The Baraboo River

The Baraboo River is recovering after removal of the last dam that impeded fish passage into up-stream waters. Native Americans praised the fishery and local newspapers in the 1860s reported 30-pound northern pike, sturgeon full of bass and catfish, and 100-pound sturgeon being caught.

At the same time, the Baraboo River was once again a free-flowing river. An effort began in the mid-1990s to remove the dams and restore the river. The Baraboo is once again a free-flowing river. An effort began in the mid-1990s to restore the river through dam removal. Now recognized nationally, the Baraboo is the longest free-flowing river in the midwestern United States. The Baraboo River fishery is recovering after removal of the last dam.

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BARRABOO RIVER PADDLING SEGMENTS

PADDLE BASICS: Rock Springs: The landing and parking are located off Cty Rd. DD just south of Hwy 136 bridge in Rock Springs. Restrooms are located in the park.

RIVER ACCESS & PARKING:
- Union Center: Park at the 400 Trail parking lot or Spring Valley Center.

RIVER FEATURES:
- Union Center: 3rd Castle, a 300 foot rock outcrop located just outside of town. The river parallels the 400 bike trail.

PADDLE BASICS: LaValle to Reedsburg
- 14 miles; 6 hour trip.
- Numerous log jams lengthen this trip and may require you to carry your boat around them. Small rapids in LaValle at trips, try to go left.

RIVER ACCESS & PARKING:
- Rock Springs: Located off South Walnut Street south of the railroad tracks. Watch for signs and turn right through the alley past the Public Works garage. Park at the landing. No restrooms.
- Reedsburg: The landing and parking are located off Cty R. 10 just south of this bridge to Rock Springs. Restrooms are located across the street in the park.

RIVER FEATURES:
- The river parallels the 400 bike trail from LaValle to Reedsburg. The trail provides an excellent bicycle shuttle route.
- This stretch of the river is a bird eagle nesting area.
- Numerous old bridges still evident.

PADDLE BASICS: Glenville Landing
- 26 miles total length; 12 hour trip total.
- Numerous old bridges still evident.

RIVER FEATURES:
- The last dams on river were removed between 1996 - 2001 to broaden the riverbed. Water flows below 250 cfs can make passage difficult due to exposed rocks.
- This section is generally free of any obstacles to navigation.

PADDLE BASICS: Glenville Landing to Wisconsin River
- 26 miles; 8 hour trip.
- Numerous old bridges still evident.

RIVER FEATURES:
- The river parallels the 400 bike trail from LaValle to Reedsburg. The trail provides an excellent bicycle shuttle route.
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PADDLE BASICS: Union Center
- 7 miles; 3 hour trip.
- Easy paddling with gentle current. A easy paddling. River turns sharply west at the mouth of the Baraboo Bluffs. A 15-foot elevation drop in the next 5 miles of river creates many riffle areas and small Class II rapids or high water. Water flows below 250 cfs can make passage difficult due to exposed rocks.

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