

# TRIP REPORT FORM

**RIVER:** Cheat River (from St. George to U.S. 50 bridge) in Preston and Tucker Counties, West Virginia

**PUT-IN:** St. George public boat access (just upstream from CR 1 bridge on east side of river)

**TAKE-OUT:** U.S. 50 bridge (about 350 yards upstream from bridge on west side of river)

**Approximate number miles by river:** 19 miles (according to USGS topographic maps)

**CLASS:** I (B-C)

**SCENIC VALUE:** B (very good scenery, although Rt. 72 and U.S. 50 are visible from some sections and a number of riverside houses, cabins and trailer camps line areas of the river).

**POLLUTION VALUE:** A (good swimming)

**DATE OF TRIP:** September 1, 2 & 3, 2001 (camped out nights of 9/1 and 9/2)

**WATER LEVEL:** approximately 2.8 feet on Parsons gauge (if my memory is correct, you may want to check the levels on the above dates to be sure)

**DESCRIPTION OF STREAM:** The Cheat River, in this section, is a wide, rocky, fairly shallow river with some deeper pools. It is characterized by mostly sloping, wooded banks and numerous islands. None of the rapids deserves more than a Class I designation, although several rapids contained fast-moving water with some rocks to avoid. Several rock gardens exist which require some maneuvering. The rapids are spread apart, separated by long, slow moving stretches of Class B/C water. The wooded hillsides are quite scenic. Civilization is noticeable along parts of the river, but consists mostly of cottages and camps with a few permanent dwellings and active farms. Several sections, especially below the Seven Islands area, are quite remote with few signs of civilization. Numerous potential primitive riverside and island camp sites can be found throughout the run. We camped about 3 miles from St. George (3/4 mile past the mouth of Bull Run) on river right the 1<sup>st</sup> night and about 1/2 mile past the Seven Islands area on river right the 2<sup>nd</sup> night. Fishing was fairly good, especially for smallmouth bass and panfish. We used mostly artificial lures, but other people fishing along the river said live bait was better. Locals often catch trout in the fast water and near stream mouths, especially in the spring and early summer. Overall, this section of the Cheat is quite scenic and excellent for a relaxing canoe-camping / fishing trip.

**DIFFICULTIES:** No major difficulties were encountered although some strainers were present along the banks. Shallow water was a constant concern at the stated water level, although we only had to drag the boat in one place. I would avoid running the river at any less than 2.5 feet on the Parsons gauge.

**SHUTTLE:** The take-out is located just upstream from the U.S. 50 bridge (east of Macomber), along County Road 50/13. There are two parking areas along CR 50/13, approximately 200-300 yards from the intersection with U.S. 50, on the left side of the road. The actual take-out (a steep dirt path leading from the road to the river) is approximately 100 yards past the 2<sup>nd</sup> parking area, along CR 50/13. This is not a State-maintained boat access area, although it is used frequently. From the take-out, travel west on U.S. 50 for approximately 2.5 miles and bear left on to State Route 72 south. Stay on Route 72 south for approximately 14.5 miles and turn left onto C.R. 1 (St. George Road). Cross the Cheat on the CR 1 bridge and go approximately .25 mile. Turn right onto a dirt road and follow to the river and State-sanctioned put-in area. Parking is along the road near the river. A river outfitter, Blackwater Outdoors, is located directly across the river from the put-in which most likely could provide a shuttle service if desired. The drive from take-out to put-in took approximately 25 minutes.

*Report prepared by:* Andrew P. Dick  
[sunman69@junco.com](mailto:sunman69@junco.com)