

Remember Where To Go in December!

Starting in December 2009, the Forest Service will allocate all of its 4 Rivers float reservations, including its float-permit lottery, for the 2010 season, entirely online for the Selway, Snake River Hells Canyon, Middle Fork of the Salmon, and wild section Salmon Rivers.

The new system replaces a paper-based lottery that was slow to respond to permit applications and prone to mistakes.



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The 4 Rivers Lottery and Reservation System

The National Recreation Reservation Service

www.recreation.gov

Middle Fork Salmon River

Selway River

Snake River Hells Canyon

Wild Section Salmon River

USDA Forest Service

Caring for the Land and Serving People



What is Changing with the 4 Rivers?

If you want to obtain a permit to float the wild section of the Salmon, Middle Fork of the Salmon, Hells Canyon Snake, or Selway rivers in 2010, you need to know about changes coming to the Forest Service permit lottery and launch reservation system. The Lottery is going “green”, incorporating an entirely online system as part of our desire to go paperless.

From December 1 to January 31, the Forest Service will conduct its usual lottery for floating the four rivers, but with some changes and at a new website.

Applications will now only be accepted online. You must have your own email address to register online. In the past, you could enter applications for several people at one time. Because the new system will be used for processing cancellations (and payments on the Middle Fork and wild section of the Salmon Rivers), each applicant must be registered under a unique email address with a password in order to access their profile.

Timeframes

The lottery occurs each year from December 1 to January 31. Those dates won't change.

Lottery Systems Change

In the new system, each river will have its own lottery; the four rivers will no longer be combined in one drawing. With the old system, applicants had a very small chance of drawing on more than one river, especially the Selway and Middle Fork. The old system considered everyone's first choice of launch date before going to anyone's second choice.

The new system allows applicants to list up to four dates on each of the four rivers. Each choice will be considered before going to the next application. However, you must apply for each river separately and each will have an application fee of \$6. Applicants can only submit one application per river.

Reservations Outside the Lottery

In addition to moving the permit lottery to an entirely online process, these four rivers will use this new system to allocate all of their reservations, including the re-issuing cancellations. The Middle Fork and wild section Salmon Rivers will also use this online system to assign pre- or post-season reservations which occur outside their control season. This new system will also be used to process the payment of recreation fees for the Middle Fork and the wild section Salmon Rivers.

Enhancements

- Each river will have its own lottery. You will be able to apply for four launch date choices on each river.
- You will be able to check the results of your application(s) much sooner. Results will quickly be posted online; no more waiting for letters or emails.
- Your application information will be more secure and private.
- You can look for available launches online anytime of the day or night.
- We'll also post safety alerts on the latest river conditions on the recreation.gov website.

