

The Kettle



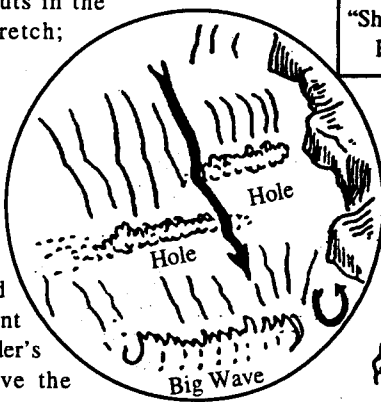
Put in - Banning State Park
Boat Landing



The Kettle was named after the numerous potholes that were cut by the river's swirling waters. These same swirling waters have carved many dangerous undercuts in the gorge section of this stretch; CAUTION advised.

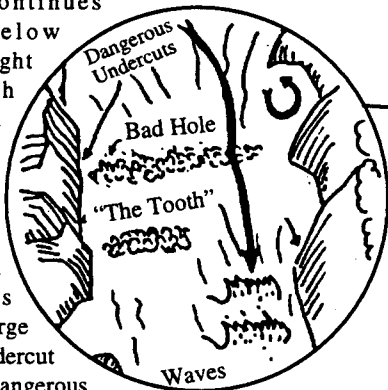
BLUEBERRY SLIDE - Class II-III (III-IV, IV+)

This is the first rapid of this stretch. At most levels the paddler finds the best route on the left. Be careful of the soule hole(s) located at the first slide. Excellent surfing waves and "Shoulder's Hole" on river right give the paddler plenty to play.



DRAGON'S TOOTH - Class II-III (III-IV+)

The gorge continues to narrow below Mother's Delight until you reach "The Tooth". NOTE: The Tooth has been known to have an aluminum "filling" at times. At this point in the gorge all walls are undercut and extremely dangerous.

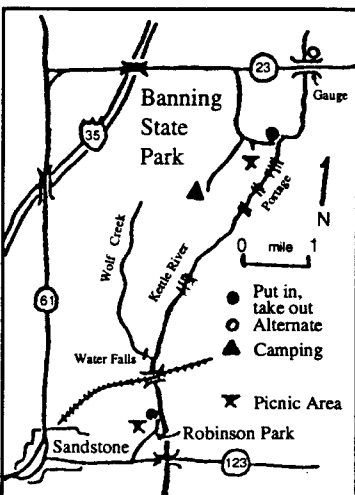


Run left to avoid the nasty holes. The only way out of the upper hole seems to be into the undercuts when the water levels rise above 3.5 ft. The upper hole is easily avoided by catching eddies on the left side and picking your route down. There are nice surfing waves at the bottom.

Old Quarry Ruins

LITTLE BANNING RAPIDS - Class I (II-III)

Beginning just below Dragon's Tooth, these small pools and ledges continue for nearly 3/4 mile. Like the major rapids the degree of difficulty rises quickly with increased water levels.



General Information

Run Length:
About 4 miles.
Gradient:
22 feet per mile or so.

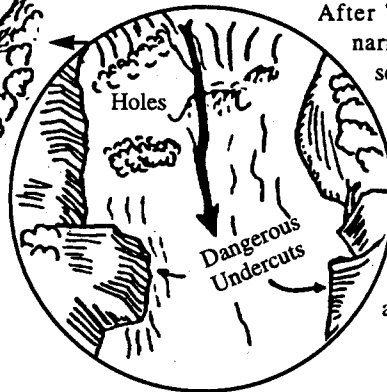
Thanks to the MCA Rapids Riders. This is a revised map of the original by Jon Storck and contains his illustrations. G.P. 7/94

TEACHER'S AND LOWER TEACHER'S HOLES (TEACHER'S PET)

The paddler is guaranteed a good lesson from these holes... CAUTION - sticky at certain levels.

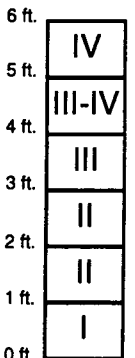
MOTHER'S DELIGHT - Class II (III)

After Teacher's Hole the river narrows and enters the gorge section. Mother's Delight is run down the center. Be careful of the upper hole that tends to feed paddlers into the rock wall on the right. CAUTION: Protruding wall on the right is undercut. Paddler is advised to stay well left of it.



Water Conditions:

The gauge is located on both sides of the Highway 23 bridge. River left has a drive up gauge. Or you can call Banning State Park at (320)245-2668 and get the current level from Randy Gordon, the super park manager who reads it daily during the peak season. The water level has been known to change 2 feet over night. With this in mind and the corresponding change in difficulty, a current level is important. This river has been run as high as 12 feet by experts, but this is not recommended.

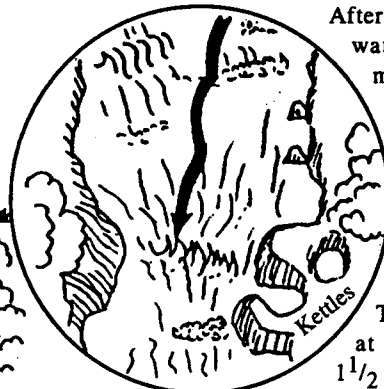


THE "CALM BEFORE THE GATE" ("THE SWEETSPOT")

At this point in the gorge if you listen very carefully you can hear both Little Banning Rapids and the roar of Hell's Gate at the same time.

HELL'S GATE - Class II-III (III)

After about 1/2 mile of calm water you reach this last major rapid. Starting just below an island, Hell's Gate has good holes and waves for playing above the lower ledge. Run the center of the upper and right of center over the lower ledge. There is a good play spot at the bottom before the 1 1/2 mile flatwater stretch to



Robinson Park. Don't miss scenic Wolf Creek Falls above the take out (it has been run!).