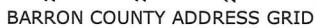


and Tributary Routes Barron County



RED CEDAR RIVER

At Mikana on Red Cedar Lake, the waters of the Red Cedar River begin their southerly journey through the farm county of mid-western Wisconsin, passing through Rice Lake, Cameron, Sand Creek, Colfax, Menomonie, and Downsville before joining with the Chippewa River near Dunnville. The waters of this portion of the stream are very clear and the gravel-covered bottom can be easily seen. Fishing is reported to be good for smallmouth bass, northern pike, walleyes, musky and panfish are also commonly found in the river. Deer, bear, turkeys, bald eagles, osprey, Canadian geese, waterfowl, raccoon, muskrat and ruffed grouse are commonly seen along the banks of the stream. The current ranges from slow to medium. It takes about four and one-half hours to float and paddle from the Red Cedar Lake Dam to the Rice Lake Dam.

Mikana Dam to Red Barn Theatre

7.4 miles - 3 to 4 hours - Only parking available

Put-in at Mikana just below the dam on the Red Cedar Lake. Parking, picnic tables and privy are available at the park north of the dam. The park is located north west of the Hwy 48 bridge in Mikana. If canoeing on Red Cedar Lake near the dam, caution is needed to avoid being sucked into the chute. Some fast water is found downstream from the pool below the dam. Try to avoid the rocky shallows.

Shallow rocky rapids, rated (1), and about 150 yards in length, is encountered about one mile down stream from the dam. Caution barbed wire fences stretched across the river may be encountered. The **Brill River** soon enters on the right bank, and is reported to contain large brown trout. Yet another bridge will cross the river about two miles downstream from the previous one. The **State Highway 48 Bridge** crosses the Red Cedar about one and one-half miles downstream from the last bridge, Red Barn Theatre landing is 1/4 mile south of "48" bridge

Red Barn Theatre to Rice Lake Dam

2.7 miles -1 hour plus (1/2 mile across Rice Lake) Parking and picnic shelter available.

Rice Lake, 1,064 acres in size, was created by a dam on the Red Cedar River. The dam is operated by Barron County and has an 11-foot head. The City of Rice Lake is located on the right shore. Paddle down west shoreline of Rice Lake to dam, portage is at south end of dam. Portage continues west across main street and another half block to river access.

Rice Lake Dam to South Street (Barron County Campus)

1.7 miles - 1 hour - Parking available on the south side of the dam. The river runs through residential and industrial parts of Rice Lake - fishing for small mouth bass can be good.

Access is at the west end of South Street on the east side of river with approximately half block carry from Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College parking lot.

The Red Cedar River winds its way through a level dairy farming area from Rice Lake to the US Highway 8 bridge near Cameron. The current maintains a medium intensity. There are no hazards such as rapids or fences on this stretch of the river, making it a fine one for beginning canoeists. Fishing is reported good for smallmouth bass, walleye, northern pike, and panfish. Wild ducks, Canadian geese and muskrats are often seen swimming along the banks. Total time required for this trip is about three hours.

Meadow Creek enters on the left bank, about three miles downstream from the dam. A bridge crosses the river five miles downstream from Rice Lake. Sawyer landing on the left bank just upstream from the bridge on 19th street.

South Street to Sawyer Landing

2.8 miles - 1.5 hours
Landing of left bank upstream of 19th Street bridge, 3/4 mile downstream of Hwy 53 Bridge.

Sawyer Landing to Johnson Landing (CO W)

3.8 miles - 2 hours - Parking available

Some excellent fishing holes in this stretch. The Rice Lake Airport parallels much of this stretch on east side of river. Barker Creek enters on the right bank, about three miles downstream from the bridge mentioned above. Just downstream from the creek, a railroad bridge crosses the river. An active railroad trestle crosses the river approximately 3/4 mile upstream from County "W". Johnson Landing on right bank just below County "W" bridge.

Take-out at the County "W" (Johnson Landing) bridge, on the downstream side, right bank. You may want to visit the Barron County Historical Museum (open Thursday-Sunday 1:00 PM-5:00 PM; Memorial Day through Labor Day), located about one half mile east on County "W". The City of Cameron is found two miles east at the Junction of Highway 8 and County "SS".

Floating down the Red Cedar River is a fine way to spend a summer afternoon. The current maintains a steady pace and will carry your canoe along at about two and one-half miles per hour. This stretch of the river flows through level farmland along well-wooded banks. There are no rapids; thus this trip is fine for beginners or a family outing. Muskrats, wild ducks, Bald Eagles, Osprey, Canadian Geese and Great Blue Herons are often seen along the river. The Red Cedar is often noted for its good smallmouth bass fishing, although northern pike, walleyes, musky and panfish are also caught in the river. About four and one-half hours are required to float from County "W" bridge near Cameron to the County "I" bridge near Chetek.

Johnson Landing to "OO" Landing

4.7 miles - 3 hours

Put-in at the County "W" (Johnson Landing), located about two miles west of Cameron. The landing is on the west bank on the downstream side of the bridge. Highway 8 bridge is passed under about two miles downstream from County "W".

Cranberry Creek enters on the left bank about one-half mile downstream from the Highway 8 bridge. It is believed to have been an older channel of the Red Cedar River. Try fishing for northern pike here.

The Yellow River, containing smallmouth bass and northern pike, joins the Red Cedar on the right bank about two miles downstream from the town road bridge. An island is found just upstream from its mouth. The County "OO" bridge crosses the river less than a mile downstream from the mouth of the Yellow River.

"OO" landing to County "D" landing

4.0 miles - 2 .5 hours

"OO" landing of left bank upstream bridge on County "OO". Parking, picnic tables, privy and ramped access are available. Upgrade at this landing was an Eagle Scout project done by Jordan Braun in 2004/2005.

Brown Creek contains only minnows, and enters on the right bank about three-quarters mile downstream from the County "OO" bridge. Many small islands are found in the next five miles of stream. Explore the narrower channels if the water is high.

Some excellent fishing holes in this stretch. Landing is approximately 100 yds below County "D" on right (west) side of river.

County "D" to County "I"

2.7 miles - 1.5 hours

Isolated and wooded much of this stretch. No road crossings in this stretch. "I" landing is on right side of river just down stream from "I" bridge. The City of Chetek is located three miles to the northeast.

The Red Cedar River's many small wooded islands with interwinding channels characterize the river from County "I" near Chetek to the Village of Sand Creek. The current will carry your canoe along at a steady rate and little paddling will be necessary. The banks are wooded with pine and maple, and occasional farmsteads can be seen from the river. Wood Ducks, Mallards, Blue-Winged Teal, Bald Eagles, Osprey, Canadian Geese, deer and muskrats are the most common forms of wildlife seen by canoeists on this piece of the river. Try your luck for smallmouth bass and walleyes. Lack of rapids makes this stretch a good route for beginners. About four to five hours are required to float this trip on the Red Cedar. Nearest campground is Myron Park, located along the west bank of the river on County "I", north of Sand Creek.

County "I" to County's A&I"

4.0 miles - 2.5 hours

Put in at the County "I" bridge three miles south of Chetek.

The Chetek River enters approximately 1.8 miles downstream from "I" landing, water quality of river changes drastically. "A&I" landing is on the left 200 yds upstream from "A" bridge, this is the last Barron County access on the river. Dunn County's Myron Park with camping, picnic and launch facilities is approximately six miles downstream; the Village of Sand Creek is another three miles.

Tributary Routes

Brill River

County "V" to Red Barn Theater

Put in at County "V" parking at locally maintained wayside at junction of County "V" and 23 1/2 Street. Brown trout fishing first two miles or so, changing to smallmouth bass and northern pike as approach to Red Cedar River. 4.80 miles to Red Cedar River and 3.0 miles of Red Cedar River; a total trip of 7.80 miles, take out at Red Barn Theater.

Yellow River

Put in at City Park on east side of river, south of LaSalle Avenue in City of Barron. Float 6.50 miles on the Yellow River and .85 miles down Red Cedar to "OO" landing. Excellent smallmouth bass and northern pike fishing, about 4.0 hour trip (depends on fishing).

Chetek River

Put in below dam in City of Chetek off Water Street. 5.0 miles to Red Cedar River and an additional 1.7 miles to "A&I" landing. Some fishing opportunities, poor water quality, may have "aroma" in heat of the summer. Heavily used in fall for duck hunt floats. Two private campgrounds on River, below HWY 53.