

# Things to Know Before Your River Trip

The Willamette 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 resources, while maintaining the river's wide range of recreational opportunities for present and future generations. Please practice "**Leave No Trace**" ([www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org)). Thank you for your help in keeping the river clean for everyone.

## RIVER PERMITS

Every boating party must obtain a Self-Issue River Permit prior to launch, available at most public river access points. Permits are free, and do not restrict number of trips you make, or limit trip itineraries. Permits provide essential river use data, as well as crucial information in the event of a Search and Rescue emergency. (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 details on outfitters and guide services.)

## PORTABLE TOILETS

A portable, containerized toilet must be carried and used during float trips, and at all times when developed toilet facilities are not provided. Do not leave, deposit, or scatter human waste, toilet paper, or items used as toilet paper, on the ground. Portable toilets may only be dumped at designated locations and fixtures provided for that purpose. *Please help stop "white flowers" on the river!*

## FIREPANS

When not prohibited, all fires must be contained in a fireproof container (i.e., "fire pan") with sides of a height sufficient to contain all ash and debris, and all ash and unburned debris removed from the river corridor. Please do not construct or use rock fire rings, and dismantle those that you may find. *Fireworks are prohibited year-round.* Check bulletin boards for seasonal fire restrictions and special notices.

## WATERWAY ACCESS PERMITS

These permits are required for all watercraft 10 feet or longer in Oregon. For motorized boats, the permit is automatically included with boat registration in Oregon. One permit per boat. Permits are transferrable to other non-motorized boats. Permits are available for purchase online and at Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) licensing agents.

## OTHER 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") are prohibited on the Grande Ronde River **in Oregon** between Sheep Creek (river mile 80) and the Oregon-Washington state line (river mile 38.5). Motorized watercraft are prohibited on the Grande Ronde River **in Washington** from September 15 through March 15, unless the river is 3000 cf/s or higher.

## MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT

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

## GROUP SIZE and CAMPING

No group greater than 25 persons, including guides and trip leaders, may launch, float together, stop or camp together. Primitive camp areas are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please select durable campsites appropriate to your party size, and be considerate of other visitors. Please make every effort to pack out all garbage and micro-trash, and leave your campsite in a clean, natural condition, better than you found it. To prevent over-crowding and reduce visitor impacts, plan your visit to avoid busy weekends and holidays if at all possible.

## RIVER MAPS

In keeping with the primitive nature of the river corridor, amenities and signs along the river are few. Detailed river maps and GPS will be very helpful when planning trips, and in locating public lands, camp areas, landmarks, and rapids. River maps are available at some local businesses, online, and at land management agency offices.

**Violations are punishable by law. For more information, please contact the Bureau of Land Management at 541-523-1256, or visit:**

[www.rivers.gov](http://www.rivers.gov)