

2011  
WILD AND SCENIC  
SNAKE RIVER  
ANNUAL VISITOR USE REPORT



HELLS CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA  
USDA FOREST SERVICE



# Introduction

This report contains float and powerboat recreational use data for the Wild and Scenic Snake River, which is located within the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. This 71.5 mile segment of the Snake River is managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Both commercial and private recreational use data is included. This data is intended to provide information, which reflects general trends in overall use patterns rather than an exact count of yearly users of the Snake River. Private and commercial floaters that launch from Hells Canyon Creek Recreation Site during the managed use season and all private and commercial power boaters must meet special requirements for access. As a result, use figures shown for these recreational user groups represent the most accurate figures for determining overall use trends on the Snake River.

Private float and powerboat use data is collected from permits issued during the primary season, the Friday preceding Memorial Day through September 10<sup>th</sup> and self-issue permits during the remainder of the year. River permits are available at the following HCNRA portals: Cache Creek on the northern boundary, Dug Bar, Pittsburg Landing and Hells Canyon Creek Recreation Site. The data gathered from these permits is used to compile the total number of private visitors and service days spent on the river during the primary season.

All commercial powerboaters and floatboaters must have a valid Forest Service Special Use Permit to charge fees on the Wild and Scenic Snake River. They are required to report the total number of guests transported and total number of service days spent on the river. Information obtained from manifests and actual use reports is used to compile the commercial use data.

## Definitions

**Private** - A non-commercial trip is a trip for which there is no payment, collection, receipt, or request for consideration. Non-profit status of any group or organization does not in itself determine whether a trip or trips arranged by such group or organization is non-commercial.

**Commercial** – Commercial outfitting and guiding is defined as all activities where someone makes a profit, receives a reimbursement or salary, receives rental for the use of animals or equipment, or supports, in any part, other programs or activities from amounts received from customers of the permitted activities.

**Service-Day** – One day spent by one person on the river; a person spending two days on the river would equal two service-days.

**Primary Season** – The period when private users are required to obtain a reservation and river permit prior to floating or boating the river – from the Friday preceding Memorial Day through September 10.

**Floatboat** – To travel by floatboat is to move primarily downstream with the river current. Craft used include rafts, kayaks, canoes, and dories. They may be propelled by paddles, oars, motors (no longer allowed in the wild river) or other devices, but are not generally capable of upstream travel.

**Powerboat** – To travel by powerboat on the river is to use motorized craft capable of upstream travel through major rapids.

*2011 Primary Season ~ May 27<sup>th</sup> through September 10<sup>th</sup>*

## **COMMERCIAL POWERBOAT USE - JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER 2011**

COMMERCIAL OUTFITTERS	PASSENGERS	SERVICE DAYS
BENTZ, Rusty – Bentz River Explorations	152	293
BONSON, Bill and CASSELL, Gabe - Snake Dancer Excursions	1,532	1329
FRIEND, Richard - River Adventures, LTD.	278	278
GUIER, Gabe - Fish Unlimited	5	5
KILLGORE, Kurt - Killgore Adv., LLC	1442	1442
KILLGORE, Kurt - Killgore Adv.,LLC II	286	286
KING, Bruce – Kingfisher river trips, INC	44	63
KOCH, Jim and Jill dba Heller Bar Excursions, Idaho Rivers Navigation, Rivers Navigation	4,258	4,532
LAMM, Alan - Mainstream Outdoor Adventures, Inc.	164	167
LUTHER, Mike - Snake River Adventures	2,492	4,003
ODEGAARD, Butch and Debi - River Quest Excursions	1,916	2,076
SCHULTZ, Jason - Hells Canyon Sport Fishing	564	841
TAYLOR, Reed - Two River Tours, Inc.	71	128
VOGEL, Don - Vogel Outdoor Adventures	170	435
YATES, Mark - Hells Canyon Adv. III, LLC	3560	3,560
SMITH, Mike - Z & S Outfitters, Inc	256	616
<b>2011</b>	<b>17,199</b>	<b>18,796</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>21,385</b>	<b>22,790</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>19,964</b>	<b>22,322</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>30,147</b>	<b>34,213</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>38,235</b>	<b>40,632</b>





**COMMERCIAL POWERBOAT USE - PRIMARY SEASON 2011**

COMMERCIAL OUTFITTERS	PASSENGERS	SERVICE DAYS
BENTZ, Rusty – Salmon River Explorations	33	49
BONSON, Bill and CASSELL, Gabe - Snake Dancer Excursions	1260	1,272
FRIEND, Richard - River Adventures, LTD.	252	252
GUIER, Gabe – Fish Unlimited	0	0
KING, Bruce – Kingfisher River Trips, INC.	0	0
KILLGORE, Kurt - Killgore Adventures, LLC	995	995
KILLGORE, Kurt - Killgore Adventures, LLC II	286	299
KOCH, Jim and Jill dba Heller Bar Excursions, Idaho Navigation, Rivers Navigation	3,073	3304
LAMM, Alan - Mainstream Outdoor Adventures, Inc.	158	161
LUTHER, Mike - Snake River Adventures	1,534	1,534
ODEGAARD, Butch and Debi - River Quest Excursions	1,399	1,479
SCHULTZ, Jason - Hells Canyon Sport Fishing	12	24
TAYLOR, Reed - Two River Tours, Inc.	45	83
VOGEL, Don - Vogel Outdoor Adventures	66	233
YATES, Mark - Hells Canyon Adventures III, LLC	2,815	2,815
SMITH, Mike - Z & S Outfitters, Inc	13	35
<b>2011</b>	<b>11,941</b>	<b>12,535</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>15,081</b>	<b>15,506</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>15,097</b>	<b>15,384</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>20,535</b>	<b>21,267</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>23,528</b>	<b>24,246</b>

## **COMMERCIAL FLOAT USE - JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER 2011**

COMMERCIAL OUTFITTERS	TRIPS	PASSENGERS	SERVICE DAYS
ARENTSEN, Paul - Winding Waters Rafting	11	102	510
ARMACOST, Kurt - Hells Canyon Raft, Inc.	29	245	972
BAUGH, JESS –Mountain River Outfitters, LLC.	11	93	344
BOYD, Chuck – Salmon River Experience	11	41	88
COLBERT, Dave – Idaho Afloat	2	4	12
GRUBB, Peter - River Odysseys West (ROW)	13	166	864
HAUPTMAN, George - Canyon Outfitters, Inc.	6	88	352
HUGHES, Jerry - Hughes River Expeditions, Inc.	19	220	978
NACHMAN, Andy - Northwest Voyageurs	1	14	70
WARREN, Jacob - North Star River Expeditions, Inc.	10	62	202
WENDT, George (Curt Chang) - OARS-DORIES, Inc.	13	166	815
ZOLLER, Mark ~ Zollers Outdoor Odysseys, Inc.	9	65	205
<b>2011</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>1,266</b>	<b>5,412</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>1,451</b>	<b>5,949</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>1,524</b>	<b>5,191</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>2,097</b>	<b>6,710</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>2,130</b>	<b>5,750</b>





### **COMMERCIAL FLOAT USE - PRIMARY SEASON 2011**

COMMERCIAL OUTFITTERS	TRIPS	PASSENGERS	SERVICE DAYS
ARENTSEN, Paul - Winding Waters Rafting	10	97	485
ARMACOST, Kurt - Hells Canyon Raft, Inc.	26	233	924
BAUGH, Jess – Mountain River Outfitters, LLC.	11	93	344
BOYD, Chuck – Salmon River Experience	11	41	88
COLBERT, Dave – Idaho Afloat	2	4	12
GRUBB, Peter - River Odysseys West (ROW)	13	166	861
HAUPTMAN, George - Canyon Outfitters, Inc.	5	63	252
HUGHES, Jerry - Hughes River Expeditions, Inc.	17	196	767
NACHMAN, Andy - Northwest Voyageurs	0	0	70
WARREN, Jacob - North Star River Expeditions, Inc.	9	87	261
WENDT, George (Curt Chang) – Oars and Dories, Inc.	12	162	795
ZOLLER, Mark - Zoller's Outdoor Odyssey's Inc.	9	64	220

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>1,206</b>	<b>5,079</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>2,041</b>	<b>8,975</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>2,170</b>	<b>9,148</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>2,106</b>	<b>9,012</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>1,934</b>	<b>7,491</b>

# **POWERBOAT RESERVATION S 2011**

## **TOTAL RESERVATIONS**

**WILD: 428**

**SCENIC: 587**

**SALMON: 87**

**TOTAL POWER RESERVATIONS: 1,102**  
**TOTAL POWER CANCELATIONS: 309**  
**TOTAL RESERVATIONS THROUGH WAITING LIST: 98**  
**TOTAL NO-SHOWS: 17**



**PRIVATE POWERBOAT USE - PRIMARY SEASON 2011**

<b>LAUNCH LOCATION</b>	<b>TRIPS</b>	<b>PEOPLE</b>	<b>SERVICE DAYS</b>
CACHE CREEK	965	4,140	8,653
DUG BAR	3	12	52
PITTSBURG LANDING	239	1,096	3,464
HELLS CANYON CREEK	28	104	169
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>5,352</b>	<b>12,338</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>1,431</b>	<b>6,181</b>	<b>19,624</b>

**PRIVATE POWERBOAT USE - SECONDARY SEASON 2011**

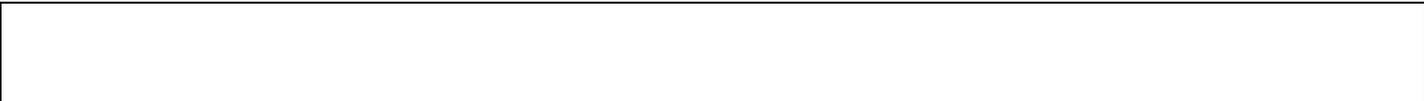
<b>LAUNCH LOCATION</b>	<b>TRIPS</b>	<b>PEOPLE</b>	<b>SERVICE DAYS</b>
CACHE CREEK	1,067	4,088	6,317
DUG BAR	8	31	34
PITTSBURG LANDING	292	1,126	3,170
HELLS CANYON CREEK	225	795	1,692
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,592</b>	<b>6,040</b>	<b>11,213</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,173</b>	<b>8,194</b>	<b>21,953</b>

**TOTAL PRIVATE POWERBOAT TRIPS = 2,302 (2010: 3,787)**

**TOTAL POWERBOAT PASSENGERS = 11,392**

**TOTAL POWERBOAT SERVICE DAYS = 41,577**





**PERCENT BY DESTINATION --- COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATE FLOAT --- PRIMARY SEASON 2011**

BY PERCENTAGE

<b>PITTSBURG LANDING</b>	62.6
<b>JETBOAT BACK TO DAM</b>	.8
<b>DUG BAR</b>	0
<b>HELLER BAR</b>	36.6

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TOTAL 100

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**PERCENT BY DESTINATION -- COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATE FLOAT -- SECONDARY SEASON 2011**

BY PERCENTAGE

<b>PITTSBURG LANDING</b>	78.9
<b>JETBOAT BACK TO DAM</b>	5.3
<b>DUG BAR</b>	1.1
<b>HELLER BAR</b>	8.4

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TOTAL 100

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**PRIVATE FLOAT USE - PRIMARY SEASON 2011**

<b>LAUNCH LOCATION</b>	<b>TRIPS</b>	<b>PASSENGERS</b>	<b>SERVICE DAYS</b>
HELLS CANYON CREEK	174	1697	7167
PITTSBURG	22	122	326
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>2,015</b>	<b>9,508</b>

**PRIVATE FLOAT USE - SECONDARY SEASON 2011**

<b>LAUNCH LOCATION</b>	<b>TRIPS</b>	<b>PASSENGERS</b>	<b>SERVICE DAYS</b>
HELLS CANYON CREEK	174	694	2583
PITTSBURG	10	62	206
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>2,789</b>

**TOTAL PRIVATE FLOAT TRIPS = 380**

**TOTAL FLOAT PASSENGERS = 2,955**

**TOTAL SERVICE DAYS = 12,297**



**FLOAT CRAFT FROM HELLS CANYON CREEK PRIMARY SEASON 2011**

COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATE  
TOTAL

RAFT	987
KAYAK	52
DORY / DRIFT	16
INFLATABLE KAYAK	270
CANOE	2
<b>TOTAL CRAFT</b>	<b>1,327</b>



**RIVER USE BY USER GROUP - PRIMARY  
SEASON 2011**

USER GROUP	PEOPLE	SERVICE DAYS
Commercial Powerboat Passengers	11,941	12,535
Private Powerboaters	5,352	12,338
<b>2011</b>	<b>17,293</b>	<b>24,873</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>21,275</b>	<b>35,156</b>
Commercial Float Passengers	1,206	5,079
Private Floaters	2,015	9,508
<b>2011</b>	<b>3,221</b>	<b>14,587</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>3,379</b>	<b>14,362</b>
<b>TOTAL PEOPLE</b>	<b>20,514</b>	<b>SERVICE DAYS 39,460</b>

**Primary Season 2010 = 24,654 ~ Service Days = 49,518**

**Primary Season 2009 = 25,954 ~ Service Days = 44,964**

**RIVER USE BY USER GROUP**  
**January -December - 2011**

USER GROUP	PEOPLE	SERVICE DAYS
Commercial Powerboat (2010)	17,199 21,385	18,796 21,322
Private Powerboaters (2010)	11,392 14,383	41,577 41,603
Commercial Float (2010)	1,266 1,415	5,412 5,949
Private Floaters (2009)	2,955 3,182	12,297 12,937
<b>TOTAL RIVER USE (2011)</b>	<b>32,812</b>	<b>78,082</b>
<b><i>TOTAL RIVER USE (2010)</i></b>	<b><i>40,365</i></b>	<b><i>83,279</i></b>



*Visitors(including private jet boats and passengers) stopping at  
CACHE CREEK ADMINISTRATIVE SITE 2011*

JANUARY	73
FEBRUARY	109
MARCH	180
APRIL	430
MAY	755
JUNE	1254
JULY	3,257
AUGUST	2,877
SEPTEMBER	859
OCTOBER	807
NOVEMBER	321
DECEMBER	151
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	<b><i>11,073</i></b>





<b><i>VISITORS TO KIRKWOOD 2011</i></b>
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JANUARY	52
FEBRUARY	45
MARCH	421
APRIL	580
MAY	1,215
JUNE	1,908
JULY	2,403
AUGUST	2,191
SEPTEMBER	1,992
OCTOBER	496
NOVEMBER	89
DECEMBER	42
<b><i>TOTAL</i></b>	<b><i>11,434</i></b>

**VISITORS TO HELLS CANYON CREEK RECREATION SITE -  
PRIMARY SEASON 2011**

COMMERCIAL POWERBOAT PASSENGERS AND GUIDES	3009
COMMERCIAL FLOAT PASSENGERS AND GUIDES	1731
PRIVATE POWERBOAT PASSENGERS	106
PRIVATE FLOAT PASSENGERS	1667
DRIVE IN VISITORS	9996
FISHING	305
OTHER ** HIKE	381
OTHER ** DOWNRIVER VISITORS	2158
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2011 19,353</b>

**Visitor Use at Hells Canyon Creek Launch Primary Season 2011**





(Getta Creek in Hells Canyon 1937)

**HELLS CANYON**  
**NATIONAL RECREATION AREA**  
PO Box 699  
Clarkston, WA 99403  
*General information line:*  
509.758.0616

*Powerboat Reservation line*  
509.758.0270

*Float Reservations*  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)