

We are pleased to respond to your inquiry on boating the John Day River. At this time, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) does not require permits for non-commercial parties to float the river*, however, self-registration is required at the launch sites and Leave No Trace camping, including the use of river toilets and fire pans, is mandatory.

The John Day River has no dams to control water flows. When planning a trip, it is a good idea to check flow levels regularly and be prepared to adjust trip dates if necessary. Memorial Day weekend should be avoided due to crowded conditions and lack of available campsites. River flow information is available from the US Geological Survey at or.water.usgs.gov or from the River Service Center in Portland, Oregon at (503) 261-9246. Snowpack information is available at www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov.

The difficulty of rapids varies with flow level. Prior whitewater boating skills are necessary to navigate all sections of the river. The most popular multi-day float trips are:

Service Creek to Clarno - Class II-III 48 miles, average trip 3 days	Clarno to Cottonwood - Class II-IV (Clarno III-IV) 70 miles, average trip 5 days
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Recommended minimum flow levels are:

Drift boats- 800cfs Inflatable rafts- 500cfs Canoes- 300cfs Inflatable kayaks- 200cfs

(Clarno Rapid (III-IV) can be unrunable at low water, but a portage trail is available. Canoeists floating at levels above 2,500 cfs should have whitewater experience and carry floatation bags.)

The BLM has two maps available of the John Day River. The Lower John Day map covers the mainstem between the town of Dayville and the Columbia River (including Service Creek to Cottonwood Bridge). The Upper John Day map covers portions of the North, Middle and South Forks, as well as the mainstem from the town of Kimberly upstream to the headwaters. The maps identify public and private land ownership, river miles and topography and are available free of charge by contacting the BLM at 541-416-6700 or or050mb@or.blm.gov.

The BLM does not sell a floater's guide for the John Day River, however, the following guidebooks are available through most bookstores. The first two books listed below contain valuable river logs with information on rapids and campsites for the John Day River and other Oregon rivers. The historical guide offers detailed information on the colorful history of the river canyon.

<u>Oregon River Tours</u> By John Garren Garren Publishing, 1991 ISBN# 0-941887-01-4	<u>Soggy Sneakers, A Guide to Oregon Rivers</u> By Willamette Kayak & Canoe Club Mountaineers Books, 1994 ISBN# 0-89886-330-9	<u>John Day River Drift and Historical Guide</u> By Arthur Campbell Frank Amato Pub., 1980 ISBN# 0-93660811-0
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Private land is interspersed with public land in all river sections, so it is essential to carry a good map showing land ownership. Please respect private property by camping and hiking only on BLM lands. Prepare ahead to handle possible emergencies in a remote setting, as road access to the river is extremely limited and cell phone coverage is unavailable. The maximum party size is 16 persons between Service Creek and Cottonwood Bridge; dogs are allowed and are not counted in party size

limits. Fishing regulations are available from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The John Day River is CLOSED to MOTORIZED BOATING year-round between Clarno and Cottonwood Bridge; and closed seasonally from May 1 to October 1 between Service Creek and Clarno and between Clarno and Cottonwood Bridge. Electric motors, up to 40 lbs. thrust, are permitted upstream of Clarno year-round.

All boaters are responsible for complying with the regulations contained in Boating Regulations and Leave No Trace.

If you would like additional information, please contact the Prineville BLM at (541) 416-6700 or e-mail: www.or.blm.gov/Prineville. We hope you enjoy your trip!

**Operating a guide service on the John Day River requires a special Permit; please call for information.*