

The Bateman-Moscow Section

The 6.2 mile trip from Bateman Bridge to Moscow, TN, is another favorite with paddlers. On a scale of 1-10 for scenic beauty, WRC rates this section a 9+, second only to the Ghost River section from LaGrange to Moscow. The river in the Bateman to Moscow section is an easy class one, though some twists and turns add a degree of difficulty. There are trail signs along the entire route, so that under normal conditions it can be navigated without a guide.



To reach the put-in at Bateman Bridge, take Hwy 57 east through Moscow, TN, and turn right onto Bateman Rd., which is 3.3 miles east of the Feemster Bridge over the Wolf River at Moscow. Drive south on Bateman Rd. for 1.8 miles and turn left into a gravel parking lot just before the Bateman Rd. bridge.

From the put-in at Bateman Bridge, the river flows in a relatively open channel through a normal riverbed for about a half-mile. At this point, the riverbed is sanded-in ahead and paddlers must make an abrupt left turn onto a narrow trail opened a few years ago when the main channel shifted south. Frequent paddlers call this “new” section "The Little Ghost". There is a sign which says “**Canoe Trail**” with an arrow to the left at the entrance to the Little Ghost section.

About 200 yards into the Little Ghost paddlers will come to a "T" where the channel splits. The trail to the right has since sanded-in, requiring paddlers to portage for several hundred yards. Thanks to WRC volunteers who took on the challenge of finding an alternate route, paddlers now go left at the “T” onto a new trail, nicknamed the “**Hill and Dale Trail,**” which is about two miles long. The narrow trail makes numerous zigzags and sharp turns through a large grassy swamp and boaters usually have to paddle single file. There is one shallow section which may require a portage of about 25 yards; this portage is basically a floating boat portage on relatively hard clean sand. Some may find this pleasant as it offers a chance to stretch one’s legs. There are no swimming holes on the Hill and Dale Trail, but the sandy point where it re-enters the main river channel is a good option if one wishes to swim.



Upon re-entry to the main channel, one must paddle about four miles before reaching the next split in the trails. At the split, there are two signs: “**Scenic Route,**” indicating a trail leading down the river to the left through a scenic forested swamp filled with beautiful cypress trees, and “**Fastest Way Out,**” also a very scenic route through numerous cypress trees. Paddlers may wish to take this route if pressed for time or if the water level is low; they can decide which route is preferable upon reaching the signs. The forested swamps in this part of the Wolf contrast nicely with the grassy swamp of the Hill & Dale trail.

Paddlers must exit the river *immediately* after passing under the Moscow, TN, Hwy 57 bridge (Feemster Bridge). *If you miss this exit, the next take-out at Rossville, TN, is about 13 miles down-river!* Don't get confused – take the very narrow water passage to the right only about 10 yards after crossing under the 57 bridge. Paddle about 50 yards through the floating water plants to reach the “natural” take-out area just 75 yards or so from the shopping center parking lot. To reach this access point by car, take Hwy 57 east to Moscow, cross Feemster bridge and turn left into the old shopping center parking lot.



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