

Lower Dolores River Information Sheet (Gateway, CO to Dewey Bridge, UT)

www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/moab/recreation/River_Recreation/doloresriver.html

General Info

Starting just upstream of the Dolores River Bridge in Gateway, Colorado, the lower stretch of the Dolores River offers technical rapids, stunning scenery, side-canyon hiking, and few crowds. The takeout is 32 miles downstream on the Colorado River at Dewey Bridge Campground (located on Hwy 128 in Utah). Including the shuttle, this trip generally takes at least two days.

Permits Required

Permits are required for all private, non-commercial use of the Lower Dolores. There is no fee. To obtain a permit, call the BLM's Moab Field Office at 435-259-7012, 8 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. The permit must be signed by the trip leader and carried while on the river. The permit should be left in the fee tube at the Dewey Bridge Campground at the end of the trip.

River Flow

The Lower Dolores has a very short, erratic (and often non-existent) boating season. Flows typically peak between late April and early May. River flow information is available by phone from the Bureau of Reclamation at (800) 276-4828 or online through the U.S. Geological Survey at waterdata.usgs.gov/ut/nwis/current/?type=flow. Flow predictions are available by calling the Dolores Water Conservancy District at (970) 565-7562. Suggested minimum flows are: 200 CFS for canoes, kayaks, and ducky's; 800 CFS for rafts under 14 feet; and 1,000 CFS for rafts larger than 14feet.

If You Go

The most challenging rapid is Stateline (class IV), which begins at the Colorado-Utah border. This mile-long rock garden requires scouting (from river right) and quick maneuvering at all water levels. A mistake made in this rapid can result in dire consequences.

Bring all drinking water as the Dolores River and its tributaries are unfit for consumption. Plan accordingly for cold weather/water conditions to prevent hypothermia. Land ownership on the Lower Dolores is mixed; respect the rights of private landowners.

The *Dolores River Guide* is available through Canyonlands Natural History Association (CNHA) by calling (800) 840-8978 or at www.cnha.org.

Commercial Outfitters

A number of commercial rafting companies are permitted through the BLM's Moab Field Office to conduct river tours on the Lower Dolores. See the BLM's web site for a list of authorized outfitters.

For information on the Dolores River in Colorado, contact:

Bradfield Bridge to Slickrock & Slickrock to Bedrock Sections

BLM/ Dolores Field Office
(970) 882-7296
www.co.blm.gov/sjra/sjdolores.htm

Bedrock to Gateway Section

BLM/ Uncompahgre Field Office
(970) 240-5300
www.co.blm.gov/ubra/ufo-dolores.htm