

SPECIAL STIPULATIONS FOR 2012 SAN MIGUEL COMMERCIAL RIVER PERMITS

SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR ALL RIVER SECTIONS

Use of Approved BLM Access Sites

- 1) All commercial boating trips on BLM Public Lands within the San Miguel Special Recreation Management Area and Area of Critical Environmental Concern (SRMA/ACEC) must launch and take out at approved BLM access sites only. Approved access sites include: Deep Creek (behind the maintenance garages), Placerville (across from the fire station), Caddis Flats, Specie Creek Day Use Site, the upper and lower Beaver Creek sites, and the Ledges Sites in Norwood Canyon (Cottonwood and Rock House). There is a small BLM parking area and access site adjacent to Down Valley Park on the upstream side.

New for 2012: San Miguel County has expressed concerns with the use of the Deep Creek site. The access road and the actual put-in are on county land, not BLM. Beginning in 2012 BLM is requiring all commercial boating outfitters to use the Deep Creek site as an unloading area only. No parking is allowed at Deep Creek for commercial boating outfitters. Please be aware that there may be bikers/hikers/runners using the M59 trail that terminates at Deep Creek, and allow them unimpeded passage.

- 2) The take-out for Norwood Canyon at the Pinon Bridge is on private land. Boaters may legally take out along the BLM land on County Road BB26 upstream of the Pinon Bridge on river right or at either of the Ledges sites.
- 3) Commercial outfitters may not park in the boat ramps. Please use boat ramps for unloading and loading only. Please use good etiquette, and cooperate with each other and the public users to keep operations as smooth as possible. Companies are encouraged to coordinate launch and take-out times with other companies using the same river access sites. If overcrowding of sites becomes a chronic problem, the BLM will require companies to develop formal launch/take out schedules for all high-use access sites.

Day and Multi-Day Trip Regulations & Requirements

- 4) The maximum group size, including guides and clients, for 1/2, full day, and multi-day trips, and kayak instruction classes on the San Miguel River are:

½ Day Trips — 35 people (above Norwood Canyon)
Full Day Trips — 25 people (all river sections)
Multi-Day Trips — 16 people (camping within the ACEC) or 25 people (camping outside the ACEC)
Kayak Classes — 12 people (all river sections)

- 5) When the river at Placerville is running at or above 400 cfs, companies are authorized to launch a maximum of five (5) boats per ½ day, full day, or multi-day raft trip on the Upper, Middle, and Norwood Canyon Sections of the river. When flows are below 400 cfs, companies may launch up to seven (7) boats due to the need to run smaller boats and/or fewer clients per boat.
- 6) Each authorized outfitter may launch a maximum of one (1) half-day trip each morning, and one (1) half-day trip each afternoon.
- 7) Each authorized outfitter may launch a maximum of one (1) full-day or multi-day trip per day. Full-day or multi-day launches may not be used for half-day trips.
- 8) All boats that launch together for a ½ day, full day, or multi-day trip are required to travel together on the river and the group (or pod) may not join or be joined permanently by other commercial and/or private boats.
- 9) Separate commercial boating trips cannot join up to lunch or camp together on BLM land.
- 10) Landowner permission is required if using private lands.
- 11) All commercial companies that use the BLM River Access Sites at Deep Creek, Placerville, Caddis Flats, Specie, or Upper or Lower Beaver Creek are required to sign in their trips in the river registers provided. Only one sign-in per trip is required at any register. Multi-day trips should identify which designated camp(s) they intend to use on the register sheet.
- 12) Companies providing lunches for guests are required to use scree tarps to aid in packing out all micro-trash. In sections where campsites or lunch site have not been designated, companies should only stop for lunch on previously impacted sites, gravel bars, or other places with little or no vegetation.
- 13) All commercial camping use within the San Miguel SRMA/ACEC must be in designated campsites.

Note: The BLM has designated 6 campsites in Norwood for first-come, first-served use by both commercials and private users. Little Bench, Ponderosa, Blue Spruce, and Horsefly Camps are within the ACEC where the group size limit is 16 total people for camping.

- 14) All commercial overnight trips are required to have and use the following equipment to ensure maximum protection of camping areas: self-contained portable river toilet (reusable, washable systems only, no plastic bag systems), stoves and/or firepans (with charcoal) for cooking, dishwater strainers, and scree tarps for under food preparation areas.
- 15) Firewood collecting is prohibited within the ACEC area. Charcoal and/or stoves must be used for cooking. Companies are permitted to pack in firewood collected from outside the ACEC or use "Dura-logs" or similar type commercially purchased compressed firewood logs for campfires within the ACEC. All open fires must be in firepans.
- 16) All company rafts and vehicles must be clearly labeled with the business name or approved abbreviation. Letters should be at least 4 inches in height and 4 inches in width and visible from any angle at a distance of at least 150 feet. Boats requiring temporary marking will have a banner secured to the boat with the company name and covering any other company name.

- 17) **No more than 3 commercial trips can stage, rig, put on, or take out at a time at the lower Specie Creek boat launch area.** To avoid traffic congestion and allow private user access to the site, any other companies intending to launch must wait their turn, with their vehicles and equipment, up top at the Specie Creek Day Use Picnic area.
- 18) **No more than 2 commercial trips can stage, rig, put on, or take out at a time at the undeveloped river access sites** at Deep Creek or Placerville. To avoid traffic congestion and allow private user access to the sites, any other companies intending to launch in these areas must wait their turn, with their vehicles and equipment, safely out of the main traffic flow into those areas.
- 19) **No more than 3 commercial trips can stage, rig, put on, or take out at a time at the Upper Beaver Creek Day Use Site.** To avoid traffic congestion and allow private user access to the sites, any other companies intending to launch or pick up customers and equipment at the site should use Lower Beaver as an alternate launch/take-out site. It's recommended that trip leaders talk to each other at the put-in, and decide who will use Upper or Lower Beaver for the take-out. Any companies needing to use Upper Beaver when 2 commercial trips are already there must wait their turn, with their vehicles and equipment, safely out of the main traffic flow into the area.
- 20) Companies permitted to camp above Norwood Canyon may camp at Lower Beaver Rec Site. Outfitters may request permission from BLM on a trip by trip basis to camp at Caddis Flats. Expect that during special events, holiday weekends and Telluride festivals permission will not be granted.
- 21) **The maximum number of people (including guides, clients, and non-river staff) in an approved campsite may not exceed 16 people in the ACEC, or 25 outside the ACEC.**
- 22) Commercial kayaking classes using just the Ledges Section for multiple launches in the same day are limited to 12 people per launch. Class sizes with over 12 people in the Ledges Section may be approved by BLM under certain conditions (weekdays, early mornings, etc.).
- 23) Commercial kayakers must yield to private and commercial raft parties that float through their training areas. This includes moving out of surf holes temporarily so that the other users may float through them.