KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

1) **Permits**

- **All permit changes, cancellations, and new permit allocations are processed per the BLM.**

Definitions:

Reservation or Award: A pending trip, unpaid and unconfirmed; Party size allocated during application process, e.g., Lottery, April Give-Away, Competitive call-in
Permit: A confirmed trip; all spaces (party size) have been paid for @ $10/person
Party Size/Space: Total number of people on a permit/each person on a Permit

Lottery Applications:

The Rogue River permit lottery available ONLY on **Recreation.gov**

- Open Application period: Dec 01 – Jan 31; $6 application fee
- Feb 15 email response: Successful/Unsuccessful notices sent via email
- Acquire the Permit: LOTTERY AWARD: CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTIONS

New Reservations:

April Give-Away: available after the Lottery

- Open Application period: First five (5) business days in April
- Competitive Call-in: 8am – 3pm, Phone calls only 541-479-3735

Open Season:

- New Permit allocation: May 05 – October 15
- Competitive Call-in: 8am – 3pm, Phone calls only 541-479-3735
- Walk-in/ Waiting list: Day of Launch ONLY, based on open spaces

Additions/ Cancellations:

Add Spaces:

- Available for existing Award, Reservation, or Permit
- Available during April Give-Away or Open Season times ONLY
- Competitive Call-in: 8am – 3pm, Phone calls only 541-479-3735

Cancel an Award, Reservation, or Spaces:

- Email **Rogue River Permits** anytime or May 05 – Oct 15, call 541-479-3735
- List Party Leader, Launch Date, and Party Size. An email will be returned confirming your cancellation and release of your spaces.

Cancel a Permit:

- Deadline for permit cancellation (all spaces): Day before launch by 3pm
- Feb 10 – May 04: Email **Rogue River Permits** (preferred)
- May 05 – Oct 15: Email (preferred), call 541-479-3735, fax 541-479-0535
  List Party Leader, Launch Date, and Party Size. An email will be returned confirming your cancellation and release of your spaces.

Penalties:

Penalty:

- Failure to cancel an entire Permit (all spaces) by cancellation deadline.
- Action: Party Leader will be recorded on the "No-Show" Penalty List.
  Listed Party Leader will be unable to control a permit for the remainder of the year and all of the next year, including the lottery.

No Penalty:

- Non-Confirmation/non-payment of Reservation or Awards.
- Cancelling spaces on a permit at any time.

2) **Portable Toilet Systems/Human Waste Removal System (HWRS)**

- **All river groups are required to have and be prepared to use an approved Toilet System for disposal and removal of all solid human waste.**

Toilet System specifications:

- A dedicated system used for human waste; cannot be used to store supplies.
- Reusable, washable, watertight, with a screw-on or latching gasket lid. Snap-on lids and RV toilets are NOT acceptable.
- Approved Pouch Toilet Systems: Biffy Bag, CleanWaste bags, ReStop2 bags.
  A watertight container must be dedicated to storing used pouches.

Toilet System capacity:

- Must accommodate your entire group for the entire length of your trip.
- Capacity requirements are 1 pint per person per day.
  (Days on river) X (People in group) = capacity needed in pints
  E.g., 5 days X 10 people = 50-pint capacity needed
  Toilet Guide

Toilet systems must be accessible during the day on the river.

- If a group splits during the day, each sub-group must have a Toilet System that can accommodate their sub-group size.

Toilet systems must be set up within 30 minutes of arrival at camp.

- It must be out of the boat, easily accessible to the group, and away from the central camp area unless a government (pit) toilet is on site.
- Disposal of human waste while on the river must be in a toilet system, pit toilet, or lodge toilet.
- Disposal of urine is acceptable in the river, in a toilet system, pit toilet, or lodge toilet. Please avoid urinating on shore or near campsites and trails.

Human Waste disposal post-trip:

- Disposal of untreated solid human waste in landfills is illegal and a biohazard.
  Toilet systems may only be emptied at the SCAT machine and RV Dump stations.
- A SCAT machine is available at Foster Bar for disposing of human waste and cleaning your toilet system for $2.
  The SCAT machine CANNOT dispose of baby wipes, paper towels, trash, etc. as they will cause it to jam. Please store and dispose of these products separately.
- Disposal of approved Pouch Toilet Systems are legal in trash cans or dumpsters.

3) **Fires & Cooking Regulations**

- **Fire Restrictions may change, updates are available by calling Smullin Visitor Center at Rand. Current fire regulations will be reviewed at permit check-in.**
  - Fire pans are required year-round for all campfires built within 400 feet of the river.
    - Pack-out all trash and fire debris.
    - Scavenged wood must be dead and down. Cutting wood is prohibited.
  - Cooking on gas and propane stoves is allowed. Cooking on charcoal briquettes or over a wood fire in a raised fire pan may be permitted based on current fire restrictions.
  - A shovel and bucket (minimum 1-gallon capacity) are required per party.
  - Fireworks are prohibited.

4) **Oregon State Laws & Regulations**

- **Oregon State Marine Board requires all individuals to comply with the following laws while conducting water-based activities on the Rogue River.**

  US Coast Guard-approved Type I, III, or V PFD (Personal Floatation Device)
  - Each individual must have available at all times while on the water.
  - Must be worn by all individuals in Class III or greater rapids.
  - Must be worn at all times by children 12 years and younger while on or near the water.

  Waterway Access Permit:
  - On most waterways, including the Recreation Section of the Rogue River, Oregon State Law requires a Waterway Access Permit for all non-motorized boats ten feet long or longer.
    - This permit is **NOT** required on the Wild Section of the Rogue River (exemption for 'a federally designated wild and scenic river for which a separate fee system is in place.')
    - These permits are **not** available at Smullin Visitor Center at Rand.
    - They are available online at **Oregon State Marine Board** and at businesses that sell Oregon hunting and fishing licenses.

5) **Safety**

- **The Wild Section of the Rogue is managed primarily as a primitive area and requires outdoor skills and preparation.**

  - All Party Leaders are required to watch the **Wild Rogue River Permit Guidelines Video** once per year. It is encouraged that all river users watch the video prior to boating the Rogue River.
  - Boat operators need Class IV skills to navigate this river. The wild section of the Rogue River has approximately three Class IV rapids and nine Class III rapids.
  - It is advisable for someone in your party to give a safety talk before launching. Explanation and demonstration of proper use of safety gear and rescue techniques are recommended, e.g., self-rescue, high siding, throw bags, and emergency procedures.
  - Parties can scout and allow passengers to walk around difficult rapids.
    E.g., Rainie Falls, the Fish Ladder, and Blossom Bar areas.
  - Scouting Blossom Bar Rapid, Class IV, is advised for all boaters.
    Boating incidents at this rapid causing boats or gear to wrap and block the channel are a common occurrence. Please be aware of this potential hazard.
  - Be aware of unexpected hazards in the river such as trees or man-made debris, and landslides or wildfires on the shoreline.
  - Be aware of the **current water level** - extreme low flows can be just as risky as high flows.
  - The Oregon State Marine Board recommends wearing helmets in Class III and greater rapids. It is also recommended that each boater have a whistle on their PFD.

- **For information on medical emergencies or boating accidents assistance visit**:
  Frequently Asked Questions

6) **Wild Section Rogue River Camping**

- **Camping on the Wild Section is on first-come, first-serve basis.**

  Please be kind and courteous to all river and trail users when choosing campsites.
  - Quiet hours are 10pm – 6am. Please respect other parties.

  Be prepared to share!
  - Large sites that can accommodate groups of 10-20 people are limited.
  - If you are a smaller group using a large site, please use one side of the site so you are prepared to share.
  - Remain flexible in your choice of sites and try not to unnecessarily impose your group on an already occupied site when other sites may be available.

  Pit Toilets
  - Some Pit Toilets on the Wild Section are in process of being phased out and removed.
  - Take advantage of sites that do not have a pit toilet. Current **Pit Toilet** locations.

- For more information visit **Wild Rogue River Campsite Brochure**

7) **Outdoor Ethics & Etiquette**

- **Leave No Trace ethics and wilderness etiquette are essential to maintaining a respectful environment that protects the resource, wildlife, and fellow river and trail users.**

  Boat Ramp Etiquette:
  - Leave boat ramps clear for vehicles and trailers to access the river quickly and easily.
  - Grave Creek and Foster Bar boat ramps are for loading/unloading boats only.
  - Do not park or leave vehicles or gear on or blocking the boat ramp.
  - Grave Creek is day use only; overnight parking is not permitted.
  - Staging areas next to the boat ramp are available for boat preparation and gear loading.

  River Etiquette:
  - Pass other groups in flat water, not in rapids.
  - Crowding before or in rapids may create unnecessary boating mishaps.
  - Be willing to wait. Areas like the Fish Ladder may have a queue to allow for boaters to clear the channel prior to the next descent.
  - Be considerate of fishing parties, both on the river and shoreline. Give them a wide berth to avoid entangling fishing lines.

  Pet Regulations & Etiquette:
  - Pet feces disposal regulations are the same as those regarding human waste on the Rogue River.
  - Animal feces are required to be removed, contained, and stored in a watertight container and properly disposed of in a trash receptacle at take out.
  - Doggie Pot waste bags are available at Rand and trailheads.
  - Bring a leash to be used when on shore. Be sure your dog is under control and invited before approaching other visitors or dogs.
  - It is illegal for animals or humans to harass wildlife. For your pet's safety, keep them in sight and under control while on shore, and leashed when large wildlife are present.
  - Consider equipping your dog with a PFD.

8) **Bears & Wildlife**

- **Please help protect the public against safety risks by not feeding and habituating wildlife, especially bears.**

  Camping & Food Storage:
  - Remove from boats all coolers, food, trash, and human/pet waste.
  - Leaving attractants in boats will create an association for wildlife. Once associated, wildlife will claw, tear, and chew on boats and gear in an attempt to gain food rewards.
  - Store coolers and trash in a central location away from sleeping areas.

  Storage techniques:
  - Stack and strap coolers/food containers together, thus creating bound objects that are more difficult to move. Place pots and pans on top of the stacked items to create noise when they are disturbed.
  - Suspend food and garbage from a tree; minimum of 4ft. from the trunk and 10ft. above the ground.
  - Use certified Bear-resistant coolers or storage devices.

  "Bear-proofing"
  - **"Bear-proof coolers", ** electric bear fences, or other certified Bear-resistant storage devices are the primary way to safely store food and garbage.
  - The BLM installs and maintains electric bear fences, food hoists, and storage containers on the Rogue River May 15 – October 15, sites listed at **Wild Rogue River Campsite brochure**.
  - If camping in these areas, please utilize the bear fences for food and garbage storage overnight.
  - **Ensure the bear fence is turned ON and CLOSED at all times, whether being used or vacant.** Only turn off the fence power for entry/exit.

- **It is unlawful to habituate bears and other wildlife (ORS 496.731.1-2).**
  Report bear sightings on the Bear Observation Form given at Permit check-in and leave the form in the drop box at Foster Bar.

9) **Shuttles**

- **Shuttle route access will vary throughout the year with changing road and weather conditions. Always check current Shuttle Routes and road conditions prior to driving these routes.**

  Shuttle Routes: Shuttle Routes Map
  - Eden Valley route is north of the river
  - Coastal Route is Highway 199 and 101
  - Bear Camp Coastal Route using the Peavine/ Serpentine Springs Roads
  - Bear Camp Coastal Route using the Galice Access Road
    - Most common/ fastest shuttle route from Grave Creek to Foster Bar
    - CLOSED November 05 through May 31; due to snow/slides/rock fall

  Shuttle Services:
  - A variety of **Shuttle Services** are available within the area.

10) **Smullin Visitor Center at Rand**

- **All parties floating the wild section of the Rogue River are required to obtain a permit.**
  - Float permits are available year-round for the Wild section of the Rogue River.
  - Toilet systems and fire pans are required for all float trips year-round.

- **May 15 – Oct 15:** A lottery is used to allocate the regulated use season launches. Lottery applications for the regulated use season are accepted only through Recreation.gov annually Dec. 01 - Jan. 31. Available float spaces openings after the lottery are acquired through a competitive call-in process or Day of Launch walk-in or waiting list.

- **Oct 16 – May 14:** Pre- and post- regulated use season launches are obtained by filling out a self-issued permit available at Smullin Visitor Center at Rand and Grave Creek Boat Launch access.

Smullin Visitor Center at Rand
14335 Galice Road
Merlin, OR 97532

Office Hours:
May 05 – October 15 7am – 3pm (PST) Daily
October 16 – May 04 Closed

Phone Hours:
First Week of April 8 am – 3pm (PST) Daily
May 05 - Oct 15 8 am – 3pm (PST) Daily

Permits Office: 541-479-3735
Permits FAX: 541-479-0535
Email: BLM_OR_MD_Rogue_River_Mail@blm.gov

***Email and faxes are received year-round.**
They are responded to Monday-Friday, year- round.

- **For more information on the Rogue River and surrounding areas, please visit:**
  Rogue River Permits Website