Colorado River (Westwater)

How to obtain a permit: A permit is required year-round to run Westwater Canyon. Permits are issued only through advance reservation on a first-come first- served basis using the telephone: (435) 259-7012. Launches become available starting at 8am, 2 months before the launch date. If two months before launch date falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, you must call the next working day. No waiting lists are maintained. An online calendar is available showing open launch dates. You must speak to someone at the River Office to obtain a reservation or make changes to an existing one. Do not leave a message.

Fees: $10.00 per person. Payment can be made when you acquire a launch or is due 30 days prior to launch. Payments may only be made by the trip leader or alternate trip leader. No refunds will be issued.

Additional Information: Maximum group size is 25 people. Dogs are not allowed in Westwater Canyon. River guidebooks, maps, and related materials are available through Canyonlands Natural History Association.

River Flow: As a general rule, the river peaks at about 20,000 cfs in late May or early June and recedes throughout the summer and fall seasons to reach a flow of less than 3,000 cfs. High-water trips (13,000 cfs and above) can be extremely dangerous. A low water trip (1,000 to 5,000 cfs) takes about ten hours, a moderate level trip (5,000 to 13,000 cfs) takes about seven hours, and a high-water trip (above 13,000 cfs) takes as little as four hours. For daily flow updates, visit: http://waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/rt.

Emergency Services: The Grand County Sheriff's Office (435) 259-8115, has search and rescue jurisdiction for Westwater Canyon. If the illness or injury is life-threatening, such as when body movement must be constrained, helicopter evacuation should be considered. In most cases, the injured party is billed for this service. Helicopter evacuation can be initiated by contacting Life Flight - St. Mary's Hospital, Grand Junction, CO (800) 525-4224 or Flight for Life, University of Utah Medical Center, Salt Lake City, UT (800) 662-0050. The Utah Division of Parks and Recreation (435) 259-3750 should be notified of major incidents that occur on the river.

Contact:
Bureau of Land Management
Moab River Office
82 East Dogwood Moab, Utah 84532
Telephone: (435) 259-7012
Fax: (435) 259-2158
Hours: 8am – 12pm, Monday through Friday
Website:
http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/moab/recreation/River_Recreation/westwater_canyon.html