

**Bureau of Land Management  
Moab Field Office  
(435) 259-7012**

**Dolores River ~ Gateway, CO to Dewey Bridge  
Private River Permits**

**General Info**

Starting just upstream of the Dolores River bridge in Gateway, CO, the Lower Dolores stretch offers technical rapids, stunning scenery, wildlife viewing, side-canyon hiking, great camping, and few crowds. The takeout is 32 river miles downstream on the Colorado River at Dewey Bridge Campground. Including the shuttle, this trip generally takes at least two days.

**Permits Required**

Permits are required for private, non-commercial use of the Lower Dolores through the BLM Moab Field Office. There is no fee charged and you do not need to submit an application. Simply call the above phone number between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding Federal holidays) to obtain a permit. A last-minute reservation request or change to an existing permit (up to the day of your launch) can be easily accommodated if you have access to a fax machine. Please note that the permit must be signed by the trip leader and carried on the river in order to be authorized. By signing, the trip leader agrees to follow the River Use Stipulations that accompany the permit. Please leave your permit in the camp fee tube at the Dewey Bridge campground at the end of your trip.

**River Flow**

The main roadblock for running this stretch is a very short, erratic (and sometimes non-existent) boating season. Flows generally peak between late April and early May. River flow information is available by phone from the Bureau of Reclamation at (800) 276-4828, or online through the U.S. Geological Survey at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ut/nwis/current/?type=flow>. Flow predictions are available by calling the Dolores Water Conservancy District (DWCD) at (970) 565-7562. Suggested minimum flows (approximated) are as follows: 200 c.f.s. for canoes, kayaks, & duckyies, 800 c.f.s. for rafts less than 14', and 1000 c.f.s. for rafts larger than 14'.

**If You Go**

The most challenging rapid is *Stateline* (class IV), which begins at the Colorado-Utah border. This mile-long rock garden requires excellent scouting (from river right) and quick maneuvering at all water levels. A mistake made in this rapid can result in a very long and dangerous swim. Bring all drinking water as the Dolores & its tributaries are unfit for consumption. Plan accordingly for possible cold-weather conditions to prevent hypothermia. Land ownership on the Lower Dolores is mixed; please respect the rights of private landowners.

The *Dolores River Guide*, a great source of information for your trip, is available through Canyonlands Natural History Association (CNHA) by calling (800) 840-8978 or visiting [www.cnha.org](http://www.cnha.org).

**Commercial Outfitting**

A number of commercial rafting companies are permitted through the BLM Moab Field Office to conduct river tours on the Lower Dolores. Please call the Moab River Office at the above number for a list of authorized outfitters.

**For information on the Dolores River in Colorado, contact:**

Bradfield Bridge to Slickrock & Slickrock to Bedrock:

Bureau of Land Management  
Dolores Field Office  
100 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, P.O. Box 210  
Dolores, CO 81323  
(970) 882-7296  
[www.co.blm.gov/sjra/sjdolores.htm](http://www.co.blm.gov/sjra/sjdolores.htm)

Bedrock to Gateway Segment

Bureau of Land Management  
Uncompahgre Field Office  
2505 S Townsend  
Montrose, CO 81401  
(970) 240-5300  
[www.co.blm.gov/ubra/ufo-dolores.htm](http://www.co.blm.gov/ubra/ufo-dolores.htm)