

Weiser River Trip Report

Midvale to Galloway dam, Idaho, 23.5 miles

May 29-30 2016 1000 cfs on Weiser gage

Recommended for: small light rafts (at this flow- regular rafts alright at higher flows), kayaks, IK's, whitewater canoes

Class II+ rocky river, remote canyon, technical, whitewater

Put in: In Midvale turn east on Bridge St., go over river on bridge to the next street and turn left then left again and down to the gravel/dirt boat ramp. Beware dog ticks. No facilities.

Take out: Galloway dam approx. 9 miles east of Weiser on Weiser River road, paved boat ramp. Also possible to take out at Presley trailhead for the Weiser river trail 1 mile upstream, no ramp, 4x4 road down to rocky riverside on downstream side of parking area.

Shuttle available from Frontier Motel in Cambridge (208) 257-3851

The trip starts out in open farm land with some maneuvering around islands with a fair current. But don't be fooled into thinking this is a flatwater trip, after a little over 3 miles the river leaves the farmland and enters a scenic roadless canyon where the Weiser River rail trail meets up with the river and stays alongside for the rest of the trip. Here the pace picks up and the rock dodging begins. At our flows around 1000 cfs., rafts found it tricky to avoid somewhat



continuous surface boulders with a couple of decent rapids and drops. Smaller more nimble boats would enjoy this flow and higher flow would eliminate a lot of the nuisance rocks and increase the whitewater waves. Around mile 6.2 there is a campsite with picnic table on river left. On river right at about 11 miles there is an improved campsite at Thousand Springs creek with picnic table, bench, fire place, and porta potty nearby, this spot is shared with the Weiser river trail users and may be taken. There are several possible campsites on right and left after this in the next few miles. Around mile 15 there is a shady camp on river right with a picnic table and fire pit. All camps are small with just a few tent sites but it is possible to pitch a tent

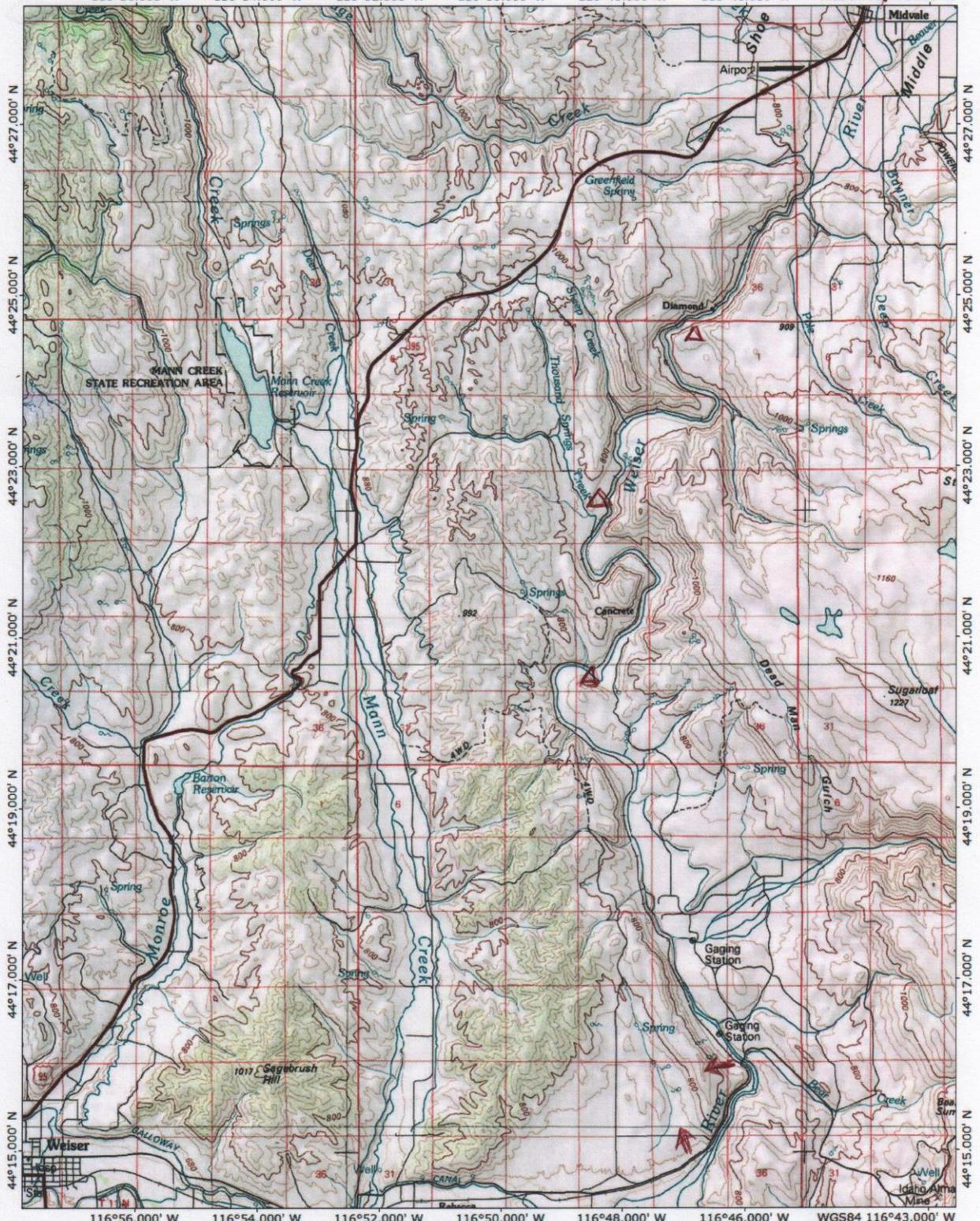
on the flat road bed for the Weiser River Trail. After mile 12 the river mellows out and around mile 16 the canyon opens up and the river becomes flatter. After about 22 miles there is a bridge crossing the river and the Presley Trailhead take out is about a half mile further on the right just where the river separates into 3 channels. I recommend taking the center channel to continue the last mile down to Galloway dam, the far left goes over a diversion dam. We did this on Memorial Day weekend and we only saw one other person the whole trip, a bicyclist on the trail. The scenery rivals that of the Grande Ronde with basalt cliffs and isolation. This stretch is endangered by a proposed dam so go give it a try and spread the word.

By Karin Didisse



116°56.000' W 116°54.000' W 116°52.000' W 116°50.000' W 116°48.000' W 116°46.000' W WGS84 116°43.000' W

Put In



0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 miles
0 1 2 3 4 5 km

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