

Courtois and Huzzah Creeks

These two clearwater gems, which join to add their waters to the Meramec River in Crawford County, are only about 100 miles from St. Louis. Although they are too small to provide adequate floating water at all seasons, the angler will find them pleasant and profitable floating and wading streams. In seasons of good water, the paddler will find them quite sporty. Their valleys are relatively unspoiled and have real Ozark atmosphere. It would be wise to check water levels of these creeks at Hwy. 8 bridges before attempting floats upstream from the highway. The names of the creeks are pronounced locally as *Coort-a-way* and *Hoo-za*.

Huzzah Creek

Difficulty: frequently II due to sharp turns, obstructions and narrow channels.

Gradients: Route V to town of Huzzah — 8.9; from town of Huzzah down — 7.

County: Crawford.

- 0.0 Dillard access. Only floatable in good water.
- 6.0 Route V. Bridge. Private campground and access.
- 8.3 Red Bluff (Forest Service) on right. Access on left.
- 8.8 Low-water bridge access.
- 15.3 Shoal Creek on right.
- 17.3 Spring branch on left.
- 17.5 Forest Service parking lot and access. Also, private access just across low-water bridge.
- 23.0 Private campground and access on right, before Hwy. 8 Bridge.
- 28.1 Junction with Courtois Creek.
- 28.4 [Huzzah Conservation Area](#) on right. Access on low-water bridge off Route E. Camping in designated areas is only allowed Sept. 15–May 15. ▲ Private campground on left.

- 6.9 Hwy. 8 Bridge. Access difficult at highway.
- 11.5 Low-water bridge. Private camping and parking.
- 12.9 Rocky rapids, which resembles an old mill race, provides good run against right bank. Watch for down trees!
- 15.4 Butts low-water bridge. Henpeck Hollow Creek on right. Private access.
- 15.6 Private campground and access.
- 16.3 Low-water bridge on private road.
- 17.8 This is beginning of The Narrows, a narrow, fairly fast section of the creek. Watch for logs and down trees.
- 18.2 Cave on left. No cave entry permitted on Conservation Department property.
- 18.4 End of Narrows.
- 19.4 Doss Branch on right.
- 20.4 [Huzzah Conservation Area](#) and access, on right, at end of campground. Camping in designated areas is only allowed Sept. 15–May 15. ▲
- 21.2 Junction with Huzzah Creek. Next take-out 0.3 mile downstream at low-water bridge off Route E.

Courtois Creek

Difficulty: frequently II due to sharp turns, obstructions and narrow channels.

Gradients: Brazil to Hwy. 8 — 9.2; from Hwy. 8 down — 7.2.

Counties: Washington, Crawford.

- 0.0 Brazil low-water bridge on road between Route Y and Palmer. Better put-in below Hazel Creek.
- 2.4 Hazel Creek on right.
- 3.0 Hazel Creek Recreation Area (Forest Service) and access in Mark Twain National Forest, off Route Z. Walk-in access for canoes/kayaks from parking lot.
- 4.5 County Road Bridge. Private access.
- 6.7 Lost Creek on right.

