

WKC White Water Course

River III

River Features

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some are good and some are bad!**

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During your kayaking career you will boat on rivers with many different features.

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Knowing what to do

Which to avoid

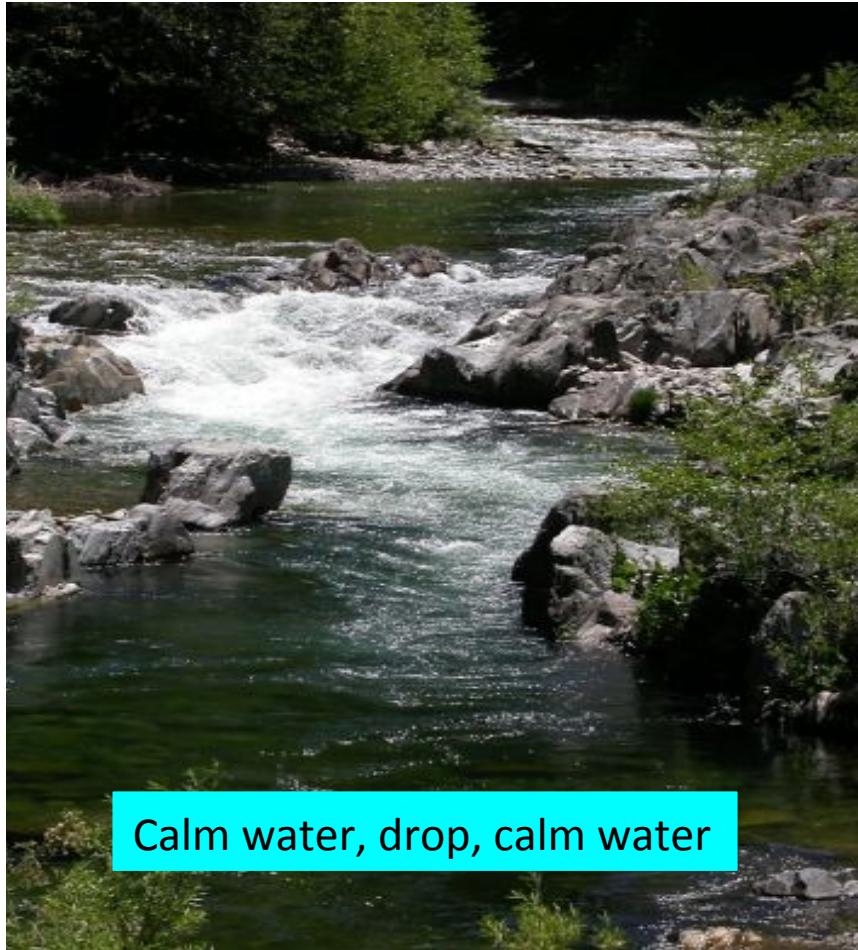
&

What to get excited about

Is a skill that comes with time!

Types of Rivers..

Pool/drop vs. Continuous



Calm water, drop, calm water



Non-stop action!
Imagine swimming this!

Identify the River Features:



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Eddy – Our parking spots! Used to slow down or even look downriver to see where the next eddy is.



Identify the River Features:

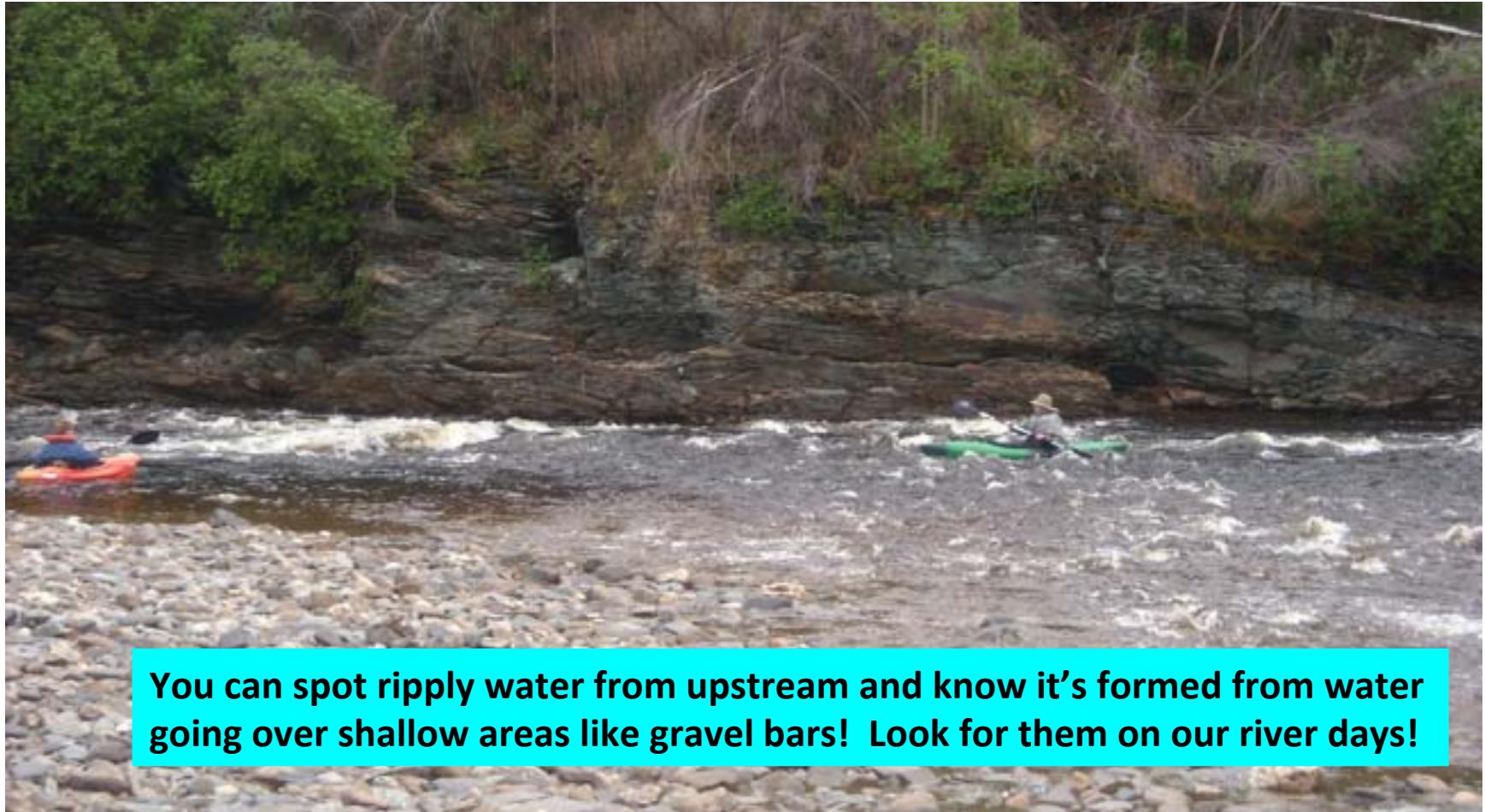


Wood – be cautious around wood, there could also be pieces lurking just under the surface too.



Gravel Bar

Do you see the ripply water?



You can spot ripply water from upstream and know it's formed from water going over shallow areas like gravel bars! Look for them on our river days!

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Identify the River Features:

Wood

Surf Wave

Eddy

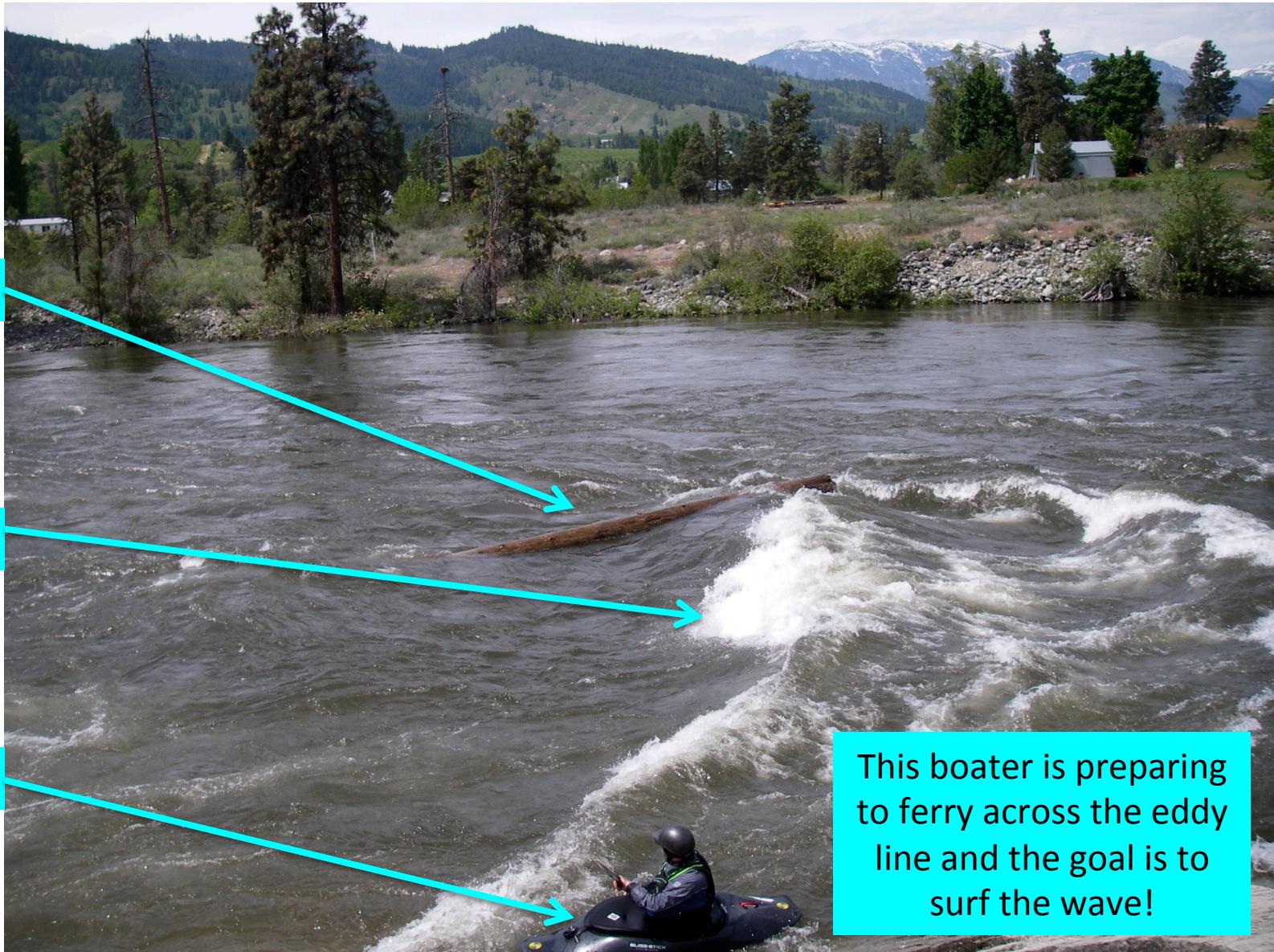


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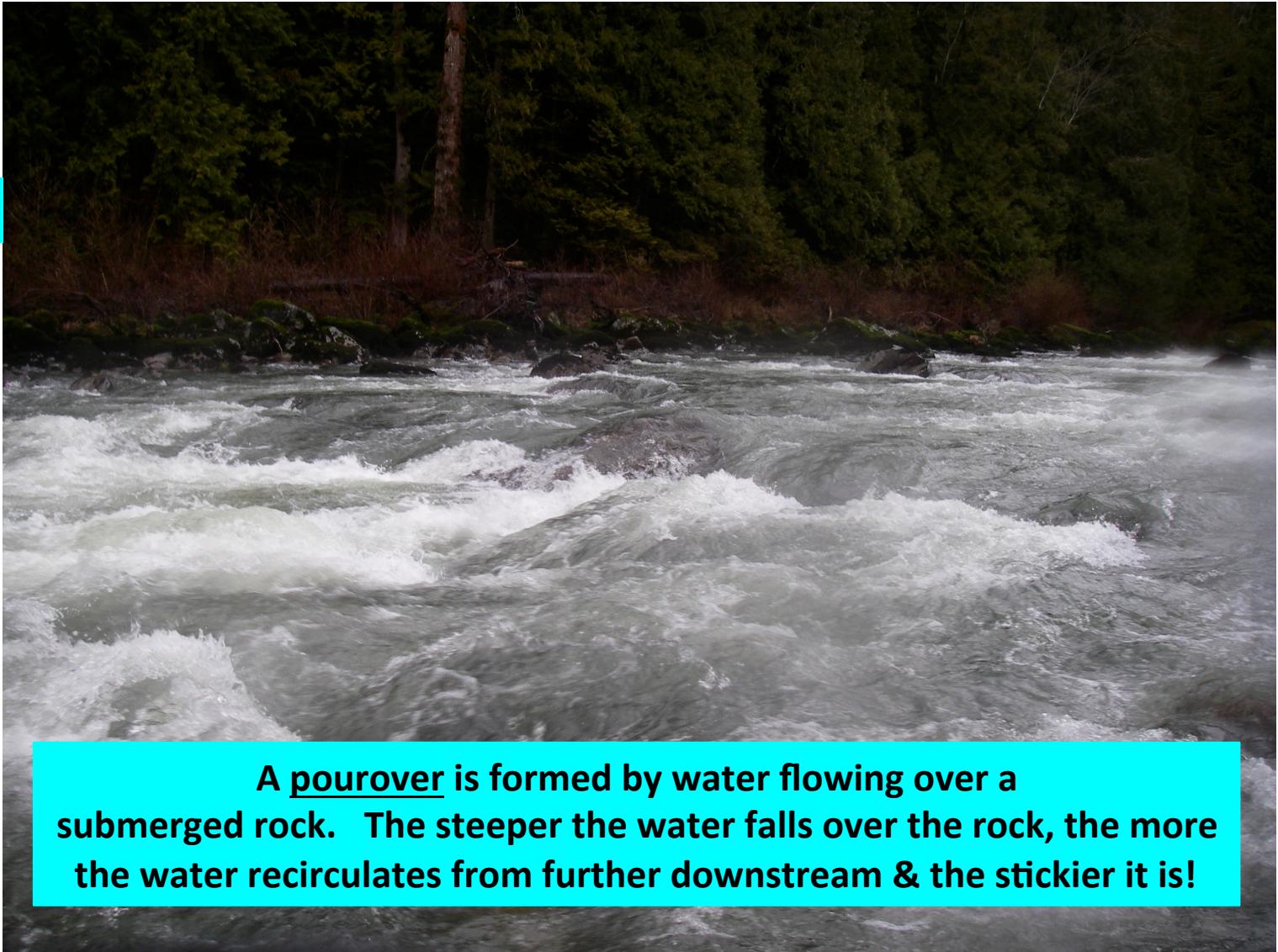


Wave Trains = Tons of Fun!



Identify the River Features:

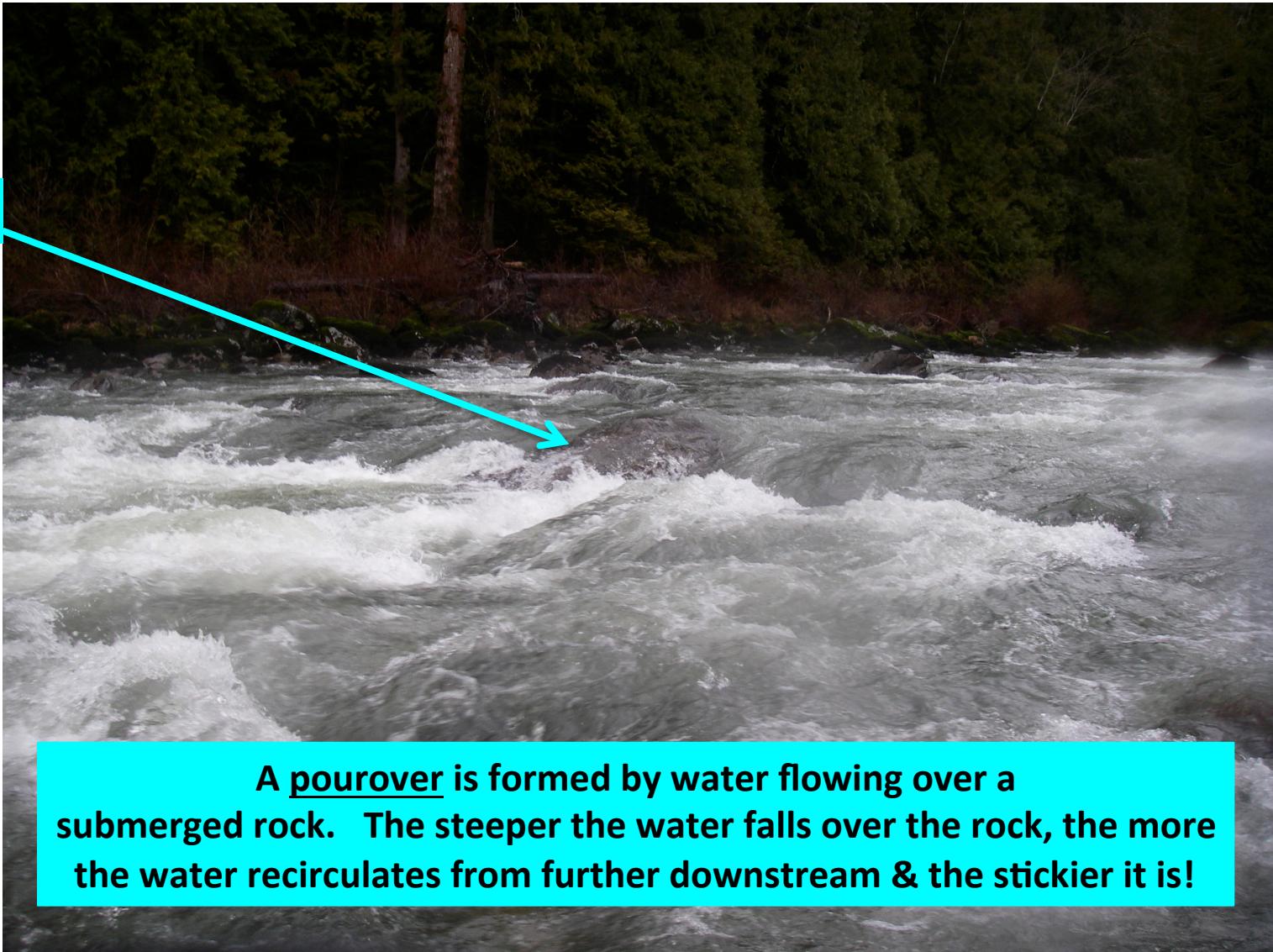
Pourover



A pourover is formed by water flowing over a submerged rock. The steeper the water falls over the rock, the more the water recirculates from further downstream & the stickier it is!

Identify the River Features:

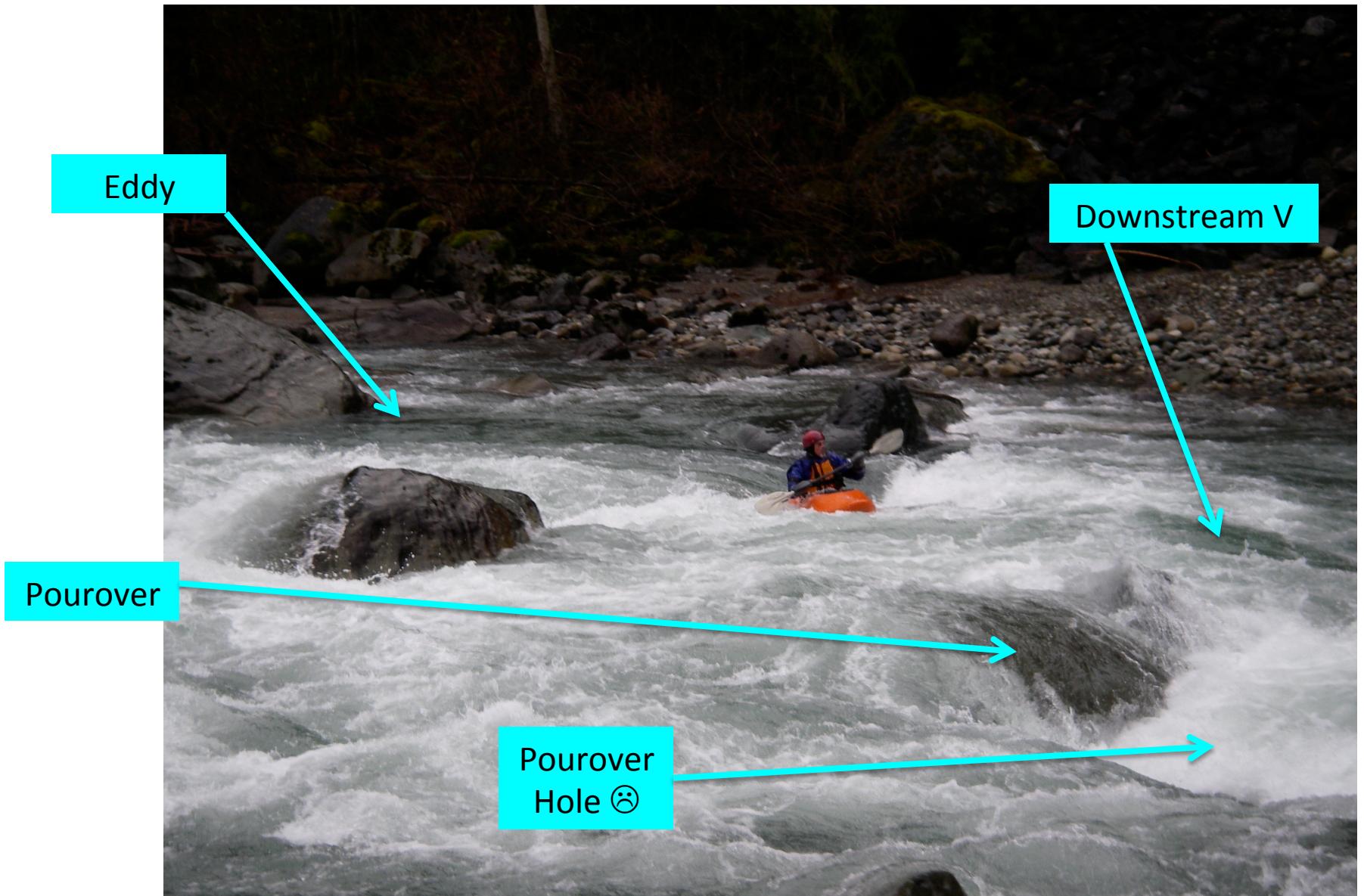
Pourover



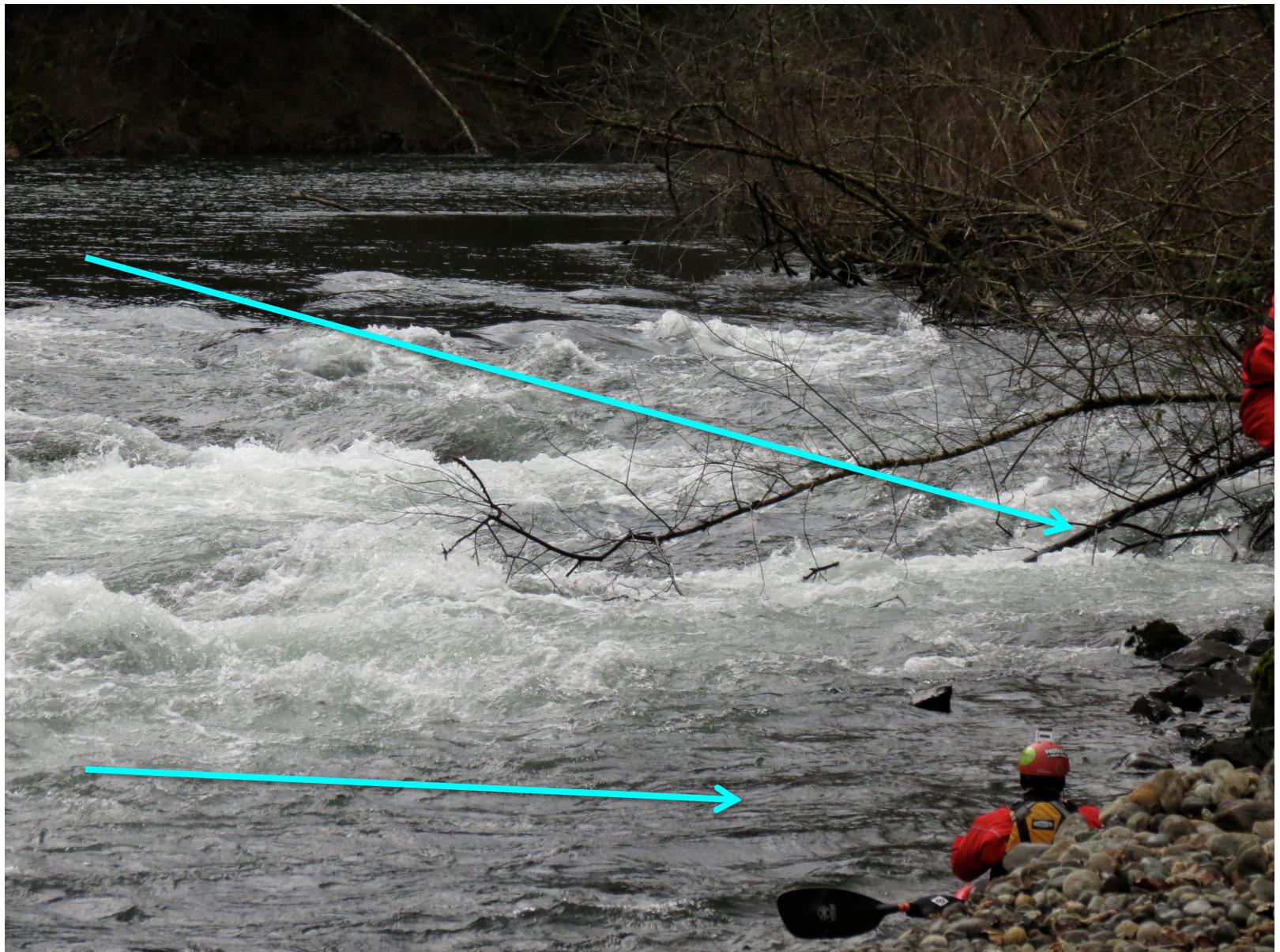
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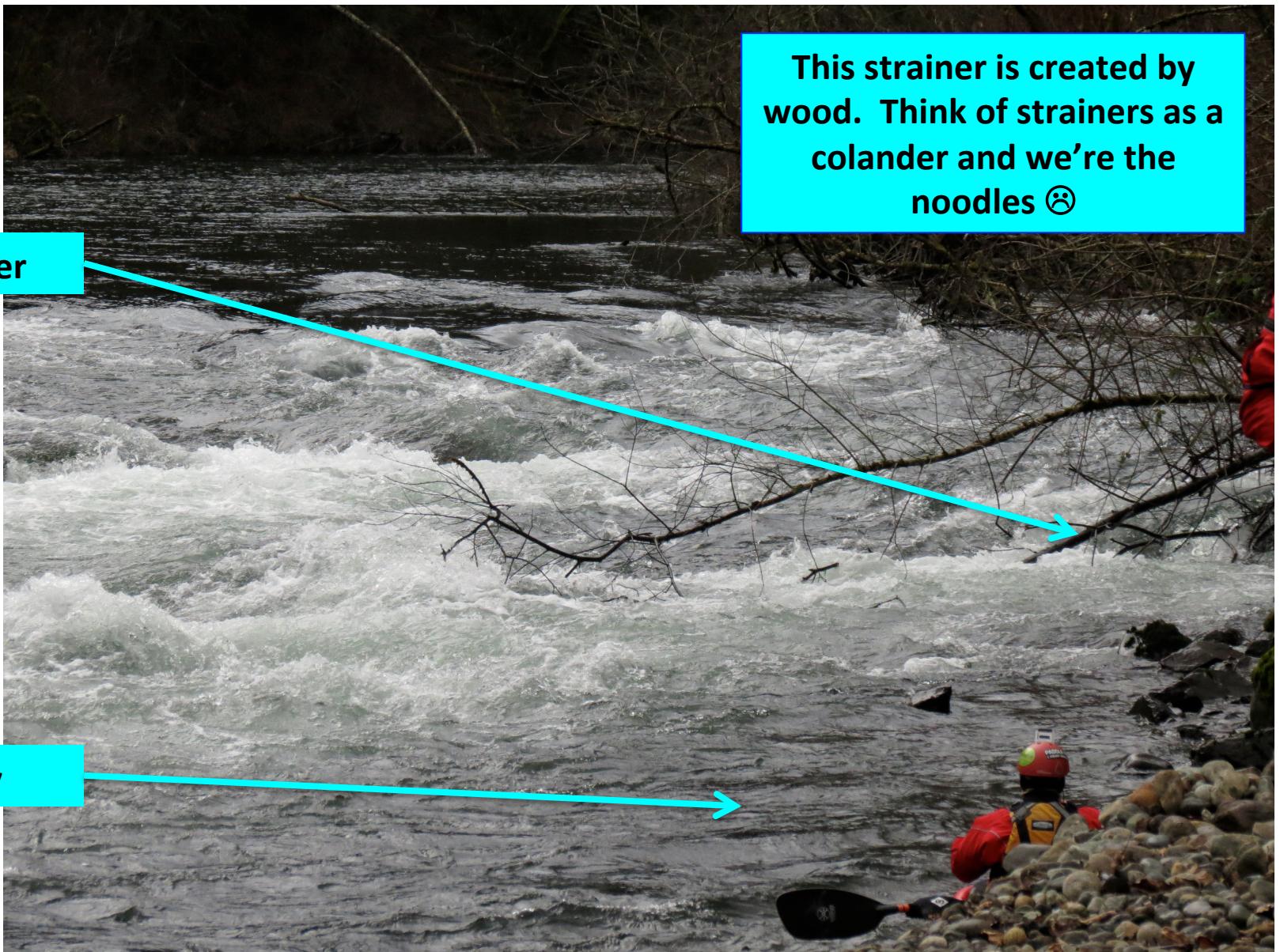
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Horizon Line!
Looks like
nothing, huh?!

Eddy

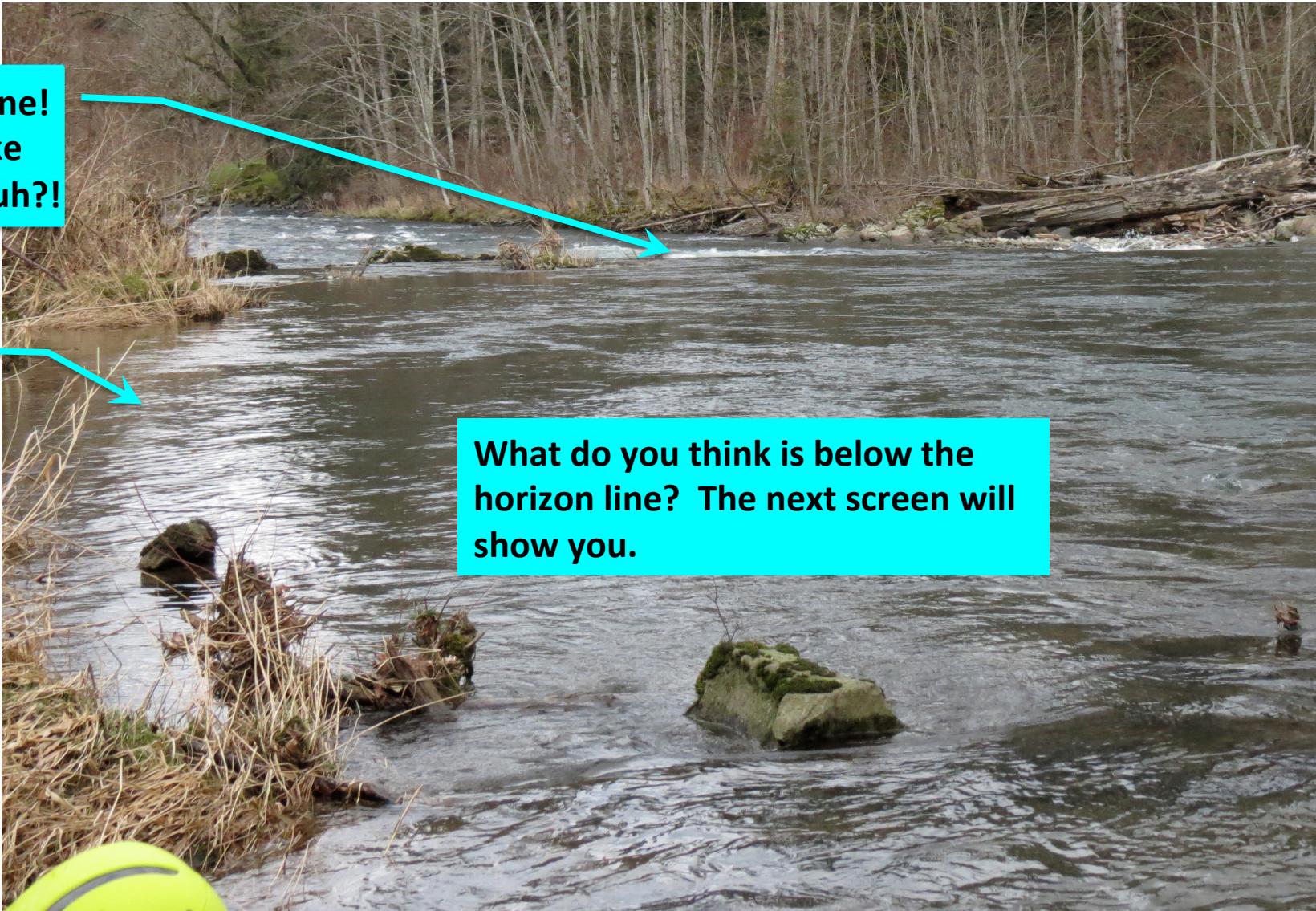


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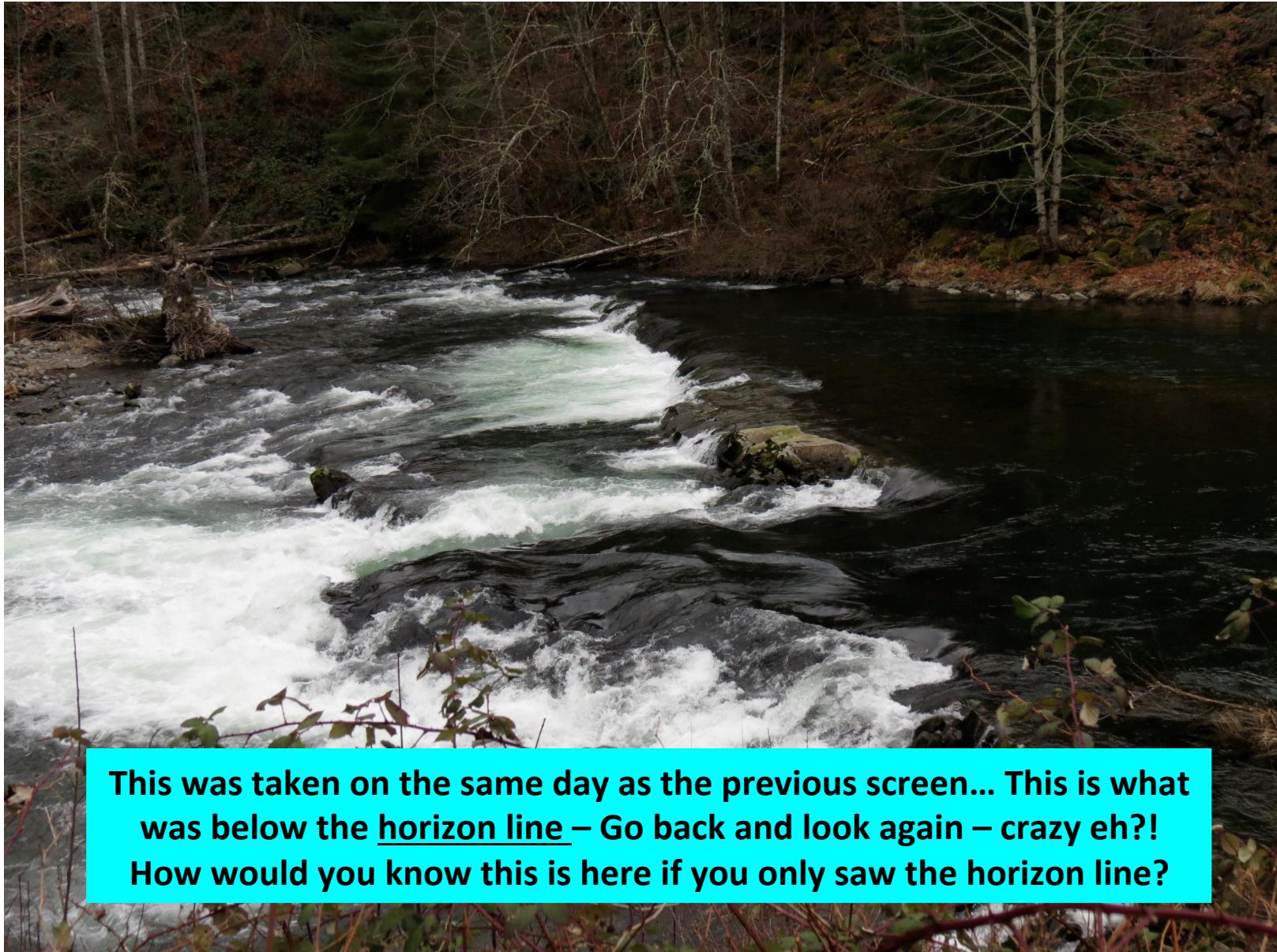
Horizon Line!
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Eddy

What do you think is below the horizon line? The next screen will show you.

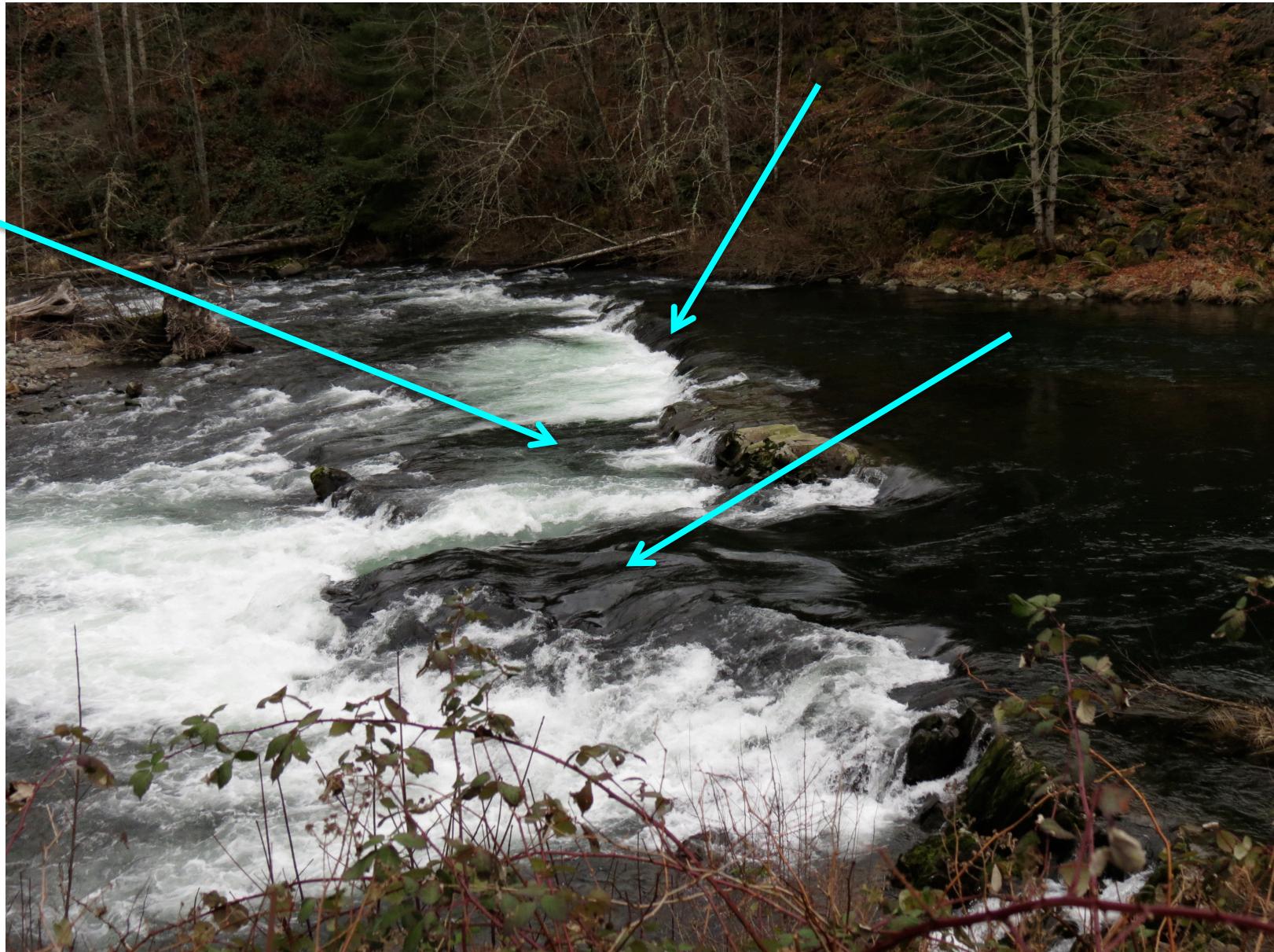


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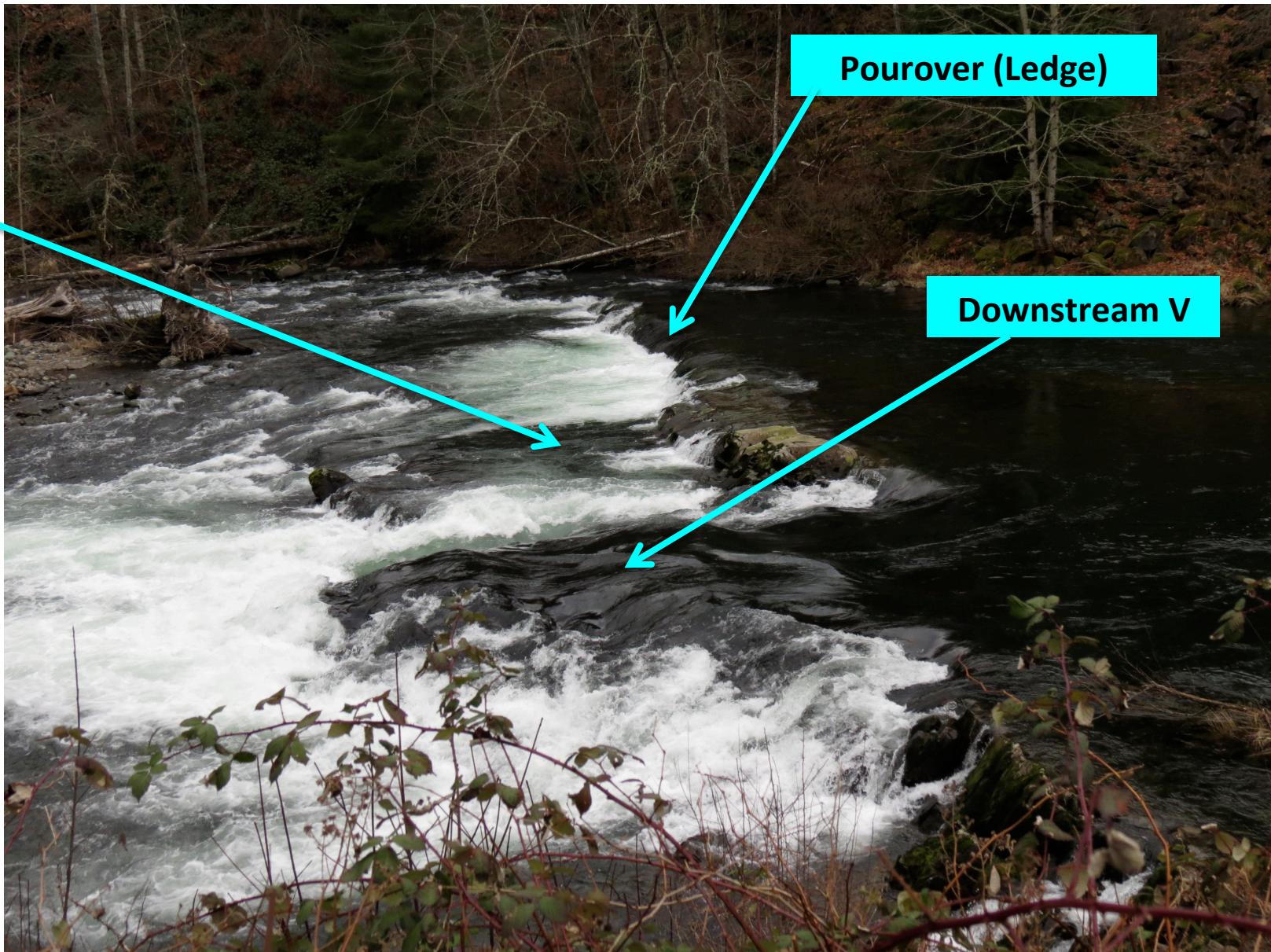


This was taken on the same day as the previous screen... This is what was below the horizon line – Go back and look again – crazy eh?! How would you know this is here if you only saw the horizon line?

Identify the River Features:



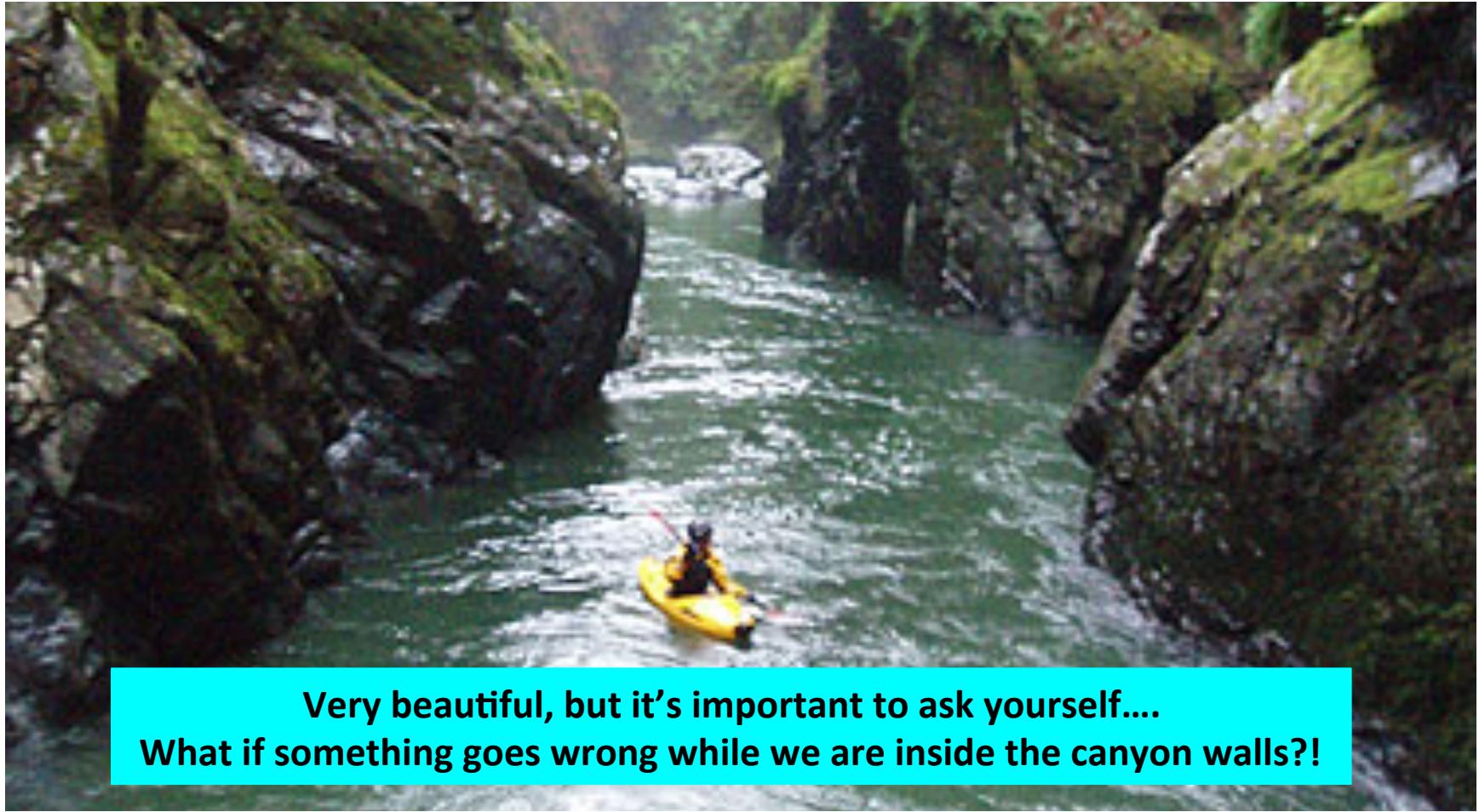
Identify the River Features:



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Canyon Walls!



Very beautiful, but it's important to ask yourself....
What if something goes wrong while we are inside the canyon walls?!

Identify the River Features:

Concrete
Abutment

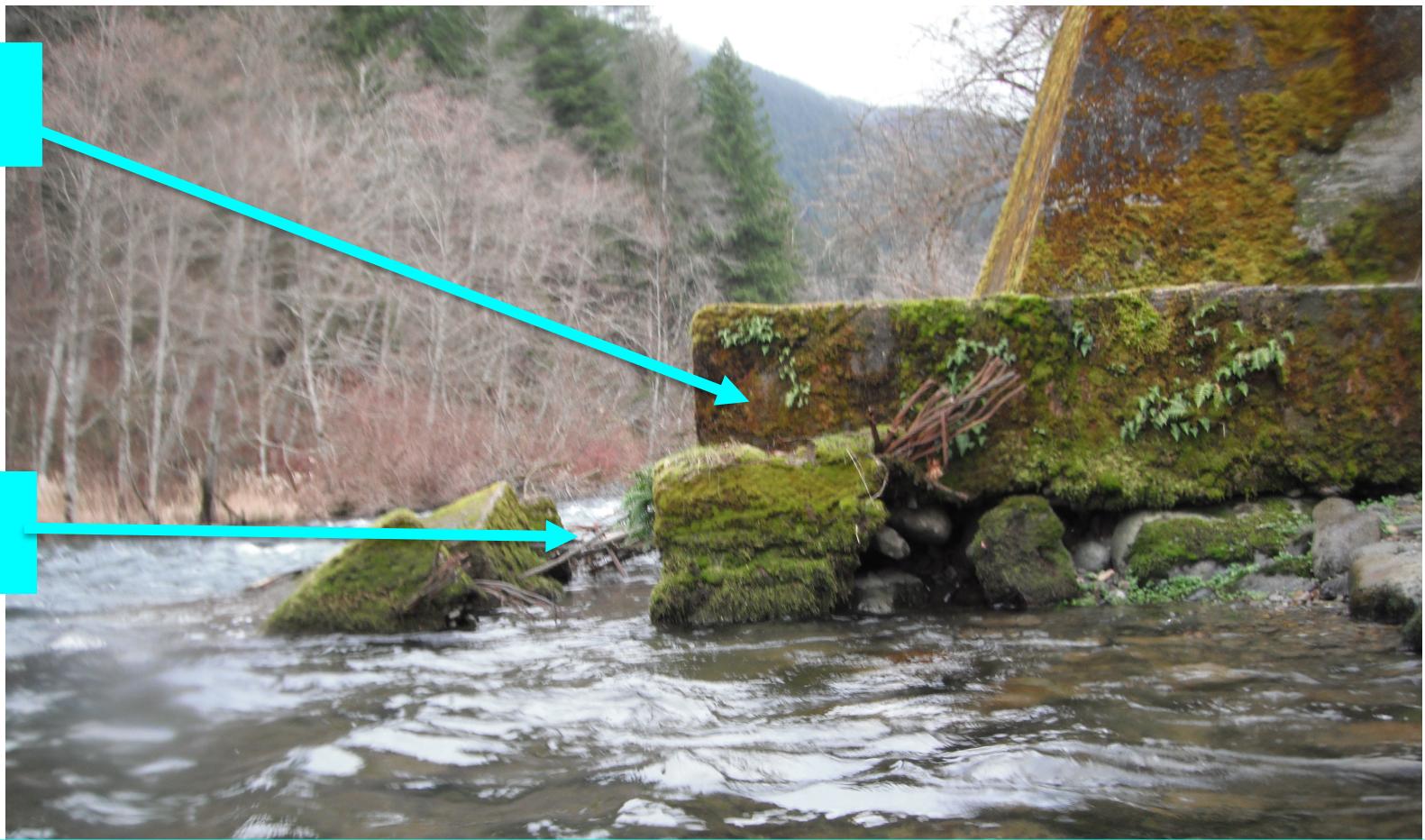
Strainer:
Steel Cables



Identify the River Features:

Concrete
Abutment

Strainer:
Steel Cables



We look for features that might be problems at different water levels. These cables might seem like nothing at this water level but what happens as the water level rises? The water submerges these cables – you wouldn't want to swim through there (bad news) ☹

Bridge Abutments

Steer clear of manmade objects, plan ahead while upstream and keep your distance. Current travels directly towards abutment.



It's common to also see wood broadside against a bridge abutment. Imagine that piece of wood just under the surface of the water sticking out about 20' or so (very hard to see).

Dam's are Bad News! (especially low head dams)



Also known as “drowning machines” it actually looks peaceful from above & very hard to spot! The water comes over the dam and recirculates back towards the structure, if caught in it, there’s no downstream moving water so it just keeps the object there and it goes around and around. The only way to stay safe is to stay away!!

Flooding Rivers

Things that were on land get washed into the river; debris is very dangerous during flooding. Stronger currents exist, water travels higher on the bank through trees & bushes, and the increase water flow take away our eddies.



Curves:

Where is the fastest water? The deepest? Where would debris most likely collect?

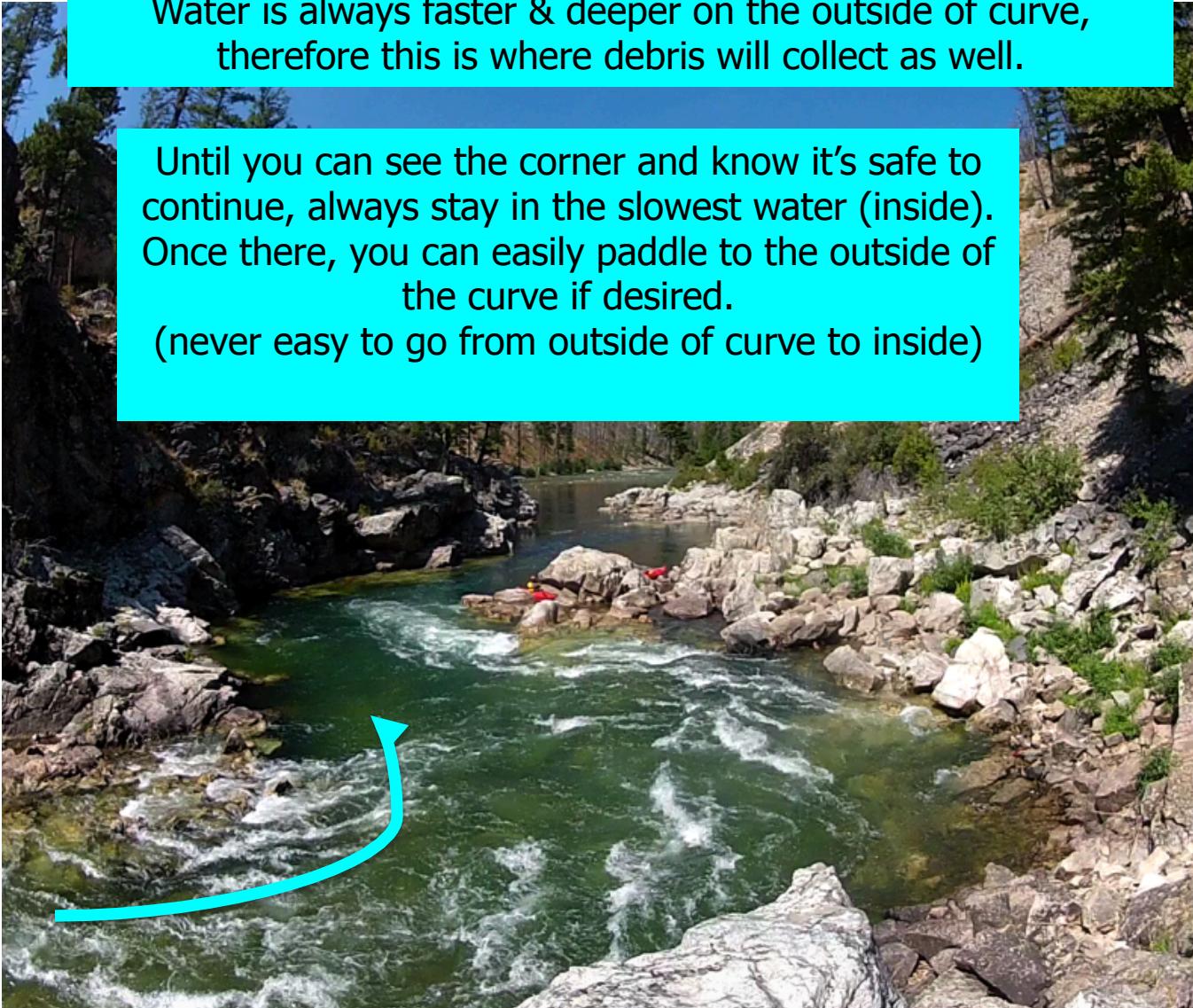


Downriver
Direction

Curves:

Water is always faster & deeper on the outside of curve, therefore this is where debris will collect as well.

Until you can see the corner and know it's safe to continue, always stay in the slowest water (inside). Once there, you can easily paddle to the outside of the curve if desired.
(never easy to go from outside of curve to inside)



Identify the River Features:

Eddy

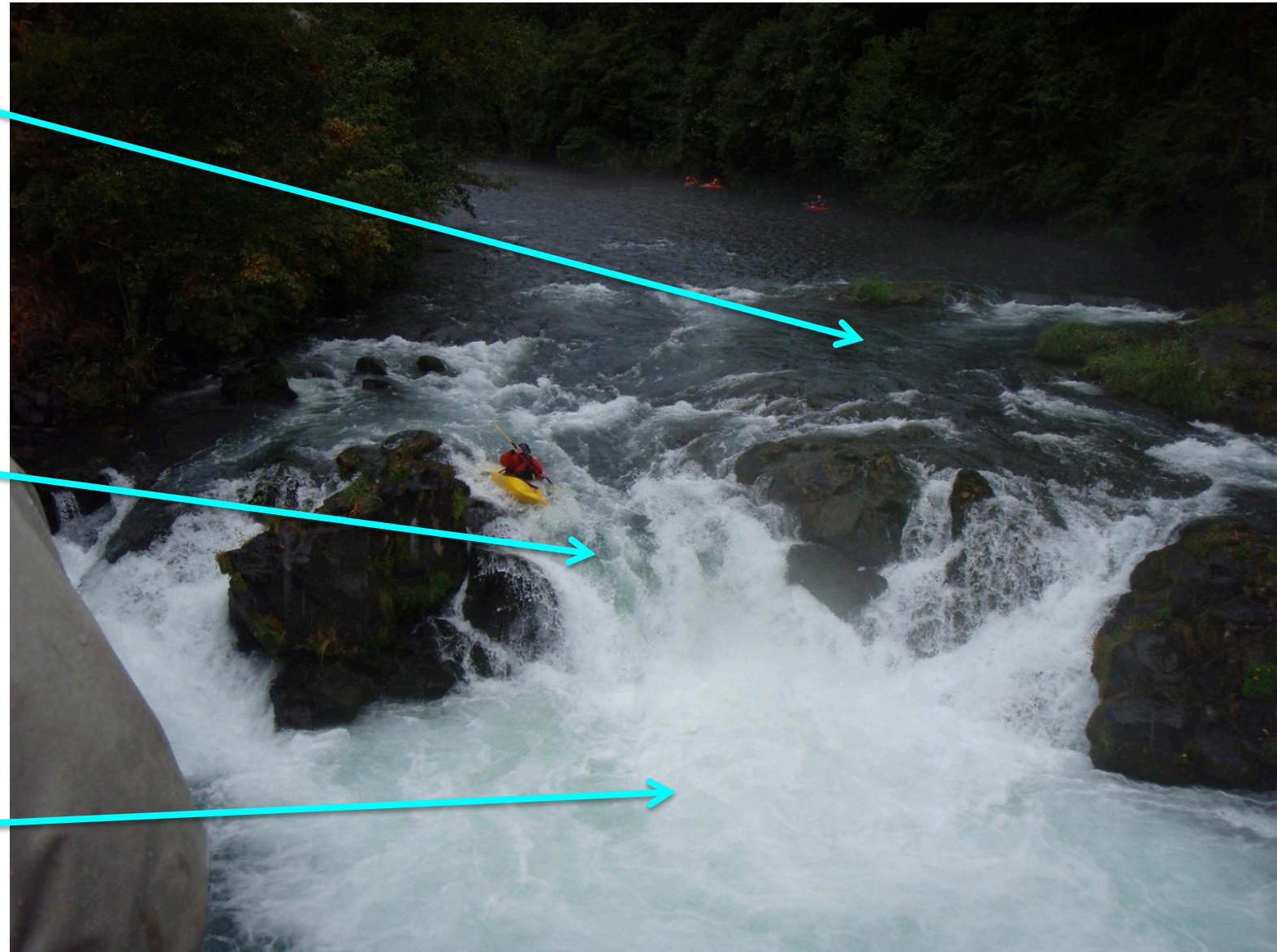
Waterfall

Lots of Boils



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Eddy



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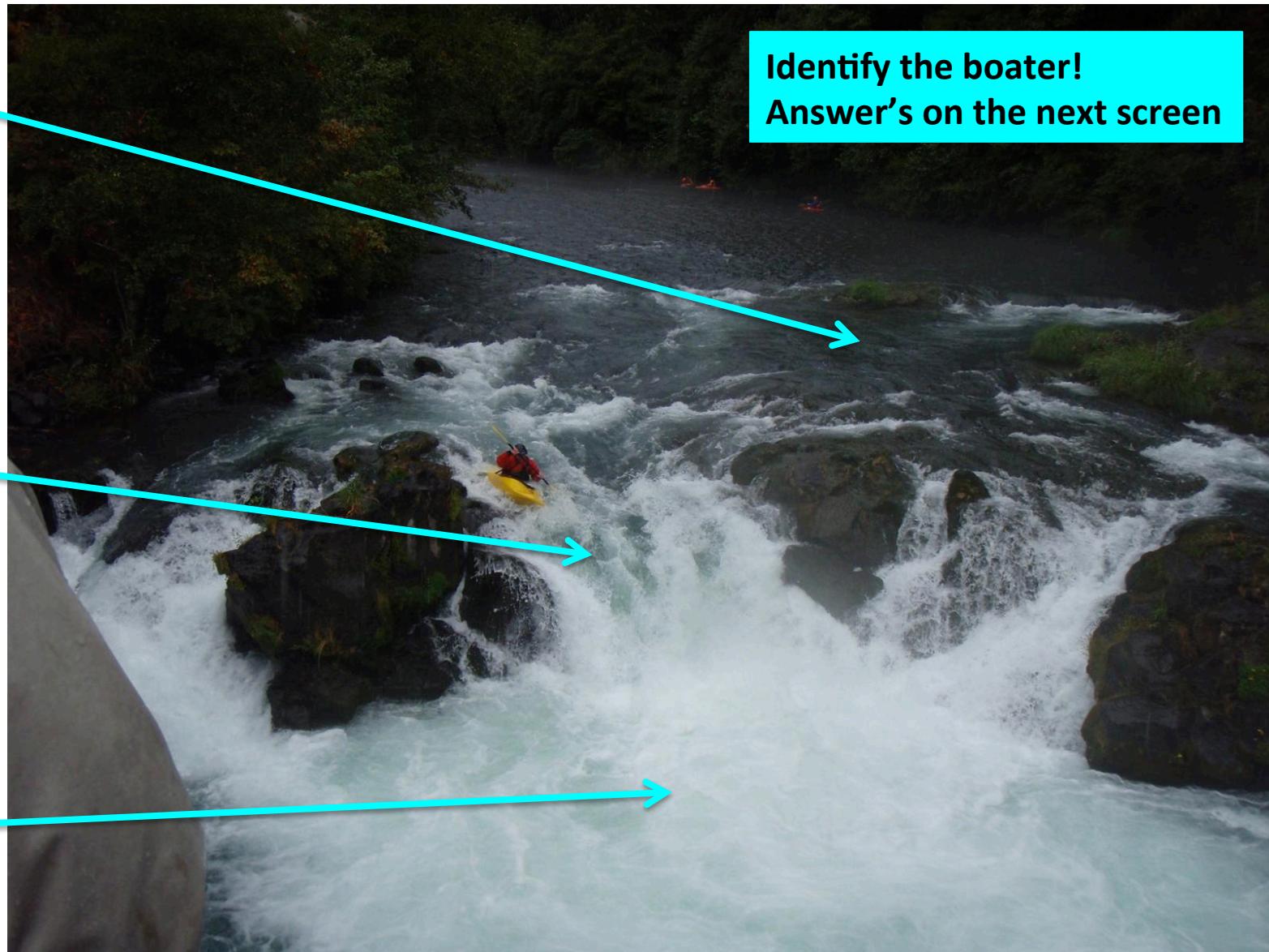
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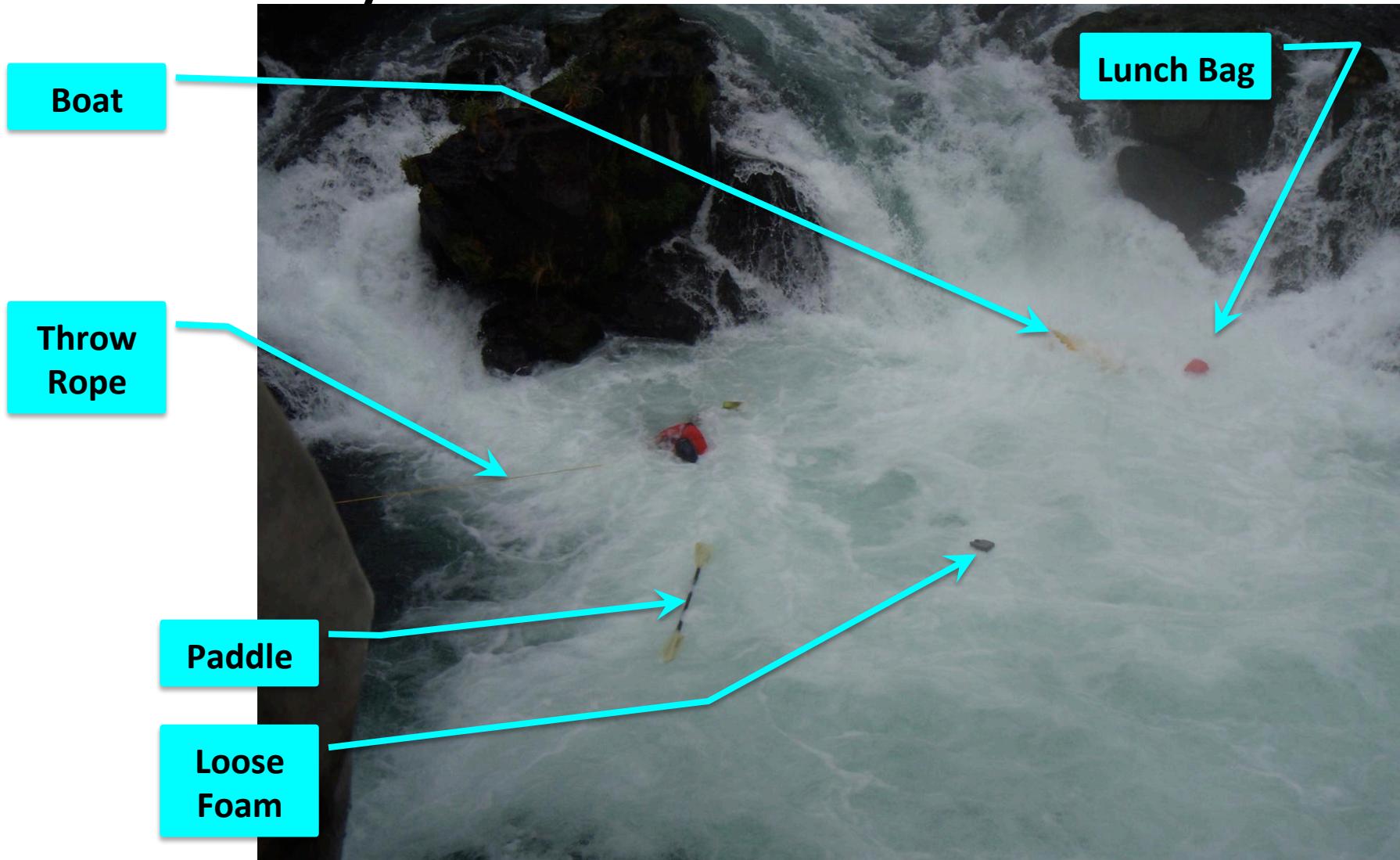
Identify the boater!
Answer's on the next screen

Waterfall

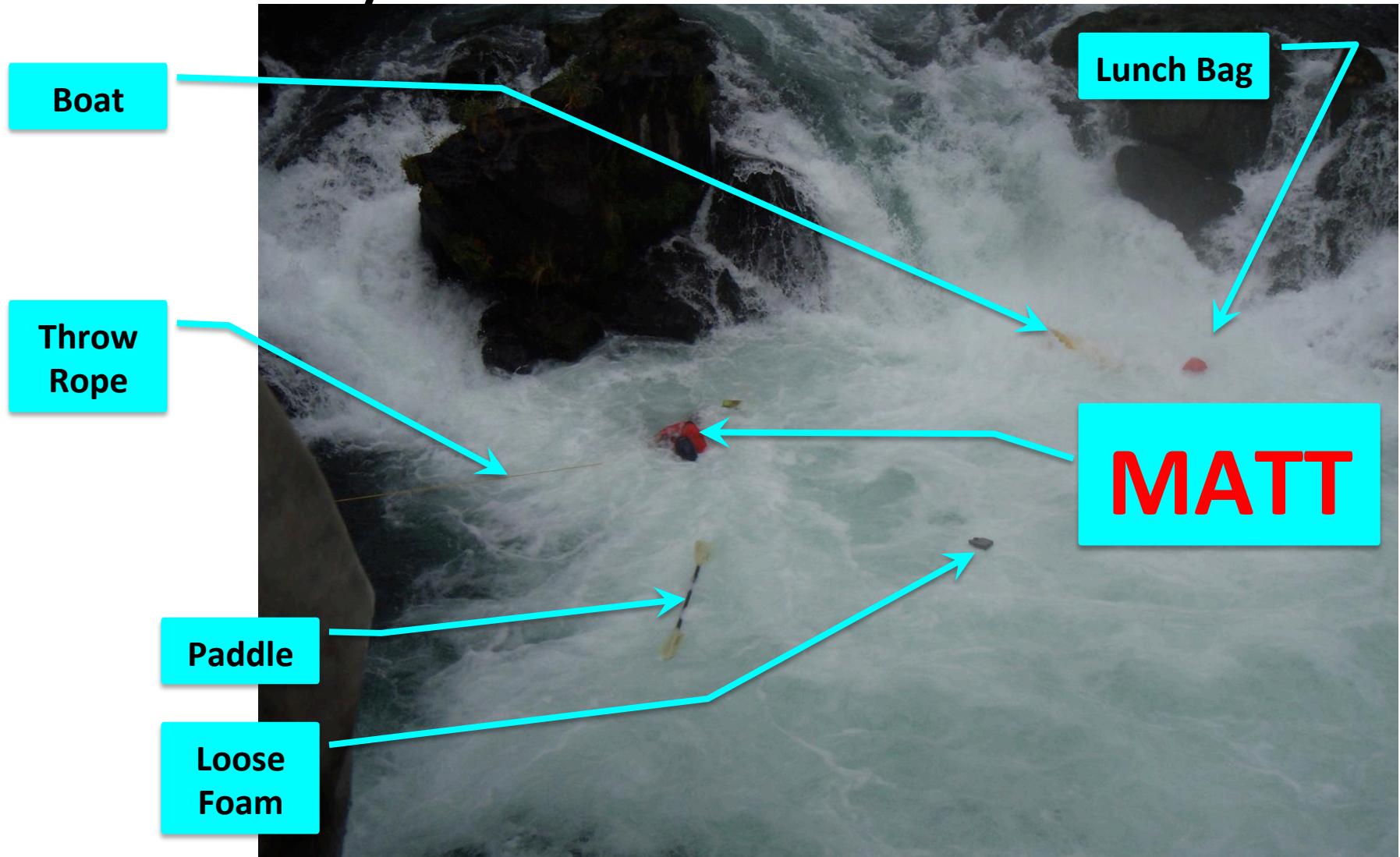
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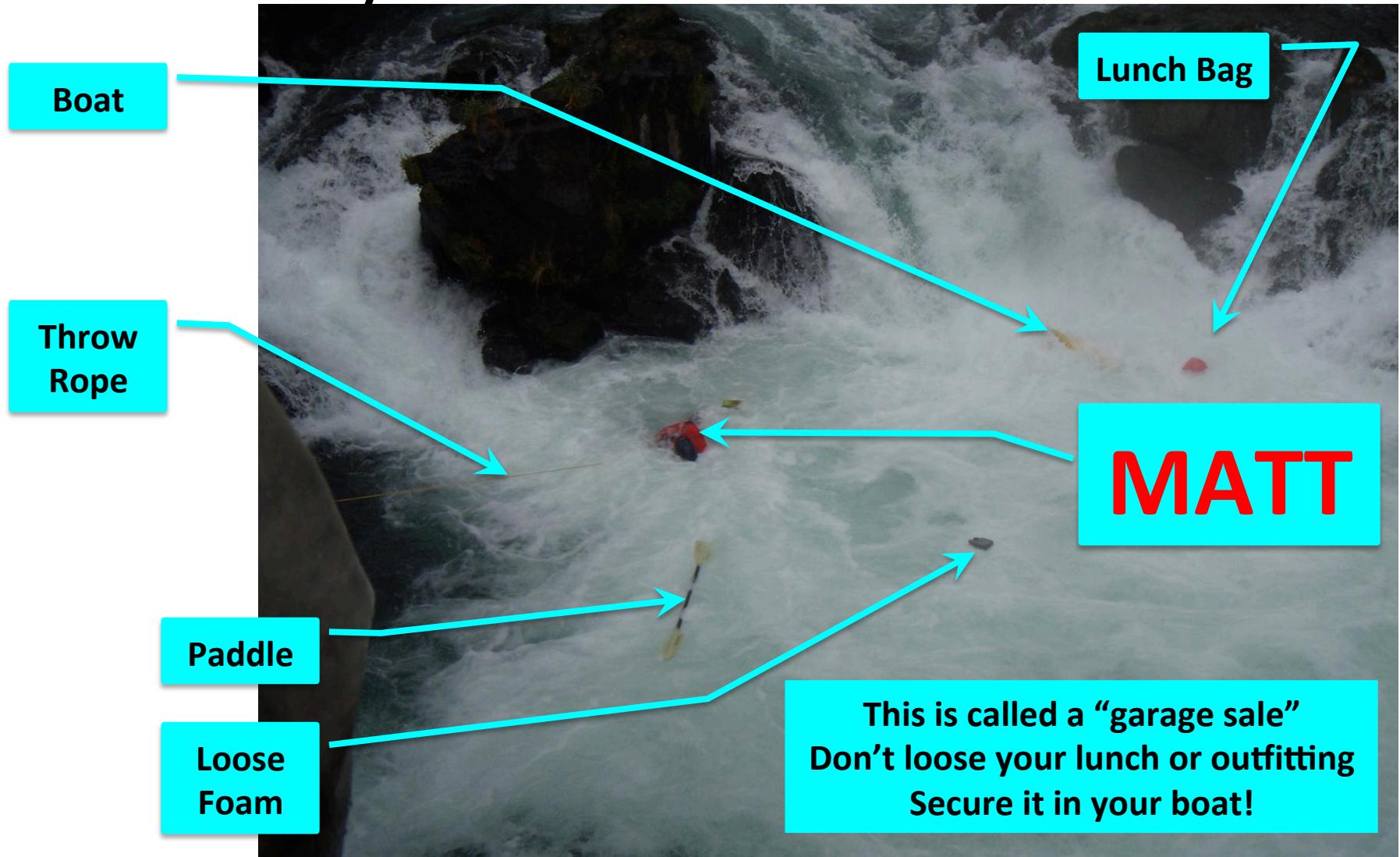
Identify the Boater and the Kayak Gear:



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AND This is why we boat with Buddies!



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How many river features will you be able to recognize on our upcoming river days?!