

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.



A man, identified as Sherpa Doug Sinor, is standing in a lush green forest. He is wearing a red t-shirt, red shorts, a blue baseball cap, and sunglasses. He is carrying a large yellow dry bag and a red backpack. In his left hand, he holds a blue bag. To his left is a wooden post with a horizontal beam and a board displaying several small, colorful cards or photos. The background is filled with dense green foliage and trees.

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



Granite peaks dominate the scenery.



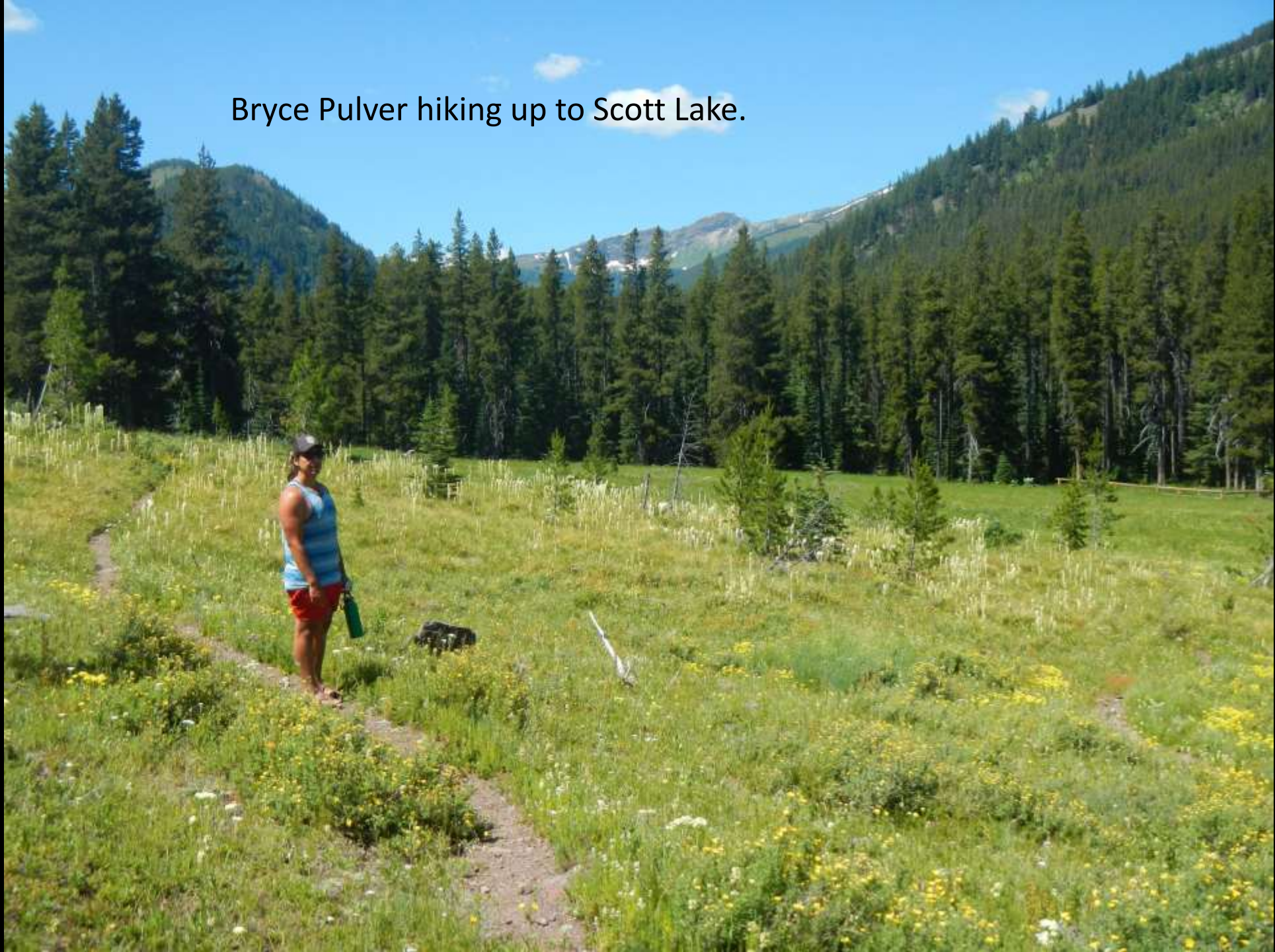


A photograph of a person in a blue inflatable raft navigating a river. The river is surrounded by a steep, rocky mountain covered in dense evergreen forests. The sky is blue with some clouds. The person in the raft is wearing a blue shirt and a cap, and is holding a yellow paddle. Another person is visible in a smaller blue raft further upstream. The text "Tim Patton enjoying the upper river." is overlaid on the image.

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.





Bryce Pulver admires the gin-clear water.





Somewhere in the upper river.





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



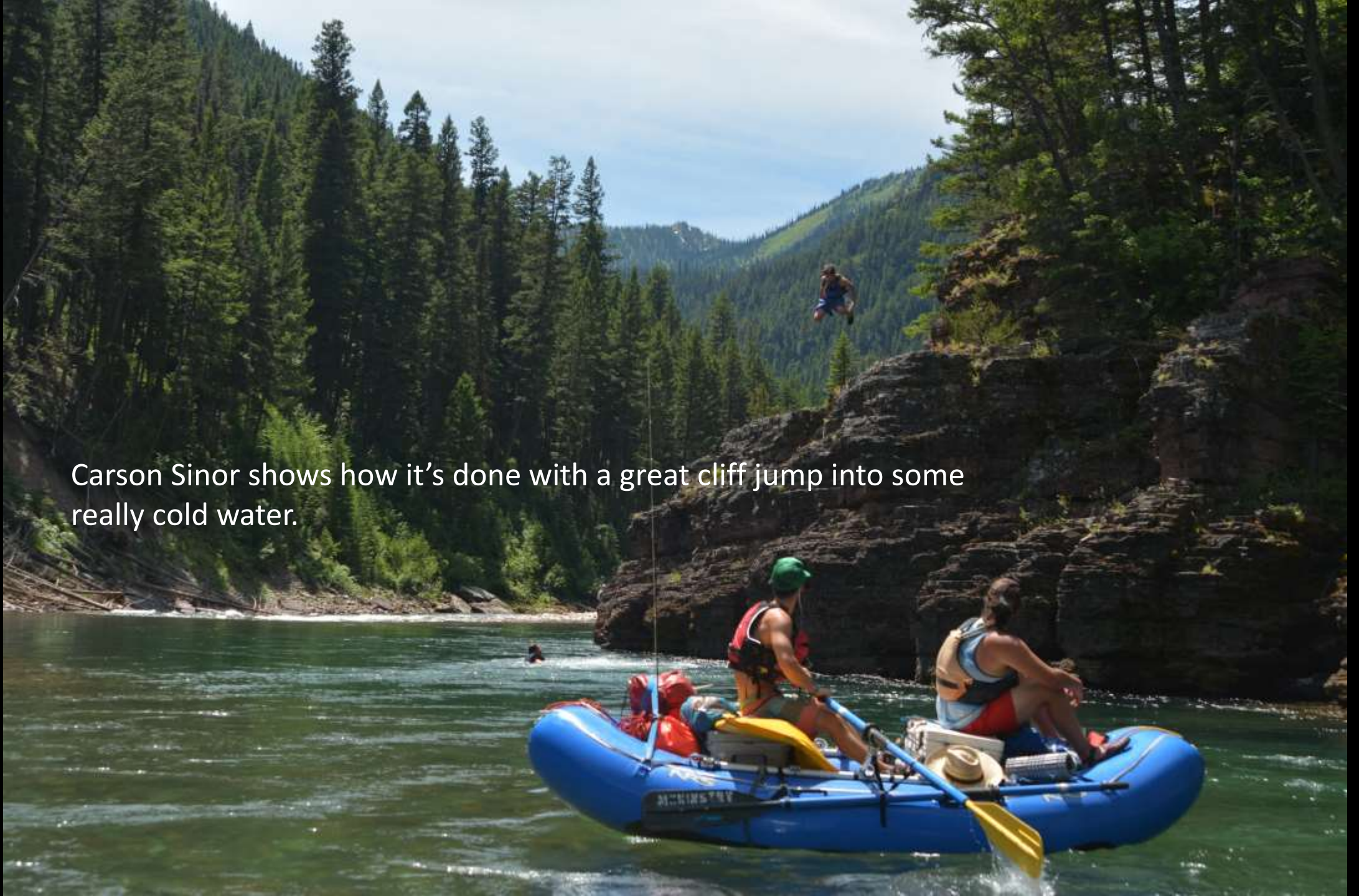


Tim Patton watches while Bryce Pulver works his way through a narrow slot in Three Forks and Cedar Coleman helps navigate.





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.

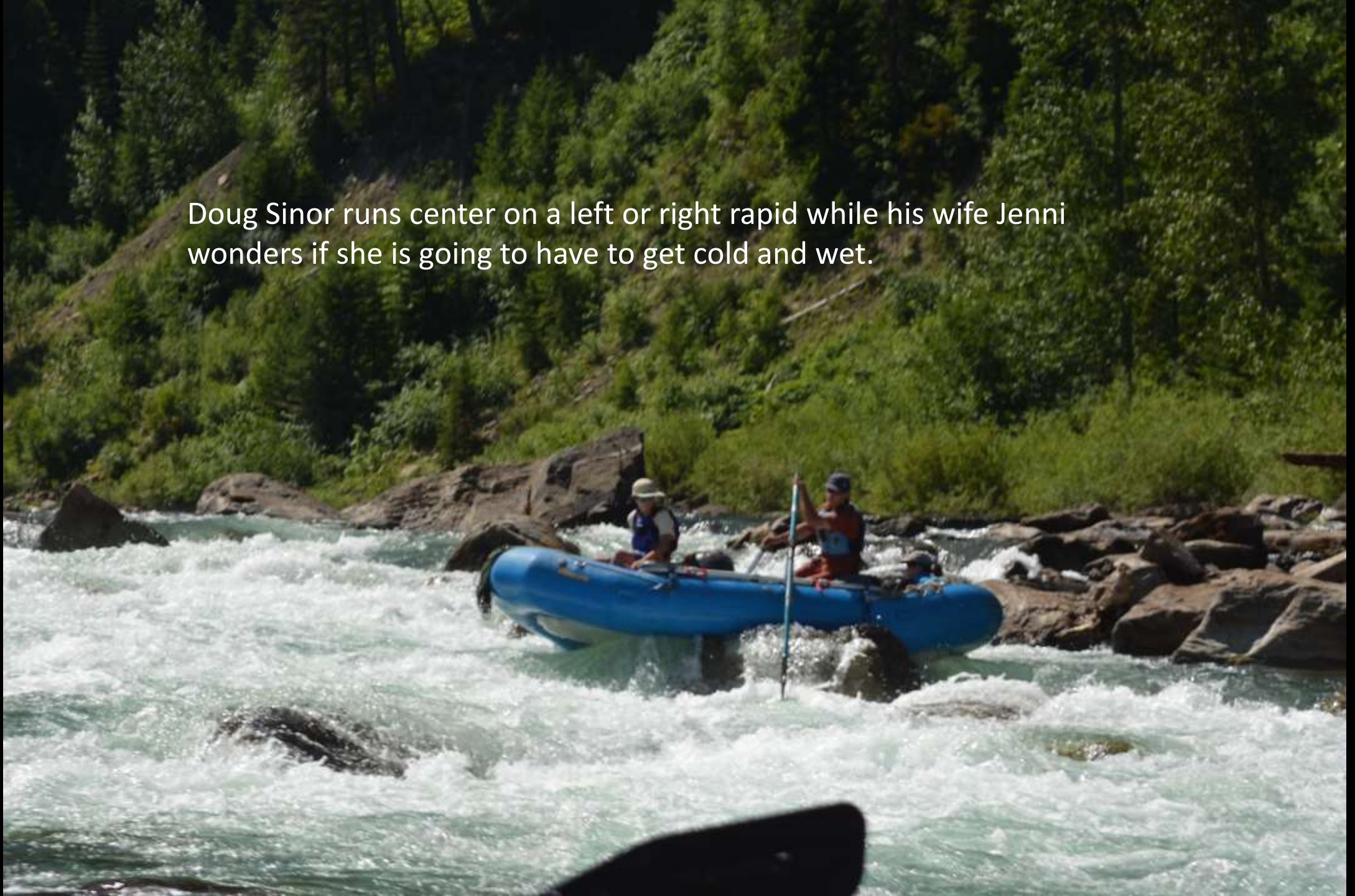


Bryce with a nice Westslope Cutthroat Trout from Castle Lake .





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.





A person wearing a red shirt and a dark cap is sitting in a blue inflatable raft on a calm river. The raft has yellow gear bags and two yellow paddles. In the background, there are dark, forested mountains with patches of snow under a cloudy sky. A rocky shoreline with green bushes is visible just behind the raft.

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



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

