



File Code: 2720

Date: April 15, 2009

Dear Prospective Snake River Temporary Use Group:

We would like to make your organization aware of changes to USDA Forest Service national policy on outfitting and guiding so that you can prepare yourselves most effectively for future trips on the Snake river (*Forest Service Directive 2709.11 40 Special Uses Administration, September 2008*). As stated in this policy, groups who have previously been called “Institutional or Semi-Public” are now referred to as “Temporary Outfitter and Guide.”

Please review the following changes below in this policy that effect your organization and planning for future float trips on the Snake River. This information applies to the Snake River from South Park Bridge four miles north of Hoback Junction, to Alpine, Wyoming. The deadline for submitting requests for temporary outfitter and guide permits is May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year to ensure that your group has a better chance of receiving a permit and that we have time to process the applications.

Snake River Policy specifications that are the same are as follows:

1. Only one Temporary Outfitter and Guide Permit shall be granted per day on the Snake River.
2. Each Temporary Outfitter and Guide Permit allows three (3) trips per year on the Snake River between South Park Bridge and Alpine, WY.
3. One trip constitutes of up to two (2) consecutive days Monday through Sunday.
4. Up to three (3) launches per day are allowed Monday through Thursday and up to two (2) launches per day are allowed Friday through Sunday.
5. Thirty (30) people maximum are allowed per launch. Launches are spaced a minimum of one hour apart to prevent confusion on the river and accidental violation of the terms of the permit.

Policy specifications that are required under new national policy are as follows:

1. Each group requesting a Temporary Outfitter and Guide Permit is limited to 200 service days per season. A service day is defined as one person (i.e. leader, student, client, participant, etc.) on the National Forest for any part of one day.
2. A new fee system has been implemented. Fees are calculated according to the following table:

Number of Service Days	Flat Fee
1 to 50	\$150
51 to 100	\$300
101 to 150	\$450
151 to 200	\$600



3. The minimum liability insurance covering a combined single limit required for floating on the Snake River is now \$1,000,000.00. Proof of coverage must be received by this office prior to a permit being issued.

As in previous years, all Temporary Outfitter and Guide activities occurring on Forest Service land must be included in the permit request including, but not limited to, hiking and camping. Any outfitted and/or guided group attempting to float on the Snake River without a permit will not be allowed to complete their trip. Violations of agency regulations or permit terms and conditions are punishable by up to 6 months in jail and/or a \$5,000 fine.

With over 200,000 visitors floating the Snake River from June through August, the river program strives to provide a high-quality recreation experience while at the same time protecting an amazing but delicate resource. Permits are required for visitor safety and to reduce congestion and conflicts at the request of the river-using public and required by federal regulation. Please help us to reach our objectives by obtaining appropriate permits and complying with requirements.

Thank you for your cooperation. We hope you have a great trip to the Snake River this summer. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions. For more information, contact Jeanette Langston, Lead River Ranger at 307-739-5435.

Sincerely,  
*/s/Dale Deiter*

DALE DEITER  
Jackson District Ranger