

Pond Brook

Wentworth, NH Class IV-V

Page 1

Pond Brook is located in the Upper Baker River valley about 16 miles west of Plymouth. It is a relatively small river that drains Lower Baker Pond. The season is usually in spring (April/May) and after heavy rains. There is no gage on this river, paddlers must drive up to the last drop on Ellsworth Hill Rd and look to see if there is enough water. A rough correlation can be made with the Baker River gage. It is estimated that a level of 100 feet on the Baker River could be a minimum flow for Pond Brook, but you must portage around a low snowmobile bridge then contend with some flat water. For this reason most paddlers chose to put in 1/4 mile further downstream where NH 25A comes close to the river. At this point the river is flat and running through an open marsh. Shortly after the river enters the forest class II-III rapids begin. The most significant factors in this section are tree falls and strainers. Boat scout each drop carefully to avoid problems. The action picks up about a mile and half below Lower Baker Pond. Some class III ledge drops start appearing the first of which is "Roadside". More small ledge drops continue until they start to pick up in intensity just after the 2 mile mark. The remaining mile of river contains the largest and most intense rapids. It is mostly away from the road but never far. The rapids are a series of small drops and strainers. There is evidence of river modifications for mills built in the 19th century. These mills are long gone but the rock work is evident all the way to the last rapid.

ALTERNATIVE PUT IN

MILE 0.5
885 FT

PUT IN

Rapid Naming Convention
It is not the intention of the author to name rapids for his own personal ego. Every effort was made to find the current, historical, or conventional name for each rapid. Unfortunately, Pond Brook is not run very often and there are no records of rapids names. Names assigned on this map were given by the author. Those names are mostly generic and are given to identify a unique feature (i.e. Z-chute) or location (i.e. Poverline) prevalent on or near the river. If in the future the author finds a more descriptive name or a more accepted name, the author will attempt to change those names to correspond with the accepted norm.

Continuous class II and III rapids increasing in difficulty as the paddler makes his/her way downstream in this section. Boat scout carefully, shore scout if there are any questions.

NORTH

Directions:
Put In
From southern NH
Take Interstate 93 to exit 26 (Tennant mtn highway rt 25)
16 miles to Wentworth NH
Take a left on NH 25A
2.5 miles to where the river comes in close on the left. This is the first option put in. You can continue another 1/3 mile to Lower Baker Dam for the short warm up. The first option put in has limited parking just make sure you pull well off the road.

Put In
From Vermont
Take Interstate 91
Take Exit 15 toward US-5 / FAIRLEE / ORFORD N.H
Turn RIGHT onto LAKE MOREY RD.
Turn LEFT onto US-5
Turn RIGHT onto BRIDGES ST / VT-25A. Continue to follow VT-25A (Crossing into NEW HAMPSHIRE).
Turn LEFT onto BAKER'S POND RD / NH-25A. Continue to follow NH-25A 1/3 mile to the Lower Baker Pond put in or continue another 1/3 mile to the roadside put in.

Take Out
Head back to Wentworth and take a right on NH route 25.
Take a right on Ellsworth Lane road.
Park near the bridge at Black Yard rapid.
If you are going south on 25 over the Baker River Bridge then take a right onto the town hall field parking area close to the river.

Disclaimer
Users of this map retain complete responsibility for their own safety. In no way should the author of this map be held responsible for any accidents or injuries. Only experienced paddlers should attempt class IV and V water. Don't boat alone. Scout often. Portage if there is any doubt. Take a Swiftwater Rescue course. Carry rescue equipment i.e. throw ropes, biers, etc. CPR and wilderness first aid also recommended.