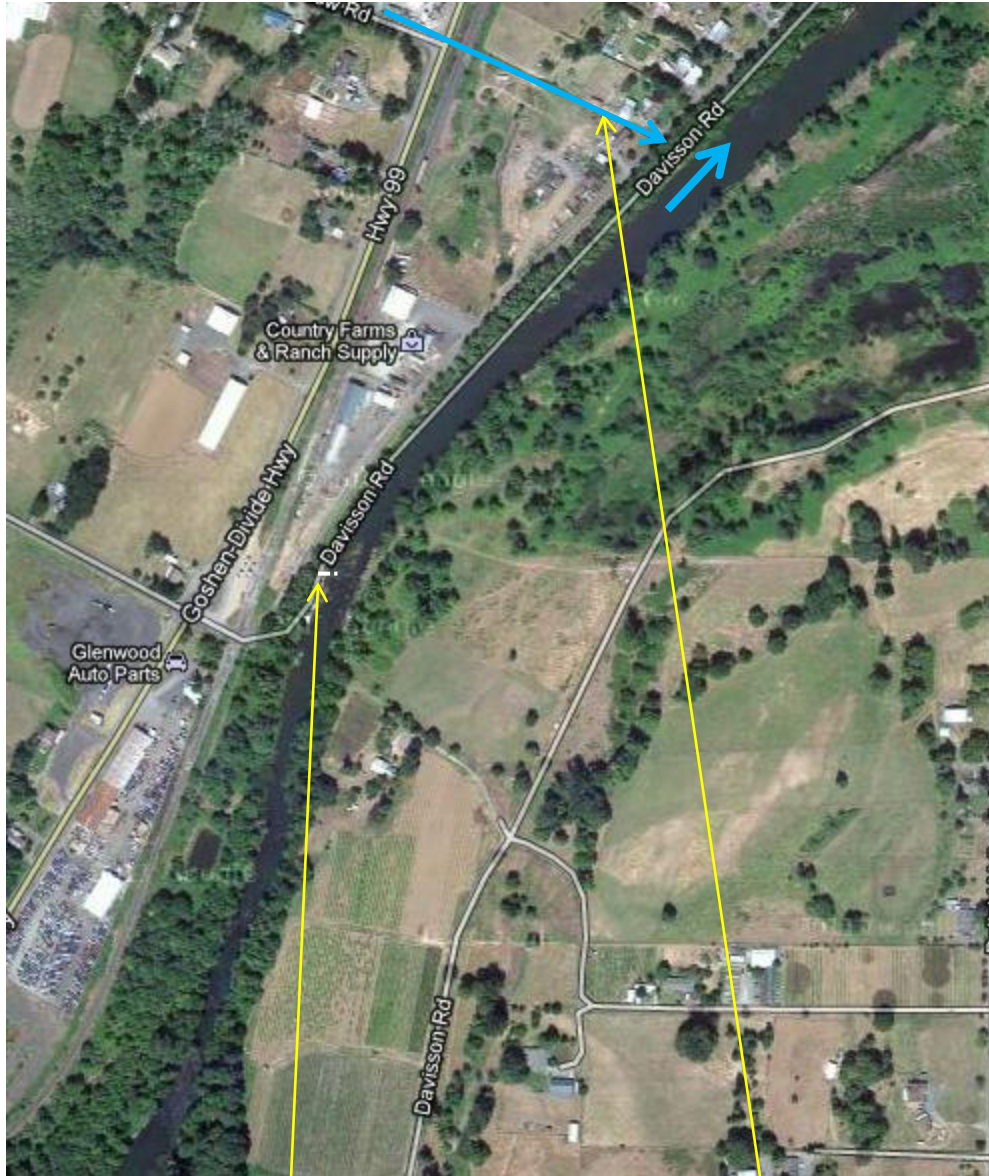
After the Saginaw Bridge, there is a side channel on River Left around a small island you can explore if the river is high enough, but the **main channel stays on River Right**. The second larger **Saginaw Island** also offers an interesting **River Left side channel** to explore with a **short cut** back to the main channel. Lots of photogenic scenery and bird watching along here. (Look for a Rhinoceros on the right bank where the side channel re-joins the main channel.)



Saginaw Island detail Class 1 Rapid Pond Riffles Rhinoceros

(main channel shown in blue)

This is a larger detail of Saginaw Island. It has a couple of ponds, a stream crosses through it and lots of birds and wildlife. **The main river channel stays on River Right** with several **shallow riffles** along the way. **The side channel on River Left** has a **shallow, bumpy Class 1 rapid** as it re-enters the main channel.



River Access

Hill Creek Diversion Channel

After Saginaw Island there is another long quiet stretch of river to practice your flat water paddling. **Davidson Road** parallels the River on the left bank. Watch for the **Hill Creek Diversion Drainage Channel** coming in from the Left Bank. This diversion unfortunately reduces water flow needed by **Garden Lake Park** in Creswell.

There is a small put in/take out on river right along Davisson Rd.



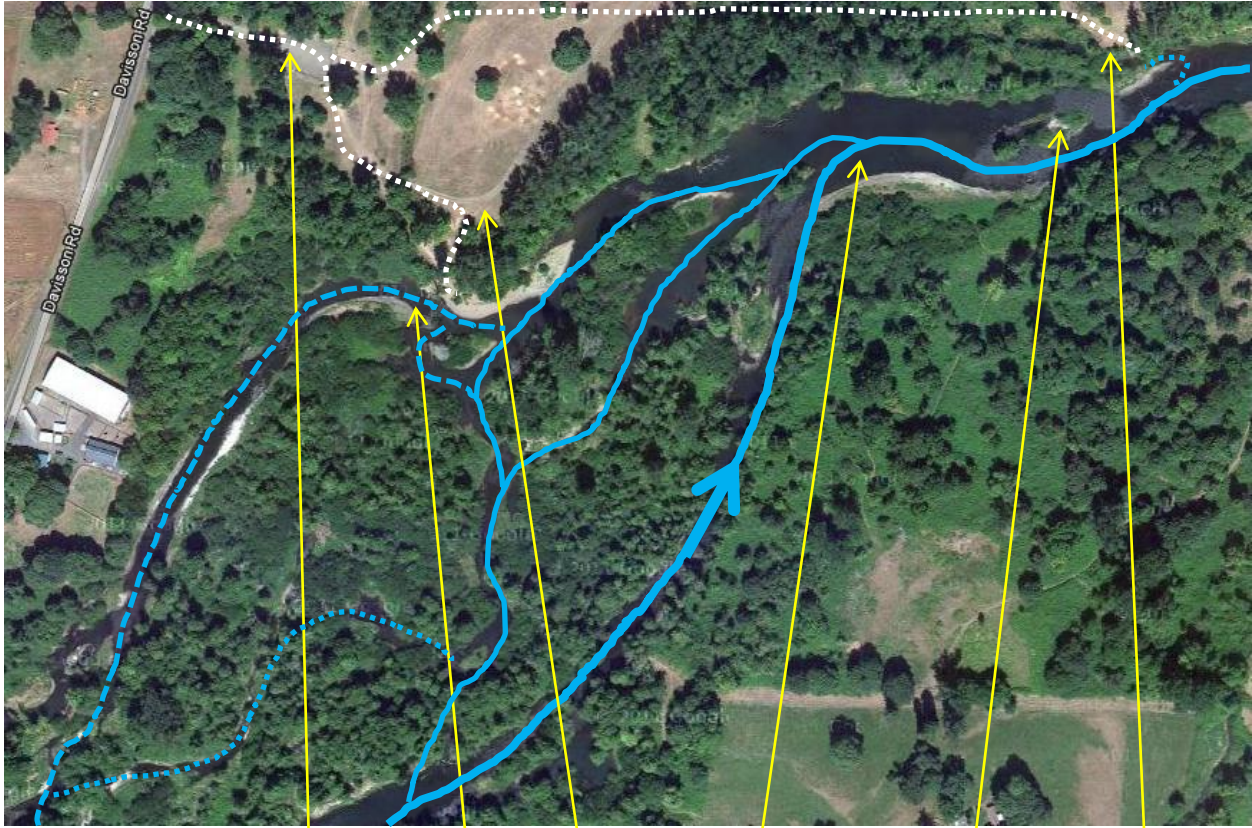
Tree Branches in the water

Shallow sections

Lynx Hollow Park

Another scenic section arrives with braided channels along **Lynx Hollow Park**. The Islands that precede it offers a **River Left side channel** for exploring or **follow the river right main channel**. The main channel splits into two lovely but shallow passages under the trees that rejoin. This is a nice photogenic and wildlife viewing opportunity. Lynx Hollow Park is accessible from **Davisson Road** and has two points of river access for picnicking as well as a walk in **boat ramp**.

There are **tree branches in the water** at one point along the River Left Channel. This is not a strainer, but requires pushing the branches away as you pass through them. Eventually most of the branches will be cut away by boaters.



Lynx Hollow detail Parking Riffles Picnic tables Confluence Snag Island Boat Ramp

(main channel shown in blue)

The river passes **Lynx Hollow Park on the left bank** along the confluence of the side channel re-entering from River Left. The river upstream of the Park offers access to a maze of shallow braided channels and islands depending on water level and is a natural paradise of wildlife. A popular **picnic spot** with picnic tables is along this side channel on the Left bank just pass some riffles. A **walk in Boat Ramp** on the Left bank is easy to miss just downstream of the confluence of the channels. (Watch for a big root snag mid stream as a reference)

CAUTION: If you are inexperienced, have children or an un-maneuverable boat or skills, **This access offers an takeout option to avoid the low head dam downstream and Cougar Mountain rapid but requires carrying your boat a long way to the parking lot.**



Following Lynx Hollow Park downstream is a quiet section of river aside from a riffle and **Low Head Dam** site.

WARNING: This rock dam is INVISIBLE from upstream until you are very close to it. The dam site poses a significant hazard to all boats with rocks and a three foot drop in the river.

Landmark: Watch for some power lines overhead just upstream of the dam.

Safe passage: Approach with caution on river right and bypass the dam. Maneuvering skills are required.

Inexperienced boaters and poor maneuvering boats should scout or portage around the dam on River right upstream to avoid this hazard.

Drop Riffle (Not the old dam)

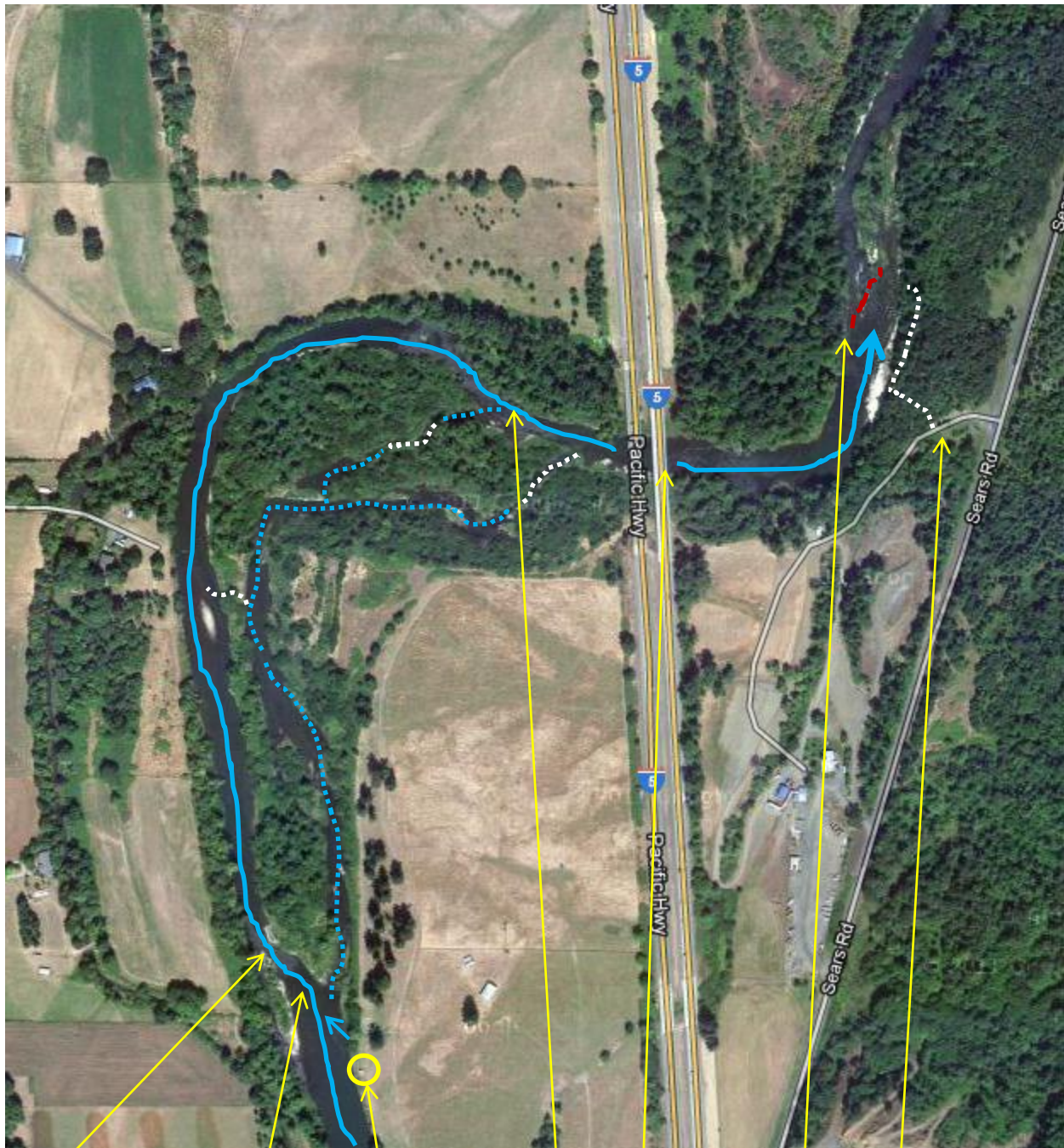


Low head dam

Suggested route

Drop off

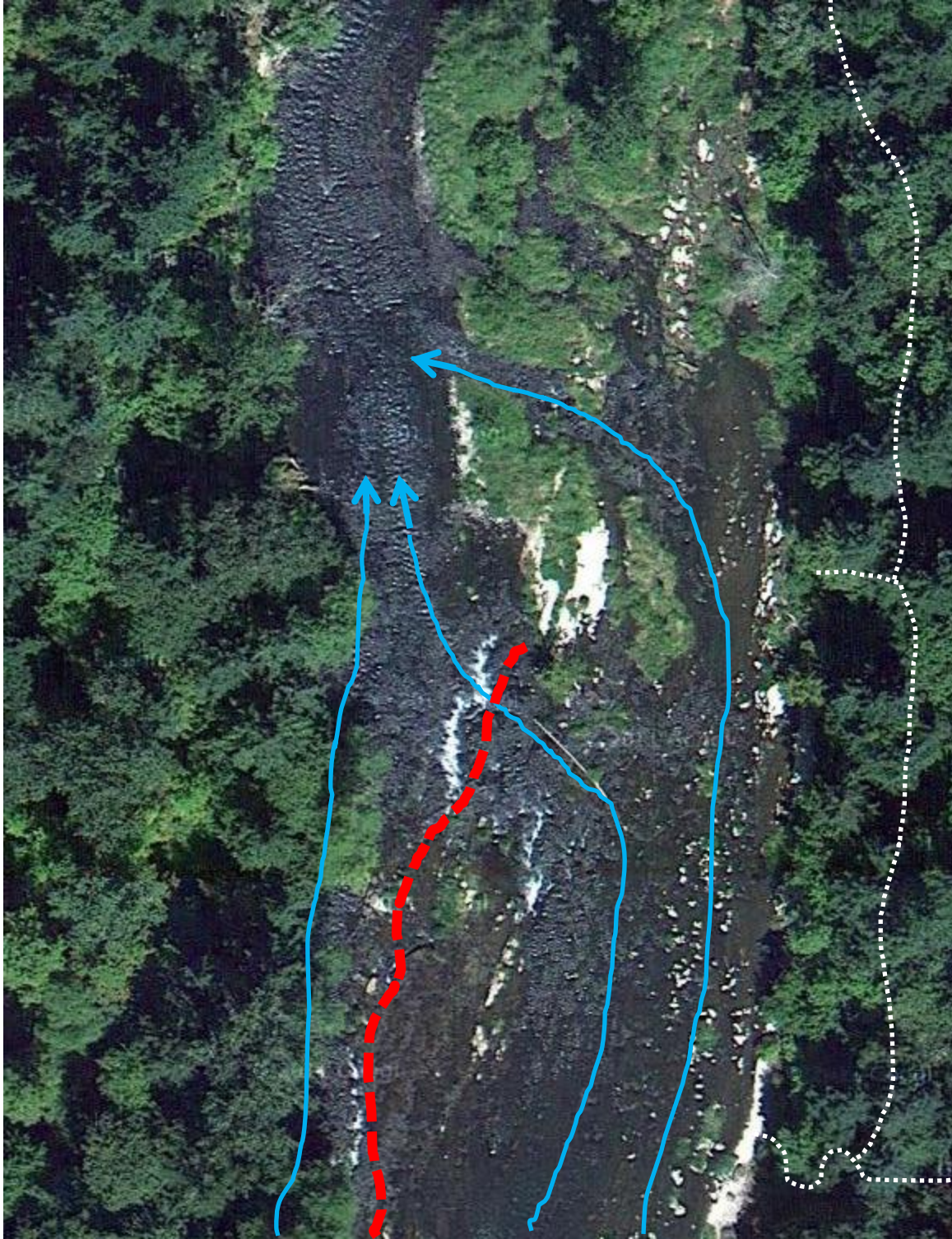
Enter passage from far right and follow the current diagonally through. Avoid the drop off and rocks on the right. Current will increase with the water level. **Avoid going over the dam.**



Riffles Take the left channel Shelter building Riffles I-5 bridge class 2 Rapid Wayside viewpoint

The **River Bend Island** is another nice natural sanctuary with side channels to explore, however the main channel is on River Left and easy to miss (watch for a small shelter building on the right bank) and takes you around the bend. If you find yourself in the braided right channels, try to work your way to the left or you may need to portage or wade back to the main channel.

CAUTION: The river soon takes you back under the **I-5 freeway** and then turns left upstream of **Cougar Mountain Rapid** (Class 2) the only significant rapid on the Coast Fork of the Willamette.



C. Chute (Fast) LEDGE B. Ledge Run A. Bypass (shallow)

Cougar Mountain Rapid detail

Ledge: dash line

Run options: Blue lines

Wayside Trail: White dash line

Because **Cougar Mountain Rapid** appears suddenly around the bend, it can be a surprise for a boater to encounter. It is a shelf drop so it is hard to see from the water. Stay to **River Right** to give yourself the opportunity to wait, observe and position your boat in the calm water upstream. **The current is moving faster on river left.** Recovery is better on river right downstream if needed.

If you want to scout the Rapid, you can beach your boat upstream on **river right** at the **Cougar Mountain Wayside**.

It is also an easy rapid to **scout from the road** during your shuttle. Look for the **Cougar Mountain Wayside Sign** along Sears Road. A trail leads to the river and along the bank downstream.

The rapid consists of a **three foot ledge** that runs down the **center of the river** that requires some navigation and positioning to negotiate.

There are three approaches to navigating this rapid:

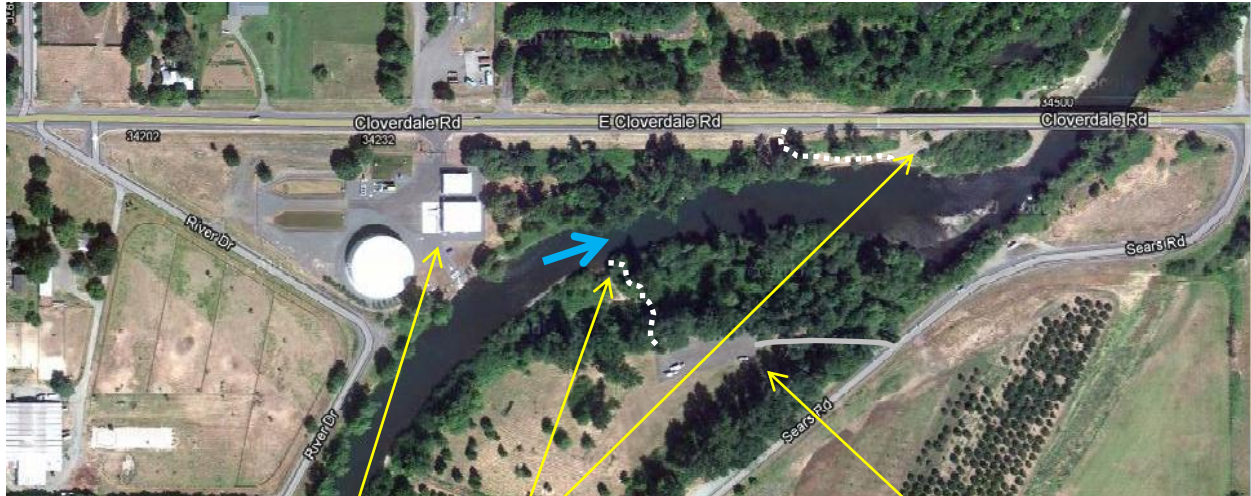
- A. The easiest is to **stay River Right** and outflank the rapid completely. This side of the river is shallow so you can float or portage through a side channel.
- B. You can run the ledge **mid stream at the downstream end of the ledge**. The ledge is lower here and steps you down in steps with less chance of getting hung up on the edge of the ledge.
- C. You can **run the chute on River Left** along a series of **standing waves** and avoid the ledge. This is the most reliable passage at lower water levels. It is also fast since it is in the main current.

This is a good practice rapid and quite fun to run either way. This is a beautiful spot on the river especially when looking back upstream from River Left below the rapids.

NOTE: Previous boaters remember a dangerous snag that intruded on the River Left Chute and caused problems for boaters in the past. That snag is now gone and the rapid is far safer now!! Yay!



The remaining two miles of the river is a quiet paddle along tree shaded banks makes for a restful float with an occasional house and a few a few minor riffles and a chance to practice your strokes or push for the take out at the **Cloverdale Bridge**.



Cloverdale Takeout Buildings Take Out (Put In for Section 2) Parking

As you approach the take out point you will see some **metal buildings** on River Left before you see the **Cloverdale Bridge**. Your take out(s) are **upstream of the bridge**. There is a **rapid downstream** of the bridge so position yourself for the takeout.

You have the option of taking out on **River Right** at a **small clearing** along the bank. This offers a short walk to the parking lot, but you have to watch for it.

You can also take out **on River Left** at a **large gravel clearing** along the bank. You can park along the road or drive around to get your boat. This side can get crowded on hot days.

Once packed up, the I-5 freeway is a short distance west. On the way you will pass a shopping center and the **Creswell Coffee Shop**, Subway restaurant, Rays food Place and Bi-Mart stores. Over the freeway bridge are **gas stations** and more restaurants, even the **Scoops ice cream store** in down town Creswell.

For suggestions and updates to this map contact markmurphy1951@aol.com

Support protection of the Coast Fork of the Willamette River contact: www.Coastfork.org

Eugene Parks and Recreation offers classes in kayaking and water safety: www.Recenroll.org

Be sure you have proper safety equipment and understand water safety rules and signals.

Water conditions are always changing and **new hazards can appear at any time.**

Be sure you are prepared for current water conditions and cold water.

Tell people where you are going and when you will be back.

Never boat alone. Have experienced paddlers with you.

High water flows are not safe for water sports.

Local paddling clubs www.canoe.freeshell.org, www.facebook.com/potluckPaddlers, www.wkcc.org

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