Limestone and sandstone bluffs rise over the Zumbro and Whitewater rivers as they wind through southeastern Minnesota. Both are managed under the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for recreational opportunities in Minnesota.

The Zumbro River

The Zumbro River begins at Lock and Dam #3, on the Mississippi River near Stockholm, Minnesota, and flows about 150 miles to its mouth at the Zumbro River in Zumbro Falls, Minnesota. The Zumbro River is 397 square miles in area, with over 99% of the state’s savannas and prairies, many of the state’s remaining tallgrass prairies, and 150 miles of quality trout streams. The river is now a national Wild and Scenic River.

The Whitewater River

The Whitewater River is a 140-mile long river that flows through southwestern Wisconsin and northern Illinois before joining the Mississippi River near the town of Onalaska, Wisconsin. The Whitewater River was included on the National Wild and Scenic River System in 1982.

This river’s two branches, the East Branch and the West Branch, join to form the main stem of the Whitewater River at Remington, Wisconsin. The river drains the rolling hills of the Driftless Area in the south and the rolling prairies of Illinois in the north, and is flanked by rugged bluffs and narrow valleys.

The Zumbro River

The Zumbro River is a wild and scenic river in southeastern Minnesota, managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for recreational opportunities. The river is 150 miles long and flows through the Zumbro Valley, a region characterized by rolling hills, rocky bluffs, and rich bottomlands. It is a popular destination for whitewater rafting, canoeing, and fishing.

ZUMBRO RIVER WATERSHED

The Zumbro River Watershed, which encompasses 1,650 square miles, drains into Lake Zumbro and, in turn, into the Mississippi River. This area is known for its natural beauty, with forests, wetlands, and wildlife. The Zumbro River is a designated trout stream, and fishing activities are regulated accordingly.

The Whitewater River

The Whitewater River is a significant waterway in the United States, known for its scenic beauty and abundant wildlife. The river is a popular destination for recreational activities such as boating, fishing, and kayaking.

THE RIVER}

**Zumbro River**

- **Origin:** Southeast Wisconsin
- **Length:** Approximately 150 miles
- **Drainage Area:** 397 square miles
- **Wild and Scenic Designation:** 1972
- **Special Features:** Whitewater rafting, canoeing, fishing, wildlife viewing

**Whitewater River**

- **Origin:** Wisconsin, Illinois
- **Length:** Approximately 140 miles
- **Drainage Area:** 1,650 square miles
- **Wild and Scenic Designation:** 1982
- **Special Features:** Whitewater rafting, canoeing, fishing, wildlife viewing

**River Towing**

**Zumbro River**

- **Gradient:** Class I to II
- **Flow:** Variable, depending on seasonal conditions
- **Activities:** Whitewater rafting, canoeing, fishing

**Whitewater River**

- **Gradient:** Class I to IV
- **Flow:** Variable, depending on seasonal conditions
- **Activities:** Whitewater rafting, canoeing, fishing

**Natural Communities**

- **Zumbro River Valley:** Riparian forest, wetlands, prairies, and upland forests
- **Whitewater River Valley:** Riparian forest, wetlands, prairies, and upland forests

**Sustainable Ecosystems**

- **Zumbro River Valley:** Fish and wildlife populations, riparian wetlands, upland forests
- **Whitewater River Valley:** Fish and wildlife populations, riparian wetlands, upland forests

**For Your Safety**

- **Boating:** Wear a life jacket, follow posted boating rules, and observe safety signs.
- **Canoeing and Kayaking:** Know your skill level, check the weather, and be prepared for emergencies.

**Zumbro River**

- **Activities:** Whitewater rafting, canoeing, fishing, wildlife viewing
- **Special Features:** Whitewater rapids, canoe slalom course, fishing, bird watching

**Whitewater River**

- **Activities:** Whitewater rafting, canoeing, fishing, wildlife viewing
- **Special Features:** Whitewater rapids, canoe slalom course, fishing, bird watching