

HCNRA Conditions of Use

Permits are required year-round for all power and float boat launches and drop camps on the Snake River within Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. The trip leader must have this permit in possession and display it upon request by a Forest Service Officer.

Possessing or operating power and float boats in violation of applicable state and federal laws and regulations is prohibited.

Primary Season: The first Friday before Memorial Day through September 10.

Secondary Season: September 11 through the Thursday before Memorial Day

Regulations:

- **Reserved trips must be initiated on the permitted start date.** The permit must be signed, dated, and placed in a permit box or given to a Launch Officer on the date of the reservation.
- **Maximum party size is 24 people.**
- **A NO SHOW** is when a Primary Season reservation is not used and not canceled. To avoid a NO SHOW, notice of cancellation must be received a minimum of seven days from the permitted start date.
- **All solid human waste (fecal matter) must be carried out using a dedicated toilet system** that is reusable, washable, and watertight. You will be asked to show your toilet system before initiating your boat trip.
- **Each person on a power or float boat must have a personal flotation device (PFD).** Children 12 years or younger must always wear a PFD while a power or float boat is underway. You will be asked to show one PFD for each passenger.
- **Use of wood for campfires is prohibited from June 1 –September 30.**
 - Do not cut or gather firewood within a ¼ mile of the river, year-round.
 - A fire pan is required to contain camp and/or cooking fires and ashes.
 - All ashes and other fire residue must be packed out.
- **All garbage, including micro trash, must be packed out.** Do not use soap, detergent, or other pollutant in the river. Strain dishwater and dispose of it 100 feet from the outer edge of camp.
- **Navigation of a non-valid power or float boat is prohibited,** including jet skis, powerboats less than 12 feet in length, and float craft not maneuvered by oar, paddle, or sweep.
- **Launching of float boats from powerboats is prohibited** year-round in the Wild Section, and on Friday/Saturday/Sunday/Holidays in the Lower Section between Cache Creek and Upper Pittsburg Landing.
- **Equipment left unattended for more than 24 hours without permission from a Forest Service Officer is not authorized.**
- **Obey no-wake zones** within 200 feet of administrative sites: Hells Canyon Creek Launch, Kirkwood, Pittsburg Landing, Copper Creek, Dug Bar, and Cache Creek.

- **A Special Use Authorization is required for all commercial activity.**

Float Boats

- **Limit of eight float craft per float party.**
- **Reservation identification tags** must be attached to the bow and displayed by each float boat during the Primary Season.
- **Operating a kicker motor in the Wild Section (Hells Canyon Creek Launch to Upper Pittsburg Landing) is prohibited,** except in case of emergency. Use of a kicker in the Scenic Section requires a valid boat registration number.

Powerboaters

- **For the duration of the permit, powerboaters may pull their boat out of the water at Hells Canyon Creek Launch to camp at Eagle Bar, or Pittsburg Landing to camp within HCNRA boundaries.**
- **Same Day Passes are available** at Cache Creek to temporarily leave the Scenic Section and return on the same day.
- **Use of fuel absorption material** is required during an on-river fueling operation.
- **Wild Section Non-Motorized Period:** Operating a powerboat is prohibited in the Wild Section between the top of Wild Sheep Rapids and Kirkwood Upper Landing during the nonmotorized period. Non-motorized periods are Monday – Wednesday beginning the first Monday in June and continuing every other week through the end of the Primary season. If the July 4th holiday falls on a non-motorized period day, that non-motorized period will be the following week and every other week thereafter.

Hunters and Anglers

- **While afloat, both ID and OR fishing licenses are valid.** Each respective state license is required when off the water and on that state's side. Fish and Game Regulations may vary between states.
- **Discharging a firearm or other instruments capable of causing death or injury is prohibited within 150 yards of an occupied area,** or in any manner or place where persons or property could be injured or damaged.

Camping

Primary Season:

- **Wild Section (Hells Canyon Creek launch to Upper Pittsburg Landing):** Max of three days and two nights per campsite. **Camping at Upper Granite, Lower Granite, or Oregon Hole is limited to one night per trip.**
- **Lower Section (Upper Pittsburg Landing to Cache Creek):** Max of four days and three nights per campsite.
- **Each party may occupy no more than one campsite per night.**

Secondary Season:

- **Stay length of up to 14 days within the permitted boundaries.**

For more information about the HCNRA and Snake River boat requirements please contact the Snake River Administrative office in Clarkston, WA at 509-758-0616.