

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT – MOAB FIELD OFFICE
2024 RIVER USE STIPULATIONS
FOR PRIVATE, NON-COMMERCIAL USE
WESTWATER CANYON

Trips may be delayed or permits invalidated if conditions in these stipulations are not met. Failure to comply with stipulations or launching without a permit may result in penalties under Federal or Utah law and regulations. Penalties may include criminal action, civil action, and denial of future permits on this river section and/or other BLM-administered river sections.

All persons covered by this permit must comply with the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) guidance concerning COVID-19.

General Stipulations:

1. **The permit is not transferable and must be in the possession of the permittee on the trip or the alternate trip leader at all times. The permittee or alternate trip leader must have photo ID and a downloaded photo or paper copy of the permit at the check-in. Permits are not to be sold nor publicly advertised.**
2. The permittee must allow River Rangers to complete permit checks to determine the validity of the permit, ascertain that the group has all required equipment, and orient participants to river etiquette and safety. **If a River Ranger is NOT on duty you must self-register at the kiosk and sign up for a campsite to avoid being marked as a No Show.** No Shows will place the permit holder on a restricted list preventing them from obtaining a Westwater permit for one year.
3. The permittee must ensure that all trip participants:
 - A. adhere to all posted rules at Westwater Ranger Station and Cisco Landing (i.e., camping/ parking, quiet hours and dog-on-leash regulations),
 - B. carry out all trash and food waste. Dishwater strainers are recommended. Keep side canyon streams and springs free of soap and other contaminants,
 - C. adhere to the Utah Boating Act (Title 73, Chapter 18), which includes the wearing of PFDs from Westwater Ranger Station to Big Hole (children age 12 and under must wear PFDs at all times on the river), & registration of motorboats,
 - D. do not remove, damage, or destroy archaeological, historical, or ecological resources, or cause damage to the natural and cultural resources of the public lands,
 - E. limit wood gathering to driftwood found along riverbanks and beaches,
 - F. do not engage in upstream motorized travel except for emergency purposes or engage in downstream motorized travel at other than a low speed, wakeless mode, except in emergency situations, and
 - G. trips must launch, travel (stay within visual contact), and camp together as a group for the duration of the trip from Westwater Ranger Station to Cisco Boat Ramp.
4. Boat tags issued by the River Ranger must remain attached to boat(s) for the entire trip.
5. Groups launching separately with different permits may not camp or stop together (i.e., for lunch) if such action would result in more than 25 persons occupying a site.
6. Between the Gates of the Canyon at mile 124.5 and Cottonwood Wash at mile 112.5, a Westwater river permit allows camping for one night only. The camping night must be on your launch date. Overnight launches must be assigned a designated campsite by the River Ranger at the time of launch. Campsites are assigned in the order of launching with consideration given to group size. You must stay at the campsite assigned to your permit.
7. Launches must be made from the Westwater Ranger Station and not from any point downstream.
8. **Pets are not permitted in Westwater Canyon.** Pets must be kept on a leash at the Westwater Ranger Station and under control at all times. Pets may not be left unattended at the Westwater Ranger Station or Cisco Landing.
9. For wildlife conservation purposes, the following stipulations apply:
 - A. Launching of watercraft for upstream motorized travel from Westwater Ranger Station and Cisco Landing is not authorized between February 1st and October 15th.
 - B. Boaters floating past or launching from Cisco Landing may not travel under motorized power for a distance of two river miles below Cisco landing.

C. Camping on public lands is not authorized for a distance of two river miles below Cisco Landing.

10. The use of unmanned aircraft systems (drones) is prohibited in Westwater Canyon (Westwater Ranger Station to Cisco Landing).

11. Do not engage in commercial use as defined by 43 CFR 2932 [i.e.]

1) Any person, group, or organization makes or attempts to make a profit receive money, amortize equipment, or obtain goods or services, as compensation from participants in recreational activities occurring on public lands, led sponsored, or organized by that person, group, or organization; Anyone collects a fee or receives other compensation that is not strictly a sharing of actual expenses, incurred for the purpose of the activity, service, or use; There is paid public advertising to seek participants; Participants pay for a duty of care and expectation of safety.

2) Profit making organizations and organizations seeking to make a profit are automatically classified as commercial, even if that part of their activity covered by the permit is not profit-making or the business as a whole is not profitable.

3) Use of public lands by scientific, educational, and therapeutic institutions or non-profit organizations is commercial and subject to a permit when it meets any of the threshold criteria in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this definition. The non-profit status of a group or organization does not alone determine that an event or activity by such an organization is noncommercial.

12. List any trip sponsor or affiliated organization (i.e., scout group, school, etc.) associated with the trip when acquiring a permit.

Required Equipment:

At the pre-launch check the permittee must have:

1. a maximum group size of **25 people or fewer** and not greater than the number pre-paid for on the permit,
2. a **first aid kit** adequate for the size of the group and type(s) of activities, and sufficient for treating serious injuries,
3. a **repair kit** or kits adequate for repairing the types of boats on the trip,
4. an **air pump** or pumps adequate to inflate boats after repairs,
5. a **washable, leak-proof toilet system** equipped with RV dump fittings that allows for the carry-out and disposal of solid human body waste in a lawful manner; the system must be adequate for the size of the group and length of the trip. If a Wag Bag system is used it must be in a hard-sided, clamped or screw top container labeled "Human Waste" – **not a dry bag**. Leaving solid human body waste on public land or dumping it into vault toilets or trash receptacles is prohibited.
6. all fires must be contained in an elevated **fire pan**. All overnight trips must carry a fire pan that is at least 12 inches in diameter with a 1.5 inch lip around its outer edge. All charcoal and ash must be packed out. Fire blankets under fire pans are highly recommended.
7. **properly-sized whitewater type I, III, or V personal flotation devices (PFDs) in serviceable condition for each member of the group**. A PFD is *non-serviceable* if it is of an improper size, missing legible US Coast Guard approval information, is an improper type for the activity, an after-market alteration has been made, or if the PFD is ripped, torn, or has missing/broken straps, buckles or zippers. **General use, universal or water ski vests are not approved for Westwater.**
8. an **extra oar, paddle, or motor capable of maneuvering the vessel**, per boat,
9. a **bail bucket** or bilge pump (does not apply to self-bailing boats, kayaks or paddle boards).
10. low-capacity vessels (**kayaks, inflatable kayaks, packrafts, SUP**) must carry **one spare paddle for every three low-capacity vessels**.
11. each boat must have a whistle or horn. In addition, each boat **16 feet or longer** must have a type IV **throwable device** and a **commercially made throw bag** with at least 40 feet of line.

ADVISORY NOTE: BLM recommends that boaters floating past the Cisco Landing use the far river right channel around the large island just below the Cisco Landing.