

Dear Snake River Floater,

2007

The following information is provided to help you plan your float trip on the Snake River in Hells Canyon.

### Access

You can reach the launch facility at **Hells Canyon Creek Recreation Site** (located downstream from Hells Canyon Dam) via Oregon State Highway 86 to Oxbow, Oregon or from Cambridge, Idaho via Idaho State Highway 71. An improved gravel road leads 17 miles to **Pittsburg Landing** from U.S. Highway 95 near Whitebird, Idaho. Paved gravel and dirt roads lead 62 miles from Joseph, Oregon to **Dug Bar**. The **Heller Bar** takeout near the mouth of the Grande Ronde River is 23 miles south of Asotin, Washington via paved and gravel county road.

### Launching and Takeout

The **Hells Canyon Creek Recreation Site** has a Visitor Information Station, toilets, paved parking and a concrete ramp. Please call prior to launch for an update on the status of the launch facilities. Parking space is limited in the launch area. Anyone planning to launch directly from a trailer should have a vehicle with good traction, as the ramp is steep. At flows below 6,000 c.f.s. the ramp is unsuitable for launching boats that require the trailer to be in the water. The launch/takeout site at **Pittsburg Landing** has a Visitors Contact Station, toilets with changing area, a double concrete ramp, float apron, and paved parking. The **Dug Bar** launch/takeout has a single concrete ramp and toilet. The **Heller Bar** launch/takeout is owned by the State of Washington but operated by the Bureau of Land Management. It has a double concrete ramp and toilets. Although this site is larger than the others, it is also more heavily used.

### Shuttle Service and General Area Information

Several shuttle services are available to transport personal vehicles or people between the launch sites and the designated takeouts. Information about shuttle services available in communities surrounding the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area can be obtained by writing or calling the Chambers of Commerce listed on the enclosed directory.

### Trip Length

The following chart provides the information for floaters launching from Hells Canyon Creek. Afternoon winds blow upriver and can lengthen float times in quiet sections of the river.

TAKEOUT	MILES	DAYS
• PITTSBURG LANDING	32	2-3
• DUG BAR	51	3-4
• HELLER BAR	79	4-6
• LEWISTON, ID/CLARKSTON, WA	104	6-8

## **Camping**

Camping is allowed at designated, dispersed sites only. Reference a copy of the **Snake River guide** for the location of these sites. Most campsites are on grassy benches, limited in number (especially in the upper river) and are on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **Length of camping during the Primary Season:**

- **Only one night per party at either the Granite Creek site or Saddle creek**
- **3 days and 2 nights per site in the wild river**
- **4 days and 3 nights per site in the scenic river**
- **Camping is prohibited at the Hells Canyon Creek Recreation Site. However, campgrounds are available on Hells Canyon Reservoir for camping the night prior to the launch.**

## **Degree of Difficulty**

The degree of difficulty in normal summer flows varies from Class II (International Scale) to Class IV.

However, difficulty varies with water volumes. Flows may be as low as 5,000 cubic feet per second (c.f.s.) in summer to 80,000 c.f.s. or more in the spring runoff. Since the river flow is controlled by dams, releases can vary from day to day and hour by hour.

**To obtain flow information, call Idaho Power at 1-800-422-3143 or a monitor is located at Hells Canyon Creek, Pittsburg Launch, Cache Creek and the Clarkston, Washington Forest Service office.**

Rafting the rapids of Hells Canyon is not recommended for the inexperienced or poorly equipped. Portaging or lining through or around many rapids is difficult, if not impossible. Major rapids should be scouted before running.

## **Recommended Craft and Equipment**

A good, serviceable personal flotation device (PFD) is required for each person on any river craft. Children 12 years or younger are required to wear a PFD at all times while rivercraft is under way. Coast Guard approved Type I and Type V- Whitewater jackets are recommended.

The **Snake River Guide**, a water resistant, one inch=one mile, topographic river map with information on river rapids and campsites is available for sale at our offices in Clarkston, Riggins and Enterprise and at the Hells Canyon Creek Recreation Site. This map can also be purchased by phone with a Visa or MC by calling the Float Reservation line: (509) 758-1957 or by calling the Hells Canyon general information line: (509) 758-0616.

## Getting on the River

### **Wild River Section (HCC Launch to Pittsburg)**

- Reservations needed 7 days per week during Primary Season
  - 3 private launches per day, 2 commercial
  - non-motorized window
  - 8 craft 24 people trip limit
  - Launch site: Heels Canyon Creek Launch
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- To make a **Float Reservation** please call the Clarkston, WA office: **(509) 758-1957**  
Office hours are from 8A.M. to 4P.M PST 7 days a week, during the Primary season.
  - The **Primary Season** is the Friday before Memorial Day through September 10<sup>th</sup>.  
The **Secondary Season** is September 11<sup>th</sup> through the Thursday before Memorial Day.
  - A **Non-Motorized** period is in effect during the Primary Season. No Powerboat access is allowed in the Wild River between the top of Wild Sheep Rapids to the upper landing at Kirkwood Historic Ranch. This Period is Monday through Wednesday every other week, beginning the first Monday in June through the End of August.
  - **Cancellations** must be received 7 days prior to launch. People who have a reservation, but fail to launch or cancel the reservation, will be penalized by being placed on a list of people ineligible for a permit for the remainder of the season and during the entire following primary season.
  - A **Waiting List** is also available. You can be placed on one day of the float calendar by calling the Float reservation line. When a cancellation is received the first person on the waiting list will be contacted and given the opportunity to pick up that launch.
  - **Trip Permits** are issued at Hells Canyon Creek seven days per week during the Primary Season. Prior to the issuance of a trip permit, all members of a float party will receive a short orientation/education presentation from the Forest Service.
  - **Confirmed reservations** will only be held until 4:00 p.m. PST on the assigned launch day. Reservations unclaimed after that time will be filled on a first-come first-serve basis by anyone waiting at the launch site.
  - **Self-issue Permits** are required during the Secondary Season and are available at each river portal.

## **Scenic River Section (Pittsburg to Cache Creek)**

- Reservations needed Friday, Saturday, Sundays and Holidays during Primary Season
- 2 launches per day
- permits required year-round
- no non-motorized period
- 8 craft/24 people trip limit
- Launch Site: Pittsburg Landing and Dugbar

### **Why a Reservation/ Permit System**

The reservation/permit system is designed to provide both a socially and environmentally acceptable level of use. Both floaters and powerboaters have a reservation or permit requirement for entry year-round. This system helps distribute use throughout the season to avoid peak use periods that could lead to crowding. The visitor use information provided by the permit system is invaluable to managers. The reservation system allocates the limited number of launch opportunities. By starting the system early in the year we are providing ample time to plan trips. By limiting the number of reservations to one per person at a time, we hope to make the river available to more people and avoid having a few people tie up more than a fair share of the recreation opportunities. Some ways you can help:

- You and your party can reserve one date you can realistically use.
- Avoid tying up multiple launch dates in order to provide more people a chance for at least more time to plan.
- Cancel reservations you cannot use as early as possible to give people on the waiting list more time to plan.

### **Rules of the Road**

- Please plan your assembly of boats and gear in such a manner as to clear the ramp area as quickly as possible.
- Craft traveling downstream, both powered and non-powered, generally have the right-of-way but don't have a right to intentionally block navigation.
- When you see a powerboat coming, if possible, pull to one side of the channel and let it by.
- Keep your float party together instead of strung out over a long distance on the river.
- Kickers (outboard engines) on float craft may not be used in the wild river year-round, but may be used in the scenic river.

- A state boat registration number is required on all floatcraft that will use kickers in the Scenic River.
- Fuel carried for kickers must remain on the boat at all times.
- On-river fueling must utilize fuel absorption material at all times during any fueling operations.
- Trip leaders are responsible for the conduct of the members of their party during the entire trip and each member is also accountable for their own conduct.
- Retrieval of overturned or wrecked boats, gear etc., is the responsibility of the owner.

### **About the 4 Rivers Lottery**

The Snake River of Hells Canyon participates in the 4 Rivers Lottery Float Reservation System. Through an application process, The Main Salmon, Middle Fork of the Salmon, Selway and the Snake allocate launches for their Primary Seasons at a \$6.00 fee. Applications are available beginning December 1<sup>st</sup> and must be received no later than January 31<sup>st</sup>. After the Lottery is completed (early to mid February), the Snake River requires a written confirmation. Any unassigned, canceled or unconfirmed launches will then be allocated by telephone on a first-come, first-served basis beginning in mid-March. If all launch dates an individual is interested in are reserved, that person's name can be placed on a waiting list. For more information regarding the 4 Rivers Lottery or to request an application please visit our web site at [www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/) or call 1-888-758-8037 (October 1 through the end of February).

### **Other Important Information**

- **The burning of wood in open fires – including fire pans – is prohibited annually from July 1 to September 15.**
- **Fire pans are required yearlong for anyone planning to have a campfire.** Campfires built in rock fire rings are no longer authorized. A firepan must have sides high enough to be adequate to contain all ashes and charcoal, which must be carried out with you.
- **The practice of cutting firewood for camp use is no longer allowed.**
- **Public drinking water is not available at Hells Canyon Creek, Kirkwood Historic Ranch, or Cache Creek Ranch. Plan accordingly by carrying ample water supplies or purification equipment.**

**Human waste must be carried out from river corridor. This equipment will be checked prior to launch.** Enclosed is a list of manufacturers of solid human waste carryout equipment or businesses, which have this equipment available for rent. Equipment that is compatible with disposal at an RV or trailer dump station is the most versatile when looking for approved, off-site disposal facilities. There are **SCAT Machines** for cleaning

and sanitizing carryout equipment located at Chief **Looking Glass Park in Asotin, Washington** and the **Chevron station in Riggins, Idaho**.

- **Trash---Pack it in, pack it out!**

### **Commercial/Non-Commercial Trip Status**

A commercial trip is any trip for which consideration is paid, collected, received, or requested regardless of whether or not a profit is made. A non-commercial trip is a trip for which there is no payment, collection, receipt, or request for consideration.

### **Illegal Outfitting**

Illegal commercial outfitters using the river under the guise of being private boaters are stealing opportunities from the legitimate private sector, are not covered by insurance to protect their passengers, and may not be qualified to run safe trips. Floaters who use the river without a reservation or permit are also unfairly impacting the Canyon and could directly impact your recreation experience. Information resulting in convictions of illegal outfitters can lead to combined rewards of up to \$500.00.

### **Cultural Resources**

Hells Canyon is rich in both historic and prehistoric cultural resources. These sites are fragile and irreplaceable. Enjoy them but leave them intact for visitors who will follow you. All artifacts and cultural sites in the canyon are protected by law with severe penalties for violators.

### **Places to Visit During Your Trip**

Visitors are welcome to the historic ranch on **Kirkwood Bar**, which offers a taste of canyon life in the 1930's. **Cache Creek Ranch**, is another location where visitors are welcome to take a break, picnic under the shade of the fruit orchard and visit the interpretive facilities.

**Beware of natural hazards in the canyon.** Rattlesnakes, spiders, scorpions and poison oak and ivy are common in the canyon.

**Only one state's license is required to fish the river when the person fishing is in a boat that is afloat, even when tied to the shore.**

**Violations of Forest Service Regulations** are punishable by a fine of up to 5,000 and/or six months.

**Hells Canyon National Recreation Area**, like many of the forests, parks and public resources you will visit this year, will be utilizing the services of volunteers at many sites and on the river in support of patrols and maintenance. **If you would like more information about our volunteer program, please contact the Snake River Office of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area in Clarkston, Washington at 509-748-0616.** Our volunteer coordinator will be happy to assist you with any questions you may have and mail you an informative volunteer packet.

When you travel through Hells Canyon this year you will often be greeted by volunteers whose purpose is to assist in making your visit a unique and special experience. They are good hosts and caretakers of the public's resources. We appreciate their time and efforts and hope that you will enjoy the diversity this program brings to **Hells Canyon—truly, a work in progress.**

HELLS CANYON SNAKE RIVER MILEAGE CHART FOR HELLS CANYON CREEK				
	A	B	C	D
1	LOCATION	RIVER MILE	MI. FROM HCCL	BETWEEN BOLD PNTS
2	<b>Red Wolf Marina CLK</b>	<b>137.2</b>	<b>109.8</b>	
3	Green Belt Corps of Engineer (Clk)	139.4	107.6	
4	Southway Ramp Grain Growers	140.6	106.4	
5	Swallow Park Ramp (Clk)	142.4	104.6	
6	Hellsgate State Park (Lew)	143.4	103.6	
7	Asotin/Chief Looking Glass Park	145.4	101.6	
8	Couse Creek	157.6	89.4	
9	Billy Creek	165	82	
10	<b>HELLER BAR</b>	<b>168.4</b>	<b>78.6</b>	<b>29</b>
11	Rogersburg/Grande Ronde River	168.7	78.3	
12	Oregon State Line	176	71	
13	<b>CACHE CREEK</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>8.6</b>
14	Cochran Islands	178.2-178.8		
15	Coon Hollow	178.5	68.5	
16	Cougar Bar	179.5	67.5	
17	Cottonwood Bar	181	66	
18	Cactus Bar	181.5	65.5	
19	Jim Creek	182	65	
20	Cook Creek	183.4	63.6	
21	<b>SALMON RIVER</b>	<b>188.3</b>	<b>58.7</b>	<b>11.3</b>
22	Knight Creek	190.4	56.6	
23	Eureka Bar	191.4	44	
24	<b>IMNAHA RIVER</b>	<b>191.7</b>	<b>55.3</b>	<b>3.4</b>
25	China Bar	192.4	54.6	
26	Divide Creek	193.2	53.8	
27	Zig Zag	194.1	52.9	
28	Warm Springs	195.3	51.7	
29	<b>DUG BAR</b>	<b>196.2</b>	<b>50.8</b>	<b>4.5</b>
30	Robinson Gulch	198.5	48.5	
31	Deep Creek	199.1	47.9	
32	Dry Creek	201	46	
33	Wolf Creek	203	44	
34	Roland Bar	203.7	43.3	
35	Cat Creek	204	43	
36	Bob Creek	204.7	42.3	
37	<b>COPPER CREEK</b>	<b>205.3</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>9.1</b>
38	High Range Creek	206.5	4.5	
39	Tryon Creek	209.4	37.6	
40	Somers Creek	210.1	36.9	
41	<b>PITTSBURG LANDING</b>	<b>214.9</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>9.6</b>
42	Kirby Creek Lodge	218.7	32.1	
43	<b>KIRKWOOD HISTORIC RANCH</b>	<b>220.58</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>5.6</b>
44	Salt Creek	222.5	24.5	
45	Temperance Creek	223.7	23.3	
46	Pine Bar	227.5	19.5	
47	Willow Creek	227.7	19.3	
48	Sand Creek	228	19	
49	Steep Creek	229	18	
50	<b>SHEEP CREEK/END OF NAV.</b>	<b>229.4</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>8.9</b>
51	Johnson Bar	230.5	16.5	
52	<b>RUSH CREEK</b>	<b>231.3</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>
53	Water Spout Rapids	233.8	13.2	
54	Bernard Creek	235.3	11.7	
55	Saddle Creek	236.1	10.9	

56	GRANITE CREEK RAPIDS	239.5	7.5	8.2	
57	WILD SHEEP RAPIDS	241.3	5.7	1.8	
58	HELLS CANYON CREEK LAUNCH	247	0	5.7	
59	HELLS CANYON DAM	247.5	0.5	0.5	