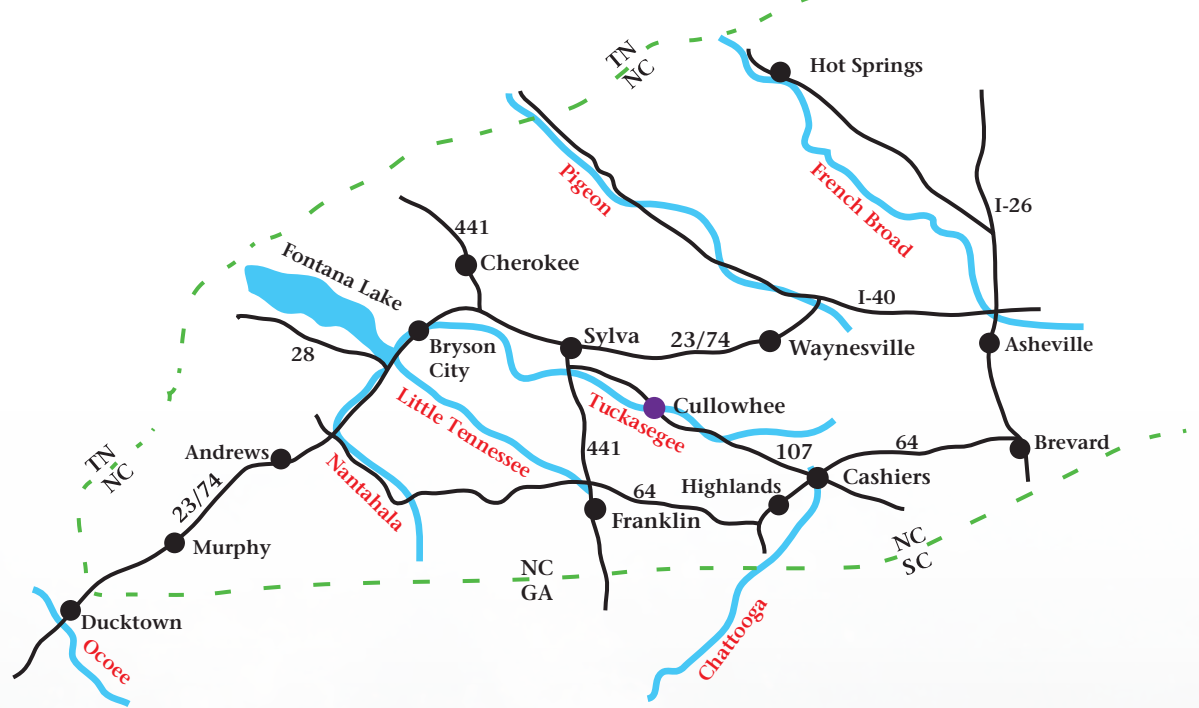


Where Whee Paddle



Western Carolina University is a whitewater epicenter. Within an hour and a half of the WCU Campus in Cullowhee, whitewater paddlers can find the entire gambit of runs. With local resources ranging from Class I – Class VI, from park and play to park and huck and everything in between, WCU has easy access to it all. The focus of this brochure is to provide vital beta to beginning and intermediate paddlers.

ATTENTION:

Paddle sports can be very dangerous and physically demanding. All paddlers should understand that participating in paddle sports may involve serious injury or death. Participants should have proper training and equipment prior to engaging in paddle sports.

A Little Note on Leave No Trace (LNT)

When visiting a river it is important to practice Leave No Trace ethics. Please don't litter or damage any of the beautiful surroundings. Remember to plan ahead and prepare, travel and camp on durable surfaces, leave what you find, properly dispose of waste, minimize campfire impact, and respect wildlife and other visitors. Respect landowners and other river locals. Research regulations are for each area you visit as they may be different.

Gear

All paddlers will need a kayak, skirt, helmet, paddle, personal flotation device, appropriate layers, and safety equipment prior to a trip.

Additional Resources:

American Whitewater: | americanwhitewater.org
 Boating Beta | boatingbeta.com
 Boatertalk | boatertalk.com
 Carolina Canoe Club | carolinacanoecub.org

North Carolina Rivers and Creeks, by Leland Davis

Parks & Recreation Management

Students in the Parks & Recreation Management major have produced this guide. For more information about the PRM program contact us at: 828.227.7310 or visit our website at: wcu.edu/9094.asp

Base Camp Cullowhee

Not ready to explore on your own? Or would like to try a new outdoor adventure? Need to rent outdoor gear for your next adventure? WCU's Base Camp Cullowhee (BCC) provides an array of outdoor program services, which include recreation trips, outdoor gear rental, and experiential education services. Contact BCC at 828.227-3633 or visit their website: www.wcu.edu/8984.asp

Want to Learn How to Paddle?

- Base Camp Cullowhee (BCC) offers weekly rolling clinics and trips. Check them out: <http://www.wcu.edu/8984.asp>
- PRM offers classes each year, look for PRM 254: Introduction to Outdoor Pursuits, PRM 352: Beginner-Intermediate Kayak and PRM 426: Water Based Outdoor Pursuits Education.

Want to try whitewater with a group? BCC offers whitewater rafting trips for students.

Author Bios:

Justin Kleberg – Extreme whitewater enthusiast and advocate, Kleberg splits his time between the rivers of western NC and WV.

Ben David Jacob – Climbing rock and kayaking whitewater since 2008, he has found these brochures as well as locals to be a wealth of whitewater knowledge.

Paul Killian –NOC Trip Leader and Ropes Course Facilitator who relocated to NC for the abundance of whitewater resources.

Kim Miller – Kim is a raft guide for the NOC. She is studying Parks and Recreation here at WCU.

Katie Mosier - Climber, hiker, paddler, snowboarder and PRM major.



Cullowhee Adventure Guide Produced by:
 PRM 434: High Adventure Travel Spring 2011

Whitewater Paddling

Where Whee Play



Guide to 7 Local Whitewater Rivers
 Paddling Resources
 Info on Gear

TUCKASEGEE

Class II
Beginner to Intermediate
Park & Play

The Tuckasegee is our local river here in Cullowhee. With headwaters beginning in the Panthertown Valley, the Tuck flows through several different sections. With the Tuck Gorge and the Eternity Hole being the two closest whitewater resources to WCU, this is a premier location to begin paddling. Commercial rafting is also available.

Gorge

Class: Class II
Length: 4.4 Mile stretch
Level: 800 cfs min
Put-in: Dillsboro
Take-out: Barkers Creek Rd., Tuckasegee Outfitters
Distance from WCU: 8 miles, 15 minutes

Eternity Hole

Class: Class II
Length: Park and play
Level: Duke Energy schedules releases duke-energy.com/lakes/nantahala/nan-scheduled-flow-releases.asp 866.332.5253
Parking: 1 mile up Shook Cove Rd.
Distance from WCU: 11 Miles, 15 minutes

Cullowhee Canoe Slalom

Test your paddling skills at the annual canoe slalom held on the Tuckasegee River in Cullowhee each September. The course is beginner friendly and you can paddle a canoe, kayak, or paddle board. Contact the PRM program for more information.



LITTLE TENNESSEE

Class I-II
Beginner

This run, flowing into Fontana Lake, is best done during the winter months while the lake is low. The float trip is mostly class I-II and is perfect for anyone worried about getting in over their heads. This stretch is great to learn surfing and getting familiar with a kayak. No commercial rafting is available.

Class: Class I-II
Length: 6.5 Miles
Level: 500-2000 cfs
Put-in: Needmore Road
Take-out: Fontana Lake
Distance from WCU: 30 miles, 40 minutes



NANTAHALA

Class II-III +
Beginner to Advanced

The Nantahala River is a step above the Tuck. With several different sections, the Nanty is another local resource on which aspiring paddlers can hone their skills. With park and play, river running, and meat hucking all available within the gorge, the Nanty is a must boat river. Scheduled releases throughout the warmer months make this run a southeastern classic. Commercial rafting is also available.

Gorge

Class: Class II-III
Length: 7.8 Miles
Level: Duke Energy schedules releases duke-energy.com/lakes/nantahala/nan-scheduled-flow-releases.asp 866.332.5253
Put-In: Beechertown
Take-out: Wesser
Distance from WCU: 44 miles, 53 minutes

Upper

Class: Class III-III+
Length: 3.3 Miles
Level: 250-500 cfs
Put-in: sr 1310 bridge below Cascades
Take-out: Beechertown
Distance from WCU: 48 miles, 60 minutes

NOC Store Wave

Class: Class III
Length: Park and Play
Level: Duke Energy Schedules Releases duke-energy.com/lakes/nantahala/nan-scheduled-flow-releases.asp 866.332.5253
Parking: NOC
Distance from WCU: 36 miles, 43 minutes

PIGEON

Class III
Intermediate to Advanced

This roadside run, skirting I-40, is a staple summer run in the southeast. The class III nature and quick shuttle makes for an easy afternoon run.

Class: Class III
Length: 4.4 Miles
Level: 400 + cfs
Put-in: Waterville Power Plant
Take-out: Hartford
Distance from WCU: 62 miles, 70 minutes

CHATTOOGA

Class II-V
Beginner to Advanced

Perhaps the most iconic river in the southeast, the Chattooga is a staple run for southeast paddlers. Located on the Georgia/South Carolina border, this natural flow river ranges from mild to wild, all dependent upon rain and water levels. Difficulty increases as paddlers work their way toward Lake Tugaloo, with the Five Falls of Section 4 before the 2 mile lake paddle to the take-out. Commercial rafting is also available.

Section 2

Class: II (III-)
Length: 5.7 miles
Level: 1'+ on US 76 Bridge Gauge
Put-in: Long Bottom Ford
Take-out: Earl's Ford
Distance from WCU: 86 miles, 120 minutes

Section 3

Class: III (IV)
Length: 12 Miles
Level: 1.5' – 3' on US 76 Bridge Gauge
Put-in: Earl's Ford
Take-out: US 76 Bridge
Distance from WCU: 56 Miles, 80 minutes

Section 4

Class: IV (.5'-1.6')
IV (V) (1.7'-2.5')
V (2.5'+)
Length: 6.3 Miles
Level: 1'-3' on US 76 Bridge Gauge
Put-in: US 76
Take-out: Tugaloo Lake Boat Ramp
Distance from WCU: 50 miles, 70 minute



OCOEE

Class III-IV
Intermediate to Advanced

The Ocoee River is a continuous class III located just across the border into Tennessee. With roadside access, scheduled summer releases, and an open community of core paddlers, the Ocoee is a rip-roaring good time. Commercial rafting is also available, and all hard boaters should be warned about the floating undercuts.

Upper

Class: Class III-IV
Length: 5 miles
Level: 900 cfs – 6000 cfs
Put-in: Ocoee #3 Dam
Take-out: Ocoee #2 Dam
Distance from WCU: 102 Miles, 115 minutes

FRENCH BROAD

Class II-IV
Beginner to Advanced

Located outside of Asheville, this class III run is always runnable. With higher water translating to bigger waves and a rowdier ride it is a run best tackled with flow. This unusually wide river provides for a variety of lines. Commercial rafting is also available.

Section 9

Class: III-IV
Length: 8.2 miles
Level: Any
Put-in: Barnard
Take-out: Hot Springs
Distance from WCU: 64 miles, 90 mintues

The Ledges

Class: II
Length: Park and Play
Level: 1700+ cfs
Parking: Riverside Drive, Asheville
Distance from WCU: 69 miles, 80 minutes

Alexander Wave

Class: II
Length: Park and play
Level: 2000 cfs – 4000 cfs
Parking: Alexander Bridge
Distance from WCU: 140 miles, 150 minutes

