

# River Level Interpretations for Paddling

## Very High

Water levels and conditions make it dangerous to paddle.

- Water is overflowing the bank and conditions are dangerous.
- Water is flowing so fast that paddlers are not able to safely launch, paddle, and land their watercraft.
- Rocks and fallen trees that are usually visible are hidden and potentially unavoidable.
- Paddling should not be attempted in these conditions.

## High

Water is flowing swiftly and levels are higher than normal. Only intermediate to experienced paddlers should attempt paddling.

- Water is high and moving faster than usual, but still in the river channel.
- Intermediate and experienced paddlers should use extra caution.
- New or inexperienced paddlers should not attempt paddling in these conditions.

## Medium

Water levels and rate of flow are ideal for paddling.

- Water is in its normal river channel and conditions are ideal for paddling.
- Rocks and fallen trees are generally visible and can be avoided.
- Paddlers of all experience levels should be able to paddle stretches without rapids. New or inexperienced paddlers should consult Water Trail maps to avoid Class II-VI rapids.

## Low

Water levels are low and paddlers should be on the lookout for rocks and fallen trees.

- Rocks and fallen trees are near or above the water and may present hazards or inconveniences.
- Watercraft may hit bottom, but paddling is generally possible.
- Paddling may be difficult unless paddlers are experienced enough to find the deeper portions of the river.

## Scrapable

Impact with rocks and trees is likely, as is walking in the water to pull your watercraft.

- Rocks and fallen trees are visible. Impact or scraping the bottom is likely.
- Portions of the river may be clogged with plant growth.
- Due to low water levels and discharge, paddlers may need to occasionally walk in the water and drag their watercraft.