

JOHN DAY RIVER – KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

An online launch permit is required to boat all river segments year-round on the mainstem John Day downstream of Spray. A non-refundable launch fee is required for trips entering the Wild and Scenic River section (Service Creek to Tumwater Falls; Segments 1-3) between May 20 and July 10. The fee is \$20 per overnight trip per group, or \$10 per one-day trip per group.

- One launch permit is issued per group, with a maximum group size of 16 persons.
- Each permit authorizes the trip leader to launch on a specific date in a specific river segment; once a permit is reserved, dates and segments are not changeable.
- A trip leader may list one alternate trip leader at the time of reservation.
- The trip leader or alternate is required to be present on the entire trip and may be requested to show permit and photo ID during the trip.
- Each person may be named as a trip leader or an alternate trip leader on a maximum of one overnight and three day-use permits at a time.
- The minimum age for a trip leader or alternate trip leader is 13 years.
- All permits are issued on-line as they become available; there is no lottery, no waiting list, and no permits are issued by phone.
- A permit is not needed if you are boating less than 100 yards upstream or downstream of the launch point, or to cross the river to the opposite bank.
- On overnight trips, all boating groups are **required** to carry and use a leak-proof, portable, reusable toilet system to remove solid human waste from the river canyon. Plastic bags should not be used, except Wag Bags, Cleanwaste, Restop2, and similar human waste disposal pouches designed specifically for this purpose.
- The Oregon State Marine Board requires operators of canoes, kayaks, drift boats, inflatable rafts, and other manually powered boats 10 feet or longer to carry an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention permit. AIS permits are available where fishing licenses are sold.

EXCEPTIONS: Free on-line permits are available to boat the mainstem upstream of Spray and the North Fork downstream of Dale. Free, self-issue permits are available at Priest Hole for visitors wanting to take the one-mile trip solely within the Priest Hole Recreation Site (River Mile 136.5 – 137.5).

LEAVE NO TRACE

An increase in boating activity along the John Day River means an increase in the signs of human presence: more fire rings on the beaches, more piles of toilet paper behind the trees, more bits of trash around the camp, etc. By practicing a few simple Leave No Trace camping techniques, the signs of Human pressure on the river canyon can be greatly reduced. Please help protect the river you know and love by following Leave No Trace techniques for river corridors:

- On overnight trips, all boating groups are required to carry and use a leak-proof, portable, reusable toilet system to remove solid human waste from the river canyon. The toilet must be large enough to service the entire party for the complete length of the trip. Toilets using plastic bags are not acceptable, with the exception of the Wag Bag or similar human waste pouch designed for this purpose, which are permitted. Used Wag Bags must be transported in a leak-proof container and disposed of in a regular garbage dumpster. River toilet dump stations are available at Clarno and Cottonwood take-outs. A list of RV dump stations is posted on BLM bulletin boards. Disposing of Wag Bags in a river toilet dump station or vault toilet is prohibited.
- When campfires are allowed, use of a metal firepan is required, so that no trace of your fire remains. A firepan is a metal tray with rigid sides at least two inches high. Metal oil drains pans, small barrels cut in

half, and backyard barbecue grills make effective and inexpensive firepans. Firepans are also available from river and horse-packing equipment suppliers. Elevate the firepan with flat rocks to avoid scorching the ground. Locate the firepan close to the river and away from dry grasses and other vegetation.

- Burn only wood from home, charcoal or driftwood. Do not cut standing vegetation, either alive or dead. Carry out all ash and charcoal remains. Burn your fire down to white ash, let it cool completely, and pack out all of the ash with your trash.
- Pack out all litter and garbage, including pasticchio shells and cigarette butts. Remove food scraps from the kitchen area to avoid attracting ants, flies, and rodents. Do not bury trash as animals will dig it up. Strain all dish/waste water through a screen to remove food particles, and pack them out. Scatter waste water over a wide area, away from campsites, at least 200 ft. from the river. Soap should be used sparingly; even biodegradable varieties take a long time to break down.

