

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

As your group's party leader, you are responsible for ensuring your group has all the information needed to enjoy a pleasant and safe experience on the Rogue River. Please encourage all members of your party to review this information prior to your launch. Leave No Trace practices are designed to keep the river in its natural condition for all to enjoy and for people to be thoughtful of other users. Encourage Leave No Trace practices. Here are the main guidelines to keep in mind:

- 1) **Fire pans** are required year-round for all campfires built within 400 feet of the river. Pack-out all fire debris. Check with the visitor center for current fire restrictions before your trip. Fire pans are required to help keep campsites natural looking. When used correctly fire pans help users avoid leaving fire scars and multiple fire rings. Scavenged wood must be only dead and down.
- 2) **Bear problems** increased in 2015. There were twenty-six problems reported. Some of the problems could be attributed to campers not using bear fences even though they were at a site with a bear fence. Electric fences have been installed to help safeguard your food and garbage. Please use the bear fences. If you are camping at a site without a bear fence you should stack your coolers and dry boxes on shore. Strap the stack together and leave a small open container of ammonia on top of the stack. This will cause bears that have not been habituated to avoid your camp. Habituated bears are another story. The ammonia should be returned to the closed container the next morning. Please help protect the public against safety risks posed by wildlife that are drawn into contact with humans by not feeding wildlife, especially bears. It is unlawful to habituate bears and other wildlife (pursuant to ORS 496.731).

Keep a clean camp and take food scraps and grease with you when you leave. Leave the bear fences ON and CLOSED, especially when you are leaving the campsite. You can check-out a portable electric fence from the visitor center for your trip. The portable fences are available on a first come – first served basis. You are required to return the fence at the end of your trip. Report bear sightings on the Bear Observation Form and leave the form in the drop box at Foster Bar. For more information on living with the bears on the Rogue River go to www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue/bears.php.

- 3) **Campsite Selection:** There are a limited number of large campsites in the Wild Section of the Rogue. According to the Rogue River Campsite brochure there are 7 large campsites in the first 11 miles, 7 in the middle 13 miles, and 9 in the final 11 miles.

A large group of 10 or more cannot fit into the small campsites. Therefore, it is important for groups to use campsites that are suitable for their size and leave the large sites for large groups. If you are a small group of 9 or less and feel you need to camp at a large site, please be courteous to a group that may need to share the site with you. Use one side of the site so you are prepared to share. Large groups may also need to be ready to share a site. If a group allows you to share their site, please show your appreciation for their generosity and treat each other with respect.

A "Share Campsite Information" dry erase board is located in the Smullin Visitor Center. The dry erase board provides an opportunity for groups to communicate where they hope to camp. The dry erase board is by no means a method of "reserving" a campsite.

You can also talk to other groups as you encounter them on the river and share campsite plans in a spirit of cooperation by adjusting plans as needed. Some sites are very popular; because of this it is advised that you try to secure these camps in the early afternoon, not at 4:00 or 5:00 p.m., when other options are severely reduced. These popular sites are: Whisky, Horseshoe Bend, Missouri, Mule Creek, and Tacoma. Mule Creek might be the worst bottleneck on the river for camping due to its popularity and location upriver from Mule Creek Canyon and Blossom Bar. Mule Creek is an especially poor site to expect to stop at for camping in the late afternoon. It is recommended that groups stay only one night at Mule Creek in July and August to reduce congestion and competition.

For more information about campsite selection call the Smullin Visitor Center at 541-479-3735 and talk to a River Ranger and take a look the Wild Rogue River Campsite brochure at <http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue/files/WildRogueCampsites.pdf>.

- 4) **Safety:** The Wild Section of the Rogue is managed primarily as a primitive area and requires outdoor skills and preparation.
- Oregon State Law requires boaters to wear a properly fitted US Coast Guard-approved type I, III or V personal flotation device in class III or higher whitewater rapids. Children age 12 and under must wear a properly fitted and approved personal flotation device at all times while on the water.
 - The Oregon State Marine Board recommends wearing helmets in class III or higher rapids. It is also recommended that each boater have a whistle on their life jacket.
 - There are about nine class III rapids and three class IV rapids. Boat operators need the skills necessary to navigate these rapids safely.
 - Be aware of what the current water level is and know that extreme low flows can be just as risky as high flows.
 - Be on the lookout for unexpected hazards such as trees and branches in the river or landslides and wildfires on shore.
 - It is advisable for someone in your party to give a safety talk before launching. During this talk you can explain safety gear and techniques such as: self-rescue, high siding, throw bags, and spare oars.
 - Remember, you can scout rapids and allow passengers to walk around difficult rapids such as Rainie Falls and Blossom Bar.
 - Scouting Blossom Bar Rapid is advised for all boaters. This is recommended because a recent boating accident could have left boats or gear wrapped on a rock or sticking out into the channel. This has been a common occurrence the past few years. Please be aware this potential hazard.
 - For information on how to get help when there is a medical emergency or boating accident on the river see “Frequently Asked Questions” at: www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue/permit.php.
- 5) **Ramp and River Etiquette:** Please be courteous to other recreationists at launch sites.
- Leave boat ramps clear for vehicles and trailers to access the river quickly and easily. The boat ramp at Foster Bar is for unloading and loading boats only. Do not park or leave vehicles unattended, on the ramp, if you are waiting for a group to come off the river. Use the parking area above the ramp.
 - Use the staging areas next to the boat ramp, not on the ramp, to pump-up and deflate boats, to load gear into boats and to unload gear from boats.

- You are now part of the river community. Help yourself and others have a good trip by contributing to the positive atmosphere of that community.
- Be considerate of campers in close proximity by respecting “quiet hours.”
- When encountering other groups, pass in flat water, not in rapids. Crowding other craft in a rapid can create unnecessary boating mishaps.
- The Rogue is a popular place for fishing so please be considerate of fishing lines from both bank and boat anglers. Give them a wide berth if possible to avoid fishing lines.

6) Portable Toilet/Human Waste Removal System (HWRS): Visitors must carry and be prepared to use an approved HWRS for disposal of all solid human waste. Facilities may be provided at some locations.

An approved HWRS must be watertight and readily available for use or show throughout the day. HWRS must be set-up within 30 minutes of arriving at camp except for those locations described in the Portable Toilet Guide. The HWRS must be a dedicated system and cannot be used to store supplies. Disposal of solid human waste in other than an approved HWRS, government outhouse, or lodge toilet is prohibited.

Set-up means the HWRS must be out of the boat, easily accessible for everyone in the group, and away from the central camp area. The HWRS must be large enough to accommodate the entire group for the entire length of the trip, including lodge and self-support kayak trips.

Plastic bag liners are not accepted, with the exception of the following approved solid human waste pouches: Cleanwaste WAG bags, RESTOP 2 bags and Biffy Bags. Used bags must be packed-out in an approved watertight container. HWRS with snap-on lids are required to have a rubber gasket on the lid. Snap-on lids are no longer accepted with the bucket type removal systems, with some pre-approved exceptions. Buckets are accepted but must have a lid that is easy to remove and replace on the bucket, such as screw on lids. Portable RV-type toilets are not accepted.

If a group is split up during the day, each subgroup must have a HWRS with the required capacity for the number of people in that subgroup. To calculate the volume required for your group size, use one pint per person per day or for bag systems use one use per person per day. For example, a group of 10 people on a 4-day trip requires 40 uses/pints, at 8 pints per gallon; the group needs 5 gallons of storage capacity. Cleanwaste WAG bags and RESTOP 2 bags are calculated at 4 uses per bag. In the example of 10 people on a 4-day trip, the formula would be 40 uses divided by 4 uses per bag; the group needs 10 bags and 5 gallons of storage capacity to store the used bags. Biffy Bags are one use per bag, so 10 people on a 4-day trip would need 40 Biffy Bags and 5 gallons of storage capacity to store the used bags. The total HWRS capacity must be presented at the Visitor Center during check-in.

Disposal of urine is acceptable in the river, in an HWRS, or in a government or lodge toilet. Please avoid urinating on shore, especially near campsites and trails.

A SCAT Machine is available at Foster Bar for cleaning your HWRS. The cost is \$1.00 per cleaning. If your toilet is not the correct size or dimension for SCAT Machine use, you will need the required parts to legally dump at an RV dump station. Please use toilet paper ONLY in your HWRS. Do not put trash, baby wipes, paper towels, diapers, feminine hygiene

products, or solid human waste pouches into the SCAT Machine. They cause the SCAT Machine to break down. It is illegal to dispose of human waste in landfills, so please don't put human waste into the trash, except for the Cleanwaste WAG bags, RESTOP 2 bags, and the Biffy Bags. For more details go to:

www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue/portable-toilets.php

- 7) **Doggies Downstream:** Many of us love our dogs and want to take them on vacation with us! Please help reduce their impact to the wild character of the river and keep them safe too.
- Bring a leash to be used when around unfamiliar people and wildlife. Be sure your dog is invited before it approaches other visitors or dogs. Don't let your dog harass wildlife
 - Treat dog feces as you do human feces – pack it out. Dogi Pot litter bags are located in front of the Smullin Visitor Center.
 - Equip your dog with a Personal Flotation Device.
- 8) **Invasive Species Permit:** Oregon State Law requires an Invasive Species Permit for all non-motorized boats ten feet long or longer. These permits are NOT available at the Smullin Visitor Center. You can purchase them online or at businesses that sell Oregon hunting and fishing licenses. To purchase online go to: <http://www.oregon.gov/osmb/Pages/index.aspx>. For more information see: http://www.oregon.gov/OSMB/Clean/Pages/AISPP_Main_New.aspx.
- 9) **Shuttles:** There are four shuttle routes:
- The Eden Valley route is north of the river,
 - The Coastal Route is Highway 199 and 101,
 - The Bear Camp Coastal Route with the Peavine/ Serpentine Springs Roads, and
 - The Bear Camp Coastal Route with the Galice Access Road.

The Bear Camp Coastal Route with the Galice Access Road is the popular shuttle route between Galice and Foster Bar. Bear Camp Coastal Route may be closed due to snow and/or road damage. Check with the Smullin Visitor Center at (541) 479-3735, before driving this route. For more details go to:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue/shuttle-routes.php>. The Galice Access Road, a section of the Bear Camp Coastal Route, is closed November 5 through May 31 due to a recurring landslide near milepost 5 west of Galice. Information on shuttle services may be found at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue/shuttle-rentals.php>

- 10) **Water Level for the Wild Section of the Rogue River:** There are two gauges you can check on the USGS site: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/current/?type=flow>. One gage is at Grants Pass, which is 30 miles upstream from the Grave Creek Boat Ramp and the second gauge is at Agness, a few miles downstream from the Foster Bar Boat Ramp.
- 11) **The Smullin Visitor Center** is open for phone calls the first five business days in April. Phone hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This is the first opportunity after the Lottery for people to pick-up float spaces. The Visitor Center doors open on May 5th and stay open through October 15th, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., seven days a week. Phone Access Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., seven days a week, from May 5th through October 15th.

If you have more questions take a look at the Rogue River “Frequently Asked Questions” at <http://www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/rogue/permit.php>.