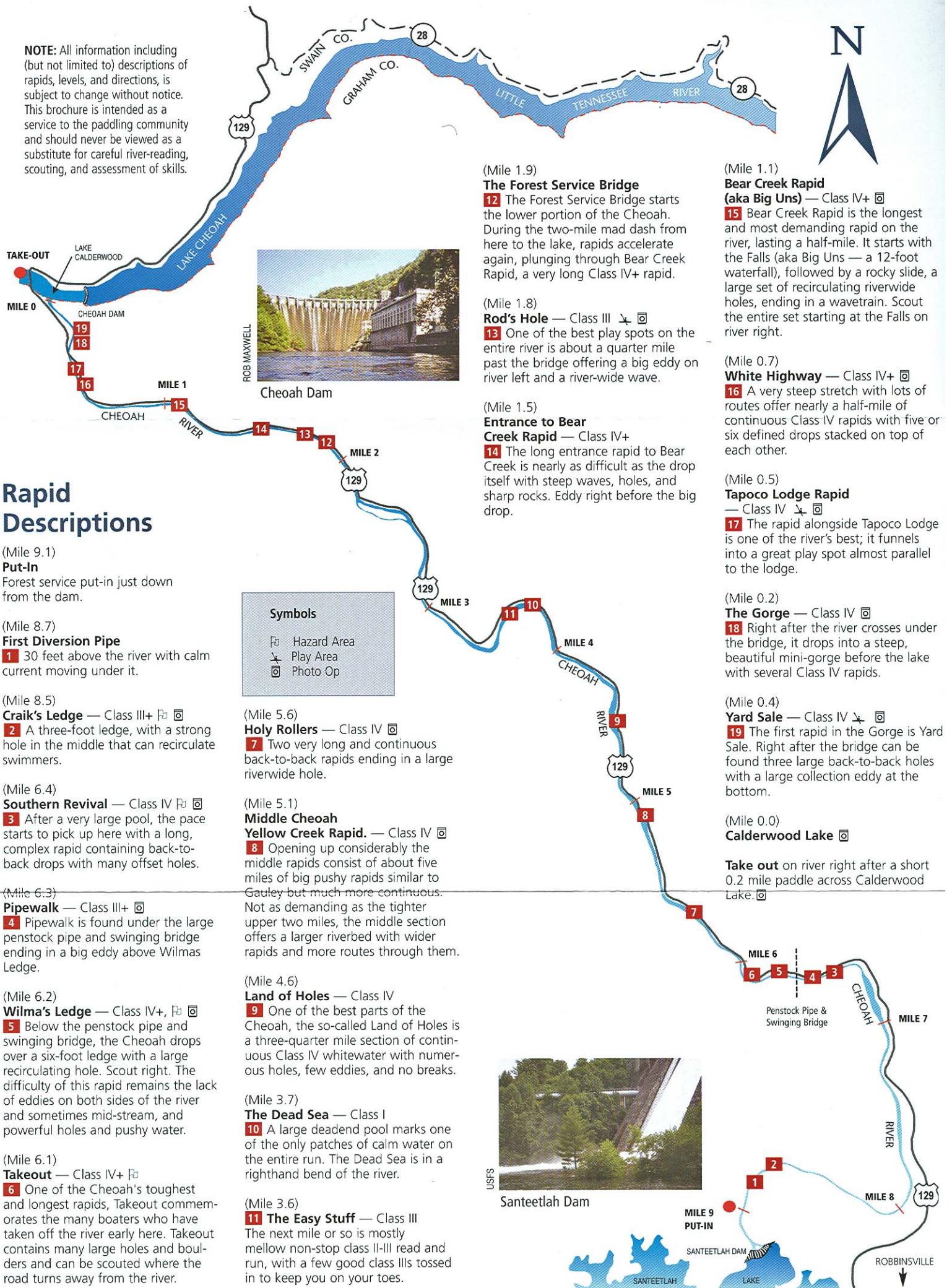


**NOTE:** All information including (but not limited to) descriptions of rapids, levels, and directions, is subject to change without notice. This brochure is intended as a service to the paddling community and should never be viewed as a substitute for careful river-reading, scouting, and assessment of skills.



## Rapid Descriptions

(Mile 9.1)  
**Put-In**  
Forest service put-in just down from the dam.

(Mile 8.7)  
**First Diversion Pipe**  
1 30 feet above the river with calm current moving under it.

(Mile 8.5)  
**Craik's Ledge** — Class III+ [Hazard Area] [Photo Op]  
2 A three-foot ledge, with a strong hole in the middle that can recirculate swimmers.

(Mile 6.4)  
**Southern Revival** — Class IV [Hazard Area] [Photo Op]  
3 After a very large pool, the pace starts to pick up here with a long, complex rapid containing back-to-back drops with many offset holes.

(Mile 6.3)  
**Pipewalk** — Class III+ [Photo Op]  
4 Pipewalk is found under the large penstock pipe and swinging bridge ending in a big eddy above Wilmas Ledge.

(Mile 6.2)  
**Wilma's Ledge** — Class IV+, [Hazard Area] [Photo Op]  
5 Below the penstock pipe and swinging bridge, the Cheoah drops over a six-foot ledge with a large recirculating hole. Scout right. The difficulty of this rapid remains the lack of eddies on both sides of the river and sometimes mid-stream, and powerful holes and pushy water.

(Mile 6.1)  
**Takeout** — Class IV+ [Hazard Area]  
6 One of the Cheoah's toughest and longest rapids, Takeout commemorates the many boaters who have taken off the river early here. Takeout contains many large holes and boulders and can be scouted where the road turns away from the river.

Symbols	
[Hazard Area]	Hazard Area
[Play Area]	Play Area
[Photo Op]	Photo Op

(Mile 5.6)  
**Holy Rollers** — Class IV [Photo Op]  
7 Two very long and continuous back-to-back rapids ending in a large riverwide hole.

(Mile 5.1)  
**Middle Cheoah Yellow Creek Rapid.** — Class IV [Photo Op]  
8 Opening up considerably the middle rapids consist of about five miles of big pushy rapids similar to Gauley but much more continuous. Not as demanding as the tighter upper two miles, the middle section offers a larger riverbed with wider rapids and more routes through them.

(Mile 4.6)  
**Land of Holes** — Class IV  
9 One of the best parts of the Cheoah, the so-called Land of Holes is a three-quarter mile section of continuous Class IV whitewater with numerous holes, few eddies, and no breaks.

(Mile 3.7)  
**The Dead Sea** — Class I  
10 A large deadend pool marks one of the only patches of calm water on the entire run. The Dead Sea is in a righthand bend of the river.

(Mile 3.6)  
**The Easy Stuff** — Class III  
11 The next mile or so is mostly mellow non-stop class II-III read and run, with a few good class IIIs tossed in to keep you on your toes.

(Mile 1.9)  
**The Forest Service Bridge**  
12 The Forest Service Bridge starts the lower portion of the Cheoah. During the two-mile mad dash from here to the lake, rapids accelerate again, plunging through Bear Creek Rapid, a very long Class IV+ rapid.

(Mile 1.8)  
**Rod's Hole** — Class III [Play Area] [Photo Op]  
13 One of the best play spots on the entire river is about a quarter mile past the bridge offering a big eddy on river left and a river-wide wave.

(Mile 1.5)  
**Entrance to Bear Creek Rapid** — Class IV+  
14 The long entrance rapid to Bear Creek is nearly as difficult as the drop itself with steep waves, holes, and sharp rocks. Eddy right before the big drop.

(Mile 1.1)  
**Bear Creek Rapid (aka Big Uns)** — Class IV+ [Photo Op]  
15 Bear Creek Rapid is the longest and most demanding rapid on the river, lasting a half-mile. It starts with the Falls (aka Big Uns — a 12-foot waterfall), followed by a rocky slide, a large set of recirculating riverwide holes, ending in a wavetrain. Scout the entire set starting at the Falls on river right.

(Mile 0.7)  
**White Highway** — Class IV+ [Photo Op]  
16 A very steep stretch with lots of routes offer nearly a half-mile of continuous Class IV rapids with five or six defined drops stacked on top of each other.

(Mile 0.5)  
**Tapoco Lodge Rapid** — Class IV [Play Area] [Photo Op]  
17 The rapid alongside Tapoco Lodge is one of the river's best; it funnels into a great play spot almost parallel to the lodge.

(Mile 0.2)  
**The Gorge** — Class IV [Photo Op]  
18 Right after the river crosses under the bridge, it drops into a steep, beautiful mini-gorge before the lake with several Class IV rapids.

(Mile 0.4)  
**Yard Sale** — Class IV [Play Area] [Photo Op]  
19 The first rapid in the Gorge is Yard Sale. Right after the bridge can be found three large back-to-back holes with a large collection eddy at the bottom.

(Mile 0.0)  
**Calderwood Lake** [Photo Op]  
Take out on river right after a short 0.2 mile paddle across Calderwood Lake. [Photo Op]



Santeetlah Dam

