

Upper Log Ride (Upper South Branch Feather River)

Rating: 3-C2 III *****

Time: 8-10 hours

Season: Low: June-Sept Norm: July-Sept High: Aug-Sept

Number of Raps: 6 + 2 Jumps

Longest Rap: ~130ft

Gear: 2x 200ft rope, 125ft webbing, 6 rapides, wetsuit, neoprene gloves, technical canyoneering gear

Rubber: At least 4mm/3mm. 5mm or more recommended under most conditions. The water is very cold!

Hazards: Jumps to 40ft, raps in waterfalls, numerous downclimbs, natural anchors. A solid understanding of swift water canyoneering technique and basic natural anchor skills are required.

Vehicle: High Clearance 2WD

Car Shuttle: 0.8 miles

Approach: 0.3 mi and -500 feet

Exit: ~1/2 mile and +1000 feet (death march)

Good Eats: Pangaea Café in Quincy!!

Camping: There is a great, large campsite at the bridge over Cascade Creek. There are also many campgrounds and other dispersed camping options in the area.

Introduction:

Upper Log Ride is one of two spectacular canyon routes that fall though an incredible and remote gorge in the Feather River watershed. Upper Log Ride boasts many charms including heart pounding jumps, majestic rappels, slides and plentiful river scrambling and downclimbing. The final rappel drops you into the canyon's namesake, the log pool. This pool is immense and collects driftwood up to the size of significant trees. At the end of our descent in 2007 we spent a long time playing in this pool. We rode tree trunks around and around in the swirling log ride.

Upper Log Ride is situated in a significant drainage and will contain a large amount of water (in canyoneering terms anyway) at all times. All this water flows naturally through the canyon and will fluctuate with the progress of the snowmelt. This fact creates two logistical challenges for the canyoneer. First, you must time your decent so that peak snowmelt is long past. Too little water will not be a big concern in Upper Log Ride. However, too much water could be deadly. Under high flow the entire route would turn into a tremendous drowning machine. Second, the water in Upper Log Ride is always cold and you will be in it for hours. Don't be fooled by air temperatures in the 90s, a 4-5mm wetsuit will be necessary. Do not enter this canyon under high flow or without sufficient thermal protection. You have been warned!

Upper Log Ride is very playful. As long as the flow is manageable, the canyon can be relatively safe as class C canyons go. However, this canyon is not suitable for raw beginners without advanced leadership. Careful routefinding and advanced judgment will be necessary to safely descend the route.

Driving Directions:

The Upper Log Ride trailhead can be reached by a high clearance 2WD vehicle under dry conditions. Most of the driving is on paved roads but the final miles are on a well-rutted dirt road. Upper Log Ride requires a short car shuttle. The distance between the start and finish trailhead is 0.8 miles and could be walked by an energetic party that lacked a second vehicle.

From the city of Oroville, take highway 162 east. Turn right on Forbestown Road. Go about 6.1 miles and make a left on Lumpkin Road. Go about 11.5 miles and make a right on Forest Service Road 27. Stay straight when Forest Service 27 turns into Forest Service 94 (do not go towards Lumpkin Ridge). After about 15 miles you will cross the bridge over Cascade Creek. There is a nice campsite below this bridge beside the creek. Continue 3 miles, following signs for Milsap Bar and crossing the bridge over the South Branch Feather River along the way to the intersection with Forest Service 62 (Milsap Bar Rd.). Go left onto Milsap Bar Rd. (a dirt road) and continue ~1.5 miles to a non-descript pullout on the left side of the road (UTM 10S 651800mE 4396500mN). The trailhead is very hard to recognize, it is a white dirt bend in the road where 2-3 cars can pull off.

To reach the exit trailhead continue ~0.8 miles down Milsap Bar Rd. to another pullout on the left. This pullout is easier to recognize as it is a bit bigger and in 2007 had 2 dead refrigerators below the embankment and a small but distinct trail leading down hill from the pullout. This is known as the Seven Falls Trailhead.

Approach:

From the Upper Log Ride Trailhead look for a very faint use trail (created by our team in 2007) headed



SIERRA CANYONS

This route description is licensed under a Creative Commons license, some rights reserved. (See www.sierracanyons.org for more information)

down hill. The best way to spot and follow this “proto-trail” may be to look for cut branches. On our descent we used horticultural clippers to clip a path downhill. Follow the “trail” downhill as best you can. The path traverses left or right from time to time but generally goes down. At about the 3500ft level start heading east and cross a small dry drainage. Once across, head downhill again on a nondescript ridge to the watercourse. The last couple hundred feet to the river are very steep but careful routefinding should see you through without a rope.

Canyon:

When you reach the watercourse get into your wetsuit and gear on the rocks then start heading downstream. The first ¼ mile or so is an enjoyable river scramble. Lots of swimming and wading mixed with an occasional not too serious downclimb. Eventually the route funnels down and goes around a bend to the left (LDC). Here you are faced with the first real challenge of the route. Downclimb and swim through this narrows that last about 50 yards. The flow will make things very interesting and the rock is slippery so be careful. After this defile, continue on scrambling down river. Before long the technical section begins.

Jump 1: 40 feet from a diving rock in the MIDDLE of the watercourse above a curtain falls. As with all jumps, send one canyoneer down on a rope to check the landing zone for sufficient depth and clearance from submerged rocks etc. Climb up onto the nearly perfect diving rock to jump. The safest jump line is slightly right (LDC) of straight out and as far out as you can manage.

Continue scrambling and swimming downstream for about 1/8 mile.

Rap 1: 20 feet from a pinch on the LEFT (LDC). This is a single drop to the rocks at the edge of a large pool. Unfortunately, the waterfall at this drop seems just little too low angle to safely jump.

Jump 2: 15 feet from ledges on the RIGHT (LDC). Be sure to send one canyoneer down to check the landing. In 2007 the jump went between the wall of the pool and a large downed tree that was in the water. A nice fun bonus was after the jump is that the current pushes you under an arch made by the tree.

Scramble and swim some more through increasingly difficult problems. Some may want a handline for some of the downclimbs in this section.

Rap 2: 30 feet from a tree on the LEFT (LDC). This is a single drop that ends in a pool. However it is very easy to get off rappel before entering the pool.

Rap 3: 40 feet from a chokestone on the RIGHT (LDC). The anchor is on the far right at a ledge just below the lip of the drop. This is a single drop with a small platform ¾ of the way down and a pool at the bottom. Part of this rap is in the flow. Set rope length or be prepared for a floating disconnect.

Rap 4: 40 feet from a tree on the LEFT (LDC). This is a single drop with a pool at the bottom however it is easy to get off rappel just before reaching this pool.

Exit this pool on the left (LDC) and climb up into the trees on a large ledge above the next drop. You will now be standing above a large and majestic 150 foot two tiered waterfall.

Rap 5: 130 feet from a tree on the LEFT (LDC). This is a single drop down a lovely face beside quite the waterfall. This drop ends in a pool. Set rope length or be prepared for a floating disconnect.

Rap 6: 60 feet from a boulder in the watercourse on the RIGHT (LDC). The rap is in the watercourse down a fantastic curtain falls and into the log pool. Set rope length or be prepared for a floating disconnect.

Exit:

Once you are done playing in the log pool, exit the pool on the right (LDC) and change out of your wetsuit and gear on the rocks. Hike down canyon on the right (LDC) for a very short bit and look for a small rock bottomed drainage coming in on the right (LDC). Follow this drainage up hill and look for a use trail after about 100 feet or so. This is the Seven Falls Trail. Follow this trail steeply up hill for about a ½ mile and 1000 vertical feet to the exit trailhead and your car spot. If you did not spot a car at the exit trailhead hike up the road to the right 0.8 miles to your car at the start.

Multi-Day:

It is possible to chain Upper and Lower Log Ride together for a fantastic two-day canyoneering adventure. If this is your plan, there is camp suitable for 3-5 people on a smallish island in the middle of the watercourse just downstream from the log pool.

Non-Technical:

The last two pools in Upper Log Ride can be explored from the bottom by non-technical hikers. Both of these pools are world-class swim holes. To reach the bottom section of Upper Log Ride park at the exit trailhead

and descend the Seven Falls Trail to the river. From here the log pool is a short scramble upstream. To reach the pool at the bottom of the 150 two-tiered falls look for a steep bypass on the right (LUC) that takes

you above the log pool. This bypass could also be used by canyoneers on their way down Upper Log Ride to bypass the last rappel but what fun would that be?

WGS84 Zone 10S 653000m E.

651000m E.

650000m E.

649000m E.

648000m E.

4398000m N.

4397000m N.

4396000m N.

4395000m N.

4398000m N.

4397000m N.

4396000m N.

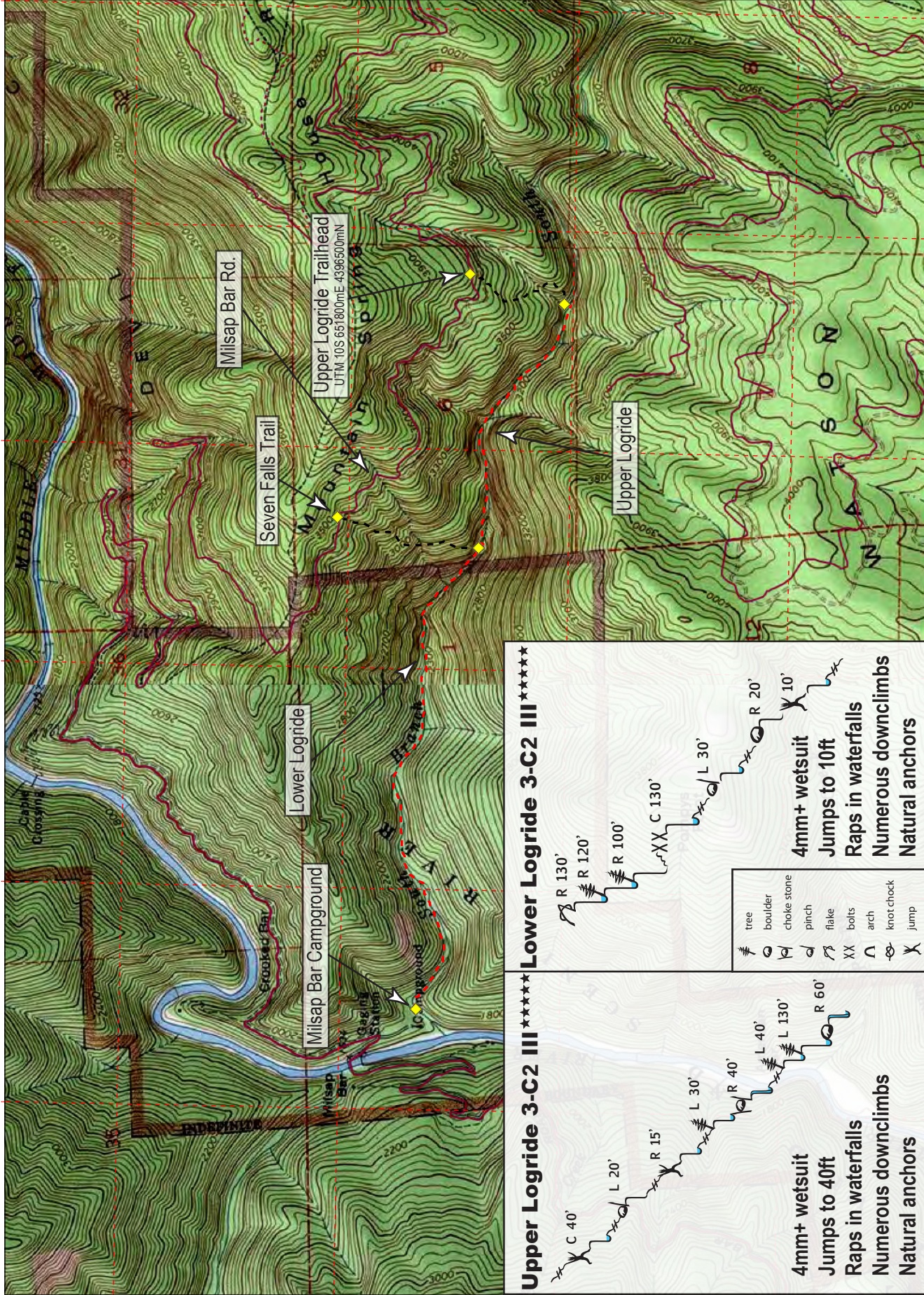
4395000m N.

WGS84 Zone 10S 653000m E.

TN MN

15°

02/25/08

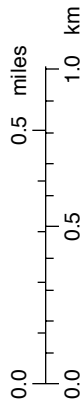


651000m E.

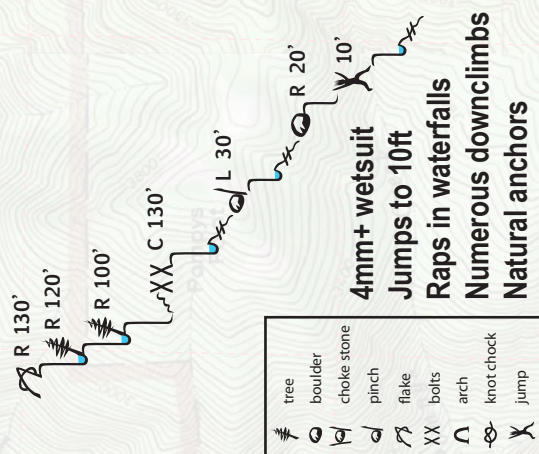
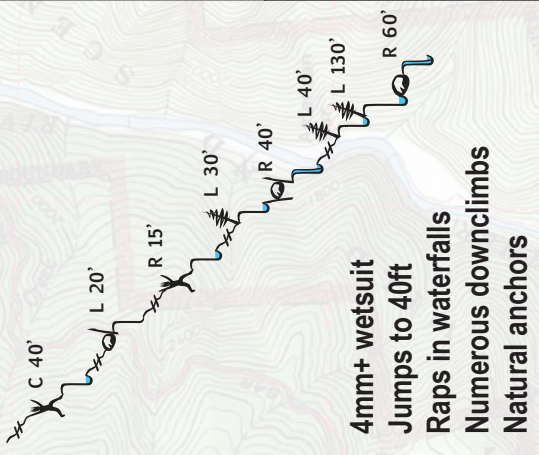
650000m E.

649000m E.

648000m E.



Upper Logride 3-C2 III ***** Lower Logride 3-C2 III *****



tree	boulder	choke stone	pinch	flake	bolts	arch	knot chock	jump



This map is licensed under a Creative Commons license, some rights reserved. (see www.sierracanyons.org for more information)