

2014  
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 all permits year round for this annual report.

- **THE PRIMARY SEASON** extends from the Friday preceding Memorial Day through September 10<sup>th</sup> each year. Permits are required year round however, **reservations are only required during the primary season** and can **ONLY** be reserved by going to [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) or by calling 877-550-6777.
- **THE SECONDARY SEASON** extends from September 11<sup>th</sup> through the Thursday before Memorial Day the following year. Self-issue permits are accepted during the Secondary season as well as Monday –Thursday in the Scenic section during the Primary season. Permits are available at Cache Creek, Pittsburg Landing, Dug Bar and Hells Canyon Creek Launch.

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 and secondary 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 float boat 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.

*2014 Primary Season ~ May 23<sup>rd</sup> through September 10<sup>th</sup>*

## COMMERCIAL POWERBOAT USE - JANUARY ~ DECEMBER 2014

OUTFITTERS	PASSENGERS	SERVICE DAYS
BENTZ, Rusty – Bentz River Explorations	210	399
BONSON, Bill and CASSELL, Gabe - Snake Dancer Excursions	1,530	1673
DAYTON, Brett – Dayton Adventures	73	168
FRIEND, Richard - River Adventures, LTD.	468	500
KILLGORE, Kurt - Killgore Adv., LLC	1967	1,967
KILLGORE, Kurt - Killgore Adv.,LLC II	274	274
KING, Bruce – Kingfisher river trips, INC	197	226
KOCH, Jim and Jill dba Heller Bar Excursions, Idaho Rivers Navigation, Rivers Navigation	3,592	3,722
LAMM, Alan - Mainstream Outdoor Adventures, Inc.	0	0
LUTHER, Mike - Snake River Adventures	3,209	3,343
ODEGAARD, Butch and Debi - River Quest Excursions	4,725	4,943
SCHULTZ, Jason - Hells Canyon Sport Fishing	678	876
THOMAS, Brian – Border Line River Charters	168	321
VOGEL, Don - Vogel Outdoor Adventures	101	168
YATES, Mark - Hells Canyon Adv. III, LLC	3,417	3,432
SMITH, Mike - Z & S Outfitters, Inc.	224	548
<b>2014</b>	<b>20,833</b>	<b>22,560</b>
2013	17,693	19,263
2012	17,740	18,432
2011	17,199	18,796
2010	21,385	22,790
2009	19,964	22,322





## COMMERCIAL POWERBOAT USE - PRIMARY SEASON 2014

OUTFITTERS	PASSENGERS	SERVICE DAYS
BENTZ, Rusty – Salmon River Explorations	10	10
BONSON, Bill and CASSELL, Gabe - Snake Dancer Excursions	1,212	1,218
DAYTON, Brett – Dayton Adventures	53	108
FRIEND, Richard - River Adventures, LTD.	206	238
KING, Bruce – Kingfisher River Trips, INC.	116	116
KILLGORE, Kurt - Killgore Adventures, LLC	1,352	1,352
KILLGORE, Kurt - Killgore Adventures, LLC II	274	274
KOCH, Jim and Jill dba Heller Bar Excursions, Idaho Navigation, Rivers Navigation	2,678	2,706
LAMM, Alan - Mainstream Outdoor Adventures, Inc.	0	0
LUTHER, Mike - Snake River Adventures	2,103	2,108
ODEGAARD, Butch and Debi - River Quest Excursions	2,758	2,758
SCHULTZ, Jason - Hells Canyon Sport Fishing	66	66
THOMAS, Brian – Border Line River Charters	35	49
VOGEL, Don - Vogel Outdoor Adventures	59	77
YATES, Mark - Hells Canyon Adventures III, LLC	2,751	2,766
SMITH, Mike - Z & S Outfitters, Inc	62	62
<b>Total 2014</b>	<b>13,735</b>	<b>13,908</b>
<i>2013</i>	<i>12,134</i>	<i>12,535</i>
<i>2012</i>	<i>12,441</i>	<i>12,619</i>
<i>2011</i>	<i>11,953</i>	<i>12,541</i>
<i>2010</i>	<i>15,081</i>	<i>15,506</i>
<i>2009</i>	<i>15,097</i>	<i>15,834</i>

# Commercial Power boat Trips 2014

Allocated with permit\*

	Primary Season	January- December
BENTZ, Rusty – Salmon River Explorations *11	2	32
BONSON & CASSELL, Gabe - Snake Dancer Excursions *85	77	118
DAYTON, Brett – Dayton Adventures * 85	10	17
FRIEND, Richard - River Adventures, LTD.*40 (+Riggins pool)	27	66
KING, Bruce and Pam *6	8	26
KILLGORE, Kurt - Killgore Adv., LLC *31 (+Riggins pool)	64	102
KILLGORE, Kurt - Killgore Adv.,LLC II *9 (+ Riggins pool)	31	52
KOCH, Jim and Jill * 224, 118, 85 = 427 dba Heller Bar Excursions, Idaho Rivers Navigation, Rivers Navigation	115	175
LAMM, Alan Mainstream Outdoor Adventures *55	0	0
LUTHER, Justin - Snake River Adventures *139	124	186
LUTHER, Mike –Adventures Afloat Kirby Creek Lodge *43	pending	
ODEGAARD, Butch and Debi - River Quest Excursions *85	94	168
SCHULTZ, Jason - Hells Canyon Sport Fishing *6	15	130
THOMAS, Brian - Border Line River Charters *4	3	27
VOGEL, Don - Vogel Outdoor Adventures *7	9	17
YATES, Mark - Hells Canyon Adv. III, LLC *397	312	377
SMITH, Mike - Z & S Outfitters, Inc *6	12	51

**Total 2014**

**903**

**1,544**

2013

699

488

2012

848

1,307

2009

769

1,125



(2007 trips = 1304, service days = 2,128)

## COMMERCIAL FLOAT USE - JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER 2014

COMMERCIAL OUTFITTERS	TRIPS	PASSENGERS	SERVICE DAYS
ARIEN, Parker – America’s Rafting Company	12	80	318
ARENTSEN, Paul - Winding Waters Rafting	13	145	544
ARMACOST, Kurt - Hells Canyon Raft, Inc.	34	263	1127
BAUGH, JESS –Mountain River Outfitters, LLC.	14	128	482
BOYD, Chuck – Salmon River Experience	1	7	21
COLBERT, Dave – Idaho Afloat	5	41	123
GRUBB, Peter - River Odysseys West (ROW)	12	175	872
HAUPTMAN, George - Canyon Outfitters, Inc.	18	142	536
HUGHES, Jerry - Hughes River Expeditions, Inc.	20	175	703
WARREN, Jacob - North Star River Expeditions, Inc.	8	100	328
WENDT, George (Curt Chang) - OARS-DORIES, Inc.	15	189	942
ZOLLER, Mark ~ Zollers Outdoor Odysseys, Inc.	11	98	506
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<b>TOTAL 2014</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>1,543</b>	<b>6,502</b>
<i>2013</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>1,370</i>	<i>5,776</i>
<i>2012</i>	<i>141</i>	<i>1,396</i>	<i>5,730</i>
<i>2011</i>	<i>138</i>	<i>1,294</i>	<i>5,355</i>
<i>2010</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>1,453</i>	<i>5,951</i>



## COMMERCIAL FLOAT USE - PRIMARY SEASON 2014

COMMERCIAL OUTFITTERS	TRIPS	PASSENGERS	SERVICE DAYS
ARIEN, Parker – America’s Rafting Company	12	80	318
ARENTSEN, Paul - Winding Waters Rafting	13	145	544
ARMACOST, Kurt - Hells Canyon Raft, Inc.	28	240	1042
BAUGH, Jess – Mountain River Outfitters, LLC.	12	112	434
BOYD, Chuck – Salmon River Experience	1	7	21
COLBERT, Dave – Idaho Afloat	5	41	123
HAUPTMAN, George - Canyon Outfitters, Inc.	13	119	432
HUGHES, Jerry - Hughes River Expeditions, Inc.	16	132	593
GRUBB, Peter - River Odysseys West (ROW)	12	175	872
WARREN, Jacob - North Star River Expeditions, Inc.	7	89	273
WENDT, George (Curt Chang) – Oars and Dories, Inc.	14	179	892
ZOLLER, Mark - Zoller's Outdoor Odyssey's Inc.	10	90	466
<b>2014 TOTAL</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>1,409</b>	<b>6,010</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>1,283</b>	<b>5,459</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>1,315</b>	<b>5,365</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>1,236</b>	<b>5,131</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>1,295</b>	<b>5,352</b>



## **PRIVATE POWERBOAT RIVER RESERVATIONS 2014**

*May 23<sup>rd</sup> –September 10<sup>th</sup> (Primary Season) ([www.rec.gov](http://www.rec.gov))*

**Wild: 512**

**Scenic: 530**

**Lower Salmon (Day use): 52**

**Limited Wild River North: 18**

**Limited Wild River South: 8**

**Total Reservations: 1120**



**Total private powerboat trips from all portals January through December 2014: 2,667**

**PRIVATE POWERBOAT USE - PRIMARY SEASON 2014**

<b>LAUNCH LOCATION</b>	<b>TRIPS</b>	<b>PEOPLE</b>	<b>SERVICE DAYS</b>
CACHE CREEK	1003	4,715	10,256
DUG BAR	5	14	53
PITTSBURG LANDING	289	1,525	5,461
HELLS CANYON CREEK	35	164	317
<b>2014</b>	<b>1332</b>	<b>6,418</b>	<b>16,087</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>1380</b>	<b>6120</b>	<b>12,507</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>1321</b>	<b>6425</b>	<b>10,370</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>1235</b>	<b>5352</b>	<b>12,338</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>1431</b>	<b>6181</b>	<b>19,624</b>

**PRIVATE POWERBOAT USE - SECONDARY SEASON 2014**

<b>LAUNCH LOCATION</b>	<b>TRIPS</b>	<b>PEOPLE</b>	<b>SERVICE DAYS</b>
CACHE CREEK	908	3,394	6,476
DUG BAR	3	9	25
PITTSBURG LANDING	283	1,115	3,327
HELLS CANYON CREEK	151	570	1,279
<b>2014</b>	<b>1,345</b>	<b>5,088</b>	<b>11,107</b>
<b>2013</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>5,120</b>	<b>12,630</b>
<b>2012</b>	<b>1,342</b>	<b>5,183</b>	<b>9,588</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>1,592</b>	<b>6,040</b>	<b>11,213</b>
<b>2010</b>	<b>2,173</b>	<b>8,194</b>	<b>21,953</b>

**PERCENT BY DESTINATION --- COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATE FLOAT ---  
PRIMARY SEASON 2014**

<b>PITTSBURG LANDING</b>	<b>63%</b>
<b>JETBOAT BACK TO DAM</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>HELLER BAR</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	<b>3%</b>

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**PERCENT BY DESTINATION -- COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATE FLOAT --  
SECONDARY SEASON 2014**

<b>PITTSBURG LANDING</b>	<b>83%</b>
<b>JETBOAT BACK TO DAM</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>HELLER BAR</b>	<b>15%</b>

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**PRIVATE FLOAT USE - PRIMARY SEASON 2014**

LAUNCH LOCATION	TRIPS	PASSENGERS	SERVICE DAYS
HELLS CANYON CREEK	233	2,026	13,034
PITTSBURG	28	107	321
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>2,133</b>	<b>13,355</b>

**PRIVATE FLOAT USE - SECONDARY SEASON 2014**

LAUNCH LOCATION	TRIPS	PASSENGERS	SERVICE DAYS
HELLS CANYON CREEK	142	910	3,355
PITTSBURG	8	48	384
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>3,739</b>

**TOTAL PRIVATE FLOAT TRIPS = 411**

**TOTAL FLOAT PASSENGERS = 3,091**

**TOTAL SERVICE DAYS = 17,094**



**FLOAT RESERVATION SYSTEM - PRIMARY SEASON 2014**

	COMMERCIAL	PRIVATE
AVAILABLE LAUNCHES	222	333
TRIPS PRIMARY SEASON	143	233

<b>TOTAL TRIPS FOR COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATE</b>	<b>376</b>
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**FLOAT CRAFT FROM HELLS CANYON CREEK PRIMARY SEASON 2014**

	COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATE TOTAL
RAFT	1277
KAYAK	98
DORY / DRIFT	24
INFLATABLE KAYAK	324
CANOE	3
OTHER	34

<b>TOTAL CRAFT PRIMARY SEASON</b>	<b>1,760</b>
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**RIVER USE BY USER GROUP -  
PRIMARY SEASON 2014**

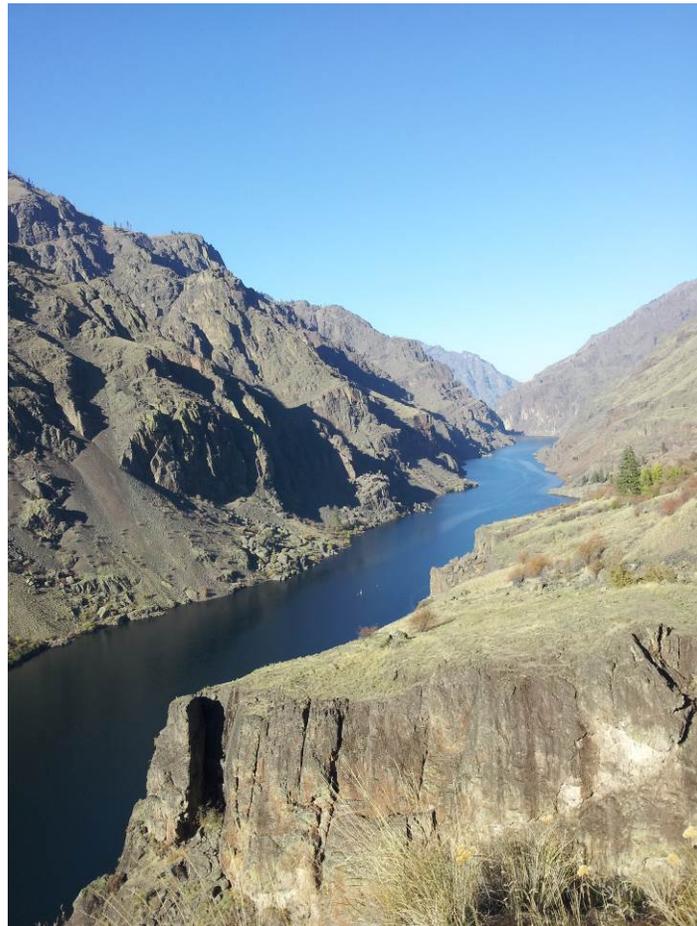
<b>USER GROUP</b>	<b>PEOPLE</b>	<b>SERVICE DAYS</b>
Commercial Powerboat Passengers	13,735	13,908
Private Powerboaters	6,418	16,087
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>20,153</b>	<b>29,995</b>
Commercial Float Passengers	1,409	6,016
Private Floaters	2,133	13,355
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>3,542</b>	<b>19,371</b>
<b>TOTAL PEOPLE</b>	<b>23,695</b>	<b>SERVICE DAYS 49,366</b>

**Primary Season 2013 ~ People = 22,159 ~ Service Days = 35,873**



**RIVER USE BY USER GROUP**  
**January -December - 2014**

<b>USER GROUP</b>	<b>PEOPLE</b>	<b>SERVICE DAYS</b>
Commercial Powerboat	20,833	22,216
Private Powerboaters	11,506	27,194
Commercial Float	1,543	6,502
Private Floaters	3,091	17,093
<b>TOTAL RIVER USE (PEOPLE &amp; SERVICE DAYS)</b>	<b>36,973</b>	<b>55,728</b>



**Visitors to  
CACHE CREEK ADMINISTRATIVE SITE 2014**

JANUARY	53
FEBRUARY	264
MARCH	173
APRIL	306
MAY	710
JUNE	1,779
JULY	3,747
AUGUST	3,769
SEPTEMBER	1,174
OCTOBER	812
NOVEMBER	302
DECEMBER	30

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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,119</b>
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## Visitors to Kirkwood 2014

JANUARY	44
FEBRUARY	23
MARCH	721
APRIL	651
MAY	1,721
JUNE	2,011
JULY	3,323
AUGUST	2,908
SEPTEMBER	1,549
OCTOBER	414
NOVEMBER	139
DECEMBER	42

**Total**

**13,546**



**VISITORS TO HELLS CANYON CREEK RECREATION SITE -  
PRIMARY SEASON 2014**

COMMERCIAL POWERBOAT PASSENGERS AND GUIDES	2,911
COMMERCIAL FLOAT PASSENGERS AND GUIDES	1,934
PRIVATE POWERBOAT PASSENGERS	145
PRIVATE FLOAT PASSENGERS	2,026
DRIVE IN VISITORS	4,777
FISHING	372
OTHER ** HIKERS, BUS VISITORS, ETC.	470
DOWNRIVER PRIVATE AND COMMERCIAL JETBOAT VISITORS	1,777
	<b>14,412</b>





(Buffalo Eddy, petroglyph site south of Asotin, Washington)

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

*Powerboat Reservation*  
*Float Reservations*  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)  
or  
877-444-6777

