

2009 Four Rivers Drawing APPLICATION INFORMATION

Centralized **Private** Float Reservation System (Single Application) for the Wild Section of the Main Salmon, Snake, Middle Fork Salmon and Selway Rivers

**Definitions of Private and Commercial Float Trips**

**Private non-commercial** floaters may not be paid in any manner; they must equally share costs with other members of the group. A trip is noncommercial if there is a bona fide sharing of costs where no part of the fees are collected in excess of actual costs of the activity, for salary or financial gain in any manner for any of the group, its leaders or sponsors or for capital increase or amortization (paying off debt) of the major equipment.

**A trip is commercial** if any of the participants makes a profit, receives a reimbursement or salary in the form of cash, goods, or service, receives a rental for use of rafts or equipment, increases the value of equipment; or supports in any part other programs or activities from amounts received from other party members.

**Application forms and information are available at the following offices  
October 1 - January 31 each year:**

**Snake River**

Hells Canyon National Recreation Area  
2535 Riverside Dr. - *Address for UPS, FedEx only*  
P.O. Box 699, Clarkston WA 99403-0699  
(509) 758-1957 \* Fax: (509) 758-1963

**Main Salmon River**

North Fork Ranger District  
11 Casey Road - *Address for UPS, FedEx, etc.*  
P.O. Box 180, North Fork, ID 83466-0180  
(208) 865-2725 - application requests  
Info: (208) 865-2700 \* Fax: (208)-865-2738  
\* Include your mailing address when faxing requests to us.

**Selway River**

West Fork Ranger District  
*Address for both mail and delivery:*  
6735 West Fork Road, Darby, MT 59829-9654  
(406) 821-3269 \* Fax: (406) 821-1211

**Middle Fork of the Salmon River**

Middle Fork Ranger District  
Hwy. 93 N - *Address for UPS, FedEx, etc.*  
P.O. Box 750, Challis, ID 83226-0750  
(208) 879-4112-application requests  
Info: (208) 879-4101 \* Fax: (208) 879-4198

**Tollfree:** 1-888-758-8037 (Available October 1 through the end of February – Snake River office)

**Internet:** [www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/) – information and application download.  
We start accepting online applications December 1st.

**Deadline:** Applications will be accepted beginning December 1 through close-of-business January 31. **Because Jan. 31 is a Saturday in 2009, applications will be accepted until close-of-business on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>.** Mail early, since the date **RECEIVED** determines acceptance, **NOT the postmark**. Applications that are faxed with credit card payment must also be received at one of the three offices listed on the credit card form by 4:30 p.m. Mountain time on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Online applications will be accepted until midnight (Pacific-Time) on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Applications received after the deadline will not be entered into the drawing.**

**Submit Early:** Submit your applications and required confirmation paperwork early. It can take two weeks or more for mail to reach the river offices. During past seasons, some applicants missed the drawing because their paperwork was late. Do not depend on overnight or express mail in rural areas – send your application early!

**Submit Online:** You can apply online from our website starting December 1. Paper applications may be submitted on the form provided in this packet to any of the river offices. Offices are open only on weekdays.

**Fax Early:** The three offices (West Fork, North Fork & Middle Fork) that can accept credit cards have limited fax machines. Send faxes early to avoid busy signals.

**Confirm Receipt of Your Fax:** Telephone (during business hours Monday thru Friday 8:00-4:30 MST) and verify the number of pages and the clarity. If you must fax more than once please write in large letters “**2<sup>nd</sup> Attempt**” across the top of your credit card payment form. The Middle Fork office will not confirm receipt of your fax after close-of-business on January 26th because the volume of last minute faxes is overwhelming.

**Duplications:** One application covers all four rivers. Applications from all four offices are entered into a single database. More than one application from any individual, regardless of river choices, will be considered duplicates. The first application received will be entered; additional applications are duplicates and will not be entered into the drawing. Fees paid for duplicate or invalid applications will be forfeited.

**Multiple Applications:** You may send applications for several people in one envelope. And you may send one check or credit card payment for all applicants included in the envelope. However, you need to document the payment information at the bottom of each application.

**Application Fee:** A \$6.00 (US funds) non-refundable, application processing fee must accompany each person's application. Do not send cash. Checks or money orders should accompany mailed applications and be made payable to USDA-Forest Service. The West Fork, North Fork and Middle Fork offices accept MasterCard, Visa, Discover and American Express. If you use a credit card, read the instructions and complete the enclosed credit card payment form carefully. If you apply online the processing fee can be paid by credit card or E-checks.

**Payment Difficulties:** If checks are returned for insufficient funds, the application(s) will be rejected or, if a launch has been allocated, the launch date will be cancelled. The maximum allowable charges and fees will be added to all returned checks. The check writer can be considered a no-show if funds are not collected when due.

**Why There Is a Fee:** The fee covers costs of operating the drawing: processing applications, conducting the drawing, allocating launches, notifying participants of their results, providing successful applicants with a confirmation packet, issuing permits, and upgrading programs and equipment used to conduct the drawing.

**Fees after the Drawing:** Permit holders who pick up a cancelled launch date after the drawing will be charged a \$6.00 processing fee (except for the Snake River). Those who applied but were not successful in the drawing will not be charged the processing fee for their first launch date. For those rivers that allow a second launch date after the first trip is completed, a second processing fee may be charged.

Individuals obtaining launch dates after the drawing are required to pay the processing fee to the office where the reservation was made within three weeks. If the fee is not paid, the launch date or waiting list position will be automatically cancelled.

**Permit Holder:** The successful applicant becomes the permit holder, who must accompany their group at all times while on the river. Permits are not transferable. Applicants must be at least 18 years old at the time of the launch.

**No-show Penalty:** Any permit holder who does not meet payment or launch cancellation requirements specified for the river they have a launch reservation for will be considered a no-show. People subject to a no-show penalty will be ineligible to apply for a launch on the river for which the penalty was imposed. The Selway and the Snake rivers apply this penalty for one year; the Middle Fork and the Wild Section of the Main Salmon rivers have a three-year penalty for no-shows and late cancellations.

**Your Input:** We value your input regarding possible changes to this system. Many changes in the rivers program reflect suggestions made by boaters and your comments will continue to have an impact on the program.

### **ALLOCATION OF LAUNCH RESERVATIONS – THE DRAWING**

A computer-generated random drawing will be made in February to select successful applicants. **ALL applicants, whether successful or not, will be notified of the drawing results by the end of February.** Because of privacy concerns, success information is not given by telephone.

Each **successful** applicant will also receive an information packet from the river for which they were drawn. The packet will describe the process for obtaining the permit and other requirements such as confirmations, payment of fees, equipment requirements, etc. Please read this confirmation packet carefully! **The Snake and Selway rivers have a confirmation deadline, so if you receive notice you drew on either of these two rivers, watch for your confirmation packet. If you do not receive this packet by the end of February, contact the respective office. The Selway River sends confirmation packages by certified mail.**

After the drawing, each river management team operates their individual program of confirmations, cancellations, open dates, waiting lists, etc. Because of differences in management plans and the characteristics of the rivers, it is not possible to achieve total uniformity in management systems between the four rivers.

## The Wild Section of the WILD and SCENIC SALMON RIVER

The portion of the river covered by this section extends from Corn Creek to Long Tom Bar.

**Boating permits required year round.** All boaters floating the Wild Section of the Wild and Scenic Salmon River must obtain a trip permit before launching. Also, boaters floating the South Fork Salmon River and exiting onto the Wild Section of the Main Salmon must obtain a Tributary Permit before floating. South Fork floaters need to contact the Krassel Ranger District (208-634-0616) for permit information.

**The Control Season:** The drawing covers launches from June 20 through September 7. Eight (8) float boat parties are allowed to launch each day. The number of non-commercial and commercial launches varies but is approximately four private and four commercial launches per day. For the exact number of launches available each day refer to the calendar in this packet.

**Outside the Control Season:** During the period from September 8 through June 19 the number of launches is not limited, but a permit is required before launching. Information packets for trips occurring outside the control season are available from the North Fork Ranger District.

**Fees:** A use fee must be paid before the trip launches by everyone who participates in a Wild Section of the Wild and Scenic Salmon River trip. **New this season: Full payment of recreation fees must be made to the North Fork office three (3) working days prior to the launch date. Payments will no longer be taken at Corn Creek.** Details will be listed in the boater information packets sent to successful applicants.

**Group Size:** During the control season, the size of the group determines the maximum length of stay as follows:

21-30 people	6 days maximum (5 nights)
11-20 people	7 days maximum (6 nights)
1-10 people	8 days maximum (7 nights)

Outside the control season, the maximum trip duration is 10 days and maximum party size is 30.

**Permit Rules:** If you draw a Wild and Scenic Salmon launch date, specific information on payment and confirmation for the trip will be included in the Successful Applicants package. The successful applicant becomes the permit holder, who must accompany their group at all times while on the river. Permits are non-transferable. Permit holders must give a 21-day notification of cancellation. Failure to provide timely **written** cancellation will result in permit holder disqualification from participation in the drawing for the following three years.

**Cancelled or Unassigned Permits:** These will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis after the initial drawing in February and continuing throughout the control season. There is no waiting list. Calls will be accepted from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Mountain Time, Monday through Friday at (208) 865-2700 or 865-2725. Collect calls will NOT be accepted. The office is closed on weekends and Federal Holidays. Pre- and post-season launch permits may be requested by calling the North Fork Ranger District. A \$6.00 processing fee is charged.

**Required Items:** Portable toilets, without plastic bags, are required. ALL human and pet feces will be carried out. Gel bag systems are acceptable as long as they meet Type II EPA requirements. Other items: Fire pan with at least 3-inch sides, ash container with a water-tight seal, and a wire mesh strainer for dishwater. A bucket for water and a shovel suitable for fire fighting are also required. Sand stakes are recommended. Wind gusts or changing water conditions can and have caused boats to get away.

**Additional Guidelines:** For safety reasons, be aware of and prepared to give right-of-way to commercial and private jet boats using the River Corridor. Overnight camping is NOT allowed at hot springs. Be considerate of the property and privacy of those who live along the river.

**Wildland Fire:** Although the 2008 fire season was not active within the river corridor, the 2007 fire season was very active. Boaters will be traveling through areas affected by these fires and need to be alert for hazards such as debris in rivers, streams and trails; snags or trees that may fall; stump holes; as well as the continuing risk of flash flooding and slides.

## Wild River Section of the SNAKE RIVER

The portion of the river covered by this section extends from Hells Canyon Dam to Pittsburg Landing.

**Boating permits required year round.** Reservations are required during the primary season from the Friday preceding Memorial Day through September 10. The person holding the reservation must pick up the permit and remain with the party during the trip. Reservations are non-transferable and no alternate trip leaders may be designated. During the primary season, on the Wild River section, three private (non-commercial) launches are available each day.

**Designated Non-motorized Periods:** Wild River non-motorized periods have been established for the section between Wild Sheep Rapids and the upper landing at Kirkwood Historic Ranch. These periods are Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday beginning the first Monday in June and continuing every other week through the end of August. If the July 4th holiday falls in a non-motorized period, the non-motorized period will be the following week and every other week thereafter. A 2009 non-motorized calendar for the Wild Snake River is included in this packet.

**Scenic Launch Reservations:** Float trips launching at Pittsburg Landing and Dug Bar on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays require Scenic Launch Reservations. Two private reservations are available each day. On Monday through Thursday, self-issue permits are required in the Scenic River and the number of trips are not limited.

**BLM Section:** Entering the Snake River from the Lower Salmon River requires a self-issue BLM permit to be completed at the launch of the trip.

**Confirmation Deadline is March 16:** Launch reservations awarded by the drawing for the Snake River must be confirmed by the permit holder and received no later than close-of-business March 16th, 2009. Don't miss the confirmation date. Unconfirmed launches automatically become a cancellation.

**Cancelled or Unconfirmed Launches:** Immediately following the drawing confirmation process, any available launch reservations will be allocated utilizing the waiting list as specified below. If no names are listed for an open date, these will be available on a first-come first-served basis by telephone beginning **March 17, 2009**. This process will continue throughout the Primary Season on the float reservation phone line (**509-758-1957**) during the following hours: 8:00-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4:00 p.m. Pacific Time. No collect calls will be accepted. Only one person will be served with each call. Only one launch may be reserved per person and only one launch reservation at a time may be held. However, after using a reserved launch an individual may apply for another launch. To make a reservation after the drawing, you must provide the following information: name, address, telephone number and your photo identification number.

**Waiting List for Available Launches:** If all launch dates an individual is interested in are reserved, or you were unsuccessful in the drawing, a waiting list is available. **You may begin placing yourself on the waiting list as early as Monday, February 23, 2009.** When a launch becomes available, the first person on the waiting list will be called. We will make up to 3 phone calls per person; if we are unable to make contact with that person, we will drop to the next name until the date is assigned or the list is exhausted. No one who has a reserved launch will be eligible for the waiting list until the reserved launch is used.

**Party Size:** Maximum party is 24 people with a no more than 8 float craft per party.

**Required Items:** **Portable toilets** for solid human waste are required year-round. (Portable toilets, compatible with RV dump facilities, are strongly recommended. Gel bag systems are accepted as long as they meet Type II EPA requirements.) **Firepans** high enough to contain all ash and charcoal are required year round (minimum is 3-inch sides).

During the primary season, the Hells Canyon NRA office is open 7 days a week including Federal Holidays.

# MIDDLE FORK SALMON RIVER

Permits required from Dagger Falls to the confluence with the Main Salmon River

**Boating permits required year round.** All boaters floating the Middle Fork of the Salmon must obtain a trip permit before launching. Boaters floating any tributary and exiting on the Middle Fork of the Salmon must have a reservation for the day they will enter the Middle Fork and obtain a permit before floating, with the following exception. Floaters entering the Middle Fork from Big Creek must obtain a tributary permit from the Krassel Ranger District, 208-634-0616, but are not required to have a Middle Fork permit if they exit the Middle Fork corridor the same day they enter.

**The Control Season:** The drawing covers launches from May 28 through September 3. During this period, there are 387 private (non-commercial) launches and 306 commercial launches assigned. Seven launches are allowed each day. The number of private vs. commercial launches varies. For the number of launches available on each day, see the calendar in this packet.

**Outside the Control Season:** Before and after the control season, seven permits per day are issued first-come, first-served by telephone. These pre-season and post-season launches may be requested by calling the Middle Fork Ranger District, beginning October 1 (or the first working day in October) at 8:00 a.m. A \$6.00 processing fee is charged.

**Permit Rules:** Permit reservations are non-transferable. If selected in the drawing, the successful applicant will be the permit holder. No alternate trip leaders will be designated. The person holding the reservation must pick up the permit and remain with the party at all times while on the river. A boater information packet will be sent to the permit holder; please read carefully for confirmation, payment and other trip requirements. During the control season, a 21-day written cancellation notification is required. Outside the control season, a 15-day written cancellation notification is required. Failure to provide timely **written** cancellation will disqualify the permit holder from participation in the drawing for the following three years.

**Fees:** A use fee must be paid, before the trip launches, by everyone who participates in a float trip on the Middle Fork of the Salmon. **New this season: Full payment of recreation fees must be made to the Middle Fork Ranger District office three (3) working days prior to the launch date. Payments will no longer be taken at the launch sites.** Specific information regarding fee payment will be included in the boater information package.

**Group Size:** The size of the group determines the maximum length of stay. During the control season, the maximum trip duration is as follows:

21-24 people	6 days (5 nights) maximum
11-20 people	7 days (6 nights) maximum
1-10 people	8 days (7 nights) maximum

Outside the control season, the maximum trip duration is 8 days and the maximum party size is 24.

**Cancelled Permits:** Any unassigned or cancelled launches will be allocated (by telephone only) on a first-come, first-served basis after the initial drawing in February and continuing throughout the season. Calls will be accepted from 7:45-11:30 AM and 12:30-4:30 PM, Mountain time, Monday through Friday at (208) 879-4101. There is no waiting list. No collect calls will be accepted. The office is closed on weekends and holidays.

**Seasonal Access Issues:** People who apply for early season or late summer dates may need to fly into intermediate launch points. Snow often blocks access in the spring and low water may limit floaters in the upper section of river in late summer.

**Required Items:** Portable toilets, without plastic bags, are required. ALL human and pet feces will be carried out. Gel bag systems are acceptable as long as they meet Type II EPA requirements. Other items: Fire pan with at least 3-inch sides, ash container with a water-tight seal, a mesh strainer for dishwater, a shovel and a bucket.

**Wildland Fire:** Although the 2008 fire season was not active within the river corridor, the 2007 fire season was very active. Boaters will be traveling through areas affected by these fires and need to be alert for hazards such as debris in rivers, streams and trails; snags or trees that may fall; stump holes; as well as the continuing risk of flash flooding and slides.

## SELWAY RIVER

The portion of river covered by this section extends from Paradise Launch Site to Selway Falls.

**Permits Required Only During the Control Season:** Parties floating this section must have a reservation and trip permit during the control period. The control period extends from May 15 through July 31. Reservations and permits are not required outside of the control period for private non-commercial floaters.

**Permit Rules:** The person holding the reservation must pick up the permit and participate in the trip. No alternate trip leaders will be designated. One private launch opportunity is reserved each day for 62 days of the control period. The remaining 16 days are reserved for commercial outfitters with one launch per day.

**Confirmation Deadline is March 16:** Launch reservations allocated by the drawing for the Selway River require a written confirmation be received by close-of-business March 16. The confirmation package is sent certified.

**Cancelled Permits:** Unassigned, cancelled or unconfirmed launches will be allocated (by telephone only) on a first-come, first-served basis after the initial drawing in February and continuing throughout the control period. There is no waiting list. Calls will be accepted from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Mountain Time, Monday through Friday at (406) 821-3269. No collect calls will be accepted. The office is closed on weekends and Federal Holidays.

**Maximum party size is 16 people.**

**Leave No Trace** Toilet systems and fire pans are not currently required on the Selway due to the relatively low use compared with other rivers. Permit holders are encouraged to use portable toilets and fire pans if they have them and to practice Leave No Trace techniques.

**Seasonal Access Issues:** People who apply for May launch dates may find snow blocking their access. Those with late launch dates may encounter low flows.

**Risk Awareness:** There are inherent risks associated with backcountry and river recreation. Many natural hazards exist and conditions can change at any time, such as high and low water, named and un-named rapids, sudden weather changes, blocked river channels, falling rocks and trees, fire, wildlife plants insects, avalanches, land slides, blowouts, cliffs, large boulders, jagged rocks, water currents and temperature, ledge hydraulics, holes, eddies, whirlpools, strainers, exposed or submerged undercut rocks, boulder sieves, standing waves, etc. Considering these and other factors, it is the responsibility of the boating party to exercise good judgment involving decisions to launch, and decisions regarding daily activities once on the river.

**Do NOT apply for these Selway Outfitter/Guide launch dates:**

June 10, 18, 21, 23, 26, 28, 29.

July 1, 5, 7, 9, 12, 15, 17, 18, 20.

*See calendar provided.*