

Salmon River Road Update – June 5, 2003

This information sheet provides updates on river operations affected by the washout of the Salmon River Road at Kitchen and Fountain Creeks. The road was closed to motorized vehicles on May 30th after the Salmon River began undercutting the road. Because the Corn Creek check station is located below this temporary closure, many river permitting operations have been relocated. Please read the following update for information on changed operations and refer to the attached map. It's also important to take time to check for the most current information prior to your trip, as updates may occur. For current information or any questions please contact the North Fork Ranger District at (208) 865-2700 or check the Salmon-Challis Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc.

MAIN SALMON FLOAT BOATERS

You are encouraged to stop at the North Fork Ranger Station to check for updated information, as well as to pay fee demo fees. North Fork Ranger Station is located near the junction of Highway 93 and the Salmon River Road. The office is open Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.



Permits: *Cove Creek* is currently the primary visitor station for issuing Main Salmon River float trips permits. If you have a Main Salmon River trip below Corn Creek, you must stop at this location. The station is 29 miles down river from North Fork; directional signs are posted. Here you will be issued a permit; required equipment will be checked; fee demo fees will be collected (if they have not been paid in advance or at the North Fork Ranger Station); and a put-in talk will be provided. All boats, equipment and float party members must be present at the time the permit is issued. Permits will be issued up to 2 days in advance of your launch date to provide adequate time to float down to Corn Creek for departure on your reserved launch date. You may not float below Corn Creek prior to your reserved launch date.

If you are boating the Middle Fork and then the Main Salmon, please obtain your Main Salmon River permit at the *Corn Creek* check station. Restocking between trips should happen at *Stoddard* where there is road access.

Campsite Reservations: The campsite reservation program for the Main Salmon will continue to be administered from *Corn Creek*. To compete for sites you must be present at Corn Creek. You may select sites from 3:00 pm the day before your launch until 11:00 am the day of your launch. Checkers will then allocate sites at 11:30 am.

Launch Sites: Once you are finished at Cove Creek, you can launch from anywhere downriver. The following established launch sites are recommended:

Launch Site	Miles from Corn Creek	River Access
Cove Creek	17.6	Ramp
Owl Creek	16.7	Grassy Beach
Poverty Flat	14.2	Grassy Beach
Cache Bar*	4.8	Ramp

Cache Bar is open for rigging and launching for Salmon River permittees only from 4:00 pm to sunset and sunrise to 10:00 am daily. This is a very high use area; long delays and congestion can be expected. No camping is allowed.

Plan your trip to include additional time for floating from the alternate launch locations. For example, if your official launch date is July 4th, you might consider camping at Cove Creek the evening of July 2nd. Early on July 3rd you would obtain your permit and then float down to Corn Creek to camp on the evening of the 3rd. On July 4th you would then begin your journey. If you don't have the extra day or two to float from Cove Creek, consider picking up your permit at Cove Creek, launching from Cache Bar the evening before your launch date, then float to Corn Creek that evening and camp.



Camping: Camping areas are available along the river road. Please do not camp on private property. Some suggested camping areas are:

- ✓ **Cove Creek:** Undeveloped camping, no water, nice shaded areas near the river, ramped access to river, vault toilet, plenty of parking.
- ✓ **Poverty Flat:** Undeveloped camping, no water, some shaded areas near river, grass-sand access to river, no toilet facilities, plenty of parking.
- ✓ **Ebenezer:** Developed campground with water, \$5 fee per site, difficult access to river, vault toilet, parking in lower gated site.
- ✓ **Corn Creek:** Access by river only (no road access), campground with water, \$5 fee per site, easy access to river, vault toilet.

Parking And Shuttles: If you launch at Cache Bar, you must shuttle all vehicles to your take out or to a location designated by Forest Service launch site personnel. Be aware these designated parking locations may be up to 15 miles away. If you launch at Cove Creek, Owl Creek or Poverty Flat, you may leave your vehicles there to be picked up at a later date. Remember that there may be delays at Cache Bar and that there is no available parking or camping for Salmon River permittees at this location.



Jet Backs: If you launch at Cache Bar and plan to return by jet boat, you should plan on parking in designated locations near Cache Bar defined by the Forest Service.



Middle Fork Float Boaters

To reduce conflicts and congestion, Middle Fork permittees must take-out at Cache Bar only between **10:00 am and 4:00pm**. Plan your trip and take outs accordingly. Middle Fork permittees can continue to park vehicles at Cache Bar. The Stoddard site at the confluence with the Salmon River can be used as an alternate take out to Cache Bar. Middle Fork permittees are encouraged to continue to use this site, but be aware that rafts and gear must be carried up the ramp because there is no vehicle use on the ramp.

For both Cache Bar and Stoddard, please ensure that vehicles and trailers are parked as far off the roadway as possible. Do not block restroom, derigging slab or stock hitch rails. Stoddard is also used for stock and hiker access. Forest Service will be on duty to ensure that vehicles are parked in an efficient manner.

DAY USE FLOAT BOATERS

Day use float boaters are encouraged to plan on taking out at sites above Stoddard to avoid potential congestion at Stoddard and Cache Bar. If Stoddard is used, please park vehicles so traffic flow is not restricted.



JET BOAT OPERATIONS

Cache Bar ramp is the primary jet boat launch site. Equipment, passengers and supplies can be transferred at Cache Bar ramp, at the sandy beach below Cache Bar, or at Stoddard. Vehicles, trailers and equipment should be parked at Stoddard. Please assure traffic flow is not restricted. Refueling can be completed with mobile vehicles at either Cache Bar or Stoddard. Fueling vehicles must have spill containment material available, follow state and federal standards and cannot remain parked near the river.

STOCK USE

Equestrian access is allowed below the road closure at Cache Bar (there's an opening large enough to pass stock through). Use caution on the Salmon River Road and keep well back from the eroding road edge. Vehicles and trailers should be parked at Stoddard Trailhead so they do not restrict traffic flow.



HIKERS

Currently pedestrian access is allowed through the road closure. Please stay well away from the eroding edge. Parking is permitted near Cache Bar.

