

Wallowa and Grande Ronde Rivers River Permit Requirements

This is intended to serve as a general reference for boaters visiting public lands and waterways of the Wallowa and Grande Ronde river canyons between Minam, Oregon, and Heller Bar, Washington. For more information, please contact the Bureau of Land Management, Baker Field Office, at 541-523-1256.

What is a River Permit?

Public land managers are required by law to monitor and protect the lands and natural resources in their stewardship. River Permits are a necessary tool used by land managers for monitoring the public lands and resources in their care. River permits help land managers obtain accurate river use data and keep the public informed of regulations designed to prevent resource damage. River Permits are self-service, free of charge, and do not affect your trip itinerary or limit how many river trips you can make.

Do I need a river permit?

In Oregon, river permits are required for all boating and float trips which take place between Minam and the Oregon/Washington state line. In Washington, river permits are required for boaters only when use occurs on federal lands within ¼ mile of the river.

Where can I get a River Permit?

Self-service river permit stations are available at most primary river access points, including Minam Public Access, Palmer Junction, Powwatka Bridge (Wildcat), Mud Creek, Troy, Cougar Creek, Boggan's Oasis, Shumaker Access, and Heller Bar. Read the permit carefully. Fill out one permit per party, put the white copy in the box, and keep the yellow copy with you during your boating trip.

Do I need a commercial use permit?

Outfitters and guides may also be required to obtain a Special Recreation Permit (SRP), depending on where their activities occur:

- In Oregon between Minam and Powwatka Bridge (river mile 53), an SRP is required, issued by the U.S. Forest Service, Walla Walla Ranger District (509-522-6290).
- In Oregon between Powwatka Bridge and the state line, an SRP is required, issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Baker Field Office (541-523-1256).
- In Washington, an SRP is required only if operations take place on federal lands, issued by the Bureau of Land Management, Baker Field Office (541-523-1256).

Note: Commercial operators who have already obtained a valid U.S. Forest Service SRP do not need an additional SRP from the BLM.

Are there any other requirements?

Read both sides of the River Permit carefully for more information on equipment requirements and related regulations. State laws may also apply.