



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Westwater Canyon Information

Moab, Utah

General Info

Westwater Canyon is the first whitewater stretch on the Colorado River in Utah. The canyon is 17 miles long and includes class IV rapids, is challenging at all water levels, and is only recommended for experienced boaters. All trips through Westwater Canyon must be self-reliant.

Permits Required

Permits are required year-round for commercial and private use of Westwater Canyon. Private use is limited to five permits or 75 people (whichever occurs first) per day; commercial use is limited to 75 passengers per day. Permit reservations may be made up to two months in advance (per the calendar date) and starting January 7, 2020 at 8 a.m. MT, private permits will be available online through [Recreation.gov](https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/passes-and-permits/lotteries/utah/westwatercanyon).

If you have questions, please call 435-259-2100, Monday-Friday, from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding federal holidays. For more information, please visit the [BLM website](https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/passes-and-permits/lotteries/utah/westwatercanyon) (<https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/passes-and-permits/lotteries/utah/westwatercanyon>). All boaters must adhere to the River Use Stipulations which are posted on the BLM web site.

Westwater Ranger Station

The Bureau of Land Management's Moab Field Office manages Westwater Canyon. A contact station and ranger residence is located at the put-in. River Rangers conduct permit and equipment checks, provide information, and patrol the canyon. There are eleven first-come, first-served, individual campsites at the put-in for public use; \$20/night exact cash or check (no credit cards). There is one group site that is reservable through [Recreation.gov](https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/passes-and-permits/lotteries/utah/westwatercanyon). Trash service is provided, but bring your own water. The closest services (i.e., gas, telephone) are in Mack, CO and Thompson Springs, UT, both are located along I-70. At the ranger station, cell service is spotty at best.

River Flow

The river typically peaks around 20,000 CFS in late May or early June and recedes throughout the summer and fall to less than 3,000 CFS. A high-water trip (above 10,000 CFS) can take as little as 4 hours whereas a low water trip (1,000 to 5,000 CFS) can take 10+ hours. For daily flow updates, go to: waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/rt (For USGS 09163500: Colorado River near Colorado-Utah State Line).

Camping in the Canyon

Permittees may choose to run Westwater Canyon as either a day or an overnight trip. Boaters may camp in the canyon only on the night of their permitted launch. River Rangers assign campsites in the order of launch (first come, first served) and according to the size of the group.

Dogs

Dogs are NOT allowed in Westwater Canyon. Although leashed dogs are allowed at the put-in area, dogs cannot be left unattended at the put-in, take-out, or in a vehicle while you are on the river.

Shuttle Information

The round-trip shuttle from Westwater Ranger Station to Cisco Landing takes approximately 2 hours; refer to the

map on the back for directions. Permitted companies that provide shuttle services to Westwater boaters are listed on the BLM web site.

Emergency Services

Grand County Sheriff's Office (435) 259-8115 has jurisdiction for search and rescue in Westwater Canyon; Utah Division of Parks and Recreation (435) 259-3750 must be notified of all major incidents that occur on the river. In the event that equipment remains in the canyon, please notify the BLM (435) 259-2100.

Additional Information

River guidebooks, maps, and related materials are available through Canyonlands Natural History Association (CNHA) by calling (800) 840-8978 or at www.cnha.org.

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