

Rules & Regulations

Failure to comply with the following permit stipulations may result in penalties under Federal, Tribal, or Utah law. Penalties may include criminal action, civil action, and denial of future permits. The trip leader (permittee or alternate leader) is responsible for all matters of compliance with applicable laws, regulations and permit stipulations for the group.

Permit Check-In and Inspection

- You will be contacted by a river ranger prior to your trip to discuss required gear, stipulations, campsite assignments (if applicable), current conditions, etc. You must complete this check-in process prior to launching.
- The permit holder must allow rangers to complete on-river permit inspections to check the validity of the permit, verify that the group has all required equipment, and inform participants about river etiquette and safety.
- The permit is non-transferable.
- A copy of the permit must be in the possession of the permit holder or alternate permit holder while on the trip.

Required Equipment

- First aid kit - adequate for the size of the group and sufficient for treating serious injuries;
- Repair kit - with adequate materials to repair the types of boats used on the trip;
- Air pump - adequate to inflate boats after repairs;
- Toilet system - a washable, leak-proof toilet system that allows for the carry-out and disposal of solid human body waste in a responsible and lawful manner. The system must be adequate for the size of the group and length of the trip, and must be accessible during the daytime. Bag systems are acceptable if they are part of a specifically engineered bag waste containment system containing enzymes and polymers to treat human solid waste. All solid human waste, including bags, must be contained in a leak-proof, animal-proof, hard-sided container with a screw-on or ratchet-locking lid. Leaving solid human waste on Public Land or dumping it into vault toilets at BLM facilities is prohibited.
- Fire pan - must be durable metal and at least 12" in diameter with at least a 1.5" lip around its outer edge and sufficient to contain fire and remains. Fire pans must be carried on all trips (except 1-day trips 4/1 to 10/31) even if stoves are being used for cooking. All fires must be contained in the fire pan. Fire blankets under fire pans are recommended to facilitate total ash removal; Alternative options such as a non-disposable oil pan or cake pan are acceptable.

- PFDs/Life jackets - a properly sized whitewater type I, III, or V personal flotation device (PFD)/life jacket (approved on the label for paddling, whitewater, kayaking, etc. as required) in good working condition for each member of the party. Type II life jackets are permissible under State Law, however, BLM strongly advises against the use of type II jackets. Inflatable life jackets are not allowed;
- Extra oar, paddle, or motor for each raft, dory, and canoe - must be capable of maneuvering the boat. Low capacity boats [kayaks, inflatable kayaks (IKs), pack-rafts, stand up paddle boards (SUPs)] must have 1 spare paddle for every 3 boats;
- Bail Bucket or bilge pump for each raft, dory, and canoe - doesn't apply to self-bailing boats, kayaks, IKs, pack-rafts, SUPs;
- A Type IV throwable flotation device or commercially made rescue rope (minimum 40' in length) - applies only to boats 16' or greater;
- Horn or whistle - applies only to boats 16' or greater.

Personal Flotation Device (PFD)

- Persons 13 years of age or older must wear an approved PFD while on the water until downstream of Slickhorn Rapid. Children under 13 years of age must wear an approved PFD for the entire length of the river.

Pets

- Pets are prohibited between Sand Island and Clay Hills.

Drones

- Use of unmanned aerial vehicles/drones is not allowed on the San Juan River.

Group Size and Travel Restrictions

- Maximum group size is 25 persons and no more than the pre-paid amount on the permit. Groups launching under separate permits may not camp or travel together if it would result in a total group size of more than 25 persons.
- Groups must launch, travel (stay within visual contact) and camp together as a group. No boats may be sent ahead to secure campsites.
- Permittees may only launch on the date specified on your permit. If you anticipate being unable to launch on your launch date, please use Recreation.gov to cancel your permit and open your launch date for others.

- Your actual group size must not exceed the group size listed on your permit. If you anticipate your group size may be smaller, please contact the BLM San Juan River Permits Desk at least 15 days before your trip to receive a refund. No refunds will be issued for changes less than 15 days before launch. People of all ages count toward your group size.

Camping

- Camping in cultural sites is prohibited.
- The Butler Wash Petroglyph Site (river mile 4.7) is closed to overnight camping.
- Camping below Government Rapid camp (~river mile 64) is allowed at 9 designated sites only. All groups must have an assigned campsite in this area prior to launch.
- Camping at any of these sites from 3/1 to 10/31 without a reservation is a violation of permit stipulations.

Motors

- Except for emergency purposes, upstream motorized travel is prohibited and downstream motorized travel must be in a low speed, wakeless mode.

Resource Protection

The permittee must ensure that all trip participants:

- Carry out all charcoal, fire ash, garbage (dishwater strainers recommended), and solid human waste out of the river area;
- Keep side canyon streams and springs free of soap and other contaminants;
- Do not remove, damage, or destroy archaeological, historical, or ecological resources, or cause damage to the natural and cultural resources of the public lands;
- Make campfires only in fire pans and limit the use of gathered wood for campfires to driftwood found along river banks and beaches.

Fireworks, Explosives, and Firearms

- The discharge of fireworks or explosives is prohibited on public lands. Firearm use is not allowed within 1/4 mile of shoreline campsites, and structures.