

Water classifications

- **Class A** - Still water with no perceptible movement such as ponds and lakes.
- **Class I** - Easy. Smooth water with light riffles, clear passages, and gentle curves. The most difficult problem you might incur is paddling around bridges and other obvious obstructions such as fallen trees.
- **Class II** - Moderate. Medium-quick water with rapids and regular waves. There are clear and open passages between rocks and ledges. There is maneuvering required and is best handled by intermediates who can read the water and maneuver kayaks.
- **Class III** - Moderately difficult. Many high and irregular waves with rocks and eddies. The passages are clear but narrow and require experience to maneuver. Visual inspection of the route is required if rapids are unknown. These rapids are best left to kayakers with expert skills.
- **Class IV** - Difficult. Long and powerful rapids, standing waves, and boiling eddies. Powerful and precise maneuvering is required. Visual inspection is mandatory. Advance preparations for possible rescue work are important.
- **Class V** - Extremely difficult. Long and violent rapids that follow each other almost without interruption. The river is filled with obstructions, big drops, and violent currents. Rescue preparations are mandatory. Can be run only by top experts in specially equipped whitewater kayaks.
- **Class VI** - Extraordinarily difficult. Paddlers face constant threat of death because of extreme danger. Navigable only when water levels and conditions are favorable. Every safety precaution must be taken.