

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

### 1) Permits

- **All permit changes, cancellations, and new permit allocations are processed by the BLM Rogue River Permit Office only.**

#### Definitions:

**Reservation:** A pending trip, unpaid and unconfirmed; Party size allocated during application process, e.g., Lottery, April Give-Away

**Permit:** A confirmed trip; all spaces (party size) have been paid for @ \$10/person

**Party Size/Space:** Total number of people on a permit/each person on a Permit

#### Lottery Applications:

<b>The Rogue River permit lottery</b>	available ONLY on <a href="https://www.recreation.gov">Recreation.gov</a>
• Open Application period:	Dec 01 – Jan 31; \$6 application fee
• Feb 15 email response:	Successful/Unsuccessful notices sent via email
• Acquire the Permit:	LOTTERY AWARD: CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTIONS

#### New Reservations:

<b>April Give-Away:</b>	available after the Lottery
• Open Application period:	First five (5) business days in April
• Competitive Call-in:	8am – 3pm, Phone calls only 541-479-3735
<b>Open Season:</b>	
• New Permit allocation:	May 05 – October 15
• Competitive Call-in:	8am – 3pm, Phone calls only 541-479-3735
• Walk-in/ Waiting list:	Day of Launch ONLY, based on open spaces

#### Additions/ Cancellations:

##### Add Spaces:

- Available for existing Reservation or Permit
- Available during April Give-Away or Open Season times ONLY
- Competitive Call-in: 8am – 3pm, Phone calls only 541-479-3735

##### Cancel a Reservation, Permit, or Spaces:

- Email [Rogue River Permits](mailto:RogueRiverPermits@blm.gov) anytime or May 05 – Oct 15, call 541-479-3735
- List Party Leader, Launch Date, and Party Size. An email will be returned confirming your cancellation and release of your spaces.

##### Cancel a Permit:

- Deadline for cancellation of entire permit: Day before launch by 3pm
- Feb 10 – May 04: Email [Rogue River Permits](mailto:RogueRiverPermits@blm.gov) (preferred)
- May 05 – Oct 15: Email (preferred), call 541-479-3735, fax 541-479-0535  
List Party Leader, Launch Date, and Party Size. An email will be returned confirming your cancellation and release of your spaces.

#### Penalties:

##### Penalty:

- Failure to cancel an entire Permit (all spaces) by cancellation deadline.
- Action: Party Leader will be recorded on the “No-Show” Penalty List.  
Listed Party Leader will be unable to control a permit for the remainder of the year and all of the next year, including the lottery.

##### No Penalty:

- Non-Confirmation/non-payment of Reservations.
- Cancelling spaces on a permit at any time.

## 2) Portable Toilet Systems/Human Waste Removal System (HWRS)

- **All river groups are required to have and be prepared to use an approved Toilet System for disposal and removal of all solid human waste.**

### **Toilet System specifications:**

- A dedicated system used for human waste; cannot be used to store supplies.
- Reusable, washable, watertight, with a screw-on or latching gasket lid. Snap-on lids and RV toilets are NOT acceptable.
- Approved Pouch Toilet Systems: Biffy Bag, CleanWaste bags, ReStop2 bags.  
A watertight container must be dedicated to storing used pouches.

### **Toilet System capacity:**

- Must accommodate your entire group for the entire length of your trip.
- Capacity requirements are 1 pint per person per day.  
(Days on river) X (People in group) = capacity needed in pints  
E.g., 5 days X 10 people = 50-pint capacity needed

[Toilet Guide](#)

### **Toilet systems must be accessible during the day on the river.**

- If a group splits during the day, each sub-group must have a Toilet System that can accommodate their sub-group size.

### **Toilet systems must be set up within 30 minutes of arrival at camp.**

- It must be out of the boat, easily accessible to the group, and away from the central camp area unless a government (pit) toilet is on site.
- Disposal of human waste while on the river must be in a toilet system, pit toilet, or lodge toilet.
- Disposal of urine is acceptable in the river, in a toilet system, pit toilet, or lodge toilet. Please avoid urinating on shore or near campsites and trails.

### **Human Waste disposal post-trip:**

- Disposal of untreated solid human waste in landfills is illegal and a biohazard. Toilet systems may only be emptied at the SCAT machine and RV Dump stations.
- A SCAT machine is available at Foster Bar for disposing of human waste and cleaning your toilet system for \$2.  
The SCAT machine CANNOT dispose of baby wipes, paper towels, trash, etc. as they will cause it to jam. Please store and dispose of these products separately.
- Disposal of approved Pouch Toilet Systems are legal in trash cans or dumpsters.

## 3) Fires & Cooking Regulations

- **Fire Restrictions may change, updates are available by calling Smullin Visitor Center at Rand. Current fire regulations will be reviewed at permit check-in.**

- Fire pans are required year-round for all campfires built within 400 feet of the river.
  - Pack-out all trash and fire debris.
  - Scavenged wood must be dead and down. Cutting wood is prohibited.
- Cooking on gas and propane stoves is allowed. Cooking on charcoal briquettes or over a wood fire in a raised fire pan may be permitted based on current fire restrictions.
- A shovel and bucket (minimum 1-gallon capacity) are required per party.
- Fireworks are prohibited.

#### 4) Oregon State Laws & Regulations

- **Oregon State Marine Board requires all individuals to comply with the following laws while conducting water-based activities on the Rogue River.**

##### **US Coast Guard-approved PFD (Personal Floatation Device)**

- Each individual must have available at all times while on the water.
- Must be worn by all individuals in Class III or greater rapids.
- Must be worn at all times by children 12 years and younger while on or near the water.

#### 5) Safety

- **The Wild Section of the Rogue is managed primarily as a primitive area and requires outdoor skills and preparation.**
  - All Party Leaders are required to watch the [Wild Rogue River Permit Guidelines Video](#) once per year. It is encouraged that all river users watch the video prior to boating the Rogue River.
  - Boat operators need Class IV skills to navigate this river. The wild section of the Rogue River has approximately three Class IV rapids and nine Class III rapids.
  - It is advisable for someone in your party to give a safety talk before launching. Explanation and demonstration of proper use of safety gear and rescue techniques are recommended, e.g., self-rescue, high siding, throw bags, and emergency procedures.
  - Parties can scout and allow passengers to walk around difficult rapids. E.g., Rainie Falls, the Fish Ladder, and Blossom Bar areas.
  - Scouting Blossom Bar Rapid, Class IV, is advised for all boaters. Boating incidents at this rapid causing boats or gear to wrap and block the channel are a common occurrence. Please be aware of this potential hazard.
  - Be aware of unexpected hazards in the river such as trees or man-made debris, and landslides or wildfires on the shoreline.
  - Be aware of the [current water level](#) - extreme low flows can be just as risky as high flows.
  - The Oregon State Marine Board recommends wearing helmets in Class III and greater rapids. It is also recommended that each boater have a whistle on their PFD.
- **For info on medical emergency or boating accident assistance visit: [Frequently Asked Questions](#)**

#### 6) Wild Section Rogue River Camping

- **Camping on the Wild Section is on first-come, first-serve basis.**

**Please be kind and courteous to all river and trail users when choosing campsites.**

- Quiet hours are 10pm – 6am. Please respect other parties.

##### **Be prepared to share!**

- Large sites that can accommodate groups of 10-20 people are limited.
- If you are a smaller group using a large site, please use one side of the site so you are prepared to share.
- Remain flexible in your choice of sites and try not to unnecessarily impose your group on an already occupied site when other sites may be available.

##### **Pit Toilets**

- Some Pit Toilets on the Wild Section are in process of being phased out and removed.
- Take advantage of sites that do not have a pit toilet. Current [Pit Toilet](#) locations.

- For more information visit [Wild Rogue River Campsite Brochure](#)

## 7) Outdoor Ethics & Etiquette

- **Leave No Trace** ethics and wilderness etiquette are essential to maintaining a respectful environment that protects the resource, wildlife, and fellow river and trail users.

### Boat Ramp Etiquette:

- Leave boat ramps clear for vehicles and trailers to access the river quickly and easily.
- Grave Creek and Foster Bar boat ramps are for loading/unloading boats only.
- Do not park or leave vehicles or gear on or blocking the boat ramp.
- Grave Creek is day use only; overnight parking is not permitted.
- Staging areas next to the boat ramp are available for boat preparation and gear loading.

### River Etiquette:

- Pass other groups in flat water, not in rapids.
- Crowding before or in rapids may create unnecessary boating mishaps.
- Be willing to wait. Areas like the Fish Ladder may have a queue to allow for boaters to clear the channel prior to the next descent.
- Be considerate of fishing parties, both on the river and shoreline. Give them a wide berth to avoid entangling fishing lines.

### Pet Regulations & Etiquette:

- Pet feces disposal regulations are the same as those regarding human waste on the Rogue River.
- Animal feces are required to be removed, contained, and stored in a watertight container and properly disposed of in a trash receptacle at take out.
- Doggie Pot waste bags are available at Rand and trailheads.
- Bring a leash to be used when on shore. Be sure your dog is under control and invited before approaching other visitors or dogs.
- It is illegal for animals or humans to harass wildlife. For your pet's safety, keep them in sight and under control while on shore, and leashed when large wildlife are present.
- Consider equipping your dog with a PFD.

## 8) Bears & Wildlife

- Please help protect the public against safety risks by not feeding and habituating wildlife, especially bears.

### Camping & Food Storage:

- Remove from boats all coolers, food, trash, and human/pet waste.
- Leaving attractants in boats will create an association for wildlife. Once associated, wildlife will claw, tear, and chew on boats and gear in an attempt to gain food rewards.
- Store coolers and trash in a central location away from sleeping areas.

### Storage techniques:

- Stack and strap coolers/food containers together, thus creating bound objects that are more difficult to move. Place pots and pans on top of the stacked items to create noise when they are disturbed.
- Suspend food and garbage from a tree; minimum of 4ft. from the trunk and 10ft. above the ground.
- Use certified Bear-resistant coolers or storage devices.

### "Bear-proofing"

- "[Bear-proof coolers](#)", electric bear fences, or other certified Bear-resistant storage devices are the primary way to safely store food and garbage.

- The BLM installs and maintains electric bear fences, food hoists, and storage containers on the Rogue River May 15 – October 15, sites listed at [Wild Rogue River Campsite brochure](#).
- If camping in these areas, please utilize the bear fences for food and garbage storage overnight.
- **Ensure the bear fence is turned ON and CLOSED at all times, whether being used or vacant.** Only turn off the fence power for entry/exit.

- **It is unlawful to habituate bears and other wildlife (ORS 496.731.1-2).** Report bear sightings on the Bear Observation Form given at Permit check-in and leave the form in the drop box at Foster Bar.

## 9) Shuttles

- **Shuttle route access will vary throughout the year with changing road and weather conditions. Always check current Shuttle Routes and road conditions prior to driving these routes.**

### Shuttle Routes: [Shuttle Routes Map](#)

- Eden Valley route is north of the river
- Coastal Route is Highway 199 and 101
- Bear Camp Coastal Route using the Peavine/ Serpentine Springs Roads
- Bear Camp Coastal Route using the Galice Access Road
  - Most common/ fastest shuttle route from Grave Creek to Foster Bar
  - CLOSED November 05 through May 31; due to snow/slides/rock fall

### Shuttle Services:

- A variety of [Shuttle Services](#) are available within the area.

## 10) Smullin Visitor Center at Rand

- **All parties floating the wild section of the Rogue River are required to obtain a permit.**
  - Float permits are available year-round for the Wild section of the Rogue River.
  - Toilet systems and fire pans are required for all float trips year-round.

- **May 15 – Oct 15:** A lottery is used to allocate the regulated use season launches. Lottery applications for the regulated use season are accepted only through Recreation.gov annually Dec. 01 - Jan. 31. Available float spaces openings after the lottery are acquired through a competitive call-in process or Day of Launch walk-in or waiting list.

- **Oct 16 – May 14:** Pre- and post-regulated use season launches are obtained by filling out a self-issued permit available at Smullin Visitor Center at Rand and Grave Creek Boat Launch access.

- **For more information on the Rogue River and surrounding areas, please visit: [Rogue River Website](#)**

### Smullin Visitor Center at Rand

14335 Galice Road  
Merlin, OR 97532

#### Office Hours:

**May 05 – October 15** 7am – 3pm (PST) Daily

**October 16 – May 04** Closed

#### Phone Hours:

**First Week of April** 8 am – 3pm (PST) Daily

**May 05 - Oct 15** 8 am – 3pm (PST) Daily

**Permits Office:** 541-479-3735

**Permits FAX:** 541-479-0535

**Email:** [BLM\\_OR\\_MD\\_Rogue\\_River\\_Mail@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_OR_MD_Rogue_River_Mail@blm.gov)

**\*Email and faxes are received year-round.**

**They are responded to Monday-Friday, year- round.**