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United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
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For Immediate Release: November 23, 2009

New Online Reservations for Four Idaho Rivers Start December 1

The Four Rivers Lottery will begin accepting electronic applications and fee payments on-line December 1, 2009 for the 2010 lottery. The Four Rivers Lottery manages the permit application process for four premier Idaho rivers; the Middle Fork of the Salmon, the Selway, the Snake, and the wild section of the Salmon. Permits are required to float these four rivers during the high-use seasons. A lottery drawing is used to allocate these highly-coveted whitewater float permits.

From December 1, 2009, to January 31, 2010, the Forest Service will conduct its usual lottery for floating the four rivers, but with some changes and at a different website. Applicants will now apply online at www.recreation.gov. This will require each applicant to have their own email address to create a profile online.

In the past, you could enter applications for several people at one time. Because the new system will also be used for processing cancellations (and payments on the Middle Fork and wild main Salmon Rivers), each applicant will need to be registered under a unique email address with a password to access their profile.

Officials feel this will save time, paper, and money, and make the lottery run faster.

There's another plus: before, a potential river floater could file only one application with four possible launch dates spread across all four rivers. With the 2010 season, applicants can file as many as four applications, one for each river, and list four possible launch dates on each application. Each river will have a separate lottery to assign their launch reservations; they will no longer be combined into one drawing system.

Applications can be filed online any time of the day or night. And the price, \$6 per application, is the same as previous years.

The online system will also be used to accept cancellations and reissue them as new reservations for the four rivers. This system will also be the place for boaters to make their reservations for pre/post season

launches for the Middle Fork and wild main Salmon Rivers, as well as to pay their recreation fees for these two rivers.

The Forest Service lottery for 2010 permits opens December 1, 2009 at 8:00 am Mountain time at www.recreation.gov. Reservations for the pre/post season launches for the Middle Fork and wild main Salmon Rivers will also be accepted beginning December 1, *for this year only. Once the system is up and running the pre/post season reservation start date will revert to the usual October 1 date.*

For more information go to www.fs.fed.us/r4/sc/recreation/4rivers/index.shtml or call one of the Forest Service offices for the four rivers. *To learn more about the reservation system and to create your unique profile visit www.recreation.gov.*