

# Things to Know Before Your River Trip

The Willowa and Grande Ronde Rivers in Oregon are designated State Scenic Waterways and National Wild and Scenic rivers. Special rules apply for public recreation use of the lands and waters within ¼ mile of the rivers in Oregon, and when using Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands above the average high water mark in Washington. These rules are in place to protect and preserve the waterway's outstanding scenic beauty and natural features while maintaining the river's wide range of recreational opportunities. Please "Leave No Trace" of your visit.

## RIVER PERMITS

Every boater or boating group must obtain a Self-Issue River Permit prior to launch, available at most public river access points. Permits are free, self-issued, and do not restrict number of trips or limit trip itineraries. (Note: commercial outfitters and guides may also need to obtain a Special Recreation Permit. Call the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at 541-523-1256 for more information.)

## OREGON AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION PERMITS

These permits are now required for *all* watercraft 10 feet or longer in Oregon. For motorized boats, the permit is automatically included with boat registration in Oregon. Permits cost \$7 and are available for purchase at all Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) license agents and online at: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us>

## PORTABLE TOILETS

A portable, containerized toilet shall be carried and used. No person shall leave, deposit, or scatter human waste, toilet paper, or items used as toilet paper, on the ground. Portable toilets shall only be dumped at facilities developed and identified especially for that purpose.

## FIRE PANS

When not prohibited, fire shall be contained in a fireproof container with sides of a height sufficient to contain all ash and debris, and all ash and unburned debris removed from the river corridor. Avoid building rock fire rings. *Fireworks are prohibited year-round.*

## REQUIRED EQUIPMENT (Oregon and Washington)

### ✓ Life Jackets

One U.S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III wearable personal flotation device (PFD) of suitable size for each person on board. PFD's must be kept readily accessible, and

- Children 12 and under **must wear** PFD's while boats are underway;
- In Oregon, all boaters operating in Class III or higher white water rapids **must wear** an approved U.S. Coast Guard Type I or III PFD, or Type V PFD that is suitable for use on whitewater rivers;
- In Oregon, a Type IV throwable device is also required for boats 16 feet and longer, except canoes and kayaks.

### ✓ Sound signaling device, such as a whistle or compressed air horn

### ✓ Lantern or flashlight showing white light (between sunset and sunrise, and during periods of restricted visibility)

## MOTORIZED WATERCRAFT

Motorized watercraft (including "kicker motors") is **prohibited** on the Grande Ronde River in Oregon between Sheep Creek (river mile 80) and the Oregon-Washington state line (river mile 38.5). Additional equipment requirements apply for motorized watercraft in Oregon and Washington. Contact the River Station at Minam or the Oregon State Marine Board for details.

## GROUP SIZE LIMIT- 25

No group may exceed 25 persons.

## MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT

Motorized equipment, including chainsaws, generators, etc. is prohibited on the Grande Ronde River in Oregon within 1/4 mile of the river between Sheep Creek (river mile 80) and Wildcat Creek (river mile 53.5). It is unlawful to carry, use, transport, or possess any motorized equipment within this section of river.

## MAPS

In keeping with the primitive nature of the river corridor, amenities and signs along the river are few. Detailed river maps and literature will be very helpful when planning trips and in locating potential camp areas, landmarks, and rapids. River maps are available at some local businesses, or by contacting the BLM Baker Field Office at 541-523-1256.

For more information, contact the BLM River Station at Minam by calling **541-437-5580**, or online at [www.rivers.gov](http://www.rivers.gov)

