

RMCC North Platte River - Glendo to Guernsey



Overview: This float starts on the North Platte River near the Glendo Power Plant and finishes at the Wendover train stop just north of Guernsey Reservoir. This stretch of the North Platte flows through beautiful Wendover Canyon. At this time of year, water is released from Glendo Reservoir assuring substantial flows of around 3000-5000 cfs. https://www.usbr.gov/gp-bin/hydromet_arcplt30.pl?GLER&IN&QD

Class: Class I+ with one wave train that is a class II. The river in this stretch is wide with ample opportunity to avoid rocks and strainers, but it does move swiftly at 5000 cfs. Prior moving water

experience is required. The optional wave train (the haystacks) are on river right and have a large eddy on river left (See the map on the last page). This means you can go through the waves, eddy out, and get in line to run them again. It is best to put any equipment you have on shore before running the haystacks.

Important!!!: All boats used in Wyoming must have the Game & Fish Invasive Species Decal and must be inspected when entering Wyoming.

1. Wyoming Decal: If you are floating a boat in Wyoming, you need to purchase an invasive species decal. Only inflatables of 10 feet or less are exempt. You can purchase the decal for \$15.00 at the link below or at any store in Wyoming that sells fishing licenses.

<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Fishing-and-Boating/Aquatic-Invasive-Species-Prevention>

If you order online, you need to have a printer so you can print a receipt that is good for 15 days. They will mail you the actual decal within 10 days. You need a separate sticker for each boat you float in Wyoming. The money goes to trying to keep invasive species out of Wyoming.

2. Wyoming Inspection: All boats have to stop and be inspected as they enter the state during the summer months. That includes canoes and kayaks. The inspection stations are only open certain hours, so you will have to plan your trips accordingly. This will affect all floats on the North Platte. If you plan on driving up I-25 to Cheyenne, then the inspection station is at the Port of Entry, 6 miles north of the border. It is open on these hours:

- Friday: 5:30 am to 8:30 pm
- Saturday: 5:30 am to 8:30 pm
- Other days: 7:30 am to 6:30 pm

More information is available at: <http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/fishing-1001290.aspx/>

Safety:

- PFDs are required on all Poudre Paddler events
- Drink lots of water
- Do not tie children or pets to the boat
- Rescue people first, equipment second
- Keep between lead boat and sweep boat
- Use sunscreen, hat, and sunglasses
- Bring a throw rope if you have one
- Bring a personal first aid kit if you have one
- Bring a cell phone if you have one (and keep it in a sealed bag/container)
- There are rattlesnakes in this area, so watch where you step
- Bring lunch, drinks and enough snacks for the whole day

Itinerary:

Friday and Saturday: We will be camping at Two Moon Campground. You can arrive any time on Friday. Most of the sites are first come, first served. If you'll be arriving late, you might want to consider camping elsewhere and meeting us at the put-in on Saturday morning. If you have time, you may want to paddle in Glendo Reservoir. <http://wyoparks.state.wy.us/Site/SiteInfo.aspx?siteID=6>

Directions to Two Moon Campground -

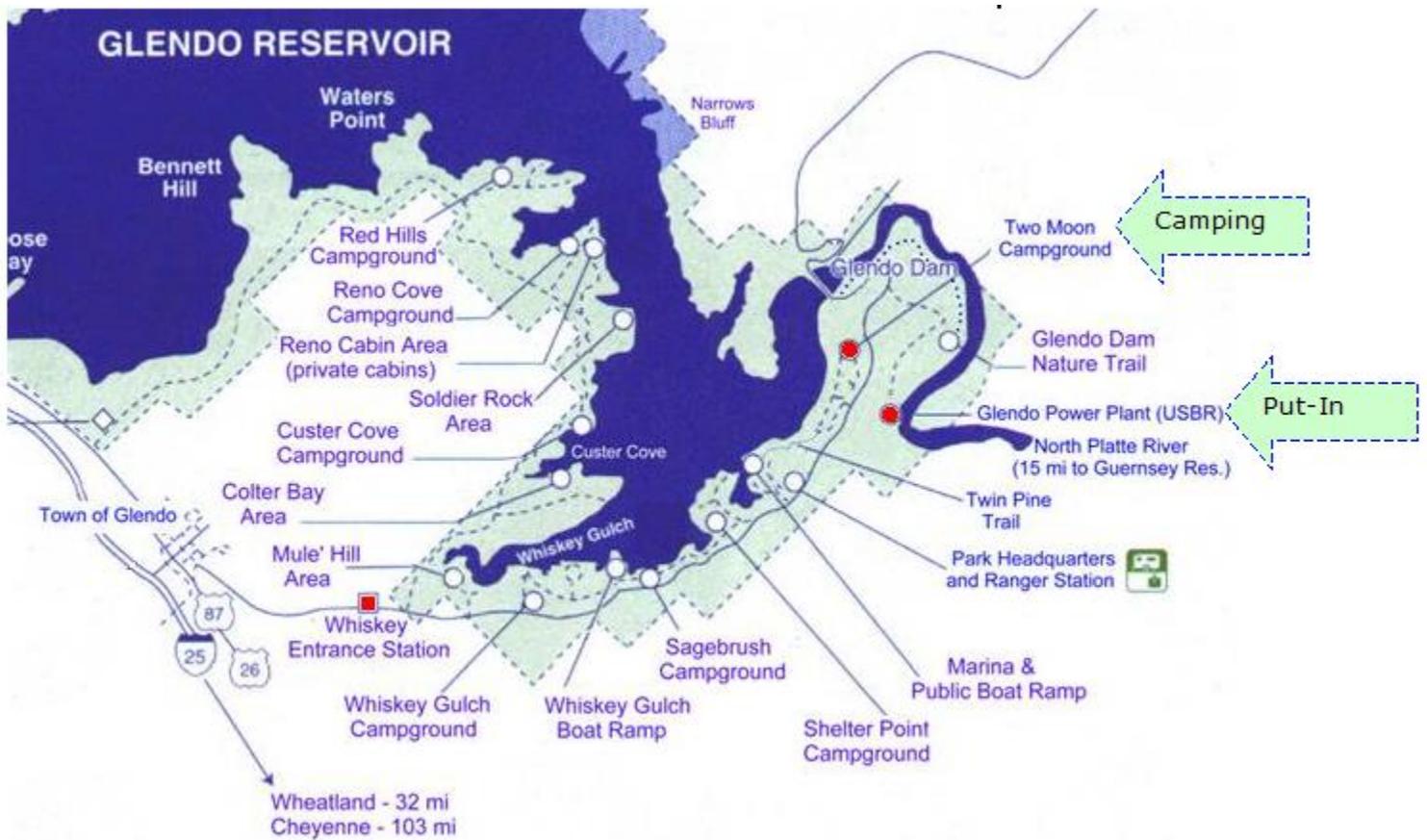
Drive I-25 north through Cheyenne, Chugwater, Wheatland, and exit at Glendo, Exit 111. (Chugwater has a great ice cream shop on the far east side of town. Take the 1st Chugwater exit and take a right. Go to the end of the road to the "T" and take a left. The shop and parking lot are immediately on your left). Allow about 3 hours travel time from Fort Collins (Downtown) to Glendo, Wyoming. In Glendo, follow the signs to Glendo State Park. You'll be going south on the Glendo Park Road. See the map that follows. The Glendo Park Road is on the southeast corner of town. If you end up leaving town on 319, go back.

At the park entrance you will have to pay \$13.00 per campsite/night use plus \$4.00 per day vehicle pass. If you are staying just Friday night, pay only \$17.00. (WY residents = \$10 camping + \$4 day use) Proceed a long way, past the marina and headquarters, until you get to Two Moon Campground on the left. It is a big campground so there should be no trouble finding a spot; the best campsites overlook the Glendo reservoir. Sites are usually available but you may want to reserve one just to be sure <http://travel.wyo-park.com/campgrounds-and-rv-parks/all/glendo-state-park/reservations>

Look for canoes or kayaks and these people will be RMCC or other friends.



Map data ©2005 NAVT ← The Streets of Glendo



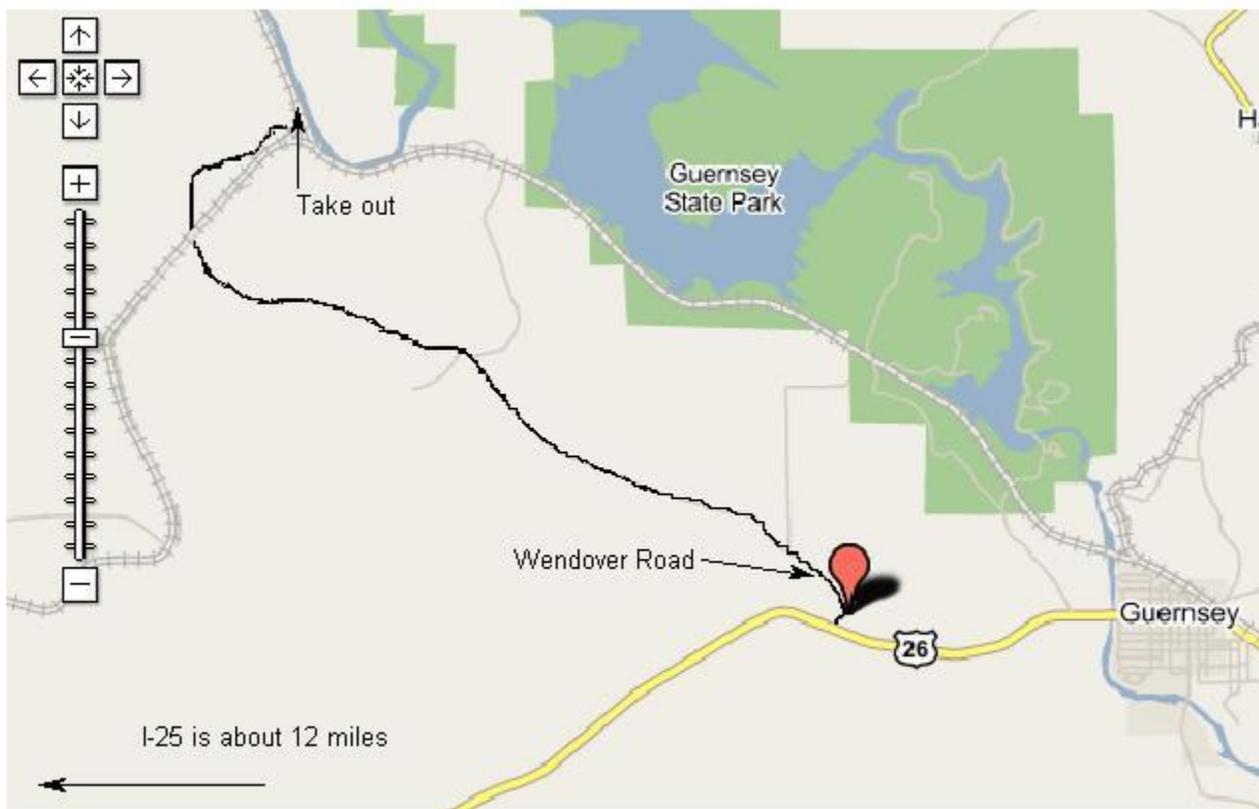
8:00 pm Friday. We will have a quick meeting at the campground to discuss the shuttle in the morning

8:00 am Saturday. Meet at the campground and drive to the put in. To get to the put in, leave the Two Moon Campground and turn left. Head northeast and turn right on the Power Plant and Wetlands

Road. (Don't miss the turn off to the Power plant or you will end up at the wrong dam and no one will be there) Follow this down hill where you will turn a sharp left in front of the power plant. Take the next right and cross over the river. Follow the one-way sign along the water. Do not stop at the first pullout. Continue on another 1/8 mile to the next pullout where you will see a nice easy slope to an eddy. Unload boats quickly. (If you can't look up and see the Power Plant, you are at the wrong place.) One person per vehicle will drive their vehicle to the take out. The others will stay by the boats. Make sure you have as a minimum: canoe, paddles, PFDs, water, hat, rain suit or rain poncho, jacket, lunch, and sunscreen. (Optional items: dry bag with change of clothes in case you decide to play in the haystacks or go swimming).

The shuttle takes a long time and there isn't much shade for those waiting by the boats. It would be nice to set up a canopy or have umbrellas. Definitely apply sunscreen. You may want to plan games for children to keep them busy during the wait. The other option is for most people to stay in the shade at the camp and then take them to the boats when the shuttle drivers return. At least one person needs to stay with the boats and equipment.

8:30 am Start the shuttle to the takeout. One person per vehicle will drive their vehicle to the take out. Drive from Glendo State Park back to I-25 (7 miles). Head south on I-25 for about 19 miles to Left Exit 92 "Guernsey." Take US 26 east toward Wendover. After about 12 miles you will see Wendover Road on the left. There is also a sign on the right that says "River Access." Take Wendover Road for 8 miles. Follow all the way until it joins Cottonwood Road which is right before the RR tracks. Cross the tracks until you see a sign on your left for Parking (it's on a small hill). Park all vehicles there. The take out is just down the hill under the RR bridge. You can drive down to the river to get your boat at the end of the trip. Total one way distance is 46 miles. Some cars, as few as possible, will have to take the drivers back to the put in. These vehicles should be those which can take the maximum number of people and can't carry many boats. **Drivers should put their car keys in a safe place.** A zippered pants pocket or zippered PFD pocket works well.



10:30 – 11:00 am Quick safety review and then we finally hit the water. There are some rapids right at the start, but that will wake you up after sitting in the sun waiting for the shuttle. If you want to avoid the rapids, stay to the left of center. Try not to pass the lead boat or get too far behind the sweep boat. The river does have islands and channels, so it is easy to get behind or ahead. Just try to keep another boat in view.

12:00 - 1:00 pm Stop for lunch on Lunch Island. This island is in the middle of the river and the lead boat will stop there, so it is hard to miss. The river splits into two channels, but they all come together right before this island. We will have lunch and if it is a warm day, we can test our PFDs and throw ropes.

The Haystacks!

2:00 - 3:00 pm After you go around the Big Bend, (see map below), stay to the center as you paddle down the river. Look for a butte on river left and then the river turns right and runs downhill. The haystacks are on river right and there are rocks or pour-overs on river left, so you need to go in between them and then enter the eddy on river left. See the picture below and the drawing on the last page. The haystacks are also known as "standing waves" and are there due to geography, not rocks. The fast downhill water meets the slow flat water and makes about 8 waves that start big and end small. We usually stop and paddle and swim through them several times.

IMPORTANT: We will all eddy out on river left just before the haystacks. 2 rescue boats will go first and then the other boats will follow at intervals so we don't have a lot of swimmers at once. It is not unusual for boats to get flipped at the haystacks. Make sure everything is tied down tight to your boat. If you use a cord rather than a tie down, keep the cord very short, for safety's sake. Everything not waterproof should be left in the car, or put inside a dry bag, secured to the boat. Get Croakies or other cords for your glasses or sunglasses. Make sure that your footwear will stay on if you swim. You can walk your boat around the haystacks if you are uncomfortable. Or put your gear on shore before you run the haystacks.

View of the river and butte, just before the haystacks



4:00 - 5:00 pm About 1-2 minutes after leaving Wendover Canyon, look for the RED house on river left and the railroad bridge on river right. Take your boat out directly underneath the railroad bridge.

We'll keep an eye on the weather and push ahead of schedule if needed.

Those paddlers whose cars are at Glendo will need a ride (including their boat) back to Glendo. The rest can return to Glendo for the Saturday evening potluck or head for home. Drive safely.

7:00 – Whenever pm Group pot-luck at Glendo.

Contact Info:

If you have questions or want to sign-up, contact **Bill Ashworth 720-352-6456;**
washwort@gmail.com.

Some Phone Numbers

Wheatland Hospital (Platte County Memorial Hospital), 201 14th Street, Wheatland, (307) 322-3636
Glendo State Park (307) 735 4433
Glendo Police Dept, (307) 735-4242
Wheatland Police, 951 Water Street, (307) 322-2141
B&M Salvage & Towing, Wheatland, WY, (307) 322-2420,
Big Rig Recovery, Cheyenne, WY, (307) 637 3334
D & S Towing and Recovery, Cheyenne, WY, (307) 634 7999
Fort Collins, towing, Kramer & Houston Towing, 970-493-3375

Some Web Sites

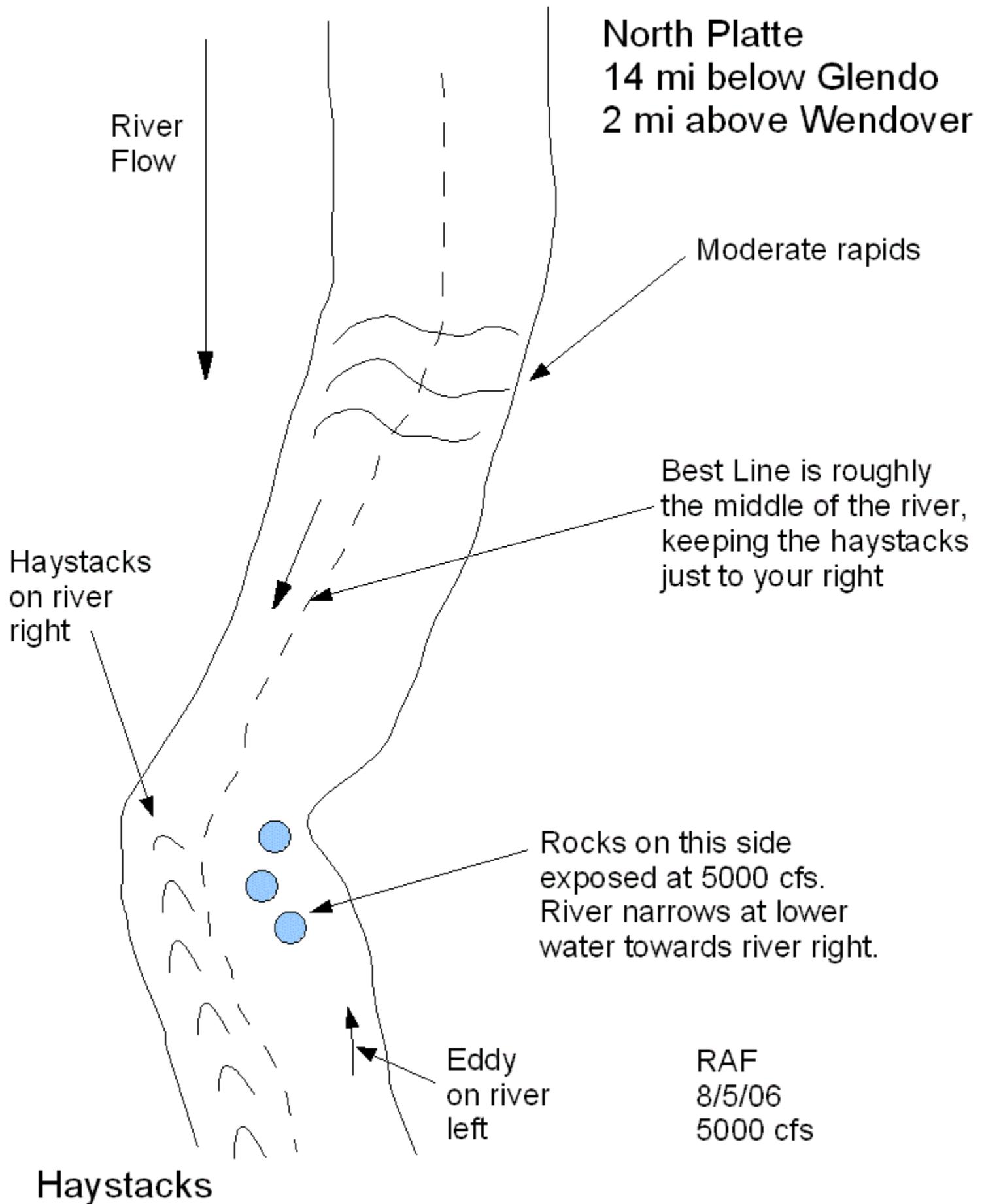
[Glendo State Park Info](#)

[Glendo Brochure](#)

[N Platte River Below Glendo Dam](#)

[Wyoming Game & Fish – Invasive Species Decals](#)

http://wyomingnaturalist.com/html/river/river_platte_torrington.html



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