Snake River (Hells Canyon)

Application Process: Launch reservations for the Friday before Memorial Day - September 10 (lottery control season), are assigned by the Four River Lottery System at www.recreation.gov. Lottery applications are accepted December 1 through January 31 annually. Results are announced February 14. Any declined or cancelled launch dates can be reserved by others. Successful applicants must confirm their reservation online at by March 15. Unconfirmed lottery dates are then released for reservation on March 16 at 8am MT.

Self issue permits are required outside of the control period for private non-commercial floaters. These launch permits must be picked up at the launch site.

Private powerboat reservations are also reserved online through www.recreation.gov or by calling (877) 444-6777 beginning March 1. For more information: Private Powerboat Reservations

Fees: $6.00 non-refundable application fee.

Cancellation Policy: If you cannot make a trip, you must always submit a cancellation on the reservation system. You should send the cancellation no later than 15 days prior to your launch date to avoid any issues or being flagged as a “no show.” The 15-day advance notice requirement may be waived in cases due to extreme water conditions. Regardless, a cancellation must be submitted. Failure to provide timely cancellation will trigger a “no-show penalty.” This “no-show” penalty will impact your eligibility to get a permit for one year. If you do not show up on your launch date by 4:00 p.m., you will also be documented as a “No Show.”

Change Policy: The permit is non-transferable. However, exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis for medical or special circumstances. Call the Snake River office at (509) 758-0616 if you have questions about your situation.

Invasive Species Stickers - all watercraft must have either one of these:
Oregon: An Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Permits. Permits are available at Oregon fishing license vendors or online at Oregon State Marine Board.
Idaho: Idaho Invasive Species Fund sticker. For more information and purchase options call (800) 247-6332.

Contact: Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (HCNRA), Snake River Administrative Office
PO Box 699
2535 Riverside Dr.
Clarkston, WA 99403
Phone: 509-758-1957 Fax: (509) 758-1963
Other numbers:
General HCNRA Information: (509) 758-0616
Reservations/Cancellations (for recreation.gov): (877) 444-6777
Websites: http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/wallowa-whitman/specialplaces/?cid=stelprdb5227104 and Four Rivers Lottery Information