

WKC White Water Course

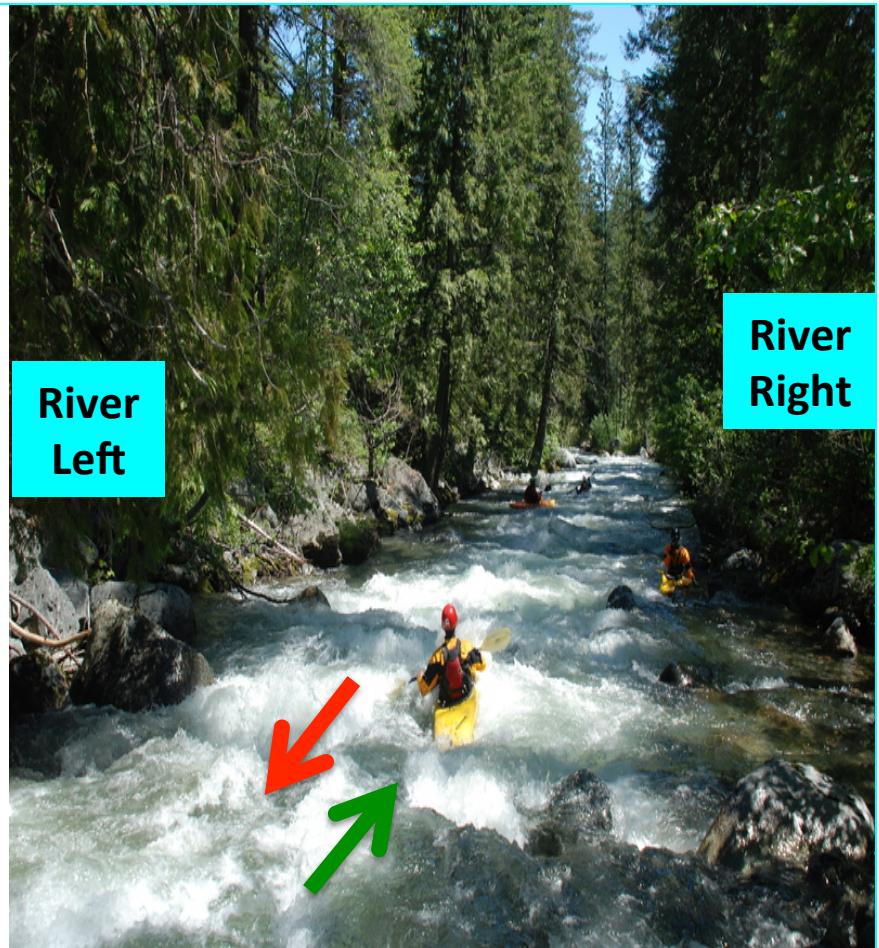
River II

River Features

Rivers Basics..

- Upstream ↘
- Downstream ↑
- River left &
River Right

Always refer to the corresponding
side of the river when looking
DOWNSTREAM.



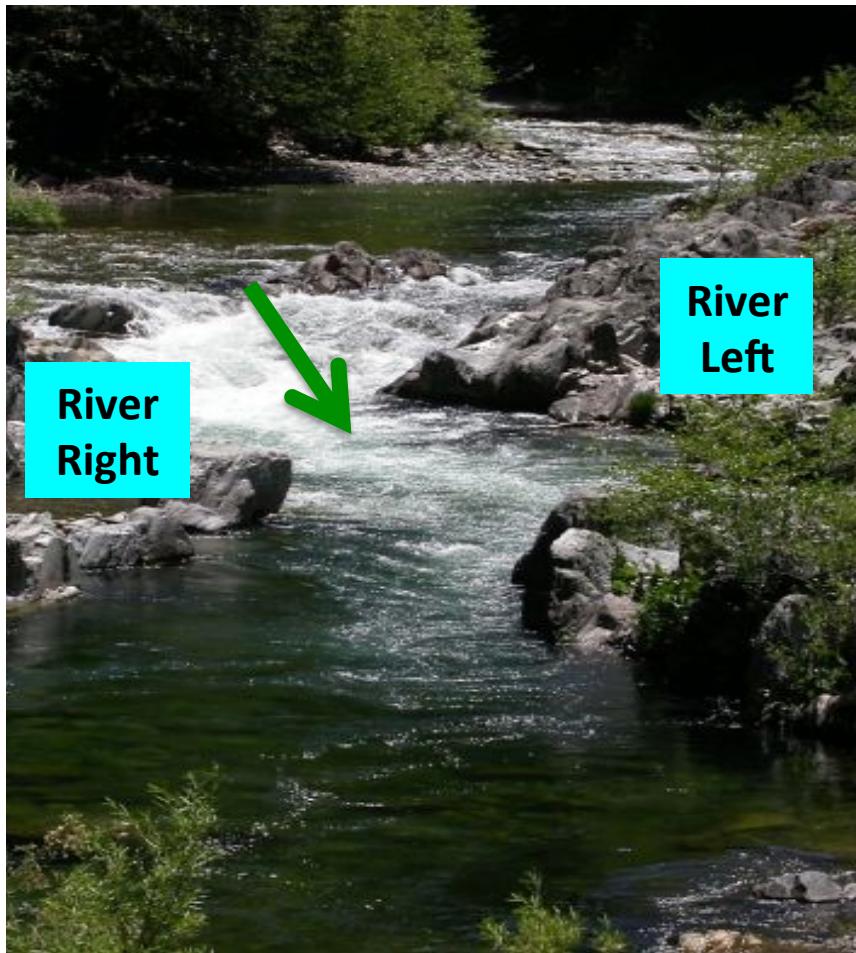
Which Side Is... River Right? River Left?



- Downstream



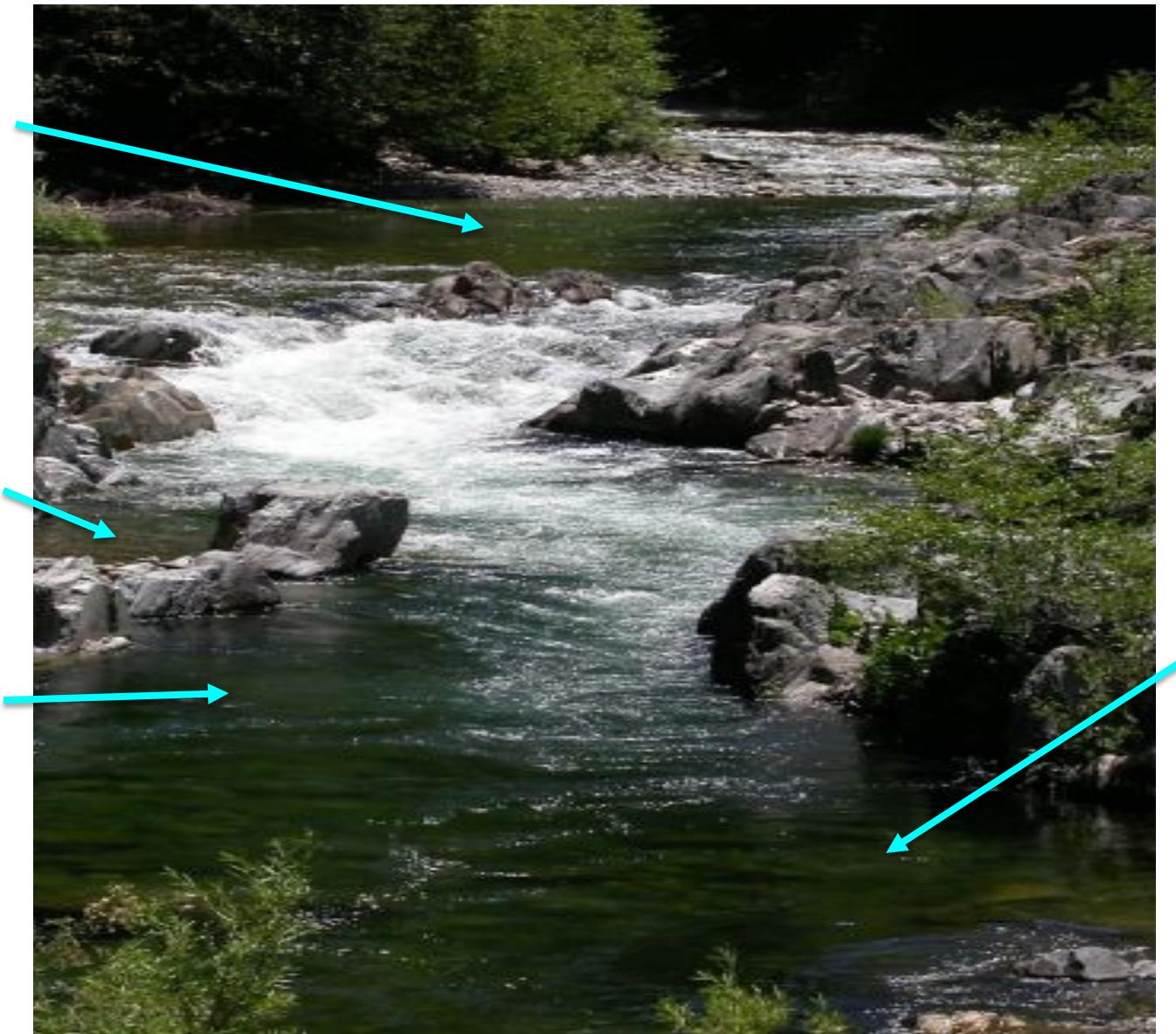
Rivers Basics



- Downstream

Yep, don't forget, no matter which way you are facing, river-right and river-left always correspond to downstream

Identify the River Features:



Identify the River Features:

Eddy



Eddy

Eddy

A relatively calm pocket of water
In the river, formed by the deflection of
current around an obstruction (e.g.
rocks, land). The current actually moves
upstream in eddy's.

Identify the Eddy Lines:

Features:



Eddy Lines

The area (not always line-like) where the eddy current (upstream current) collides with the main downriver current.

Identify the Eddy Lines:

Messy and turbulent Eddy Line (mixture of currents happening here)



As you can see, eddy lines come in all different sizes and shapes. The upstream end of the eddy is the easiest to cross.

Rocks with Pillows:

Pillows are formed based on the shape of the rock below the water surface. The water runs into the rock and sometimes forms a “pillow” before it is deflected to the sides of the rock. Pillows come in all sizes.



Rocks with pillows:

When faced with an unavoidable rock, the action needed is to tilt your body and boat into the rock. Notice the pillow in picture #1. Tilt your body & boat into the rock prior to touching it, this movement lifts your upstream edge (picture #3). Lifting your upstream edge allows the current to slide underneath your edge, the water then bounces off the bottom of your boat and is deflected off the sides. This water pressure assists your movement around the rock (picture 3 & 4)

Important Note: No matter what.. do NOT drop your upstream edge, until well clear of rock!!!!



Check out the pillow from downstream. It's important to fight your natural instinct to lean away from the rock, INSTEAD tilt into the rock! The moment you lean away, the water piles on your upstream edge (the one Matt has lifted) and will immediately flip you over! Rocks can be our friends, use them to your advantage!



Undercut Rocks:

Have been eroded by the flow of water, they are most dangerous when the undercut is directly under the surface. They come in all sizes. Notice the water how it slides underneath it, no pillow on the upstream side. The best action is to stay away from undercuts.



Universal River Signals:

During your boating career you may see substitutes and/or various signals which your group has agreed upon, however these are universal river signals that are used when needed.

STOP!
Potential Hazard Ahead
**Get in an eddy until
further notice**



HELP / EMERGENCY
3 long blasts & waving
**Assist signaler as quickly
as possible!**



**ALWAYS PASS THE SIGNALS BACK!
(TO THE BOATERS BEHIND YOU)**

Universal River Signals:

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I'M OKAY?!

Repeatedly tap the top of your head.
Used as a question and an answer!



ALL CLEAR – COME AHEAD!

Turn paddle blade flat for maximum visibility



Preferred Route!

Go in the direction of the signal



Never point towards an obstacle you wish to avoid!

River II

River Features

What can you identify on the
river?