

UW-Department of Agricultural Journalism
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RUNNING A RIVER: THE WISCONSIN

Opening winter shots

Winter, and ice surrounds the river.

It is a river at rest, deceptively quiet, imprisoned in its channel... for now.

Winter aerals

The Chippewa called this valley Meskousing, "the gathering of waters." French voyageurs and fur traders, and the missionaries who followed...

ARTWORK TITLE

...called the river the Wisconsin.

Aerials of river

430 miles, the river stretches to the south and west, surrendering its waters to the Mississippi. 430 miles to the east and north...

Aerial of Lac Vieux Desert

...the river's source lies cold and silent. Lac Vieux Desert straddles the border of Wisconsin and upper Michigan. The headwater region was shaped by the melting of glaciers... sheets of ice a mile thick that scraped and scoured the northern regions of the continent. The last glacier finished its retreat 10,000 years ago. Its meltwaters formed the channel of the Wisconsin.

Dam at Lac Vieux Desert

It is here that running the river begins.

Here stands the first in a system of dams and reservoirs that store and harness the river's power, and even the flow of its waters.