



Big Sable River

Manistee Ranger Station
412 Red Apple Road
Manistee, MI 49660
(231) 723-2211 Voice
(231) 723-0124 TTY



While traveling on the Big Sable River, many wildlife species may be seen, including deer, raccoon, otters, beavers, woodchuck and a variety of songbirds. The river flows into Hamlin Lake, which is also frequented by a variety of wildlife species. Fishing opportunities include trout in the upper stretches and a variety of warm water fish in the lower sections.

LOCATION

The headwaters of the Big Sable River are located in northwest Lake County, Michigan and flow to both Hamlin Lake and Lake Michigan.

NATIONAL FOREST ACCESS

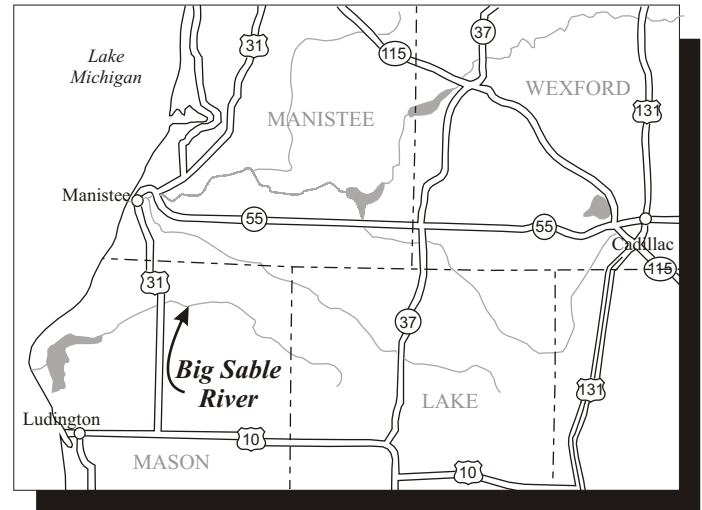
There are 10 road crossings where it is possible to launch a canoe: South Campbell-Yonker Road, Freesoil Road, Schoenher Road, Stephens Road, Custer Road, Tuttle Road, Darr Road, US 31, LaSalle Road, and Quarterline Road.

SEASON

The season is from May 1 through October 1. Please check with the Manistee Ranger Station regarding dates outside the normal season.

FEES

There are no fees required for the use of the Big Sable River.



CONSIDERATIONS

Length of the river: 37 miles

To help keep the river clean, carry all loose articles in a durable container tied to your watercraft. Deposit all litter in proper trash bins at the end of your trip.

Approximate Float Times and Distances:

| | Hours | Miles |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| S. Campbell-Yonker to Freesoil | 2.5 | 6.6 |
| Freesoil to Schoenher | 1.5 | 4.2 |
| Schoenher to Stephens | 1.0 | 3.1 |
| Stephens to Custer | 0.5 | 1.6 |
| Custer to Darr Bridge | 1.0 | 3.5 |
| Darr Bridge to US 31 | 0.5 | 1.1 |
| US 31 to LaSalle | 0.5 | 1.9 |
| LaSalle to Quarterline | 1.0 | 2.5 |
| Quarterline to Upper Hamlin Lake | 1.5 | 3.4 |
| Up Hamlin Lk to Ludington Park | 3.5 | 8.0 |
| Ludington Park to Lake Michigan | 0.5 | 0.8 |

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