



Middle Fork of Flathead River  
Schaefer Meadows to Blankenship Bridge (70 miles)

July 1, 2017, 6 days

~ 5,000 cfs at West Glacier (4.0' guage)

Mark McKinstry, Tim Patton, Lanny Goyn, Bryce Pulver,  
Cedar Coleman, Doug Sinor, Jenni Sinor, Carson Sinor

Tim Patton (R) giving his expert and experienced advice on how to load the plane at the airport in Kalispel, MT. Four plane loads for 8 people and 5 rafts. 1- 14 footer, 3-12 footers, and 1-10 footer. Planes can haul 950 pounds of gear and people.



Cessna 206 taking off from dirt landing strip at Schaefer Meadows in Great Bear and Bob Marshall Wilderness.





A pile of river gear (1700 pounds) looking for a river-- 0.3 miles haul down to the river from the airstrip. Schaefer Meadows (US Forest Service) work station is in background.

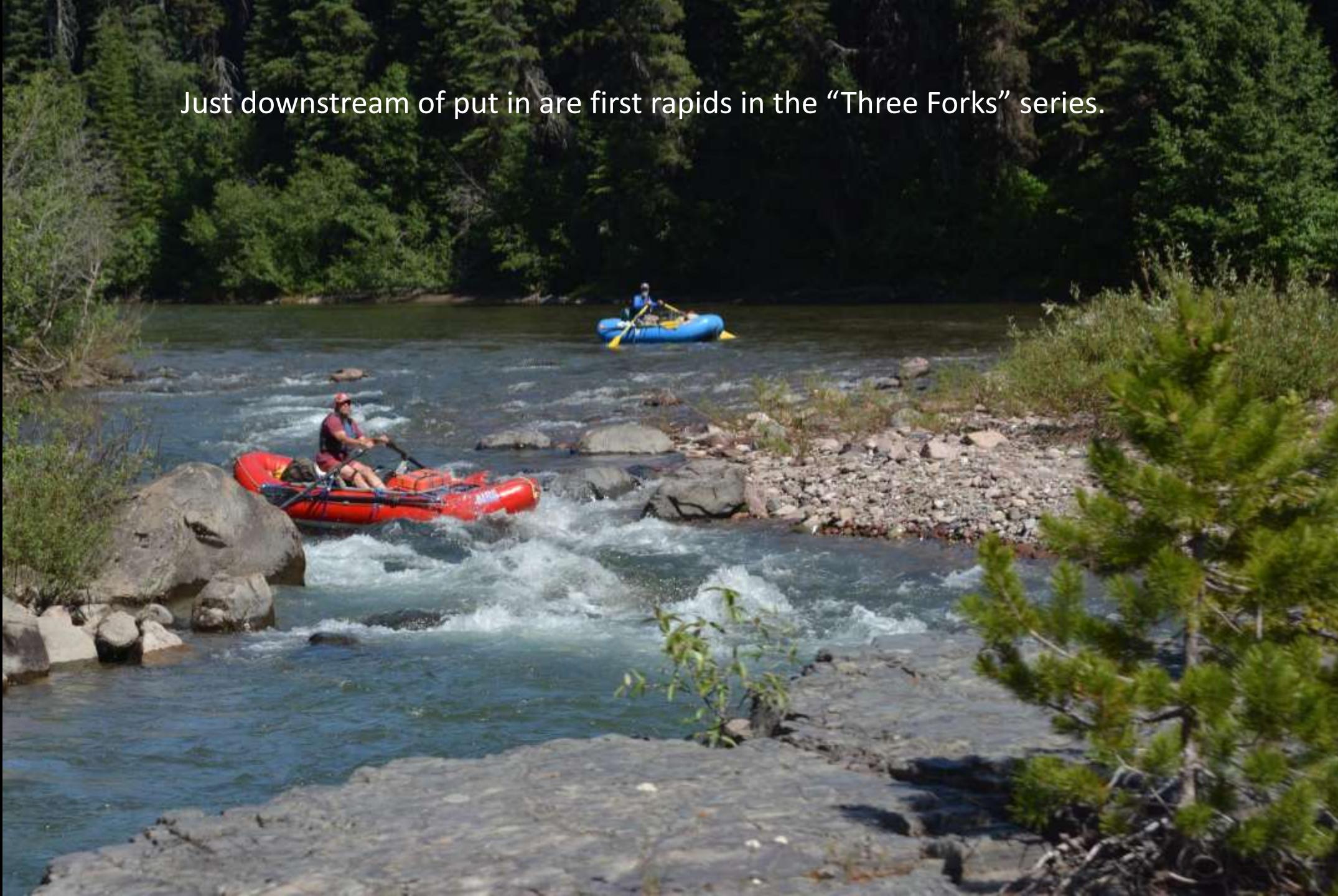


Sherpa Doug Sinor schlepping loads to river.

The action starts right after the put in.



Just downstream of put in are first rapids in the “Three Forks” series.



Looking downstream in Three Forks series. Large boulders and log jams block the channel.





Part of Three Forks.



Lots of boulder gardens in Three Forks.

Superman (Cedar Coleman with cape) flying low with a full raft in Three Forks' slots of fun.





Lanny Goyn threading the needle.

©MARAVIA

A wide-angle photograph of a mountainous landscape. In the foreground, a person is seen from behind, paddling a blue raft on a river. The river flows from the bottom left towards the center of the frame. The middle ground is filled with dense green forests. In the background, large, rugged mountains rise, their slopes covered with a mix of green vegetation and exposed, light-colored granite rock. The sky is clear and blue.

Granite peaks dominate the scenery.

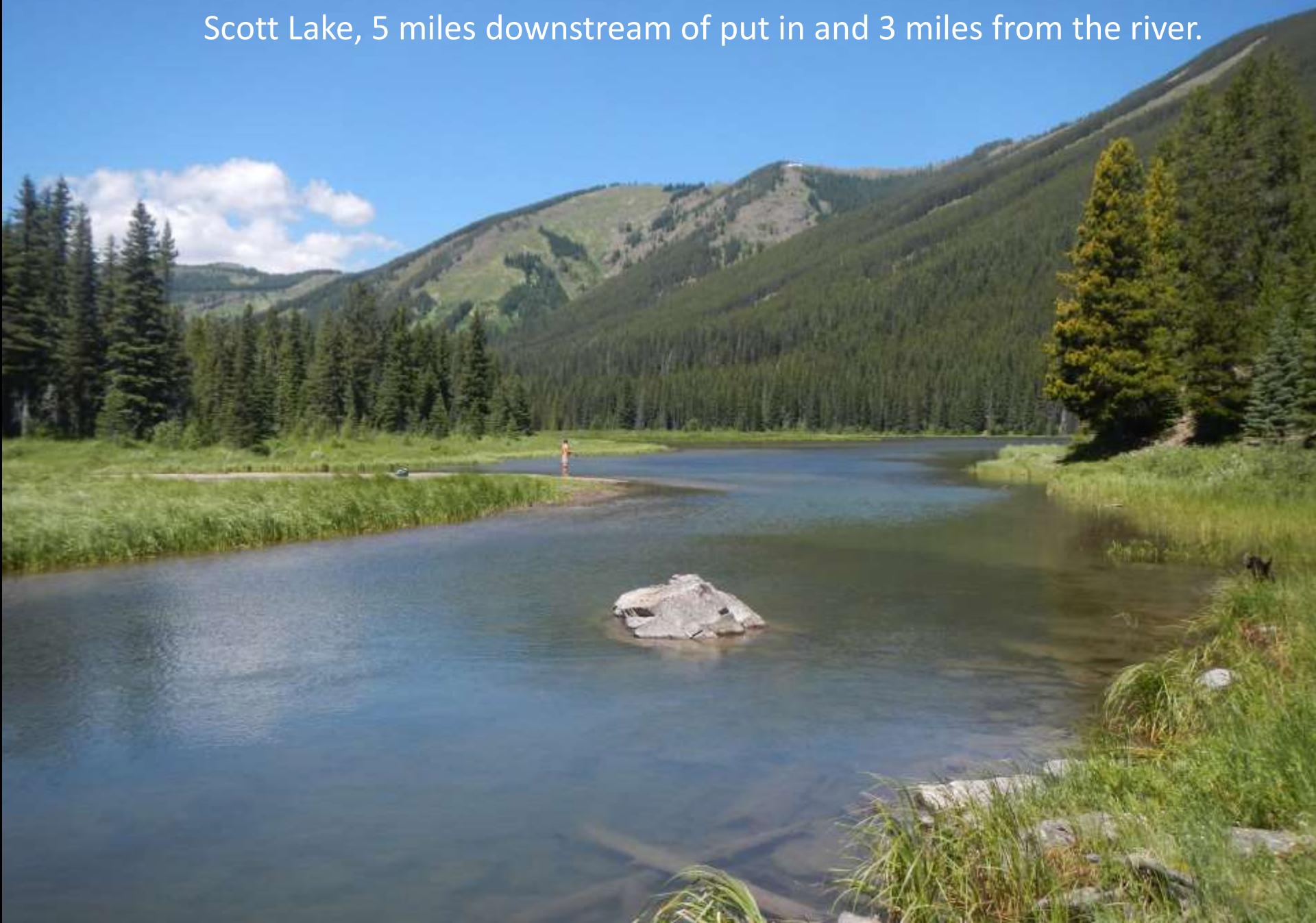


Tim Patton enjoying the upper river.

Bryce Pulver hiking up to Scott Lake.

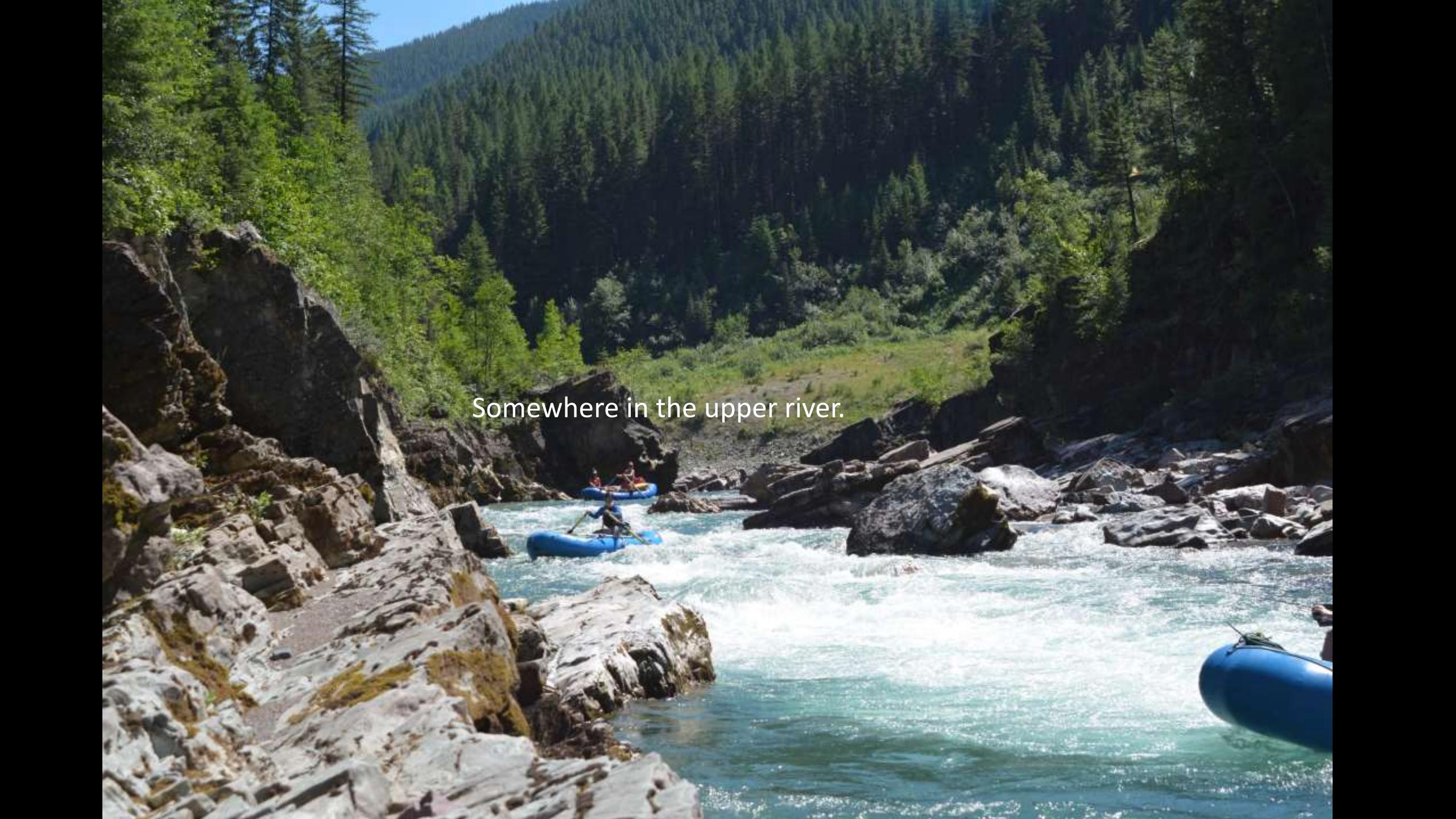


Scott Lake, 5 miles downstream of put in and 3 miles from the river.



A photograph of a person in a blue raft on a river. The person is wearing a cap and a life vest, and is using two blue paddles to maneuver the raft. The river flows through a forested area with many evergreen trees. In the background, there are mountains with patches of snow on their peaks. The water is clear and reflects the surrounding environment.

Bryce Pulver admires the gin-clear water.



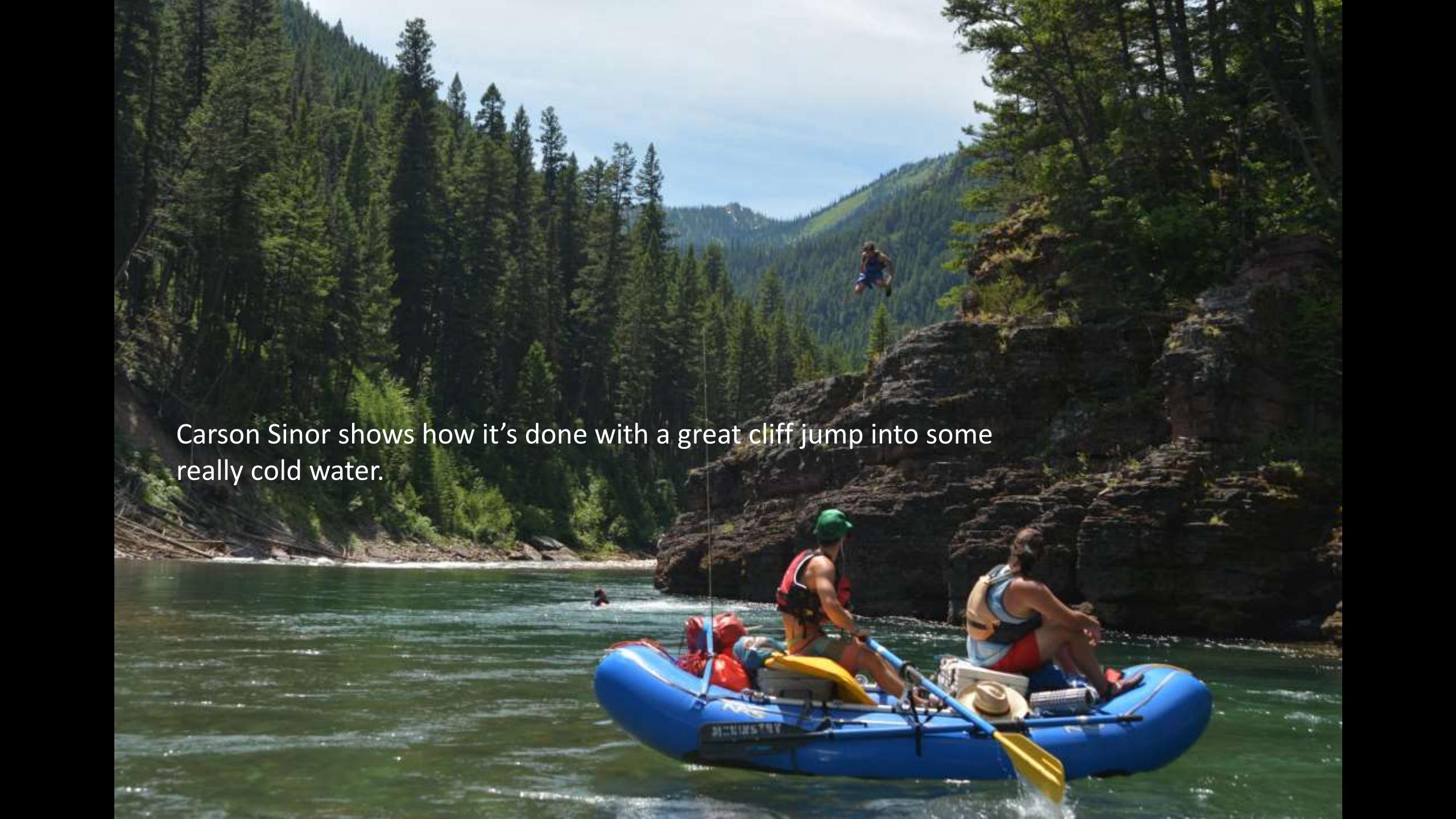
Somewhere in the upper river.

A photograph of a man with a long white beard and a blue baseball cap, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, paddling a yellow and blue raft on a river. He is looking towards the right side of the frame. The river flows through a valley with steep, forested mountains on both sides under a clear blue sky.

Does it get any better than a warm sunny June day in Montana?

Tim Patton watches while Bryce Pulver works his way through a narrow slot in Three Forks and Cedar Coleman helps navigate.



A photograph of a river scene. In the foreground, a blue raft with two people is on the water. One person is paddling, and the other is sitting. In the middle ground, a person is jumping off a rocky cliff into the river. The background shows a dense forest of tall evergreen trees and a rocky mountain side. The water is a clear, greenish-blue.

Carson Sinor shows how it's done with a great cliff jump into some  
really cold water.

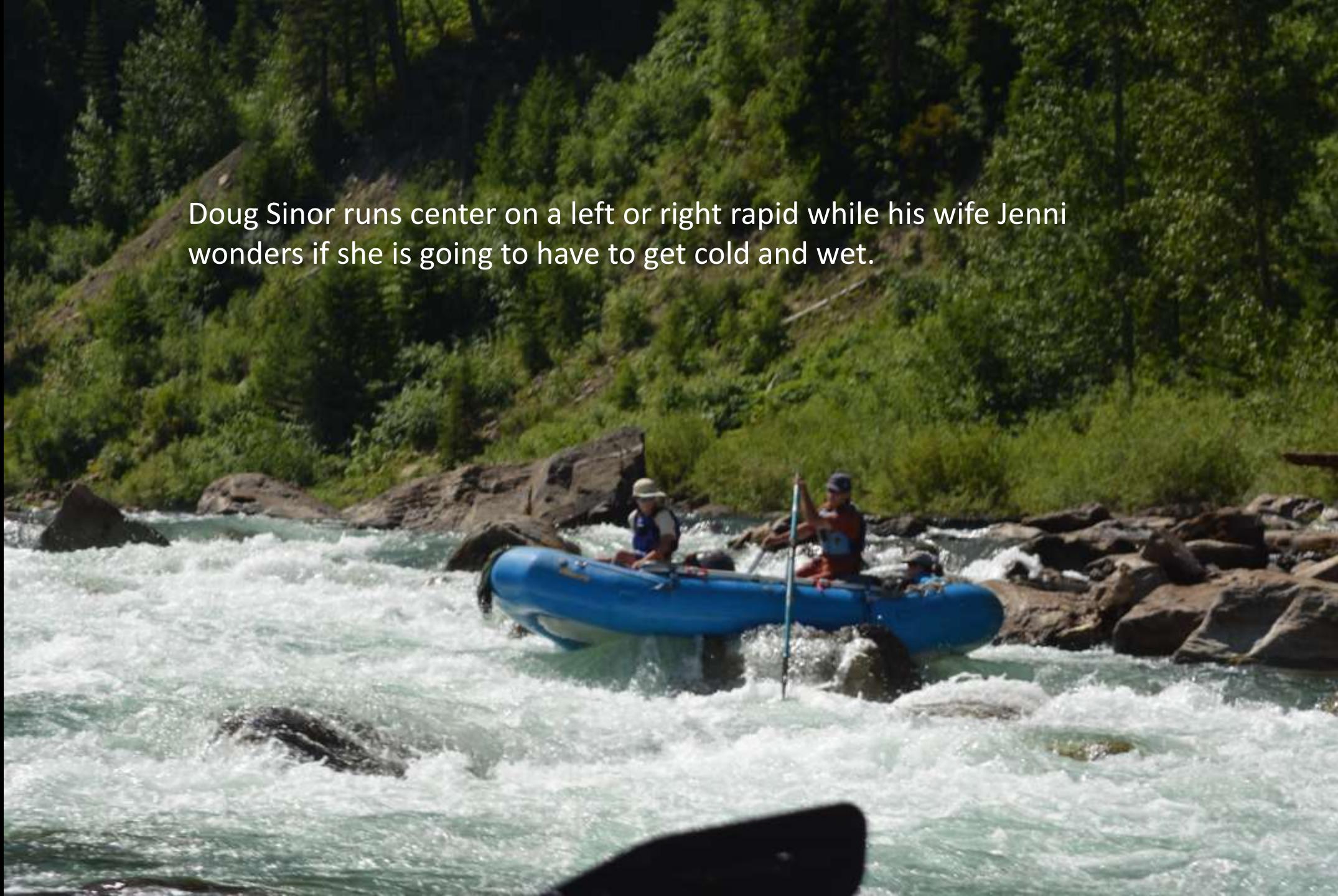


Tim Patton (L) and Lanny Goyn (R) hiking to Castle Lake—a hard and “long” 1.5 mile hike.

Bryce with a nice Westslope Cutthroat Trout from Castle Lake .



Doug Sinor runs center on a left or right rapid while his wife Jenni wonders if she is going to have to get cold and wet.



Tim Patton proving that little boats really do have more fun.





Narrow chute downstream in Twenty-five mile rapids. Note driftwood from previous floods.



Tough and tight moves at Spruce Creek Series.



The walls close in at Spruces Rapids.

Several waterfalls enter river in lower canyon.



Railroad trestle just downstream of Bear Creek.





Plenty of mountain goats at Goat Lick Rapids.

Huge campsite below Paola and Brown's Hole rapids.



Lanny (L) and Bryce (R) swimming in Stanton Lake at mile 33.5.





Bryce enjoying the calm water and peaks of Glacier National Park.

Lanny looking for air in the lower canyon at Big Squeeze rapids

