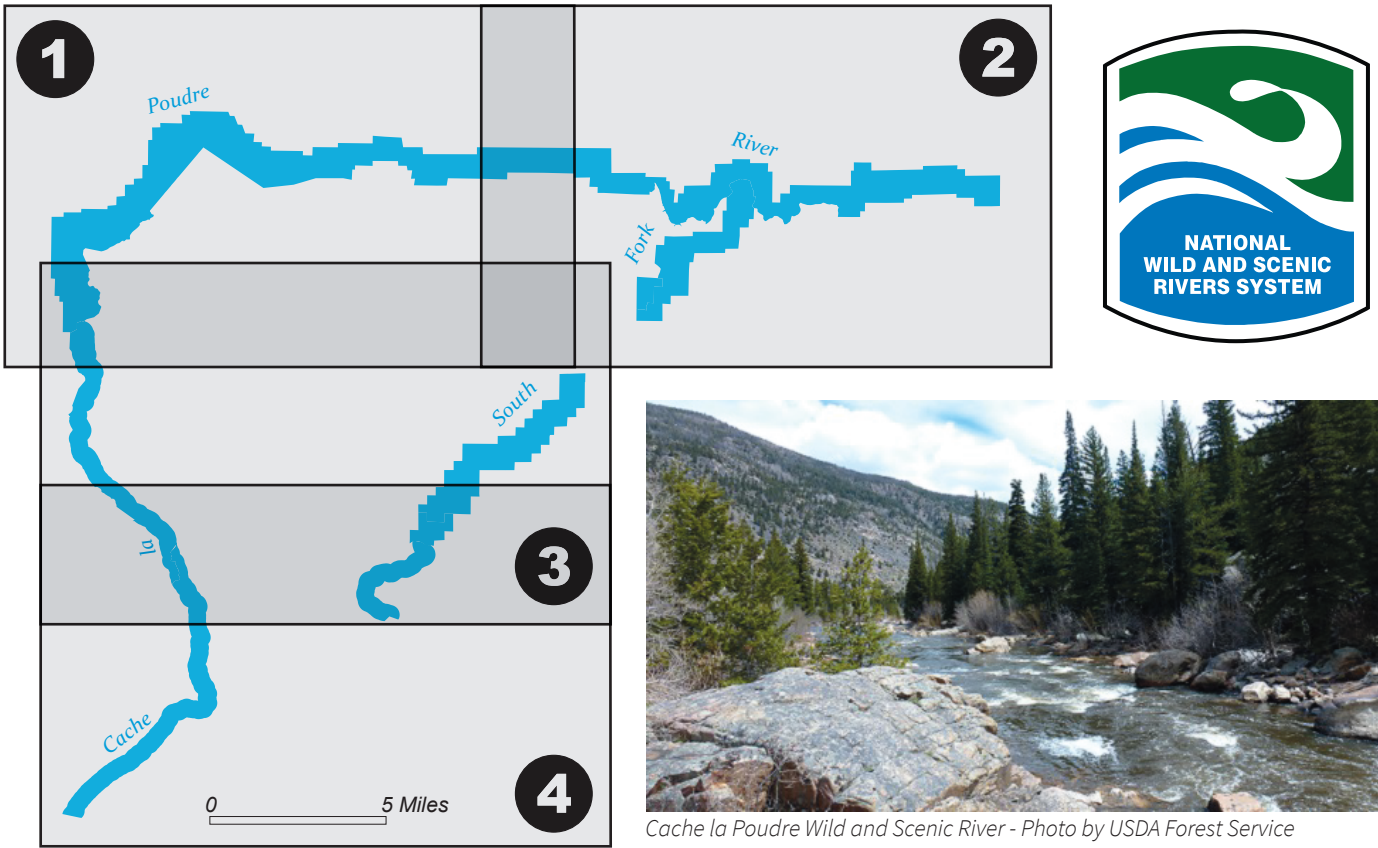


# The Cache la Poudre Wild and Scenic River System

Established on October 30, 1986, under section 101 of the Public Law 99-590, Congress designated 75 miles of the Cache La Poudre River as a Wild and Scenic River. The River is divided into five segments. Three of which are Wild River segments totalling 30 miles along with two Recreation segments totaling 45 miles. 14 miles of the Wild River segment are within and managed by Rocky Mountain National Park, U.S. Department of Interior, while 61 miles are within the Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests, administered by the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.



## HERITAGE

Historical accounts trace the name for the Cache la Poudre River to early French trappers who were caught in a snow storm and buried their supplies, consistening mostly of gunpowder, in a cache near the mounth of the river in order to lighten their heavily loaded wagons before continuing on their journey.

Most settlement of the area started in the 1870's to 1880's with mining and railroad building in Northern Colorado.

Trees were cut for railroad ties by "tie hackers" and then floated down the Poudre River. The attempted railroad up the Poudre Canyon was never completed, but many of the grades became the foundation for Highway 14.

Early mining exploration had only marginal success as well, leaving ghost towns such as old Poudre City to tell the story.

## RECREATION

Along the River, there are 11 campgrounds, 5 of which accept reservations open from late Spring to early Fall. One campground, Ansel Watrous, stays open year-round.

Hiking is among one of the favorite activities to do along the River corridor. There are 9 trailheads along the River with some accessing the high country. Trails vary in length, elevation and difficulty.

Experience the Cache la Poudre's world class fishing. The River offers four main varieties of trout species (rainbow, brown, brook, and cutthroat). Native cutthroat and introduced rainbow and brown trout are plentiful. Some areas are catch-and-release, so be mindful of local fishing regulations.

Winter Sports activities include snowmobiling on unpaved roads with snowshoeing and cross-country skiing on montain trails near Cameron Pass.

Small and big game hunting is also a popular activity near the river. Managed by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, hunting offers abundant big and small game opportunities in the area. Some areas are not open to hunting, so be mindful of local and federal regulations.

A very popular activity on the river is whitewater boating from April to August. Rapids ranger from Class 2 - Class 5, offering a challenge for canoes, kayaks and rafts alike.

