



John Day River float permits move to Recreation.gov



Beginning in 2020, permits to float the John Day Wild and Scenic River from May 1-July 15 will be available on Recreation.gov. The John Day is one of a list of rivers with a “limited entry” system, including the Rogue and Lower Deschutes rivers, which regulate the number of people allowed to launch each day.

There will be two releases of the limited permits on the [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) website. The first block of limited permits will be released on **March 4, 2020 at 7 AM**. The second block of permits will be released on **May 1, 2020 at 7 AM**. The cost of an overnight permit is \$20 per group of up to 16 people (plus a \$6 transaction fee). Day trips are \$10 per group and also have the transaction fee. Permit fees are non-refundable. A permit is not required at Cottonwood Canyon State Park to float 1/4 mile between J.S. Burres (Cottonwood Bridge) and Lone Tree Campground. For day trips taking place completely within the Priest Hole Recreation site (1 mile), a free, self-issue permit is available on site.

The following numbers of overnight permits are available for trips launching from:

- Muleshoe or Service Creek—9 permits each day
- Clarno—5 permits each day
- Thirtymile—5 permits each day
- Twickenham, Priest Hole or Lower Burnt Ranch—10 total permits each day (all 3 areas combined)
- J.S. Burres/Cottonwood Bridge—4 permits each day
- Starvation Lane or Rock Ck./McDonald—2 permits each day



Day use permits are also available and have their own limits.

The permit system, intended to reduce crowding in a canyon that has limited campsites, was approved through a public process in 2010. In 2013, The BLM learned that our computer program couldn’t handle the load of multiple boaters calling in at the same time to get a permit. Implementation of the limits was put on hold until an adequate system could be arranged.

Previously, on peak weekends, some people floating the river were unable to find a campsite and ended up floating through the night. Recently, users have also called to report a sense of “crowding.” Limited entry will help protect the John Day River Wild & Scenic River values, support the primitive experience boaters are looking for, and maintain a sense of solitude for river users.



How to get a permit for the John Day Wild and Scenic River

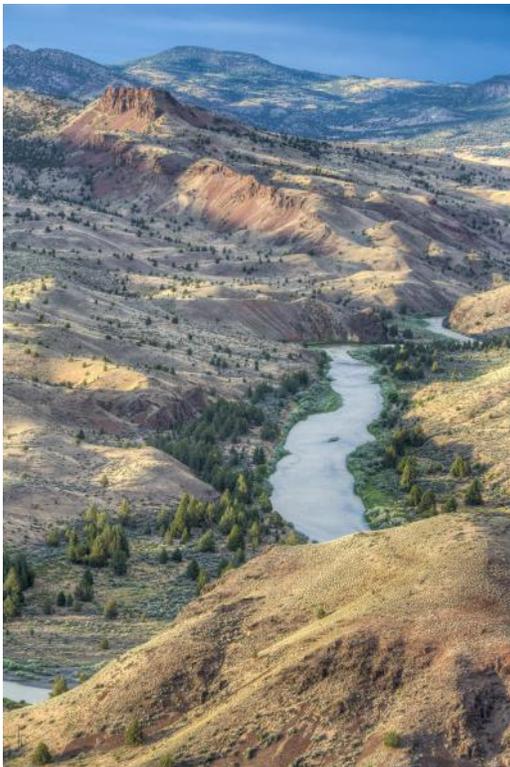


What can you do right now?

To get ready for the March 4th permit release, it's a good idea to sign-in to your account on www.recreation.gov and change your password if needed, or create a Recreation.gov account if you don't already have one. This way you'll save time the day online permits become available.

To avoid the crowds and increase your chances of getting a permit, try these launch suggestions:

- Service Creek or Twickenham – Avoid Friday launches between May 15 and July 3, and Saturday launches on Memorial Day and Father's Day weekends.
 - Thirtymile – Avoid Thursday and Friday launches between May 14 and July 3, and Saturday launches on Memorial Day and Father's Day weekends.
 - Clarno – Launch on a Tuesday or Saturday, which are the least busy launch days.



Please note: No cost permits are still required for segments and dates that are not limited, and are available online at blm.gov/or/permit along with more information about the John Day Wild and Scenic River.

To receive BLM email updates about the John Day River, you can create an account at blm.gov/or/permit if you don't already have one. For more information, please contact the Prineville BLM at (541)416-6700.