

References

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Appendices

Allocation systems: River by river

The following provides a list of river permit programs on North American rivers. For rivers with “full” allocation systems (those which currently limit commercial and non-commercial use), we have provided more complete information about the characteristics of each allocation system. Characteristics may include different approaches (e.g., common pool, split allocation), distribution mechanisms (e.g., lottery, reservations, priced-based auctions, etc.), type of use, year permits first implemented, and other information about its capacity – allocation system. For rivers with “partial” allocation systems (commercial limits only or non-commercial permits which are not limited), we have provided less comprehensive information.

Information in these tables were developed from interviews with resource staff or assembled from agency or NGO websites. The information is designed to highlight the major features of these systems, note innovative features, or provide other interesting facts. Assuming this report has a shelf-life of about a decade, some of this information is likely to become outdated. Fees and procedures change. The goal is to provide a starting point for river professionals interested in developing or refining their own systems.

The appendix is divided into 3 parts:

- Full allocation systems
- Notable partial or potential allocation systems (with more detailed information)
- Other partial or potential allocation systems (with less detailed information)

Note: Readers that can offer additions or corrections for these appendices are urged to contact Doug Whittaker (dougwhit@alaska.net). The authors and River Management Society intend to develop and maintain these as a “working database” into the future.

Full Allocation Systems

Alsek / Tatshenshini, Canada & Alaska

Segments	Alsek (Haines Jct.) or Tatshenshini (Dalton Post)
Miles	266 (126 on Upper Alsek or tributaries; 81 on Tatshenshini; 59 on Lower Alsek)
Typical boatable flow range	Various
Typical boatable season	Late May to early September
Whitewater difficulty	Class III-IV (V+ in Turnback Canyon on Alsek)
Designation/classification status	Champaign-Aishihik Tribal lands, Yukon Territory lands, Tatshenshini-Alsek Provincial Park in Canada, and Glacier Bay National Park.
Managing agency	Parks Canada & NPS
Type of access	Road accessible at put-ins; fly out at Dry Bay

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	1982 (interim limits); 1989 (first plan); revised 2005.
Primary type of limit	Launches taking out-per day (approximately 1 per day; see below).
Other limits	Group size, some designated camps.
Capacity basis	Studies in 1983 + planning
Permit system approach	Split allocation (in 8 day bloc, 4 commercial and 4 private take-outs).
Primary distribution technique(s)	Calendar for commercial use; reservations + waiting list for private
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Reservation by phone or mail
Common pool of unused allocation	No
Use limit season(s)	Jun 1 to Aug 31
Primary distribution dates	Outfitters use a calendar system. Non-commercial users can register anytime; November mailing to registration list; December 15 deadline to request dates (can defer); winners announced January 16; cancellations available after this date to those on registration list.
Private-commercial split (goal)	50-50 launches
Private-commercial split (actual)	Close to 50-50 in most years (discrepancies due to cancellations only)
Trip leader policy	Alternates allowed.
Participant tracking / repeat user	No
Commercial transfer policy	Transfers undergo major concessions review; potential new outfitters can compete.
Waiting list	Yes, built into reservation system.
Cancellation/no show penalties	May lose ability to apply for 2 to 5 years
Application fees	\$25 per registration (no additional cost for deferring 1 year)
User fees	\$100 per launch
Number of commercial outfitters	9 outfitters (6 US and 3? Canadian; each country's group allocated 18 total trips).
Group size limits	15 for all trips (25 for "grandfathered" commercial outfitters).
Trip length limits	No (but no more than 3 nights in one site; most trips are 9 to 12 days long).
Human waste policy	Yes
Fire ring policy	Yes

Other capacity/allocation features	<p>Alsek launches one trip every other day (to limit impacts on bears and provide solitude). Lower Alsek take-outs from Tatshenshini are limited to one every day.</p> <p>50-50 split in commercial take-outs to American and Canadian outfitters.</p> <p>25% of Canadian outfitter trips to First Nation corporations.</p> <p>In recent years: 260+ on list; about 120 respond to mailing; but only 60 request dates and 35 to 40 receive their preferences (~60% success rate of those ready to go that year).</p> <p>About 5 to 6 trips cancel per year; a few may be filled by call-ins.</p> <p>Not all scheduled commercial trips are taken (especially in shoulder season).</p> <p>Total use levels per year – about 1,400 people (800 or 57% commercial).</p>
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Contact	<p>Tom Elliot Visitor and Wilderness Management Parks Canada - Yukon Field Unit 205-300 Main St. Whitehorse, YT. Y1A 2B5</p>	<p>Jim Capra Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve PO Box 137 Yakutat, AK 99689-0137 (907) 784-3295</p>
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Colorado River (Cataract Canyon), Utah

Segment(s)	Cataract (Green/Colorado confluence to Lake Powell)
Miles	19 on river + 35 on Lake Powell
Typical boatable flow range	4,000 to 30,000 cfs
Typical boatable season	Year-round (but highest use from April through September)
Whitewater difficulty	Class IV (V at very high water)
Designation/classification status	National Park
Managing agency	NPS
Type of access	Road accessible (often with lake tow-outs).

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year of first limits	Late 1970s (?)
Primary type of limit	People per year (guides don't count)
Other limits	Number of outfitters; group sizes, trip lengths.
Capacity basis	Historical use + planning
Permit system approach	Split allocation (with some inter-sector sharing)
Primary distribution technique(s)	Commercial use by calendar; private use by call-in
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Reservations by phone
Common pool of unused allocation	Yes (about 4% of total annual use available).
Use limit season(s)	Permits required year-round; April 15 to October 15 limit season.
Primary distribution dates	Four distributions conducted each season (first in April, last in Sep) as use is monitored. Outfitters and private groups make requests and are typically granted them (because annual caps have never been reached), but trip scheduling used to minimize daily or weekly crowding.
Private-commercial split (goal)	No specific goal in recent plan; private use has never been capped.
Private-commercial split (actual)	2006 Users: 42% private, 58% commercial Private use has averaged 21% since 1969; in past 10 years it has averaged 33%.
Trip leader policy	Alternate trip leaders encouraged.
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed; includes review of sales.
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	No
Cancellation penalties	Loss of fees.
No show penalties	Loss of fees.
Repeat user limitations	One trip reservation at a time.
Application fees	None
User fees	\$30 per launch
Number of commercial outfitters	15
Group size limits	40
Trip length limits	None
Human waste policy	Yes, carry-out required.
Fire ring policy	Yes; fire pans and ash carry-out required.

Other capacity/allocation features	Recent use is about 5,000 to 6,000 people per year; capacity is 8,000. Initial allocations to each outfitter were 365 people per year. Currently there are 15 outfitters, but some have bought other allocations (at least 3 sales). Shared pool of 315 slots available to both sectors to provide flexibility. Allocation from outfitter that went out of business was added to a shared allocation pool. Nearly all non-commercial applicants can get trips (but not necessarily preferred dates) NPS rescue rangers staff major rapids during high water (>55,000 cfs).
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Contact	Canyonlands National Park 2282 SW Resource Blvd. Moab, UT 84532 435-719-2313 Information from Paul Cowan
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Colorado River (Grand Canyon), Arizona

Segment(s)	Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek (226 miles)
Miles	226
Typical boatable flow range	8,000 to 45,000 cfs
Typical boatable season	Year-round (higher use from May through October)
Whitewater difficulty	Class IV
Designation/classification status	National Park
Managing agency	NPS
Type of access	Road (helicopter take-outs for some commercial trips).

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	1972; major revisions in 1980-82 and 2006
Primary type of limit	Launches (1 to 6 per day depending upon segment and season)
Other limits	Annual user-days, trips at one time in canyon, group size limits, trip length limits.
Capacity basis	Historical use, studies, and planning
Permit system approach	Split allocation
Primary distribution technique(s)	Commercial use by calendar; non-commercial use by weighted lottery
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Follow-up weighted lotteries
Common pool of unused allocation	No
Use limit season(s)	Year-round
Primary distribution dates	Main lottery is generally planned to occur in May for the following year's dates. Applications accepted for one month prior to lottery. Follow-up lotteries occur when substantial numbers of cancellations become available.
Private-commercial split (goal)	User days: 50%-50% Launches: 45% private and 55% commercial People: 29% private and 71% commercial
Private-commercial split (actual)	2007 appears to be close to plan goals
Trip leader policy	Up to 2 alternates (must be named on initial application)
Participant tracking	Yes (no more than 1 trip per year)
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed, with review.
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	No (see discussion in case study section)
Cancellation penalties	Forfeit substantial fees.
No show penalties	Forfeit fees.
Repeat user limitations	Yes (one trip per year per person – private or commercial)
Application fees	\$25; \$400 fee charged if application is successful (\$200 for "small sized trips")
User fees	\$100 per person due 90 days before launch
Number of commercial outfitters	16
Group size limits	32 (including guides for commercial); 8/16 for private (two different sizes)
Trip length limits	10 to 25 days, depending on season and type of trip
Human waste policy	Yes
Fire ring policy	Yes

Other capacity/allocation features	\$100 late fee for participant changes before 30 days of launch. No adding trip participants within 30 days of launch. Extensive website describing the system and its numerous intricacies. Payment through federal pay.gov system. See case study in main report for additional details.
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Contact	Grand Canyon River Permits Office Grand Canyon National Park PO Box 129 Grand Canyon, AZ 86023 1-800-959-9164 Information from Linda Jalbert, Steve Sullivan, and website
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Colorado River (Lower Gorge of the Grand Canyon), Arizona

Segment(s)	Diamond Creek to Park Boundary
Miles	51
Typical boatable flow range	8,000 to 45,000 cfs
Typical boatable season	Year-round (higher use from May through October)
Whitewater difficulty	Class III
Designation/classification status	National Park
Managing agency	NPS
Type of access	Road (helicopter for some commercial trips).

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	1989; revisions in 2006
Primary type of limit	Launches for non-commercial (2 per day); people (96) for Hualapai day trips
Other limits	Limits on overnights for continuation trips from Lees Ferry, group size limits, trip length limits, pontoon boat limits, jet boat take-outs, tow-outs.
Capacity basis	Historical use and planning
Permit system approach	Split allocation
Primary distribution technique(s)	Commercial use by calendar; non-commercial use by reservation
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Call-in reservation
Common pool of unused allocation	No
Use limit season(s)	Year-round
Primary distribution dates	On-going reservation
Private-commercial split (goal)	People (estimated): 22% private and 78% commercial
Private-commercial split (actual)	Unknown – plan first implemented in 2007
Trip leader policy	Up to 2 alternates (must be named on initial application)
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	One outfitter
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	No (see discussion in case study section)
Cancellation penalties	Forfeit substantial fees.
No show penalties	Forfeit fees.
Repeat user limitations	Yes (one trip per year per person – private or commercial)
Application fees	Hualapai fees only
User fees	Hualapai fees only
Number of commercial outfitters	1 + Lees Ferry outfitters who take “continuation trips”
Group size limits	16 for non-commercial; 96 for Hualapai day trips; 20 for Hualapai overnight trips
Trip length limits	2 to 5 days, depending on season and type of trip
Human waste policy	Yes
Fire ring policy	Yes

Other capacity/allocation features	Separate permit required from Hualapai Tribe. Applications accepted up to one year in advance. Nearly all applicants can secure a permit (but not necessarily preferred dates).
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Contact	Grand Canyon River Permits Office Grand Canyon National Park PO Box 129 Grand Canyon, AZ 86023 1-800-959-9164 Information from Linda Jalbert, personal involvement with 2003-06 planning effort.
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Colorado River (Westwater Canyon), Utah

Segment(s)	Westwater Ranch to Cisco.
Miles	17
Typical boatable flow range	400 to 3,000 cfs.
Typical boatable season	Limited high flow days in March and April
Whitewater difficulty	Class III (one IV-V)
Designation/classification status	National Wild & Scenic River, 1984. Wilderness. Three National Forests.
Managing agency	BLM
Type of access	Road accessible.

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year of first limits	1974; major revision in 2006.
Primary type of limit	People per day (guides don't count)
Other limits	Number of outfitters; group sizes, trip lengths.
Capacity basis	Historical use + planning
Permit system approach	Split allocation
Primary distribution technique(s)	Commercial use by calendar; private use by reservations (phone)
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Reservations by phone
Common pool of unused allocation	No
Use limit season(s)	Permits required year-round; commercial-private split from April 1-Sept 30.
Primary distribution dates	Outfitters have a calendar Non-commercial reservations available 2 months before the launch date.
Private-commercial split (goal)	50-50 on users per day in Apr-Sep period (75 or 5 trips & 75 people or 5 trips). 100% private in rest of year (150 per day).
Private-commercial split (actual in 2006)	Users: 51% private, 49% commercial User days: 57% private, 43% commercial Launches: 59% private, 41% commercial Boats: 60% private, 40% commercial
Trip leader policy	Alternate trip leaders encouraged.
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed; includes review of sales.
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	No
Cancellation penalties	Loss of application fee
No show penalties	Unspecified
Repeat user limitations	One trip reservation at a time.
Application fees	None
User fees	\$7 per person due 30 days before launch; no fee from Dec-Feb
Number of commercial outfitters	18
Group size limits	25
Trip length limits	2 days
Human waste policy	Yes, carry-out required. No scat machine.
Fire ring policy	Yes; fire pans and ash carry-out required.

Other capacity/allocation features	Office handling reservations is open by phone 8 to noon. Credit cards accepted. On-line calendar shows available launches. Up to two changes per reservation (date, group size, alternate trip leader) Cancellations 30 days in advance and fees count for credit on future launches. 90 to 94% of commercial allocation used each year (1989-2006 data). Previously used lottery + waiting list.
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Contact	Bureau of Land Management Moab River Office 82 East Dogwood Moab, Utah 84532 (435) 259-7012 Information from Chad Neihaus
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Lower Deschutes River, Oregon

Segment(s)	Lower Deschutes (4 segments from Warm Springs to Columbia River)
Miles	97
Typical boatable flow range	3,000 to 10,000 cfs at Moody (near Columbia); 3,000 is not a navigational limit
Typical boatable season	Floating from April-October; Jetboating allowed seasonally on 2 segments through November; year-round use possible.
Whitewater difficulty	Class III-IV (II-III on lower half)
Designation/classification status	National Wild & Scenic River, 1988. (Scenic and Recreational reaches).
Managing agency	BLM, Oregon State Parks, & Warm Springs Confederated Tribes
Type of access	Road accessible at multiple locations.

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	2003 (but not every segment or day of the week).
Primary type of limit	People per day (325 to 1,700 per weekend day, depending upon segment).
Other limits	People per primary season, number of outfitters, group sizes, trip lengths
Capacity basis	Historical use + planning (with input from studies)
Permit system approach	Common pool
Primary distribution technique(s)	Reservations on website
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Reservations on website
Common pool of unused allocation	Not relevant – common pool at all times.
Use limit season(s)	As of 2007: summer weekends on Segment 1 and Segment 4 only.
Primary distribution dates	“BoaterPasses” required year-round; proportions of permits released before each date.
Private-commercial split (goal)	Not relevant – Common pool system.
Private-commercial split (actual)	Not relevant – Common pool system.
Trip leader policy	Alternate encouraged; one person on original reservation required on trip.
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed after in-depth analysis; some criteria used to assess value (see case study) New purchases given with consideration of existing permit holders.
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	No
Cancellation penalties	No refunds given (credit for other trips if before 14 days).
No show penalties	Individuals are not allowed to reserve in next year.
Repeat user limitations	None. Only one reservation per name at a time...
Application fees	\$1.95 per reservation up to 3% of total transaction (whichever is greater).
User fees	\$2 per person per day; \$8 per person per day on peak weekends
Number of commercial outfitters	104 (mix of whitewater and angling companies; 17 motorized); long range goal is 80.
Group size limits	16 on Segments 1, 3 and 4; 24 on Segment 2.
Trip length limits	Variable by season and trip size; longer for smaller groups. Range: 6 to 10 days.
Human waste policy	Yes, carry-out required on overnight trips; Scat machines available in two locations. Pit toilets at heavily used sites.
Fire ring policy	Yes; fire pans and ash carry-out required.

Other capacity/allocation features	<p>On-line reservations began 2004; there were some start-up problems. Credit cards accepted for fees; no handling fees if purchased online. Additional transaction costs (venders can charge \$3 per reservation). Boaters print out their own passes (agency can check via bar codes). Variable use capacities on different segments by weekdays/weekends. Weekends defined as Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.</p> <p>Annual frequent user passes available; don't apply on peak weekends on Segment 1. Outfitters can make reservations on behalf of clients; 1 commercial passengers required to be on the trip.</p> <p>Outfitters can fill trips (up to 16/24 group size limit) once a reservation is made. Uses date of birth to identify users.</p>
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Contact	<p>BLM Prineville 3050 N.E. 3rd Street Prineville, OR 97754 Information from Tom Mottl and Lynnette Ripley</p>
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Dukes Creek, Georgia

Segment(s)	DNR-managed segment.
Miles	5
Typical boatable flow range	Not applicable -- fishing-only stream.
Typical boatable season	No boating allowed.
Whitewater difficulty	Non-boating river.
Designation/classification status	Georgia State Park
Managing agency	Georgia State Parks
Type of access	Trails.
Year permits first limited	1994
Primary type of limit	Anglers per session; one or two sessions per day on Wed., Sat, and Sun.
Other limits	Year-round catch and release fishing only (barbless flies).
Capacity basis	Planning; professional judgment.
Permit system approach	Common pool.
Primary distribution technique(s)	Reservations by phone for individuals.
Secondary distribution technique(s)	First-come/first-served.
Common pool of unused allocation	Common pool for all users (guides count as a user, but cannot make reservation for client).
Use limit season(s)	Year-round.
Primary distribution dates	n/a
Private-commercial split (goal)	n/a
Private-commercial split (actual)	n/a
Trip leader policy	Not trip leader; one person can reserve for party of three.
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	n/a – guides can accompany clients as a user but do not control allocation.
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	No
Cancellation penalties	None
No show penalties	None
Repeat user limitations	None
Application fees	None
User fees	\$2 parking fee.
Number of commercial outfitters	Unknown (many)
Group size limits	3 individuals per party; up to 15 anglers per session.
Trip length limits	Half day sessions in spring/summer/fall, full day sessions in winter.
Human waste policy	n/a – day use area
Fire ring policy	n/a – day use area
Other capacity/allocation features	Former private land parcel converted to a State Park unit (conservation area). Capacity is an “at one time” estimate based on perceived angling quality criteria. Unknown cancellation rate.
Contact	Smithgall Woods Conservation Area-GA DNR (706) 878-3087 Information from Jeff Durniak, GA DNR (regional fisheries lead)

Green River (Desolation & Gray Canyons), Utah

Segment(s)	Sand Wash to Swasey's Rapid (Green River)
Miles	84
Typical boatable flow range	700 to 30,000 cfs
Typical boatable season	April to November in most years (sometimes March); high use from May to August
Whitewater difficulty	Class II-III
Designation/classification status	None.
Managing agency	BLM
Type of access	Road access at ends.

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	1979 for all users (but commercial permits before this date)
Primary type of limit	Launches per day (6 per day in high use period; 2 per day in low).
Other limits	Number of outfitters, group size limits, 9 day maximum trip length.
Capacity basis	Historical use + studies + planning.
Permit system approach	Split allocation (but allows privates to use unused commercial launches, and vice versa).
Primary distribution technique(s)	Reservations by phone for privates. Commercial launch calendars.
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Reservation by phone or walk-in.
Common pool of unused allocation	Yes.
Use limit season(s)	Year-round.
Private-commercial split (goal)	50-50 for user days..
Private-commercial split (actual)	Roughly 70% private and 30% commercial launches in recent years; user days are closer together.
Trip leader policy	One alternate allowed.
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed with review.
Application fees	\$20 per reservation (waived if <30 days before launch); \$10 transaction fee for changes
User fees	\$25 per person
Number of commercial outfitters	16
Group size limits	25 for private; 25 + guides for commercial
Trip length limits	Maximum in high use season is 9 days (most trips are 5 to 6 days).
Human waste policy	Yes, carry-out required.
Fire ring policy	Yes; fire pans and ash carry-out required.

Other capacity/allocation features	<p>BLM takes credit cards.</p> <p>Previously used lottery in winter; 60% cancellation rate led to reservation system for 2007.</p> <p>Reservation system operates phones in am; walk-in in afternoon.</p> <p>Reservations available 5 months before launch date.</p> <p>During lottery years,</p> <p>Use trend is toward higher private use.</p> <p>Commercial use sometimes fails to use allocation; led to cross sector use.</p> <p>Users can only hold one reservation at a time.</p> <p>Cancellations >30 days before launch = credit toward future fees.</p> <p>Administrative trips equal about 5% of total trips on river.</p> <p>Previous lottery was operated manually.</p> <p>Current reservations availability posted on-line.</p> <p>Reservations must be made with a person (phone or walk-in) to increase agency-user interaction.</p>
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Contact	<p>BLM Price Field Office</p> <p>125 South 600 West</p> <p>Price, UT 84501</p> <p>(435) 636-3623 Staff number</p> <p>Information from Dennis Willis</p>
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Karluk River, Alaska

Segment(s)	Karluk Lake to mouth
Miles	22
Typical boatable flow range	
Typical boatable season	June through September
Whitewater difficulty	Class II-III
Designation/classification status	USFWS refuge land
Managing agency	USFWS, ADF&G, and Koniag Inc. (Native Corporation)
Type of access	Fly-in only.

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	1994
Primary type of limit	Number of people (70 at one time).
Other limits	Group sizes, trip lengths.
Capacity basis	Historical use + study + planning.
Permit system approach	Split
Primary distribution technique(s)	Lottery.
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Reservations by phone or walk-in.
Common pool of unused allocation	No.
Use limit season(s)	June 16 to July 15.
Primary distribution dates	Applications allowed November 1 – December 15. Drawing in early January.
Private-commercial split (goal)	40% private and 60% commercial
Private-commercial split (actual)	~15% non-commercial vs. 85% commercial (Lower). Unspecified (Upper)
Trip leader policy	Not specified.
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	Likely allowed; commercial use controlled through Native Corporation.
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	No
Cancellation penalties	No
No show penalties	No
Repeat user limitations	No
Application fees	None
User fees	None
Number of commercial outfitters	6 on Upper; 4 on Lower.
Group size limits	6.
Trip length limits	7 days.
Human waste policy	Carry-out recommended.
Fire ring policy	No.

Other capacity/allocation features	System developed through cooperative agreement between USFWS and Koniag (a native corporation). Weather delays are allowed (no penalties if you shift trip due to weather). Use unlimited outside of control season (but permits still required). Existing use is generally lower than allocated use (but some users may not get to launch on preferred dates).
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Contact	Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge 1390 Buskin River Road Kodiak, AK 99615 (888) 408-3514 Information from website.
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Kern River, California (Forks of the Kern)

Segment(s)	Forks of the Kern to Johnsondale Bridge
Miles	17
Typical boatable flow range	300 to 4,000 at Kernville at 60 feet per mile
Typical boatable season	Spring through mid-summer
Whitewater difficulty	Class IV-V
Designation/classification status	National Wild River (1987); Wilderness area.
Managing agency	USFS
Type of access	Trail accessible launch (2 miles); road accessible take-out

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	1979
Primary type of limit	People per day (15 non-commercial) and launches per day (1 commercial <15)
Other limits	Number of outfitters, group sizes, trip lengths
Capacity basis	Historical use + planning
Permit system approach	Split allocation
Primary distribution technique(s)	Pure lottery
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Reservation by phone or FC/FS (no web-based information)
Common pool of unused allocation	No.
Use limit season(s)	153 days – May 15 thru Oct 15
Primary distribution dates	Outfitters use calendar system (1 per day, rotate through 4-5 outfitters). Private applications Mar 15 to Apr 15, results by May 1; confirm 7 days prior.
Private-commercial split (goal)	50-50 for people (assuming full use of allocation within sectors)
Private-commercial split (actual)	~60% non-commercial vs. 40% commercial (varies by years).
Trip leader policy	Non-transferable.
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed.
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	No
Cancellation penalties	Within 7 days is considered "no show" = no application in next year.
No show penalties	Not allowed to apply for one year.
Repeat user limitations	None.
Application fees	\$2 non-refundable
User fees	None currently. \$10 per trip proposed.
Number of commercial outfitters	5 to 4 (recent revocation)
Group size limits	15
Trip length limits	None. Most commercial trips take 2 to 3; most privates take 1 to 3.
Human waste policy	Yes, carry-out required. No scat machine.
Fire ring policy	Yes; fire pans.

Other capacity/allocation features	<p>System was modeled after the Rogue. .</p> <p>Initially a call-in only system; later moved to lottery.</p> <p>Application is on-line – but must be mailed in.</p> <p>Permits entered manually; winners chosen randomly with computer program.</p> <p>Users indicate three choices of dates.</p> <p>Guides count in group size limit.</p> <p>Permit system (1979) came before management plan (1994).</p> <p>Agency produces annual report on use.</p> <p>Outfitters rotate equally through season.</p> <p>15 person limit derived from group size limit for Golden Trout Wilderness (since 1964).</p>
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Contact	<p>Kern River Ranger District-Kernville Office</p> <p>P.O. Box 9</p> <p>Kernville, CA 93238</p> <p>760-376-3781</p> <p>Information from Sheryl Bowers</p>
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McCloud River, California

Segment	The Nature Conservancy Preserve
Miles	6 (3 available for fishing)
Typical fishable flow range	150 to 700 cfs
Typical fishable season	Late May to early September
Whitewater difficulty	Class III (but rarely boated)
Designation/classification status	Private land
Managing agency	The Nature Conservancy
Type of access	Trail access from road-based trailhead.

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	Early 1980s
Primary type of limit	People at one time.
Other limits	No camping.
Capacity basis	Planning.
Permit system approach	Common pool
Primary distribution technique(s)	50% reservations + 50% first-come/first-served on-site.
Secondary distribution technique(s)	First-come/first-served on-site.
Common pool of unused allocation	No
Use limit season(s)	Year-round
Primary distribution dates	Reservations available during fishing season (roughly end of April through November) Early reservations available starting Feb.1.
Private-commercial split (goal)	None
Private-commercial split (actual)	None
Trip leader policy	Permits are per person.
Participant tracking / repeat user	No
Commercial transfer policy	Outfitter/guides do not obtain permits.
Waiting list	No
Cancellation/no show penalties	No
Application fees	Free
User fees	Free
Number of commercial guides	As many as 15 to 18 use TNC lands.
Group size limits	No
Trip length limits	No overnight camping (one cabin available for donor use).
Human waste policy	No
Fire ring policy	No

Other capacity/allocation features	On-site tags hang on a board near the only access – users keep them during their visit. Guides must have permit only if they are fishing (many just accompany their clients). Guides cannot make advance reservations (but they can direct clients to do so). Reservation tags still unused by 10 am are available for walk-in use. Use system was requested of downstream private fishing club (which donated the land).
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Contact	Reservations through SF office: 201 Mission Street, 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 777-0487. Information from Dan Ransom, TNC operations manager.
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McNeil River, Alaska

Segment	Mouth to McNeil Falls
Miles	2
Typical boatable flow range	Not boated.
Typical season	Late May to early September
Whitewater difficulty	Not boated.
Designation/classification status	McNeil River State Wildlife Sanctuary (state)
Managing agency	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Type of access	Fly-in.

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	1973.
Primary type of limit	People for four-day blocks (10 at falls; up to 3 more "standbys" at campground).
Other limits	None.
Capacity basis	Planning + study (bear impacts).
Permit system approach	Private use only (commercial photography use by separate permit)
Primary distribution technique(s)	Lottery with repeat use rules (favors new applicants).
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Standby users (from lottery) can stay at campground and take available places to falls.
Common pool of unused allocation	Not relevant.
Use limit season(s)	June 7 to Aug 25
Primary distribution dates	Applications by March 1. Winner notification in mid-March. Payment of fees due by April 1. Refunds available for cancellations through May 15.
Private-commercial split (goal)	None
Private-commercial split (actual)	None
Trip leader policy	Permits are per person.
Participant tracking / repeat user	No
Commercial transfer policy	Outfitter/guides do not obtain permits.
Waiting list	No
Cancellation/no show penalties	No
Application fees	\$25 per person.
User fees	\$150 for AK residents; \$350 for non-residents.
Number of commercial guides	None (ADF&G tech is the guide).
Group size limits	3 per permit.
Trip length limits	No overnight camping (one cabin available for donor use).
Human waste policy	Pit toilet available.
Fire ring policy	At campground only.

Other capacity/allocation features	185 full access permits and 57 standby permits available. Successful permittees not allowed to re-apply for 1 year (previously 4 years).
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Contact	Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game Wildlife Conservation Attn: McNeil River State Game Sanctuary 333 Raspberry Rd Anchorage Ak, 99518 (907) 267-2182 Information from Larry Aumiller (former McNeil manager) and website
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Main Salmon River, Idaho

Segment(s)	Wild segment (Corn Creek to Vinegar Creek)
Miles	79
Typical boatable flow range	3,000 to 50,000 cfs at Whitebird
Typical boatable season	Floating from April-October; Jetboating from February through November
Whitewater difficulty	Class III-IV
Designation/classification status	National Wild River, 1980. Wilderness.
Managing agency	USFS
Type of access	Road accessible at 3 locations; additional (rare) fly-in access

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	Late 1970s
Primary type of limit	Launches per day
Other limits	Number of outfitters, group sizes, trip lengths, groups at specific camps
Capacity basis	Historical use + planning
Permit system approach	Split allocation
Primary distribution technique(s)	Lottery in early February
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Reservation by phone (no web-based information)
Common pool of unused allocation	Yes, 30 days before launch (thus modifying actual split from goal)
Use limit season(s)	79 days – June 20 to September 7
Primary distribution dates	Outfitters use calendar system. Privates apply Dec. 1 to Jan. 31; results by Mar. 1; confirm within 3 weeks of trip.
Private-commercial split (goal)	50-50 launches per day (4+4=8). Some flexibility (e.g., 3+5 then 5+3)
Private-commercial split (actual)	Private to commercial: By launches: 64% to 36% By people: 53% to 47% (not including guides) By user days: 57% to 43% (not including guides)
Trip leader policy	No alternates allowed.
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed; some oversight or analysis of sales.
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	No
Cancellation penalties	Loss of application fee
No show penalties	Permit holder not allowed to apply for three years
Repeat user limitations	One trip leader permit per year
Application fees	\$6 non-refundable
User fees	\$4 per person per day; due 3 weeks before launch date
Number of commercial outfitters	30
Group size limits	30 for all trips (but smaller trips can take longer trips)
Trip length limits	Variable by season and trip size; longer for smaller groups. Range: 6 to 10 days.
Human waste policy	Yes, carry-out required; Scat machine available.
Fire ring policy	Yes; fire pans and ash carry-out required.

Other capacity/allocation features	On-line application process began 2007; some start-up problems. 81% of use occurs in control season. Credit cards and checks accepted for fees. Lottery operated electronically. All applicants notified after lottery (winners and losers). Odds of success for privates posted on website; about 9% over the entire year. Some camps reserved at put-in. Jetboating use managed separately from floating (historical use). Launch reductions contemplated in early 2000s planning effort; status quo remained.
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Contact	North Fork Ranger District (208) 865-2725 - application requests (208) 865-2700 - Information Information from Sheri Hughes
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Middle Fork Salmon River, Idaho

Segment(s)	Boundary Creek to Cache Bar
Miles	99.0
Typical boatable flow range	1,000 to 30,000 cfs
Typical boatable season	May through October
Whitewater difficulty	Class III-IV
Designation/classification status	Wild and Scenic River, 1968
Managing agency	USFS
Type of access	Road accessible on ends (and via airstrips)

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	1978
Primary type of limit	Launches: 7 per day (alternating 3 and 4 for private/commercial)
Other limits	Length of stay, group size, designated camps
Capacity basis	Historical use + studies + planning
Permit system approach	Split
Primary distribution technique(s)	Lottery
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Call-in reservation, mornings only.
Common pool of unused allocation	No; only within-sector.
Use limit season(s)	May 28 through September 3 (control season; but permits required year round)
Primary distribution dates	Outfitters use calendar system. 4 rivers lottery schedule: Privates apply Dec. 1 to Jan. 31; results by Mar. 1; Confirm by Mar 15.
Private-commercial split (goal)	50-50 by launches in control season; no split (but rare commercial use otherwise).
Private-commercial split (actual)	Private to commercial (entire season): By launches: 58% to 42% (very close to 50-50 by launch in control season) By people: 37% to 63% By user days: 39% to 61%
Trip leader policy	No alternates allowed.
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed with substantial review.
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	No
Cancellation penalties	Loss of application fee. If within 3 weeks of launch = no show.
No show penalties	3 year ineligibility to apply for permits.
Repeat user limitations	No
Application fees	\$6 per permit
User fees	None?
Number of commercial outfitters	27
Group size limits	24
Trip length limits	Yes: differs for different group sizes (e.g., 8 days for <10 people, 6 days for 21-24 people)
Human waste policy	Yes
Fire ring policy	Yes

Other capacity/allocation features	Lowest odds in 4 rivers systems (3 to 4% or 1 in 27 to 30 years for first choice date). 84% of use occurs in control season. Total use per year: 11,000 people and 680 trips. Campsites are designated and scheduled (at put-in) in control season. Permits for tributaries allowed (about 10 to 15 per year on average) Few cancellations and fewer no shows per year; this is a coveted trip.
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Contact	USFS Middle Fork Ranger District P.O. Box 750, Challis, ID 83226-0750 (208) 879-4112-application requests Info: (208) 879-4101 Information from Sheri Hughes
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Rio Chama, New Mexico

Segment(s)	BLM (overnight)
Miles	32.0 (Wild and Scenic, but an additional ~10 miles is also managed under the system).
Typical boatable flow range	1,200 to 3,000 is optimal.
Typical boatable season	March through August
Whitewater difficulty	II-III
Designation/classification status	Wild and Scenic, 1988
Managing agency	BLM (USFS operates day use segment downstream)
Type of access	Road accessible

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	1988; 1990 plan.
Primary type of limit	Launches (16 per week in early season); 16 per weekend during scheduled flow releases.
Other limits	Group size, some designated camps.
Capacity basis	Historical + planning
Permit system approach	Split
Primary distribution technique(s)	Commercial by calendar; lottery for scheduled weekend releases; phone-in for weekdays
Secondary distribution technique(s)	No formal re-fill cancellations for weekends; some walk-in allowed late Saturday.
Common pool of unused allocation	Private use of unused commercial launches allowed.
Use limit season(s)	May 1 through August 31
Primary distribution dates	Lottery for scheduled weekend releases – in February
Private-commercial split (goal)	Roughly 30% commercial; 70% private
Private-commercial split (actual)	Varies widely depending on flows
Trip leader policy	Alternates allowed (with explanation)
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed with review.
Use of overbooking	Yes
Waiting list	Yes, specify up to 3 dates; BLM notifies potential users.
Cancellation penalties	No
No show penalties	No
Repeat user limitations	Yes – no repeat applicants in same year
Application fees	\$6 per application
User fees	\$5 per person
Number of commercial outfitters	12
Group size limits	16 for privates (16 + guides for commercial)
Trip length limits	None
Human waste policy	Yes
Fire ring policy	Yes

Other capacity/allocation features	Flow-dependent nature of run discourages advance planning. Some assigned camps for large groups (first-come first-served at ramp). 4 miles of camping closures; 2 mile wildlife buffer (no stopping for peregrine). Time of day boating hours (9 to 4) to minimize user conflicts with anglers. Confirm 2 weeks before.
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Contact	BLM 226 Cruz Alta Road Taos, NM 87571-5983 505.758.8851 River Information Recording: 888.882.6188 Information from Mark Sundin
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Rio Grande, New Mexico

Segment(s)	10 segments with limits (including two high use segments: Lower Taos Box, Racecourse).
Miles	80
Typical boatable flow range	Various
Typical boatable season	Possible year-round in wet years; most occurs spring through early fall.
Whitewater difficulty	Class II-V (various segments)
Designation/classification status	National Wild and Scenic River, 1968 (original river) and 1994 additions. Wild, scenic, and recreational segments.
Managing agency	BLM
Type of access	Many road accessible launches. Some hike-in headwaters access.

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	2000 (with some commercial use limits in previous years)
Primary type of limit	People per day for non-commercial use (varies by segment, day, season). People or launches per day for commercial use (varies by segment and season). Some examples: 1 or 2 launches a day on four low use segments. 150 or 200 people (private) per weekday/weekend + 8 commercial launches in Taos Box 1,050 people per day on Racecourse (600 commercial)
Other limits	Launches per day for some segments; number of outfitters, group sizes.
Capacity basis	Historical use + planning.
Permit system approach	Common pool on low use segments. Split allocation on higher use segments.
Primary distribution technique(s)	Reservations for common pool segments. Commercial launch calendars.
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Reservation by phone or walk-in.
Common pool of unused allocation	Not across sectors for split segments. Commercial has a within-sector common pool for Racecourse.
Use limit season(s)	Year-round.
Private-commercial split (goal)	Examples: Taos Box: 45% commercial (weekends); 68% commercial (weekdays) Racecourse: 80% commercial; 20% non-commercial
Private-commercial split (actual)	Various and flow dependent; private use is generally lower than limits at present.
Trip leader policy	Non-transferable.
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed to existing outfitters; includes analysis of sales.
Application fees	None
User fees	None
Number of commercial outfitters	13 on lower Gorge segments; 9 on Upper Gorge segments.
Group size limits	16 on most segments for privates; 16, 21, 32, and 40 for commercial use on various segments (or for different seasons/types of days).
Trip length limits	Mostly day and one night trips.
Human waste policy	Yes, carry-out required.
Fire ring policy	Yes; fire pans and ash carry-out required (unless not using fires).

Other capacity/allocation features	<p>Outfitter allocations are for specific segments.</p> <p>Low use segments use a common pool for commercial and non-commercial.</p> <p>Goal is to reduce to 10 outfitters total; transfers only to existing outfitters.</p> <p>"Quiet zone" and limited hours through a village (Pilar).</p> <p>Flow-based use limits (lower use at lower flows, no use at very high flows) in one segment.</p> <p>"Over-limit fees." Allows outfitters to exceed group limits (by 4 people) on some segments but charges fees to remove profit incentive to do this.</p> <p>Common pool for outfitters on some segments; no trading otherwise.</p> <p>Some segments will have no allocations for specific outfitters until capacity is reached; historical use will then be used to make allocations.</p>
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Contact	<p>Taos Field Office 226 Cruz Alta Road Taos, NM 87571-5983 505.758.885; River Information Recording: 888.882.6188 Information from Mark Sundin.</p>
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Rogue River, Oregon

Segment	Wild Section from Graves Creek to Foster Bar
Miles	34
Typical boatable flow range	1,200 to 6,000 cfs
Typical boatable season	April through November
Whitewater difficulty	Class III-IV
Designation/classification status	National Wild River, 1968 (original river)
Managing agency	BLM lead (USFS manages river below Blossom Bar)
Type of access	Road accessible on ends

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	1973
Primary type of limit	People per day (60 private + 60 commercial = 120 total)
Other limits	No more than 4 commercial launches per day
Capacity basis	Studies in early 1970s
Permit system approach	Split allocation
Primary distribution technique(s)	Lottery in early February
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Reservation by phone (with web-based notification of availability); queuing at visitor center.
Common pool of unused allocation	No, but available use within sector is available to others in that sector.
Use limit season(s)	154 days; May 15 to Oct 15
Primary distribution dates	Outfitters use a calendar system. Privates apply Dec 1 to Jan 31; results by Mar 1; confirm within 10 days of trip
Private-commercial split (goal)	50-50 people by day, with some flexibility (e.g., less commercial in fall fishing)
Private-commercial split (actual)	52% private and 48% commercial by people (not including guides)
Trip leader policy	Up to one alternate can be named (but most do not).
Participant tracking / repeat user	Tracks participants, but no repeat user policy; TLs may have up to 2 pending permits AOT.
Commercial transfer policy	Allows transfers with extensive review of equipment value, client lists, business plan, etc.
Use of overbooking	Yes – in both sectors to account for likely no shows/cancellations.
Waiting list	No
Cancellation penalties	No if prior to 10 days. Yes; TL cannot reapply for one year (but could join other trips).
No show penalties	Yes; TL cannot reapply for one year (but could join other trips).
Application fees	6 per lottery application; allows one date.
User fees	10 per person for each trip due 10 days before trip.
Number of commercial outfitters	46
Group size limits	30 for commercial, 20 for private
Trip length limits	6 nights/7 days; enforced in control season; recommended at other times.
Human waste policy	Yes
Fire ring policy	Yes

Other capacity/allocation features	<p>Odds of lottery success about 14% or 1 in 7 years for first choice date. However, considerable use allocated through secondary system. In 2006:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 96% of spaces assigned in calendar/lottery (both sectors); only 69% of spaces used. Of actual private use, 55% came from lottery; 45% from secondary system. Of actual commercial use, 88% came from calendar; 12% came from secondary. <p>Private party sizes average about 5 to 6; up to 10 or 12 private launches per day. Guides are "invisible" in terms of allocation counts (but are counted for group size limits) Commercial group size categories: large=20+5, small rafting=10+3, small fishing=6+6. Each day run as a separate lottery.</p> <p>Manual entry of permits into lottery. BLM runs system now; previously contracted out. "Bad applicant list" if they cancel <10 days or no show = 1 year ban (can't get permit; can join other trips).</p>
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Contact	BLM Medford District - Grants Pass Resource Are 2164 N.E. Spalding Ave. Grants Pass, OR 97526 (541) 471-6561 Information from Chris Dent
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Salt River, Arizona

Segment(s)	Globe to Roosevelt Reservoir
Miles	52 (32 in USFS wilderness reach)
Typical boatable flow range	300 to 3,000 cfs
Typical boatable season	March through May (depends on water levels)
Whitewater difficulty	IV
Designation/classification status	Wilderness; National Forest
Managing agency	USFS
Type of access	Road access on both ends

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	1997
Primary type of limit	Launches and people (4 x 15 = 60).
Other limits	Group size
Capacity basis	Historical use + planning
Permit system approach	Split
Primary distribution technique(s)	Lottery
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Waiting list among unsuccessful applicants
Common pool of unused allocation	No
Use limit season(s)	Mar 1 to May 15
Primary distribution dates	Applications by January 15 Drawing in mid-January February starts waiting list
Private-commercial split (goal)	10 to 20% commercial ; 80 to 90% private
Private-commercial split (actual)	Varies depending upon water year.
Trip leader policy	Allows alternatives with written request
Participant tracking	Yes
Commercial transfer policy	Allows with review.
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	Yes – Hells Canyon model – can wait for one date.
Cancellation penalties	No; credit on user fees if 30 days in advance.
No show penalties	Loss of fees
Repeat user limitations	No
Application fees	\$10 per application
User fees	\$125 per trip (if successful in lottery) due 21 days before launch.
Number of commercial outfitters	3 (previously 4)
Group size limits	15
Trip length limits	3
Human waste policy	Yes
Fire ring policy	Yes

Other capacity/allocation features	<p>No motors.</p> <p>Permit system required after higher use levels resulting from the modification of Quartzite Falls (illegal blasting by individuals changed only Class V rapid into Class III)</p> <p>Permit requires for Apache Reservation segment.</p> <p>Waiting list among unsuccessful applicants available to fill cancellations.</p> <p>Very flow-dependent use levels; lots of call-in use in wet years.</p> <p>Commercial companies do not solely rely on this river.</p> <p>Lottery odds: about 20% or 1 in 4 to 5 years.</p> <p>No credit cards taken.</p>
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Contact	<p>Tonto National Forest, Globe Ranger District, 7680 S. Six Shooter Canyon Rd. Globe, AZ 85501 928-701-1477 Information from Don Sullivan and Scott McBride.</p>
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San Juan River, Utah

Segment(s)	Sand Island to Mexican Hat and Mexican Hat to Clay Hills
Miles	84 total (26 + 58)
Typical boatable flows	500 to 8,000 cfs
Typical boatable season	Year-round (but primary season from March through October)
Whitewater difficulty	III
Designation/classification status	None
Managing agency	BLM
Type of access	Road access on ends (and in middle)

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	Late 1980s
Primary type of limit	Launches and people (varies by segment/season; see below)
Other limits	Group sizes, no layovers in certain segments and seasons
Capacity basis	Historical use + planning
Permit system approach	Split
Primary distribution technique(s)	Lottery
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Phone reservation
Common pool of unused allocation	Yes – cancelled commercial trips available for non-commercial groups.
Use limit season(s)	March 1 through October 31
Primary distribution dates	Application by January 31 Lottery in February; Phone-in reservation after March 1 (for lottery applicants only).
Private-commercial split (goal)	50-50 launches
Private-commercial split (actual)	77% non-commercial launches; 23% commercial 67% non-commercial people; 33% commercial 73% non-commercial user-days; 27% commercial
Trip leader policy	Alternate allowed with explanation
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed with review.
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	No
Cancellation penalties	No refunds (but credit on other BLM rivers if soon enough)
No show penalties	No refunds
Repeat user limitations	No
Application fees	None
User fees	Depends on segment and trip length (usually \$12 to \$18 per person)
Number of commercial outfitters	13
Group size limits	25
Trip length limits	5
Human waste policy	Yes
Fire ring policy	Yes

Other capacity/allocation features	<p>Example limit: 6 launches per day or 65 people from Sand Island in May-Jun. Must confirm 30 days before launch. Administrative trips operated in place of cancellations (there are many). Motors allowed (for downstream travel). Office hours from 8am to 12 pm for phone reservations. Must register for some popular camps. Navajo permit required to camp or hike on river left. Up to two trip size changes per application. Use levels: about 1,200 launches, 10,000 users, and 42,000 user day per year (2006)</p>
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Contact	<p>San Juan River-BLM PO Box 7 Monticello, UT 84535 (435) 587-1544 Information from Kay Wilson</p>
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Selway River, Idaho

Segment(s)	Paradise to Selway Falls
Miles	47.0
Typical boatable flow range	600 to 20,000 cfs
Typical boatable season	May through early August
Whitewater difficulty	Class IV
Designation/classification status	Wild and Scenic River, 1968
Managing agency	USFS
Type of access	Road accessible on ends (and via airstrips)

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	1980 (estimated)
Primary type of limit	Launches: 1 per day (16 of 62 days to commercial outfitters)
Other limits	Length of stay, group size, designated camps
Capacity basis	Historical use + studies + planning
Permit system approach	Split
Primary distribution technique(s)	Lottery
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Call-in reservation, business days only.
Common pool of unused allocation	Yes, if cancellations.
Use limit season(s)	May 15 through July 31 (control season; but permits required year round)
Primary distribution dates	Outfitters use calendar system. 4 rivers lottery schedule: Privates apply Dec. 1 to Jan. 31; results by Mar. 1; Confirm by Mar 15.
Private-commercial split (goal)	74% private/26% launches commercial (16 days) in control season.
Private-commercial split (actual)	Similar to goal; only 5 to 6 cancellations per year (rarely commercial).
Trip leader policy	No alternates allowed.
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed with substantial review.
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	No
Cancellation penalties	Loss of application fee. If within 3 weeks of launch = no show.
No show penalties	3 year ineligibility to apply for permits.
Repeat user limitations	Yes; one trip per year.
Application fees	\$6 per permit
User fees	None
Number of commercial outfitters	4
Group size limits	16
Trip length limits	No (most trips take 3 to 5 days)
Human waste policy	Yes
Fire ring policy	Yes

Other capacity/allocation features	Low odds in 4 rivers systems (3 to 4% or one in 28 to 30 years for first choice date). Increasing low flow use at end of control season. Few cancellations (5 to 6) and fewer no shows per year; this is a coveted trip. Snow can close pass into put-in in wet years. Low flows can lead to cancellations in dry years. Cancellations are usually picked up by local boaters within minutes (several calls each morning in season). Annual use: 60 to 70 launches; 800 to 1,000 user days per year.
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Contact	USFS West Fork Ranger District 6735 West Fork Road, Darby, MT 59829-9654 (406) 821-3269 Information from Linda King
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Smith River, Montana

Segment(s)	Camp Baker to Eden Bridge
Miles	59
Typical boatable flow range	
Typical boatable season	April through June
Whitewater difficulty	Class II
Designation/classification status	
Managing agency	Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (with USFS cooperation)
Type of access	Road access on ends.

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	1992 (commercial only); 1993 (all users)
Primary type of limit	9 launches per day (no more than 1 to 2 commercial, depending on day of week).
Other limits	Group sizes, designated camps.
Capacity basis	Historical use + planning.
Permit system approach	Split
Primary distribution technique(s)	Calendar for commercial; lottery for private.
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Reservation by phone (mornings only) starting March 21.
Common pool of unused allocation	Not between sectors. Outfitters can trade among themselves.
Use limit season(s)	April 1 to October 1.
Primary distribution dates	Applications accepted Jan 1. Lottery occurs in late February. Notification in early March.
Private-commercial split (goal)	By launches: approximately 88% private.
Private-commercial split (actual)	In 2006: Launches: 92% private (582) and 8% commercial (52). People: 86% private (3,894) and 14% commercial (638).
Trip leader policy	No alternate trip leaders.
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed.
Use of overbooking	No.
Waiting list	No.
Cancellation penalties	No refund of fees.
No show penalties	Disqualified from applying in next year.
Repeat user limitations	None.
Application fees	\$5 per application for residents.
User fees	Per person: \$25 for residents; \$50 for non-residents (various discounts for children)
Number of commercial outfitters	10 in 2006 (reduced from 14 in mid-1990s).
Group size limits	15 for private trips; 8 for "re-allocated" (secondary distribution) permits.
Trip length limits	4 nights during high use month (June 10 to July 10).
Human waste policy	Recommended; several camps have pit toilets.
Fire ring policy	Recommended.

Other capacity/allocation features	Annual use: about 3,500 to 4,000 people per year (about 600 trips). "Re-allocation" of cancelled permits limited to smaller groups sizes (8). Applications ranged from 3,000 to 4,500 since 1997 (average=3,840). About 800 are offered launches; success odds: about 20% or 1 in 4 to 5 years. Camps are designated and named; users line up to claim sites on day of launch. Outfitters are allowed one launch per day except from the last week of May through the first week of July when they are allowed two launches on Sundays and Wednesdays. About 25% of initial permits cancel (often flow-related; sometimes group consolidation).
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Contact	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Attn: Smith River PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701 406-454-5861 Information from Colin Maas, Roger Semler, and Charlie Sperry.
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Snake River (Hells Canyon), Oregon/Idaho

Segment(s)	Hells Canyon Dam to Pittsburg Landing; Pittsburg Landing to Heller Bar
Miles	72.0
Typical boatable flow range	6,500 to 50,000 cfs
Typical boatable season	March through November
Whitewater difficulty	Class IV
Designation/classification status	Wild and Scenic River
Managing agency	USFS
Type of access	Road accessible on ends (and at one mid-river location)

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	1978
Primary type of limit	Launches: 3 private and 3 commercial per day on Wild segment; 2 private per day on Fri, Sat, and Sun scenic segment; otherwise unlimited
Other limits	Length of stay, group size, motorized use segments and times
Capacity basis	Historical use + planning
Permit system approach	Split
Primary distribution technique(s)	Lottery
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Call-in reservation, mornings only.
Common pool of unused allocation	Within 30 days of launch only.
Use limit season(s)	Memorial Day through September 15 (permits year round)
Primary distribution dates	Outfitters use calendar system. 4 rivers lottery schedule: Privates apply Dec. 1 to Jan. 31; results by Mar. 1; Confirm by Mar 15.
Private-commercial split (goal)	50-50 by launches
Private-commercial split (actual)	Private to commercial Launches: 58% to 42% User days: 62% to 38%
Trip leader policy	No alternates allowed.
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed with substantial review.
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	Yes, for people who call in, for one date only.
Cancellation penalties	Within 21 days of launch = no show penalties (one year ineligibility).
No show penalties	One year ineligibility for permits.
Repeat user limitations	No
Application fees	\$6 per permit
User fees	None?
Number of commercial outfitters	30
Group size limits	24 with 8 boats per group.
Trip length limits	None
Human waste policy	Yes
Fire ring policy	Yes

Other capacity/allocation features	Separate commercial and private powerboat allocation system (all historical use). ~65% of user-days in primary season are powerboat (62% commercial powerboat). Best odds among Idaho 4 rivers systems (33% or 1 year in 3 for first choice date). About 69% of initial lottery dates are cancelled (but reallocated). About 20% are not confirmed (and reallocated). About 10% of non-commercial trips no show (and are not able to be reallocated). Non-motor segment Mon-Wed in alternating weeks from June – August.
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Contact	USFS Hells Canyon Hells Canyon National Recreation Area 2535 Riverside Dr. P.O. Box 699, Clarkston WA 99403-0699 (509) 758-1957
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Tuolumne River, California

Segment(s)	Lumsden Campground (Merals Pool) to Wards Ferry Bridge (Main Tuolumne)
Miles	18.5
Typical boatable flow range	1,000 to 8,000 cfs
Typical boatable season	April through October
Whitewater difficulty	III-IV
Designation/classification status	Wild and Scenic River, 1984.
Managing agency	USFS
Type of access	Road accessible on ends.

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	1975 for commercial; 1982 for all users; revisions with new river plans in 1986 and 88.
Primary type of limit	Launches and people combination
Other limits	Some designated camps, group sizes.
Capacity basis	Historical use + planning
Permit system approach	Split
Primary distribution technique(s)	Calendar for commercial; reservations for privates.
Secondary distribution technique(s)	First-come/first-served walk-ins.
Common pool of unused allocation	Not between sectors.
Use limit season(s)	May 1 through October 15
Primary distribution dates	Reservations available for privates starting Jan 1.
Private-commercial split (goal)	63% private (90 people and 4 launches) to 37% commercial (52 people and 2 launches)
Private-commercial split (actual)	Annually: 67% commercial to 33% private (private rarely reach their limit).
Trip leader policy	No alternate.
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed with analysis.
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	No
Cancellation penalties	Loss of application fees (unless 14 days before; can use as credit for a future launch).
No show penalties	Defined as cancellations less than 48 hours; loss of remaining reservations that year.
Repeat user limitations	No
Application fees	\$15 for first ten people + \$2 or each additional (non-refundable)
User fees	None
Number of commercial outfitters	6
Group size limits	26
Trip length limits	3 days (2 nights)
Human waste policy	Yes
Fire ring policy	Yes

Other capacity/allocation features	<p>Must pick up permit in person.</p> <p>Annual use has been as high as 7,000 user days.</p> <p>Recent numbers of users: about 3,500 people.</p> <p>3 out of 10 camps designated for commercial outfitters (and those are rotated each year).</p> <p>If camps are unoccupied at 4 pm, anyone can use them.</p> <p>Low cancellation rate.</p> <p>About 75% of private trips and 65% of commercial trips go as a day trip.</p> <p>Less than 10% stay more than 1 night.</p> <p>Private use reaches limits only on holiday weekends in recent years (weekday permits are easily obtained).</p>
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Contact	<p>Stanislaus National Forest Groveland Ranger District Attention: River Permits 24545 Highway 120 Groveland, CA 95321 Information from Julie Dettman</p>
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Yampa and Green Rivers in Dinosaur National Monument, Colorado

Segment(s)	Yampa -- Deer Lodge to Echo Park (confluence with Green) then to Split Mountain. Green -- Lodore to Echo Park (confluence with Green) then to Split Mountain
Miles	71 miles for Yampa trip; 44 for Green trip (shorter day run is 25 miles).
Typical boatable flow range	700 to 15,000 on Yampa; 300 to 20,000 cfs on Green
Typical boatable season	May through July on Yampa; May through September on Green.
Whitewater difficulty	III-IV on both rivers.
Designation/classification status	National Monument.
Managing agency	NPS
Type of access	Road accessible.

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	1967 (no limit); 1973 (all users); 1976 (lottery for private); 1979 revisions.
Primary type of limit	Launches per day (3 + 3 in high use; 1 + 1 in low use).
Other limits	Scheduled camps, group size limits.
Capacity basis	Historical use + study + planning.
Permit system approach	Split
Primary distribution technique(s)	Calendar for commercial; lottery for private.
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Reservations by phone (for high use dates, must have applied in initial distribution).
Common pool of unused allocation	No
Use limit season(s)	High use: starts second Monday in May; ends mid-July on Yampa, mid-Sep on Green.
Primary distribution dates	Applications available Nov 1; must be received by February 1; notifications by February 28/29.
Private-commercial split (goal)	50-50 by launches in high season: 300 each (both rivers).
Private-commercial split (actual)	Close to goal (few cancellations are unused by either sector).
Trip leader policy	No alternates allowed.
Participant tracking	Yes.
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed with concessions review.
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	No
Cancellation penalties	Less than 14 days prior: one year disqualification.
No show penalties	Less than 24 hours; two year disqualification.
Repeat user limitations	No more than 1 trip during high use period per year (unless using a cancellation).
Application fees	\$15 per application.
User fees	\$185 for multi-day permit.
Number of commercial outfitters	11 multi-day trip outfitters (previously as high as 17); 2 offer day use trips.
Group size limits	25
Trip length limits	6 days on Green and 7 days on Yampa (camp scheduling encourages shorter trips).
Human waste policy	Yes
Fire ring policy	Yes

Other capacity/allocation features	All camps are scheduled (chosen with river office after confirmation). Must apply for one river and one date only. May be able to arrange trip length extensions (with extra fees). Odds of success in initial lottery: 5 to 6% or 1 out of 18 years. 26 to 33% of initial permits cancelled in recent years (worse in low flow years). About 25% of call-in trips cancel. About 3% of high season trips are unused. On-line application process planned for 2009. One-day segment available (and has separate system and launch timing regulations).
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Contact	Dinosaur National Monument River Office 4545 Hwy 40 Dinosaur, CO 81610. Phone (970) 374-2468 Information from Judy Culver.
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Lower Youghiogheny, Pennsylvania

Segment(s)	Lower Youghiogheny (Ohiopyle to Bruner Run)
Miles	7.4
Typical boatable flow range	1.2 to 8 feet on gage
Typical boatable season	April-October
Whitewater difficulty	Class III
Designation/classification status	Penn State Park
Managing agency	Pennsylvania State Parks
Type of access	Road accessible

Type of allocation system	Full (commercial and non-commercial)
Year permits first limited	Late 1970s
Primary type of limit	People per day
Other limits	Number of outfitters, group sizes, timing of launches
Capacity basis	Study + planning
Permit system approach	Split allocation
Primary distribution technique(s)	Reservations by web
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Reservation by web
Common pool of unused allocation	No

Use limit season(s)	Weekends and holidays from April 1 to October 15
Primary distribution dates	Private boaters can reserve dates 9 months in advance.
Private-commercial split (goal)	50-50 people per day (960 commercial passengers and 960 non-commercial)
Private-commercial split (actual)	Unknown
Trip leader policy	Permits to individuals, not groups.
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed; minimal oversight or analysis of sales.
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	No
Cancellation penalties	Loss of reservation fee (2.50 in past; 3.00 for 2007)
No show penalties	No
Repeat user limitations	No; seasonal pass available for local boaters with unlimited reservations allowed.
Application fees	\$3 non-refundable for reservation; \$3.00 for mandatory take-out shuttle to parking area.
User fees	No additional fees.
Number of commercial outfitters	4
Group size limits	25
Trip length limits	Day use river
Human waste policy	Day use river
Fire ring policy	Day use river

Other capacity/allocation features	<p>Private use is also split between inflatables (750 people/day) and hard shell boats (210)</p> <p>Allocation is for prime time periods, not whether one can go boating.</p> <p>Time slots are on half hour and hour; launch ranger allows some flexibility.</p> <p>No information about number of cancellations.</p> <p>Seasonal pass holders (about 175) began "stockpiling" good launch slots; polite letter from agency discouraging this practice has effectively reduced it.</p> <p>Outfitters pay 7.5% of gross to agency.</p> <p>Recent outfitter sale included intangible value of access and client list.</p> <p>Use levels exceed 100,000 people per year.</p> <p>Credit cards accepted for fees through web-based state park reservation system.</p> <p>Shuttle bus concession used to keep private vehicles from constrained take-out area.</p>
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Contact	<p>Ohiopyle State Park PO Box 105 Ohiopyle, PA 15470 724-329-8591 Permit information 724-329-8593 Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources staff Information from Stacie Faust</p>
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Notable partial allocation systems

Arkansas River, Colorado

Segments	Multiple segments (Leadville to Pueblo Reservoir)
Miles	148
Typical boatable flow range	Depends on reach;
Typical boatable season	April to October (shorter season for higher elevation reaches)
Whitewater difficulty	I-II to III-V on different segments
Designation/classification status	State recreation area
Managing agency	Colorado Department of Parks and Outdoor Recreation & BLM
Type of access	Road accessible (multiple launches on different segments).

Type of allocation system	Commercial limits implemented; non-commercial limits defined (but not reached).
Year permits first limited	1995; Plan in 1998; revisions to system in 2001.
Primary type of limit	Boats per day (varies by segment).
Other limits	Group size, commercial launch periods.
Capacity basis	Historical use + planning
Permit system approach	Split
Primary distribution technique(s)	Negotiated calendar for commercial use; private use not limited yet.
Secondary distribution technique(s)	None
Common pool of unused allocation	No sector common pool on daily basis, but it has occurred during planning (see sidebar in case study chapter). Outfitters can trade use among themselves (complex rules).
Use limit season(s)	Year-round, but primary season May 15 to Sep 7
Primary distribution dates	None for non-commercial; commercial calendar negotiations in winter
Private-commercial split (goal)	Varies by segment and season. Some segments 95 to 100% private; others 50-50 in summer; and still others 25% non-commercial in summer.
Private-commercial split (actual)	Only 2 to 36 days limited for commercial (depending on segment) and no days limited for non-commercial yet.
Trip leader policy	Not applicable – non-commercial use limits not yet reached.
Participant tracking / repeat user	No
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed with minimal review.
Waiting list	No
Cancellation/no show penalties	No
Application fees	No
User fees	\$2 per person (rising to \$3 in 2008)
Number of commercial outfitters	55
Group size limits	10 boats per trip; 300 yards between trips.
Trip length limits	None
Human waste policy	Yes
Fire ring policy	Yes

Other capacity/allocation features	<p>Historical use based on 5 years of data (1989-1994)</p> <p>Limits enforced only after capacity for a segment has been exceeded for 5 days in a year.</p> <p>Limits apply only to days that exceeded capacity (each day is added incrementally)</p> <p>Limits for specific days removed if under capacity for two consecutive years.</p> <p>When use must be reduced to meet limits, all outfitters reduce proportionally.</p> <p>Complex calculations used to determine boats/year and distribution across seasons.</p> <p>Outfitters must use 80% of 3 year average use to maintain allocation.</p> <p>Commercial boat launch hours on some segments (8:30 to 11 am).</p> <p>Commercial boats off river by 5 pm on other (fishing) segments.</p> <p>"Rafts" defined as any boat capable of 3 people.</p> <p>Non-commercial use estimated from "Parks Pass" and photography concession counts.</p>
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Contact	<p>Colorado State Parks Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area 307 West Sackett Ave. Salida, CO 81201 Information from John Kreski</p>
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Chetco River, Oregon

Segment	Wild and Scenic segment
Miles	45
Typical boatable season	Year-round
Whitewater difficulty	Class I-II
Designation/classification status	National Wild & Scenic River, 1984 (wild, scenic, and recreational segments)
Managing agency	USFS
Type of access	Road accessible; multiple launches.
Type of allocation system	Commercial limits implemented; non-commercial limits defined (but not reached).
Year permits first limited	1998
Primary type of limit	Launches (if necessary)
Other limits	Non-motorized use only; group sizes.
Permit system approach	Common pool, if needed.
Primary distribution technique(s)	Undecided.
Use limit season(s)	Year-round.
Primary distribution dates	Undecided.
Application fees	None.
User fees	None.
Number of commercial outfitters	25 fishing guides
Group size limits	12 for all trips
Trip length limits	Not specified.
Human waste policy	Recommended.
Fire ring policy	Recommended.
Other capacity/allocation features	Self-administered permits at roadside kiosk.
Contact	Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest PO Box 520 333 West 8th Street Medford, OR 97501 (541) 858-2200

Illinois River, Oregon

Segment	Wild Section from Miami Bar to Oak Flat
Miles	31
Typical boatable flow range	500 to 3,500 cfs at 31 feet per mile
Typical boatable season	March through May
Whitewater difficulty	Class III-IV-V
Designation/classification status	National Wild River, 1988
Managing agency	USFS
Type of access	Road accessible on ends

Type of allocation system	Commercial limits on number of outfitters; total launches per day limit defined (but not reached).
Year permits first limited	1998
Primary type of limit	Launches (if necessary) to meet encounter standards.
Other limits	Group size limits.
Capacity basis	Studies in mid-1980s.
Permit system approach	Common pool, if needed.
Primary distribution technique(s)	Undecided.
Use limit season(s)	Year-round.
Primary distribution dates	Undecided.
Application fees	None.
User fees	None.
Number of commercial outfitters	2 whitewater outfitters; 10 fishing guides (not wild segment).
Group size limits	12 for all trips
Trip length limits	Not specified.
Human waste policy	Yes
Fire ring policy	Yes

Other capacity/allocation features	Self-administered permits at nearby store (where shuttles often originate). Forest Service apparently considered implementation of full common pool system in mid-1990 to ensure that encounter standards in the management plan were not exceeded. Some stakeholders questioned whether use or impacts had reached "trigger" levels. The system was not implemented.
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Contact	Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest PO Box 520 333 West 8th Street Medford, OR 97501 (541) 858-2200
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Kern River, California (Upper and Lower)

Segment(s)	Johnsondale Bridge to Kernville (Upper) and Below Isabella Reservoir
Miles	19 (upper) and 18 (lower)
Typical boatable flow range	300 to 4,000 at Kernville
Typical boatable season	Spring through late summer
Whitewater difficulty	Class III-IV
Designation/classification status	National Wild & Scenic River (1987); recreational and scenic reaches.
Managing agency	USFS (some BLM cooperation).
Type of access	Road accessible; multiple launches.

Type of allocation system	Commercial limits implemented; non-commercial use formerly limited (but no longer).
Year permits first limited	1979 to 1988; then non-commercial limits removed.
Primary type of limit	In past: people per day and launches per day (commercial). Currently: number of outfitters only; no sector limits.
Other limits	Group sizes.
Capacity basis	Historical use.

Permit system approach	1979-1988 used a split allocation
Primary distribution technique(s)	First-come/first served at office.
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Same as primary.
Common pool of unused allocation	No.
Use limit season(s)	Year round.
Primary distribution dates	First-come/first-served during limit era; no current limit.
Private-commercial split (goal)	Currently unspecified.
Private-commercial split (actual)	~15% non-commercial vs. 85% commercial (Lower). Unspecified (Upper)
Trip leader policy	Not applicable.
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed.
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	No
Cancellation penalties	No
No show penalties	No
Repeat user limitations	No
Application fees	None
User fees	None
Number of commercial outfitters	6 on Upper; 4 on Lower.
Group size limits	Varies by segments. Upper is 25 for private and commercial; Lower is 18 / 30.
Trip length limits	None. Most trips are day or one night trips.
Human waste policy	Yes, carry-out required. No scat machine.
Fire ring policy	Yes; fire pans.

Other capacity/allocation features	Non-commercial limits lifted in 1988 because private boaters had been "flooding" office in mornings (300+ boaters on some weekend days). Outfitters camp on private or leased land (have established base camps).
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Contact	Kern River Ranger District-Kernville Office P.O. Box 9 Kernville, CA 93238 760-376-3781 Information from Sheryl Bowers
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Lower Salmon, Idaho

Segment(s)	Hammer Creek to Snake River
Miles	63 (+ 10 on Snake to Heller Bar).
Typical boatable flow range	3,000 to 15,000 cfs.
Typical boatable season	April to October
Whitewater difficulty	Class III (one IV)
Designation/classification status	None
Managing agency	BLM
Type of access	Road accessible at start (and on Snake at take-out).

Type of allocation system	Commercial limits on number of outfitters; no non-commercial limits.
Year of first limits	Required since mid-1980s (but no limit).
Primary type of limit	None on trips per day.
Other limits	Number of outfitters; group sizes.
Capacity basis	Not applicable.
Permit system approach	Commercial only (no limits on number of tips).
Primary distribution technique(s)	Commercial only – outfitter discretion.
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Not applicable.
Common pool of unused allocation	Not applicable.
Use limit season(s)	Registration required year round.
Primary distribution dates	Not applicable.
Private-commercial split (goal)	None
Private-commercial split (actual)	Actual splits: about 25% of launches and 39% of users are commercial (2005 data).
Trip leader policy	No
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed; minimal oversight or analysis of sales.
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	No
Cancellation penalties	No
No show penalties	No
Repeat user limitations	No
Application fees	None
User fees	None
Number of commercial outfitters	45 total (see break down below)
Group size limits	30
Trip length limits	None
Human waste policy	Yes
Fire ring policy	Yes

Other capacity/allocation features	Specifically managed as “no limit” alternative in Salmon Basin. Focus is on minimizing resource impacts rather than social impacts like encounters. 25 page boater guide. 14 powerboat permits; 31 float permits.
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Contact	Cottonwood Field Office 1 Butte Drive Cottonwood, ID 83522 208-962-3245 Information from Joe O'Neill
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Merced River, California

Segments	BLM segments from Indian Flat to Railroad Flat
Miles	18
Typical boatable flow range	Variable 800 to 4,000 (changes difficulty)
Typical boatable season	April through July
Whitewater difficulty	III-IV
Designation/classification status	Wild and Scenic River
Managing agency	BLM (some cooperation with USFS)
Type of access	Road accessible (multiple locations).

Type of allocation system	Commercial limits implemented; no non-commercial limits.
Year permits first limited	1979; revisions in 1984
Primary type of limit	Launches per day (8).
Other limits	Group size limits, starts per day.
Capacity basis	Historical use + planning.
Permit system approach	Commercial use only.
Primary distribution technique(s)	Negotiated calendar
Secondary distribution technique(s)	None
Common pool of unused allocation	Yes, within commercial sector.
Use limit season(s)	April through July
Primary distribution dates	None for private users.
Private-commercial split (goal)	Not applicable.
Private-commercial split (actual)	Not applicable.
Trip leader policy	Not applicable.
Participant tracking / repeat user	Not applicable.
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed after intensive review.
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	No
Cancellation penalties	None
No show penalties	None
Application fees	None
User fees	None
Number of commercial outfitters	7 outfitters (10 total permits); as many as 13 in past
Group size limits	25 for private (+ 6 guides for commercial).
Trip length limits	No (mostly day trips).
Human waste policy	Yes
Fire ring policy	Yes

Other capacity/allocation features	<p>Starting in 1984, outfitters "lost" starts for not using 85% of allocation. Currently 65% is the standard for reduced launches – usually less than 2 to 3 lost per year. Lost starts go to common commercial pool.</p> <p>Roughly 1/3 of all use is private; no limits expected in near future. But there has been a shift to higher kayaking use than rafting in private sector.</p> <p>Very flow-dependent river; major effect on use.</p> <p>Recent slide and highway blockage affected use.</p> <p>"Reallocation" among outfitters occurs every 3 years.</p> <p>Total use is about 9,000 to 10,000 people per year (in short season).</p>
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Contact	<p>Bureau of Land Management Folsom Field Office 63 Natoma Street Folsom, CA 95630 Phone: (916) 985-4474 Information from Jim Eicher and Jeff Horn.</p>
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North Fork American River, California

Segment(s)	Chamberlain Falls Reach
Miles	5
Typical boatable flow range	400 to 2,500 cfs
Typical boatable season	December through June
Whitewater difficulty	Class IV
Designation/classification status	State Park
Managing agency	Auburn State Park
Type of access	Road access on ends

Type of allocation system	Commercial limits implemented; no non-commercial limits.
Year permits first limited	1980 (commercial only); 1988 revision; 2004 revision.
Primary type of limit	Commercial use on weekends
Other limits	Group sizes, start times, number of boats
Capacity basis	Historical use
Permit system approach	Commercial use only
Primary distribution technique(s)	Calendar
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Reservation by phone from pool.
Use limit season(s)	Winter and spring
Primary distribution dates	Entire season (varies depending upon flows and weather)
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed after review; rules adjust allocation based on use.
Use of overbooking	Not applicable.
Can allocations be reduced?	Not applicable.
Number of commercial guides	18
Group size limits	24
Trip length limits	Not applicable (mostly day trips).

Other capacity/allocation features	Number of outfitters grew from 9 to 18 from 1980 to present. Elaborate system of choosing calendar dates – annual meeting with 3 rounds of choices. Start times are scheduled (chosen during annual “Draw Meeting”). Complexities of allocation between outfitters discussed in RMS newsletter, spring 2003.
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Contact	Auburn State Recreation Area El Dorado Street at Old Foresthill Road Auburn , CA, 95602 530-823-4162 Information from Bill Deitchman
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South Fork American, California

Segments	Chili Bar (7 miles), Coloma (3 miles), and the Gorge (9 miles)
Miles	19
Typical boatable flow range	800 to 3,500 cfs
Typical boatable season	March through October
Whitewater difficulty	Class III+
Designation/classification status	County management
Managing agency	Eldorado County lead. Some BLM land.
Type of access	Road accessible

Type of allocation system	Commercial limits implemented; non-commercial limits defined but not reached.
Year permits first limited	1981 commercial use regulation; 1988 revisions; 2004 revisions.
Primary type of limit	People per day (2,100 on Chili Bar; 3,200 in the Gorge)
Other limits	Density per 2 hour period (<300); group size limits, number of outfitters
Capacity basis	Study + planning
Permit system approach	Split allocation (if capacities reached).
Primary distribution technique(s)	Per day allocations on weekends/weekdays for individual outfitters; none for private
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Not relevant at this time
Common pool of unused allocation	No, but there is a "flex" system for smaller outfitters.
Use limit season(s)	Year-round
Primary distribution dates	None for private users.
Private-commercial split (goal)	No goal specified.
Private-commercial split (actual)	Roughly 70% commercial in recent years (down from 75% in mid 1990s).
Trip leader policy	No private permits.
Participant tracking / repeat user	No private permits.
Commercial transfer policy	Allows transfers and encourages consolidation among existing outfitters, but requires review of sales and allocation is not allowed on the bill of sale.
Use of overbooking	Not applicable.
Waiting list	Not applicable.
Cancellation penalties	Not applicable.
No show penalties	Not applicable.
Application fees	Not applicable.
User fees	\$2 for commercial passengers.
Number of commercial outfitters	42
Group size limits	56 people (including guides); maximum of 7 rafts or 12 kayaks.
Trip length limits	None
Human waste policy	Yes
Fire ring policy	Yes

Other capacity/allocation features	<p>Phased actions to reduce then limit use if standards exceeded include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase commercial passenger fees Decrease commercial and institutional allocations Limit all use (all user permit system) <p>Variable allocations to outfitters (with more on weekends). Existing use has not approached capacity thresholds in recent years. Use levels overall are down 20 to 45% from mid-1990's peaks. Current use is about 100,000 user days per year.</p>
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Contact	<p>Eldorado County Airports, Parks & Grounds Office 3000 Fairlane Court, Ste 1 Placerville, CA 95667 (530) 621-5864</p>
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Susitna-Basin Recreation Rivers, Alaska

Segment(s)	6 rivers: Talkeetna, Talachulitna, Lake Creek, Deshka, Alexander Creek, and Little Susitna
Miles	362 total
Typical boatable flow range	Varies by river.
Typical boatable season	Floating and jetboating from Mid May through mid-October.
Whitewater difficulty	Class III-IV
Designation/classification status	State Recreational Rivers, 1989.
Managing agency	Alaska DNR
Type of access	Mostly fly-in access to headwaters (some road access on two rivers). Mostly-boat-out or road access at river mouths (confluences with the Susitna River).

Type of allocation system	Potential limits on commercial and non-commercial users.
Year permits first limited	Proposed in future (if standards exceeded).
Primary type of limit	Launches per day.
Other limits	Commercial camp locations, camp occupancy limits, PWC ban, some non-motorized use zones/periods (voluntary).
Capacity basis	Planning based on survey data and public input (circa 1989-90).
Permit system approach	Allocation goals suggest common pool or adjusting split.
Permit mechanisms	Unspecified; to be decided.
Number of commercial outfitters	Approximately 100 (for 6 rivers) in 1991.
Group size limits	None.
Trip length limits	14 day campsite occupancy.
Human waste policy	Recommended.
Fire ring policy	None.

Other capacity/allocation features	<p>Management plan in 1991.</p> <p>Commercial outfitters are registered (and pay fees) but are not limited.</p> <p>Plan establishes allocation goals without specifying system characteristics (if needed).</p> <p>Proactive plan with actions linked to standards.</p> <p>Most plan actions not implemented in 16 years (budget constraints/ lack of field staff).</p>
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Contact	<p>Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Mining, Land, and Water 550 W. 7th Suite 150 Anchorage AK 99501 907.269.8536 Information from Bruce Talbot</p>
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Verde River, Arizona

Segment(s)	Wild (35 miles) and Scenic (18 miles) segments
Miles	52
Typical boatable flow range	400 to 3,000 cfs.
Typical boatable season	Limited high flow days in March and April
Whitewater difficulty	Class III (one IV-V)
Designation/classification status	National Wild & Scenic River, 1984. Wilderness. Three National Forests.
Managing agency	USFS
Type of access	Road accessible at several locations.
Type of allocation system	Commercial limits only.
Year of first limits	Mid-1980s (designation in 1984).
Primary type of limit	People per day (60 on wild, 250 on scenic) and user-days per year.
Other limits	Number of outfitters; group sizes.
Capacity basis	Historical use + planning
Permit system approach	Commercial only – annual user day allocation + common commercial pool.
Primary distribution technique(s)	Commercial only – outfitter discretion.
Secondary distribution technique(s)	Not applicable.
Common pool of unused allocation	20% of annual user days in common commercial pool (both segments).
Use limit season(s)	Boating season is flow dependent; usually March and April.
Primary distribution dates	Not applicable – outfitter discretion on trip starts.
Private-commercial split (goal)	Not applicable.
Private-commercial split (actual)	Estimated: 33% commercial and 66% private on wild segment.
Trip leader policy	Not applicable.
Participant tracking	No
Commercial transfer policy	Allowed; minimal oversight or analysis of sales.
Use of overbooking	No
Waiting list	No
Cancellation penalties	Not applicable.
No show penalties	Permit holder not allowed to apply for three years
Repeat user limitations	Not applicable.
Application fees	Not applicable.
User fees	Not applicable.
Number of commercial outfitters	2
Group size limits	12 + 3 guides = 15 total in wild segment; 25 total in scenic segment.
Trip length limits	14 days in wilderness; typical trips 2 to 5 days in wild, 1 to 2 in scenic.
Human waste policy	Yes, carry-out required. No scat machine.
Fire ring policy	Yes; fire pans and ash carry-out required.

Other capacity/allocation features	<p>25 page boater guide.</p> <p>No camping /stopping zone for bald eagle nesting.</p> <p>100+ camps in river, but bottlenecks at “destination camps” – no designated camps.</p> <p>Each outfitter gets equal allocation of users days (200 on wild, 400 in scenic).</p> <p>Outfitters share a common pool (100 on wild, 200 on scenic).</p> <p>Recommended self-registration for privates; estimated compliance = 20%.</p> <p>Note: Recreation is not an outstandingly remarkable value.</p>
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Contact	<p>Verde Ranger District (USFS)</p> <p>P. O. Box 670 (300 E. Highway 260)</p> <p>Camp Verde, AZ 86322-0670</p> <p>(928) 567-4121</p> <p>Information from Dexter Allen & Bill Cook.</p>
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Other examples of partial and potential allocation systems

River	State	Miles	No. of outfitters	Other comments
Allagash	ME	92	20	Partial: commercial only. National WSR managed cooperatively with state and local entities. Major controversies over development (road access and bridges). Commercial outfitters must have permits (no limits on launches). No non-commercial permits.
Beaverhead	MT	75	87	Partial: commercial only. Commercial use is primarily fishing guides. Managed by State of Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Limit on number of outfitters and number of client days during peak period. Motorized use restrictions. Non-commercial use not limited.
Big Hole River	MT	153	116	Partial: commercial only. Multiple segments (Clark Canyon Reservoir to Big Hole River). Blue Ribbon trout fishery. Managed by State of Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Limit on number of outfitters and number of client days during peak period. Motorized restrictions (none over 10 horsepower)
Black Canyon of Gunnison (National Park Service)	CO	16	0	Potential: non-commercial use might be limited if resource damage. Kayak only run (Class V with portages). No commercial use. Wilderness permit currently required (no fee or limit).
Blackfoot	MT	139	50	Potential future limits on commercial and non-commercial use. Boatable from 600 to 8,000 cfs. Some angler-boater conflict; tuber-angler conflict in summer. 93% of use is non-commercial. Considerable use is organizational (boy scouts, church groups). Group size limits vary from reach to reach. No existing limits on number of guides or trips for either sector. Over 400 tubers/hour in summer peaks. Information from Chris Lorentz, MT FWP.
Blackfoot	ID	8	2	Partial: commercial only. Commercial limits via Idaho Outfitter and Guide regulations (number of outfitters). Float use only.
Bruneau / Jarbidge	ID	69	1	Partial (number of commercial outfitters) and potential (non-commercial) if needed. Challenging Class III-IV river. BLM-managed. April-June season; highly flow-dependent (800 to 2,500 cfs). Requires permit (can register on site or by mail). Human waste and fire pan regulations. Commercial limits only via Idaho Outfitter and Guide regulations allow as many as 4 outfitters (no trip limits).
Boise River (South Fork)	ID	21	2	Partial: commercial limits only. Commercial limits via Idaho Outfitter and Guide regulations. Float use only. Only one boat per outfitter at one time.
Boise River	ID	10	2	Partial: commercial limits only. Commercial limits only via Idaho Outfitter and Guide regulations. Float use only. No more than 4 boats per outfitter at one time.

River	State	Miles	No. of outfitters	Other comments
Buffalo National River	AR	135	13	Partial: commercial limits only. No use limits except number of outfitters. NPS management: National River status (designated 1972). Some motorized use.
Carson River (East Fork)	NV	19	2	Potential commercial limits. USFS managed. Potential WSR study river. Class II-III. No current limits for commercial or non-commercial sector. Commercial outfitters operate under special use permits (not limited at this time).
Cheat River	WV	11	13	Partial: commercial limits only. No limits on non-commercial boaters. WVa manages total number of commercial guides through a state license program. It establishes per day allocations on 5 rivers using complex formulas that consider the maximum capacity of the river (through an LAC process), the existing allocation (from historical use or adjustments), and market share (the amount they are actually using). The current system puts 90% of weight for next year on its existing allocation (10% on what it used). No per day commercial limits on Cheat (use is low at 8,000 user days per year compared to New, Gauley, or Shenandoah).
Cherry Creek (Tuolumne)	CA	9	2	Partial: commercial limits only. Continuous Class IV-V day run. Dam release flows; optimal is 700 to 1,500 cfs. Both outfitters allowed up to 2 launches per day and up to 7 per week (e.g., every day per week or double on a few days). Group size is 26. No limit for non-commercial use defined.
Clark's Fork (Alberton Gorge)	MT	11	29	Partial: commercial limits only. Class III+ river managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Limit on number of outfitters, but no limit on number of trips. Motorized restrictions (none over 10 horsepower)
Clearwater (Several segments)	ID	60+	20	Partial: commercial limits only. Commercial limits only via Idaho Outfitter and Guide regulations. Up to 10 powerboat outfitters and 5 to 10 float outfitters depending on the segment allowed. No more than 3 to 5 boats per outfitter at one time (depending on segment).
Clearwater (North Fork)	ID	29	4	Partial: commercial limits only. Commercial limits only via Idaho Outfitter and Guide regulations. Float use only. No per boats per outfitter limits.
Coeur d'Alene	ID	29	1	Partial: commercial limits only. Commercial limits only via Idaho Outfitter and Guide regulations. Float use only. Only two boats per outfitter at one time.
Colorado River (Ruby Canyon)	CO	25	3	Potential commercial limits in future. Class I-II river segments. No non-commercial limits defined or expected.
Colorado River (Moab Daily)	UT	17	22	Partial: commercial limits only. Non-commercial permits required -- but not limited and no fees. Call for permit (mornings only); must be carried on river. Permit must be left at take-out (helps estimate use). Commercial use is not limited (except number of outfitters).

River	State	Miles	No. of outfitters	Other comments
Dead River	ME	16	14	Partial: commercial limits only. Scheduled flow releases. Day use river. State of Maine controls outfitter numbers. Capacity is 1,000 commercial passengers per weekend day. No non-commercial limits.
Delaware River	NY/ PA	73	11	Potential limits only. National Scenic and Recreational River managed by NPS. Nearly all private land. Multiple road access locations. Class I-II rapids. No non-commercial permits. Commercial operations include canoe liveries and outfitters (which are not limited). Canoe use may produce over 300,000 visits per year, but management plan does not establish future use limits.
Delta River / Tangle Lakes	AK	25	1	Potential limits on both commercial and non-commercial use. National WSR managed by BLM. Some powerboat use on lakes; jet boat use on lower 10 miles; float craft only on "through trips" (includes a Class IV gorge that can be portaged). Forthcoming 2008 plan is developing standards that may trigger limits in future (different segments with different limits). Likely limit: launches per day linked to campsite competition standards. Likely split system, but current commercial use is rare (occasional national Boy Scout groups). Potential group size limits at 12 per trip.
Dolores River (Slickrock/Bedrock)	CO	97	16	Partial: commercial limits only. Class II-IV segments. Short flow-dependent season. Commercial limits on number of outfitters, not number of trips. Group size limits 25 (Slickrock) and 16 (Bedrock)
Dolores River (Gateway Segment)	CO/UT	32	14	Partial (commercial) and potential (non-commercial). Commercial limits on number of outfitters, not number of trips. Non-commercial permits required – but not limited and no fees. Call for permit (mornings only); must be carried on river. Permit must be left at take-out (helps estimate use).
Flathead (Middle Fork)	MT	73	4	Partial (commercial) and potential (non-commercial). USFS managed WSR, 1976. Potential interest in a common pool system if limits are necessary (from Western Wildlands article; no specific commitment from USFS in existing plan). Has fly-in multi-day and road accessible day use segments. Existing commercial outfitters have limits on "boating-days" in entire basis that may complicate common pool options. Non-commercial use is less frequent than commercial use (fly-in logistics appear to constrain use).
Gallatin	MT	30	5	Partial: commercial use only. Day use segments on USFS land northwest of Yellowstone Park. Commercial use limits on number of outfitters, not number of trips.

River	State	Miles	No. of outfitters	Other comments
Gauley	WV	27	25	<p>Partial: commercial use only. Flow release river – occurs on 22 days in Sept and Oct. WVa manages total number of commercial guides through a state license program. It establishes per day allocations on 5 rivers using complex formulas that consider the maximum capacity of the river (through an LAC process), the existing allocation (from historical use or adjustments), and market share (what amount they are actually using). The current system puts 90% of weight for next year on its existing allocation (10% on what it used). Per day commercial limits on each segment is 3,040 per day; has not been exceeded. Annual Upper Gauley use: 20,00 to 25,000 user days. Annual Lower Gauley use: 35,000 to 40,000 user days. Some crowding and conflict on high use weekends. Increases in capacity were made on several occasions without public input.</p>
Grand Ronde / Wallowa	OR	91	8	<p>Potential commercial and non-commercial limits in future. Includes 10 miles on the Wallowa. All users required to get free permit (available at launches). No limits on private use. Commercial use requires Special Use Permit (no limits on number of outfitters or number of trips). Umatilla NF and Vale BLM district. Fire pan and carry out waste regulations.</p>
Green River (Labyrinth Canyon)	UT	68	25	<p>Partial (commercial) and potential (non-commercial). Limits on number of commercial outfitters, but not on trips. Permits required but not limited for non-commercial trips. Group size limits of 25. Some motorized use occurs (jet boats).</p>
Green River (Flaming Gorge)	WY	32	10	<p>Partial: commercial limits only. Limits on number of outfitters. Previously: Limit commercial launches per day. Currently: Limit commercial launches per month. Reallocate based on previous use every three years. USFS-managed. Daily use fee: \$2 (season passes available). Information from Nanette Gale</p>
Gulkana River	AK	127	17	<p>Partial (commercial) and potential (non-commercial). National WSR managed by BLM. 42 miles on commonly boated Main Stem. 2006 plan standards may trigger limits in future. Limit: launches per day linked to campsites. Split system would be implemented. Commercial use is <10% of existing use. Jet boat use on West Fork and lower 10 miles.</p>
Gunnison Gorge	CO	14	11	<p>Partial: commercial limits only. BLM managed. Commercial limits on number of outfitters, not number of trips. Class II-III. Considerable boat-based fishing. 1 to 3 day trips.</p>
Hudson River (Gorge)	NY	16	12	<p>Partial (commercial) and potential (non-commercial). State Department of Environmental Conservation management. Designated primitive area with a "Unit Plan." Outfitter association (12 members) pays about \$60,000 per year for short scheduled releases (800 cfs). Up to 150 rafts and 1,200 people may run river on high use days (weekends). Non-commercial boaters welcome to use water (but must register for time slot).</p>

River	State	Miles	No. of outfitters	Other comments
John Day River	OR	201	33	Partial (commercial) and potential (non-commercial). National Wild & Scenic River, 1988. (Wild, Scenic and Recreational reaches). BLM (some USFS on North Fork) Permits required year round (but not limited). LAC standards indicate that non-commercial limits may be needed. Final limits and allocation approach undecided; may follow Deschutes reservation example. Plan goal: reduce outfitters to 26 through attrition/consolidation. Group size limits: 16 Limits tied to campsite availability, encounters, and biophysical triggers (not reached yet, but approaching triggers). Commercial use is about 15% of total use.
Kaweah River	CA	9	4	Partial: commercial limits only. No current limits on number of trips for any sector. Group size limits appear to be 75 people (county enforced). May be limit on number of outfitters. Outside Kings Canyon / Sequoia NP. Class IV river; mostly private land.
Kootenai	ID	47	10	Partial: commercial limits only via Idaho Outfitter and Guide regulations. Float and motorized use (5 outfitters each).
Kenai (Upper)	AK	11	29	Partial: commercial limits only. USFWS managed segment from Russian River to Skilak Lake. Limits on number of guides/outfitters. 20 fishing guides and 9 scenic outfitters. Fishing guides have additional limits – 10 trips per week, 4 trips per day. Only four outfitters allowed to be “high volume.” Outfitters chosen by bid prospectus (merits of service and offerings, not cost). New plan due in 2008, may reduce starts/number of outfitters slightly.
Kenai (state-managed use)	AK	86	380	Potential commercial limits. Managed cooperatively by AK State Parks with assistance from a stakeholder board. USFS and USFWS also manage use on the Upper and Middle Kenai. Total guide limits is considered a state issue; was major topic in 2002-2004 but did not result in limits. May be addressed in 2008-09 study. Guides rather than outfitters are managed; also distinctions are made between powerboat and drift fishing guides, as well as scenic tours. Mid-2000s numbers: 350 fishing guides (about 300 motorized), 35 scenic guides.
Kennebec	ME	9	15	Partial: commercial limits only. Scheduled flow releases on a day use river. Access fees to local land owner. State of Maine controls outfitter numbers. Capacity is 1,000 commercial passengers per weekend day. No non-commercial limits.
Klamath River (Middle)	CA	148	42	Partial: commercial limits only (number of outfitters only). WSR managed by USFS. Class II-IV whitewater. Multiple road-accessible segments. Has human waste and fire pan regulations. Relatively low use except 34 miles below Happy Camp. No non-commercial use permits (but registration encouraged). Group size limits at 30.

River	State	Miles	No. of outfitters	Other comments
Klamath River (Upper)	OR/CA	16	12	Partial: commercial limits only. Scheduled flow releases daily in summer (likely to change with new FERC license; possibly just 1 to 2 days per week after June). Some overnight use. WSR managed by BLM. <10% private use; no non-commercial permits required. Outfitters are under special use permits (not limited). Primarily day use (some overnight use when flows are scheduled).
Kilickitat	WA	11	5	Partial: com limits only. Class II-III, with good fishing. Non-commercial registration requested, but not limited. Commercial use moratorium in 2007. No limits on number of commercial trips. Special use permits are renewed for 5 year periods. Commercial use required to develop operating plan. One angling outfitter, 2 raft-only outfitters, 2 kayak teaching outfitters, and 2 raft + kayaking outfitters. Two segments of river; not all commercial uses overlap. Low use levels – 350 people per year for fishing, 200 to 250 people per year for rafting and kayak courses.
Lochsa River	ID	26	5	Partial: Commercial limits only. Commercial limits only via Idaho Outfitter and Guide regulations. Limits only the number of outfitters (not number of trips). Float use only. Also USFS-managed: Wild and Scenic River (1968). Some designated outfitter picnic sites. Short whitewater season (April through July).
Madison River (Bear Trap Canyon)	MT	9	2	Partial: commercial limits only. 1,100 to 3,500 cfs is typical boatable range (has been run as high as 7,000 cfs). 1 to 2 camps available, but no overnight boat-based camping allowed. Two commercial whitewater outfitters; each are allotted 40 launches per year. Use levels: about 4,500 people per year. Used for whitewater and float-based fishing. Info from Susan James, BLM.
Madison River (Other segments)	MT	140	159	Potential: Commercial limits only in future. Multiple segments (from Yellowstone to the Missouri) Multiple agencies: NPS, USFS, BLM, Mt. Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Commercial permits required in past; new 2008 coop agreement between BLM and state. Number of permits will not be limited through this plan cycle.
McKenzie River (Upper)	OR		37	Potential commercial limits. USFS. No non-commercial permits. Commercial permits required but not limited (numbers or trips). Currently 7 raft-only, 17 fishing-only, and 13 rafting/fishing outfitters.
Metolius River	OR	26	0	Partial: commercial limits only (prohibited). Class II-III and high quality fishing opportunities. 1988 WSR addition; 1997 River Management Plan. Registration required for non-commercial users; no limit. No commercial use allowed. Lead agency: USFS.

River	State	Miles	No. of outfitters	Other comments
Merced River (Yosemite NP)	CA	3	1	Partial: Commercial limits only. NPS allows a concessionaire to rent rafts and inflatable kayaks for a 3-mile reach from Stoneman Bridge to Sentinel Beach. No private use limits (but that use is not encouraged). Restrictions against use at high water (can't fit under bridges) or when air+water temperature is below 100.
Missouri River (Upper – Missouri Breaks)	MT	149	23	Partial: Commercial limits only. NWSR (1976). BLM-managed. Number of outfitters is limited; but no limits on number of trip/use. No fees/permits for non-commercial use unless group size > 50. Recommended non-commercial registration. Indicators and standards in plan; no triggers for use limit actions.
Nantahala (Day use segment)	NC	9	15	Partial: Commercial limits only. USFS-managed. Class II-III day use river. High use river with over 200,000 user days per year. 1984 limits on number of commercial outfitters and number of commercial trips per day. No non-commercial use limits. \$1 per person per day user fee.
Nenana River (Denali NP segment)	AK	22	5	Potential commercial limits. Borders Denali National Park. Class II-IV segments; some overnight but mostly day use. High commercial use on two segments near park entrance (several daily trips). No commercial or private limits. Limited state management, but identified as potential state recreation river in early 1990s. Jetboat tours on upstream segment (Class I-II); no limits on number of trips or people (but DNR used to manage their upland use till they moved site to Native land).
Niobrara River (Ft Niobrara NWR reach)	NE	6	13	Partial: Commercial limits only. Entire National Scenic River is 76 miles. Commonly used reach is 30 miles (Cornell to Norden). Commercial use is mostly unguided (they just rent boats and provide shuttles). 2004 Refuge River Management Plan defines rental use limits: 400 people per day on weekdays and Sundays; 800 per day on Saturdays. No limit on number of outfitters or number of trips. Explicit statement that there will be no preference for rented vs. private use (but currently at least 90% rented). Special use permits for rental outfitters can't be sold but can be transferred (unclear why this matters given no limits on outfitters). Structure for bid process for launches if necessary (has not been needed yet).
New River	VA	56	4	Potential commercial limits. Mix of fishing and touring outfitters; also tubing and canoe liveries. No state oversight on the number of guides or outfitters (aside from qualifications and business license).

River	State	Miles	No. of outfitters	Other comments
New River	WV	53	24	<p>Partial: Commercial limits only. NPS unit, but limits are part of state program. Typical season is from April through Oct. WVa manages total number of commercial guides through a state license program. It establishes per day allocations on 5 rivers using complex formulas that consider the maximum capacity of the river (through an LAC process), the existing allocation (from historical use or adjustments), and market share (what amount they are actually using). The current system puts 90% of weight for next year on its existing allocation (10% on what it used). Per day commercial limits on Lower New: 3,875; this has never been exceeded. Annual New commercial use: 25,000 on Upper New and 135,000 on Lower New. Only 2 of 20 outfitters on New even reached 90% of their allocations. Some crowding and conflict at access points, but on-river problems are few. Preparing draft plan in 2007. Information from Katie Miller, NPS.</p>
Ocoee (Upper and Middle Segments)	TN	10	22	<p>Partial: Commercial use limits only (number of outfitters and number of trips). Upper segment (Olympic course) has weekend flows in summer (34 days per year). Middle segment has flows 5 days per week in summer (Tues and Wed off); weekend flows from March through November). 250,000 users annually (mostly commercial passengers). Cherokee National Forest: (423) 476-9700</p>
Owyhee	ID	36	6	<p>Partial: Commercial limits only via Idaho Outfitter and Guide regulations. Float use only. Also BLM managed river; WSR (1984). Non-commercial permits required (not limited).</p>
Pack Creek	AK	1	7	<p>Full: All users limited. USFS and ADF&G bear viewing area on Admiralty Island. Land-based use. Permit required June 1 to Sep 10. Advanced reservations taken from July 5 to Aug 25. Fees: 25 for child/senior and \$50 for adults in peak. Refunds if cancellations are 4 days before. One time change in dates allowed. No refunds for weather delays (fly or boat-in access only). Overnight use on adjacent island for boat-based users; otherwise day use only.</p>
Payette (Main)	ID	7	5	<p>Partial: Commercial limits only via Idaho Outfitter and Guide regulations. Float use only. Only one boat per outfitter at one time.</p>
Payette (North Fork)	ID	14	4	<p>Partial: Commercial limits only via Idaho Outfitter and Guide regulations. Two segments: Carbarton and Warren Wagon. Class II-III segments. Float use only. No more than 4 rafts by two trips per day per outfitter.</p>
Payette (South Fork)	ID	54	5	<p>Partial: Commercial limits only via Idaho Outfitter and Guide regulations. Float use only. Only one boat per outfitter at one time.</p>

River	State	Miles	No. of outfitters	Other comments
Rio Grande (Big Bend National Park)	TX	180	3	Partial (commercial) and potential (non-commercial). Several trip options: Santa Elena Canyon 20 to 26 miles (Class II-III with one IV) Mariscal Canyon: 10 miles (Class II-III) Boquillas Canyon: 34 miles (Class I-II) Lower river: 83 to 137 mile options (Class II-V) Colorado Canyon (outside park) requires State Park permit (also not limited). Group size limits 20 to 30 (depends on segment). \$10 permit fee. 3 launches per day (never reached so far). Undecided on allocation approaches if needed. Information from Bernadette Devine, NPS.
Sauk	WA	51	5	Partial: Commercial limits only. USFS managed. Limits on number of outfitters and number of service days.
Salmon (Riggins segments)	ID	59	36	Partial: Commercial limits only via Idaho Outfitter and Guide regulations. 10 powerboat permits + 26 rafting permits. BLM managed. Riggins to Lower Salmon put-in.
Salmon (Recreation section)	ID	40	16	Partial: Commercial limits only via Idaho Outfitter and Guide regulations. 5 powerboat and 11 float permits. USFS managed. Vinegar Creek to Riggins. WSR since 1980.
Salmon (Challis reaches)	ID	50+	5	Partial: Commercial limits only via Idaho Outfitter and Guide regulations. Only one boat per outfitter at one time.
Salmon (Upper near Stanley)	ID	13	5	Partial: Commercial limits only via Idaho Outfitter and Guide regulations. Float use only. Sunbeam Dam reach. No more than 3 boats fishing , 5 boats total at one time per outfitter.
Situk River	AK	11	9	Partial: Commercial limits only. USFS managed (with state and city of Yakutat cooperation). World class steelhead and salmon fishery. Small stream: 200 to 1,000 cfs flow range. Private use not limited – but rental boats and shuttles by outfitters are part of commercial allocation. Outfitters are allocated a set amount of “boat-days” per year – limits are loosely tied to Forest-wide social standards. They can be spent on guided or rental trips. River is only accessible by non-locals by plane, so this has a substantial effect on private boating use (guided use is more lucrative). Privates that rent boats and figure out their own shuttle are not part of commercial allocation system. Two motorized guided outfitters (rest are drift boats). 2003 study of impacts suggests river is near capacity. 2008 “Partners” may review planning options.

River	State	Miles	No. of outfitters	Other comments
Sixmile Creek	AK	20	4	Partial: Commercial limits only. Class III-V segments. High commercial use in summer. USFS managed. Commercial use limited to annual user-days (5,000 total). Outfitters are requesting more. Forest has a 60-40 (private to commercial) goal on its rivers, but not specific to Sixmile. Capacity study urges limiting boats per day rather than user-days per season. Uses USFS priority/temporary system for distributing user days within companies.
Skagit	WA	58	16	Partial: Commercial limits only. USFS managed WSR 1978. 12 rafting outfitters and 4 angling guides. Limits on number of outfitters and number of trips. Additional restrictions during eagle concentration season. No non-commercial limits.
Shenadoah	WV	7	5	Potential. No permits for non-commercial limits. Outfitters are licensed but not limited. No capacities identified at present (but monitoring occurs). 2 nd lowest use of commercial rivers in West Virginia.
Snake River (Grand Teton NP)	WY	31	15	NPS segments in Grand Teton NP. Capacity: 105 scenic and 48 fishing boats (rarely reached). Informal launch scheduling. 1974 freeze on number of outfitters. No limits on private permits (but they are required). Allows very large scenic rafts (12 adults). No overnight use.
Snake River (BLM segment)	WY	51	19	Potential commercial limits. 11 rafting outfitters (scenic) 8 fishing outfitters/guides. BLM managed. No non-commercial limits.
Snake River (Alpine Canyon)	WY	8	30+	Partial: Commercial limits only. USFS-managed segment. Outfitter use limited by numbers of trips: 32 on river at one time. Usually 4 to 5 boats per trip x 5 trips per day. Summer use can range between 4,000 and 7,000 people per day. Developed in 1960-70s. The bottlenecks are take-outs and at major rapids. No private use limits. Privates need permit if group size is over 15. Many organizational (church and boy scout groups) trips (behave like outfitters but use private gear).
Snake River (Henry's Fork)	ID	30	13	Partial: Commercial limits only via Idaho Outfitter and Guide regulations. 6 to 8 outfitters allowed on different reaches. Float use only. Complicated limits that keep <3 boats per outfitter on certain sub-reaches at one time. Up to 5 powerboat outfitter/guides on lower reach.
Suiattle River	WA	27	6	Partial: Commercial limits only. USFS managed WSR. Number of commercial outfitters and number of service days are limited.
Teton River	ID	15	5	Partial: Commercial limits only via Idaho Outfitter and Guide regulations. Float use only.

River	State	Miles	No. of outfitters	Other comments
Tygart River	WV	11	5	Potential. No permits for private users. Outfitters are licensed but not limited. No capacities identified at present (but monitoring occurs). Lowest use of commercial rives in West Virginia.
Tallulah Gorge	GA	2.5	0	Previously limited. Class IV-V whitewater reach in GA State Park. Opportunity created during relicensing (restored flows). Boatable from 450 to 1,200 cfs. Typical releases are 500 and 700 cfs. Permits required at first; 120 boaters per day. Also permitted 120 climbers and hikers per day. Permit free since 2001 (they weren't seeing high use). Typical use levels: 75 to 100 per day. Prohibits commercial use. Has qualified craft regulations. Waivers required. No fees except for parking. Information from Danny Tatum.
Twenty-Mile	AK		4	Partial: Commercial use limited. USFS management. Outfitters use jetboats (fishing and sightseeing). Private use is mostly pack rafts (emerging use). 1,200 user-days allotted among outfitters based on historical use. 2007 review of permit allocation being considered. USFS management (Chugach NF).
Upper Colorado River (Kremmling to Glenwood)	CO	77	76	Partial: Commercial limits only. Class I-II river segments. No non-commercial use limits. 41 rafting outfitters.
Wenatchee	WA	19	14	Potential. USFS administered. No non-commercial use limits. Number of commercial outfitters may be limited (but trips are not). Considerable private land on lower river.
West Branch Penobscot	ME	12	14	Partial: Commercial use only. Scheduled flow releases. Day use river. State of Maine controls outfitter numbers. Capacity is 560 commercial passengers per weekend day Permits required Jul-Aug. No non-commercial limits.
White Salmon	WA	5	10	Partial: Commercial limits only. Class II-IV (one V). Commercial use limited to 10 outfitters; no trip limits. Capacity bottleneck at Husom Falls. No group size limits; some groups have approached 100. 1988 WSR designation; 1991 River Management Plan. Plan indicates preference for a common pool; outfitters oppose. 1993 social impacts study (use has doubled since study). Likely plan update in 2009-2010; over standard on weekends? Recent year use levels: 15,000 to 20,000 commercial passengers 3,000 to 4,000 private boaters. 15 to 20% of use is private (mostly kayakers).
Wind River	WA	11	3	Partial: Commercial limits only. Near Columbia River Gorge. Class IV-V. Spring flows only (through June). Commercial use is managed; special use permits required; but no apparent limit on trips.

River	State	Miles	No. of outfitters	Other comments
Wilson Creek	NC	20	2	Potential. No private or commercial limits at present time. Has LAC standards for several indicators. 100 or more paddlers on high use days; typical range is 40 to 50 on boatable flow days.
Yellowstone (Yankee Jim Canyon)	MT	8	5	Partial: Commercial limits only. Class II-IV day use river. No non-commercial use limits. No commercial limits except on number of outfitters using specific access points.

List of Sources

The following lists interview sources for information about individual allocation systems or stakeholder positions on allocation issues. We thank them for their information and insight about these systems, but we take responsibility for any errors or mischaracterizations.

First	Last	Affiliation	River(s)
Tom	Elliott	Parks Canada – Kluane	Alsek / Tatshenshini
Jim	Capra	NPS – Glacier Bay	Alsek / Tatshenshini
Jennifer	Reed	USFWS – ANWR	ANWR rivers
John	Kreski	Co State Parks	Arkansas, CO
Mike	Harvey	Arkansas river trust	Arkansas, CO
Chris	Lorentz	MT Fish, Wildlife, and Parks	Blackfoot
Chris	Horman	USFS – BWCAW	Boundary Waters
Ann	Schwaller	USFS – BWCAW	Boundary Waters
Lon	Kelly	BLM – Fairbanks	BLM northern AK rivers: Birch, Beaver, 40Mile
Joe	Robles	USFS – Sumter / Pickett	Chattooga
Glenda	Woodcock	USFS – Mt Hood	Clackamas
Jim	Blazic	NPS – Canyonlands	Colorado – Cataract
Paul	Cowan	NPS – Canyonlands (retired)	Colorado – Cataract
Steve	Sullivan	NPS – Grand Canyon	Colorado – Grand Canyon
Rick	Ryan	BLM – Dolores	Dolores
Jeff	Durniak	GA Fish and Game	Dukes Creek
Chris	Ryan	USFS – Northern Region (Missoula)	Flathead
Sheryl	Bowers	USFS – Kernville	Forks of the Kern, Upper and Lower Kern
Mark	Grisham	Grand Canyon River Outfitters Asso.	Grand Canyon
Lynn	Hamilton	Grand Canyon River Guides:	Grand Canyon
Jeff	Bloom	BLM	Grand Ronde / Wallowa
Nanette	Gale	USFS – Flaming Gorge	Green below Flaming Gorge
Dennis	Willis	BLM – Price	Green in Desolation / Gray
Heath	Emmons	BLM – Glennallen	Gulkana, Delta
Heidi	Mottl	BLM – Prineville	John Day
Rob	Campellone	USFWS – AK regional office	Kenai
Chris	Degernes	AK State Parks	Kenai
Tom	Mottl	BLM – Prineville	Lower Deschutes
Lynette	Ripley	BLM – Prineville	Lower Deschutes
Craig	Trulock	USFS -- Lowell	Lochsa, Clearwater, Lower Selway
Susan	James	BLM – Dillon	Madison (Bear Trap)
Dan	Ransom	The Nature Conservancy	McCloud
Alan	Bright	CSU researcher	McNeil River
Larry	Aumiller	ADFG (retired)	McNeil River
Jim	Eicher	BLM	Merced
Jeff	Horn	BLM	Merced
Bill	Deitchman	CA State Parks – Auburn	MF and NF American
Sherri	Hughes	USFS North Fork, ID	MF Salmon, Main Salmon (Wild)
Katie	Stevens	BLM – Moab	Moab (daily), Dolores (gateway).
Charlie	Sperry	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Multiple MT rivers (including Madison)
Randy	Welsh	USFS – Intermountain Region	Multiple rivers; 4 rivers lottery
Cliff	Bobinski	NPS – New River Gorge	New River, WV
Katie	Miller	NPS – New River Gorge	New River, WV
Kris	Dey	CA State Parks – Auburn SP	NF and MF American
Stuart	Schneider	NPS – Niobrara National Scenic River	Niobrara
Mark	Sundin	BLM – Taos	Rio Chama, Rio Grande
Chris	Dent	BLM – Grants Pass	Rogue
Joe	O'Neill	BLM - Cottonwood	Main Salmon (Vinegar to Snake)
Don	Sullivan	USFS – Globe, AZ	Salt
Brad	Colin	BLM – Monticello	San Juan

Kay	Wilson	BLM -- Monticello	San Juan
Linda	King	USFS -- West Fork RD, Darby, MT	Selway
Bill	Dyke	USFS -- Chugach (now Idaho Power)	Sixmile
Greta	Movassaghi	USFS -- Mt Baker	Skagit, Sauk, Suiattle
Colin	Maas	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Smith
Roger	Semler	MT Fish, Wildlife, and Parks	Smith, several Arctic NWR rivers
Scott	Springer	USFS Hells Canyon NRA	Snake in Hells Canyon
Marty	Meyer	USFS Hells Canyon NRA	Snake in Hells Canyon
Marty	Myer	NPS -- Grand Teton	Snake in Grand Teton
David	Cernicek	USFS -- Bridger-Teton	Snake near Jackson Hole
Bruce	Talbot	AK DNR -- Anchorage (retired)	Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers
David	Griffen	AK DNR	Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers
Danny	Tatum	GA State Parks	Tahlulah
Julie	Detman	USFS	Tuolumne, Cherry Creek
Bunny	Sterin	BLM -- Kremmling CO	Upper Colorado, Ruby/Horsethief
Scott	Senter	BLM -- Klamath Falls	Upper Klamath
Dexter	Allen	USFS	Verde
Chad	Nieuhaus	BLM - Moab	Westwater
Sue	Baker	USFS --	White Salmon, Klickitat
Jackie	Diedrich	USFS -- WSR program lead	Multiple rivers
Judy	Culver	NPS -- Dinosaur NM	Yampa and Green through Dinosaur NM
Stacie	Faust	PA State Parks	Youghigheny

National & regional stakeholders		
David	Brown	AO
Kevin	Colburn	AW
David	Steindorf	AW
Tom	O'Keefe	AW
Marty	Wilson	GCPBA
Earl	Perry	GCPBA (and retired NPS)
Eric	Leaper	National Organization for River Sports
Michael	Greenbaum	Non-commercial boater
Eric	Leaper	NORS
Al	Ainsworth	NWRA
Mary	Fleischmann	NWRA
Richard	Martin	RRFW
Lynne	Westerfield	UI and AW (user survey)

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Niobrara River tubers & boaters on page 8 courtesy of National Park Service (thanks to Stuart Schneider).

McCloud River photos on page 36 by Doug Whittaker (top) and Bo Shelby (bottom).

Kenai River driftboat on page 62 by Doug Whittaker.

Klamath River put-in on page 64 by Doug Whittaker.

Grand Canyon motor and oar rafts on page 69 by Doug Whittaker.

Beach on Main Salmon River on page 71 by Doug Whittaker.

Deschutes River put-in on page 76 courtesy of Bureau of Land Management (thanks to Lynette Ripley).