



**Alcoves:**

You can often see backwater areas separated from the main river by a large gravel bar. Where these gravel bar peninsulas end, there is an opening to the backwater area. Some of the gravel bars are dense with trees and shrubs, and others are fairly barren. These alcoves can reach far inland in some cases and can provide excellent habitat for fish and wildlife. Some alcoves also provide cold water. Groundwater coming through the gravel bars and upland areas, and then flowing into the alcove backwaters, can be several degrees colder than the main river. Though one would assume that these still-water areas off the main river would be warmer than the flowing water of the main river, this is not always the case. In fact, these backwater sources of cool water can be important in keeping the main river cool. Sources of cool water are important to the health of the overall river, as well as providing necessary refuge for fish in the hot summer months. Take the time to paddle up and explore some of these backwater areas.

**151.0: Irish Bend**  
 (Benton County)  
 N 44°36'29.0",  
 W 123°21'9.47" (at  
 midpoint of property)  
 This is a large  
 gravel-bar park.  
 The best camping is  
 on the downriver  
 trip.



W-11: pg 34

W-9: pg 36