



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

100 Oregon Street
Vale, Oregon 97918
<http://www.or.blm.gov/Vale>

IN REPLY REFER TO:
2932 (OR-036) P

Dear Outfitter:

The Vale District of the Bureau of Land Management is now accepting Special Recreation Permit Applications for the 2007 Owyhee River float boat season. Vale District Office issues commercial permits for the entire river including Nevada, Idaho, and Oregon. The Owyhee above Three Forks is closed to new applicants; only those outfitters authorized to launch on the Owyhee in Idaho need apply.

BLM requires commercial outfitters to obtain a Special Recreation Permit prior to operating commercial trips on the Owyhee. Training trips are considered commercial use.

Enclosed is a Special Recreation Permit Application for the 2007 season. **Applications and all of the following must be received in this office by December 31, 2006.** BLM is authorized 30 days to review your application.

1. Completed Special Recreation Permit Application form 2930-1.
2. An advance **non-refundable** application fee of **\$90.00**. Estimated fees are not required on the Owyhee River due to the unpredictable annual flow. Commercial use fees will be based on actual use submitted on the Post Use Report. Boater registration forms must be completed at the launch site prior to each trip. **Post Use Reports must be consistent with Boater Registration Forms.** Post Use Reports are available on the internet and will also be mailed after the season and due at this office no later than September 30, 2007.
3. Minimum insurance requirements are **\$500,000** for general liability per occurrence, **\$30,000** property damage per occurrence, and **\$1,000,000** (includes property damage, bodily injury, or death) for annual aggregate. The U.S. Government needs to be named as additional insured under the policy. **A copy of the insurance policy must be received in this office before a permit will be issued.**
4. Proof of outfitter/guide authorization with the Oregon State Marine Board, Idaho Licensing Board, and/or Nevada Division of Wildlife, depending on where you will be operating. Photocopy of the authorization(s) is adequate proof.
5. Copy of your latest brochure including price schedules.
6. Completed annual operating plan stating who, what, when, why and how your going to operate commercially on the BLM.

Concerning questions on the Special Recreation Permit Application, #12 no legal descriptions are needed – please just list the section(s) of river to float and the put-in and take-out points, #14 (just write in the earliest date you might float the latest date you might float to), #16 be sure to include your operating plan. Make sure to enclose all materials asked for on the application. Upon receipt of a completed application, application fee, proof of insurance, proof of Marine Board registration, Idaho outfitter license, Nevada license (as applicable), and brochure, your application will be reviewed and returned to you if approved. Commercial outfitters must have an approved, signed permit from the Authorized Officer before conducting commercial float trips on the Owyhee.

In addition to the conditions on the permit, the 2007 Owyhee River Commercial Stipulations (included with the permit application) will be made part of the permit. **The permit conditions and stipulations which were in effect last season have been reviewed and revised. Carefully read the conditions and stipulations to be aware of your responsibilities and any updates.**

Damage to hackberry trees in the canyon has increased. The combined efforts of the river rangers, commercial and private boaters will help us alleviate this problem. Education for the protection of these trees must continue. Remember that hackberry trees appear to be dead early in the season while they are actually dormant. Pulling or cutting dead or live vegetation such as sage brush or rabbit brush is prohibited.

Hike-Out Camp, Hackberry Camp, and Greely Bar are being over-utilized. If the trend continues they will have to be closed to camping and/or visitation for rehabilitation. Brush is being pulled from the ground for campfires, human trailing is causing erosion, hackberry trees are being trampled and pruned for larger camping sites. Camping directly under hackberry trees prevents new growth from starting. Please do not allow your clients to set their tents up directly under the hackberry trees. Build fires only in approved fire pans and remove all mooring boulders and tent stake rocks from the beach before leaving. If you witness illegal activity, please report it to the Vale BLM District Office or the river specialist stationed at Rome, Oregon as soon as possible. River specialists and BLM Law Enforcement Rangers will make unscheduled river patrols to provide visitor assistance, information, and compliance.

We are instituting a post-season outfitter evaluation this year. A copy of the evaluation form is enclosed for your 2007 information package. All outfitters will receive a copy of their completed evaluation following submission of their post season use reports.

If you need further assistance or information, write or call David Steele of my staff at the Vale BLM District Office at 541-473-6288, or at the Owyhee Launch site at Rome, Oregon at 541-586-2612.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Freeborn
Jordan Field Manager

Enclosures (7)

- Special Recreation Permit Application
- 2007 Owyhee River Stipulations
- 2007 Owyhee River Outfitters 7-day Turnaround/Group Launch Schedule
- Commercial Outfitter Evaluation Form
- Post Season Report
- List of Dump Stations
- Exchange of Commercial Launch Dates
- Credit Card Form