

# DOLORES RIVER BOATING ADVOCATES

## 2024 Southwest river permit information

### Animas River

**Location:** SW CO

**Description:** No permit needed; approx 110 miles of class I-V+, starting above Silverton, through Durango to Farmington, NM

**Info:** (search "Animas") <https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/view/river-index#>

### Chama River

**Location:** North-Central New Mexico.

The El Vado Ranch put-in is located off NM Hwy 112, Southeast of Tierra Amarilla, NM.

**Description:** 31-miles from El Vado Ranch put-in to Big Eddy takeout. The Rio Chama, a major tributary of the Rio Grande, flows through wooded riparian areas and multi-colored sandstone canyon walls up to 1,500 feet high. Summer-time flows typically produce Class II-III rapids, with sections of flat and Class I water.

**Management agency and contact info:** BLM, (575)758-8851 <https://www.recreation.gov/permits/621743>

**Permit application due date:** January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Shuttle info:** 50 miles one-way from El Vado Ranch to Big Eddy. Shuttle service - Up the Creek Shuttle, 575-588-7704

### Colorado River-Cataract Canyon

**Location:** Southeast Utah

**Description:** 70 miles from Potash to Hite on Lake Powell with 20 miles of the biggest whitewater upstream of the Grand Canyon. Also accessed from the Green River at Green River State Park, Ruby Ranch or Mineral Bottom. Class I-IV to V at high water.

**Management agency and contact info:** Canyonlands NP, (435) 259-4351

**Permit application process:** <https://www.recreation.gov/permits/621748>

**Flat Water:** \$36 reservation fee + \$25 per person

**Cataract Canyon:** \$30 reservation fee + \$20 per person

**Shuttle info:** A really long shuttle: 300 miles/5.5 hours from Moab to Hite. Two companies are licensed to provide river shuttles (upstream and downstream) in Canyonlands National Park: **Tex's Riverways:** (877) 662-2839 or (435) 259-5101 **Tag-A-Long Expeditions:** (435) 259-8946

### Colorado River-Grand Canyon

**Location:** North central AZ

**Description:** The Colorado River through Grand Canyon is a highly technical river, not something for the inexperienced to try. At least one member of each trip must have the experience and skills required by the National Park Service. Putting in at Lees Ferry, 226 miles of class III-IV+ to Diamond Creek, or 280 miles to Pearce Ferry.

**Management agency and contact info:** Grand Canyon NP, (800) 959-9164 or (928) 638-7843 <http://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/whitewater-rafting.htm>

**Permit info:** Weighted lottery in February for upcoming year. \$25 app fee. Much more info on website.

**Shuttle info:** 550 or 720 miles/10-13 hours, commercial shuttle services recommended, links on website.

### Colorado River-Moab Daily

**Location:** Eastern Utah

**Description:** 14 Miles of class I-III- from Hittle Bottom to Takeout Beach or 10 more miles to Hwy 191 takeout in Moab.

**Management agency and contact info:** (435) 259-2100 <https://www.blm.gov/visit/colorado-riverway-recreation-area>

**Permit info:** None required

**Shuttle info:** Hwy 128

### Colorado River-Ruby Horsethief

**Location:** Western Colorado

**Description:** 25 miles of class I-II

**Agency/contact info (Mcinnis NCA):** 855-8071808, 970-244-3050 <https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/colorado/mcinnis-canyons>

**Permit application process (for campsites only):** <https://www.recreation.gov/permits/74466> - \$6 fee.

**Shuttle info:** 1.5 to 2 hours roundtrip from Loma to Westwater Ranger Station.

### Colorado River-Westwater

**Location:** Western Colorado

**Description:** 17 miles of technical whitewater from the Westwater Ranger Station to Cisco. Day trips as well as overnights are done. Commercial use is limited to 75 passengers per day.

**Management agency and contact info:** (435) 259-7012 <https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/passes-and-permits/lotteries/utah/westwatercanyon>

**Permit application due date/process:** <https://www.recreation.gov/permits/621744> Launches become available 2 months prior to the launch date. You can acquire any launch dates available within the two-month period. Launches are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. Between April 1st and September 30th, private use is limited to five permits or 75 people (whichever occurs first) per day. Fee is \$10 per person and \$6 non-refundable fee.

**Shuttle info:** The round-trip shuttle from Westwater Ranger Station to Cisco Landing takes about 2 hours.

### Dolores River-Upper (above Dolores Town)

**Location:** SW Colorado

**Description:** No permit needed, 35 miles of class II-III (mostly II) from Rico to Dolores. Access points at Rico, Bear Creek, West Fork, Big Rock, Dolores. No permit required; season is March to June, with occasional late summer opportunities.

**More info:** <https://www.blm.gov/visit/dolores-river>

### **Dolores River-McPhee to San Miguel Confluence**

**Location:** SW Colorado

**Description:** No permit needed; this section is dependent on releases from McPhee Dam, which only occur when the reservoir fills and there is surplus water. In those years, it is 107 miles of class II-IV through breathtaking mountain to desert scenery, starting at Bradfield Bridge, with access points at Mountain Sheep Point (AKA Dove Creek pump house), Slickrock, Big Gypsum and Bedrock.

**More info:** <https://www.blm.gov/visit/dolores-river>

### **Dolores River-San Miguel to Colorado River (at Dewey Bridge)**

**Location:** SW Colorado

**Description:** Permit (for UT section), 65 miles of class II-IV. No permit required. Season is from April to July (varies), dependent on the natural and reliable flows of the wild and free San Miguel. Access points at numerous places on the San Miguel, including Naturita, and on the Dolores, 5 and 6 miles below Uravan (see guidebook), Gateway and Dewey Bridge. No permit required, except from the Utah border to Dewey Bridge.

**More info:** BLM Uncompahgre field office: Phone: (970) 240-5300 <https://www.blm.gov/visit/dolores-river>

**Utah permit:** <https://www.recreation.gov/permits/621749>

### **Green River, Desolation and Gray**

**Description:** 128 miles from Sand Wash put-in to Green River State Park take-out. The Green River through Desolation and Gray Canyons flows through wooded riparian and varied desert terrain. Various hiking opportunities and historical sites are located along the river. Summer-time flows typically produce Class II-III rapids, with sections of flat and Class I water between.

**Management agency and contact info:** Bureau of Land Management (435) 636-0975

[https://www.recreation.gov/permits/Desolation\\_Gray\\_Green\\_River\\_Permit/r/wildernessAreaDetails.do?page=detail&contractCode=NRSO&parkId=72440](https://www.recreation.gov/permits/Desolation_Gray_Green_River_Permit/r/wildernessAreaDetails.do?page=detail&contractCode=NRSO&parkId=72440)

**Permit application due date:** January 31<sup>st</sup>, \$6.00 application fee, \$40/person permit fee.

**Shuttle info:** 180 miles one-way from Sand Wash to Green River State Park. Shuttle services: Green River Shuttle Service, 435-820-9730; River Express Shuttles, 435-564-8365; River Runners Transport, 800-930-7238.

### **Green River-Gates of Lodore**

**Location:** Northeastern Utah, in Dinosaur National Monument. The Gates of Lodore put-in is located off of UT Hwy 318, Northeast of Jensen, UT..

**Description:** 44 miles from Gates of Lodore put-in to Split Mountain take-out. The Gates of Lodore section of the Green River runs through towering red-rock cliffs, beautiful sand beaches and varied desert terrain. Summer-time flows typically produce Class II-IV rapids, with sections of flat and Class I water.

**Management agency and contact info:** National Park Service, Dinosaur National Monument (970) 374-2468

[https://www.recreation.gov/permits/Dinosaur\\_Green\\_And\\_Yampa\\_River\\_Permits/r/wildernessAreaDetails.do?page=detail&contractCode=NRSO&parkId=115139](https://www.recreation.gov/permits/Dinosaur_Green_And_Yampa_River_Permits/r/wildernessAreaDetails.do?page=detail&contractCode=NRSO&parkId=115139)

**Permit application due date:** January 31<sup>st</sup>, \$15.00 application fee, \$185.00 permit fee.

**Shuttle info:** 141 miles one way from Gates of Lodore to Split Mountain. Shuttle services - River Runners, 435-781-4919; Wilkins Bus Lines, 435-789-2476.

### **Green River-Labyrinth and Stillwater Canyons**

**Location:** Southeastern Utah.

**Description:** 120 miles of flat water from Green River State Park to Mineral Bottom, then to the confluence of the Colorado River.

**Management agency and contact info:** (435) 259-2100 <https://www.nps.gov/cany/planyourvisit/flatwater.htm>

**Permit info:** <https://www.recreation.gov/permits/621748> \$36.00 reservation fee, \$25/person permit fee

**Shuttle info:** 130 miles/2.5 hours from Green River to Mineral Bottom. There are no vehicle access take-outs below Mineral Bottom. You must be transported via jet boat from the confluence back up the Colorado River to Moab. Contact the Moab Information Center at (801) 259-8825 or the Green River Visitor Center at (801) 564-3526 for shuttle and rental providers.

### **Gunnison River-Gunnison Gorge section**

**Location:** Western Colorado

**Description:** 39 miles of technical class III-IV; put-in at BLM Chukar access point, takeout at Pleasure Park.

**Management Agency and contact info:** BLM, (970) 240-5300 <https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/colorado/gunnison-gorge-nca>

**Permit:** Day use: \$3, One night: \$10, Two nights \$15

**Shuttle info:** Chukar Trail (near Montrose) to Gunnison Forks BLM Day Use area, 80 miles/2.5 hours, plus a 1 mile hike. Put-in requires packing gear 1 mile or hiring a horse packer. Info for packer: Larry Franks (970) 323-0115

### **Gunnison River-Delta to Whitewater (Dominguez-Escalante section)**

**Description:** 39 miles of class I-II; No permit needed.

[https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/gunnison\\_river\\_overview\\_v5.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/gunnison_river_overview_v5.pdf)

**Shuttle info:** 90 miles/2 hours, from Pleasure Park (on hwy 92 E of Delta) to Whitewater, on hwy 50.

### **Salmon River-Main and Middle Forks**

**Location:** North/central Idaho

**Description:** Main is 81 miles of class II-IV. Middle Fork is 104 miles of class III-IV, through wilderness.

**Management agency/contact info:** USFS, (208) 865-2700

[https://www.recreation.gov/permits/Salmon\\_River\\_4\\_Rivers/r/wildernessAreaDetails.do?page=detail&contractCode=NRSO&parkId=75533](https://www.recreation.gov/permits/Salmon_River_4_Rivers/r/wildernessAreaDetails.do?page=detail&contractCode=NRSO&parkId=75533)

**Permit application due:** January 31<sup>st</sup>

**Shuttle info:** Not known.

### **Salt River**

**Location:** East/Central AZ

**Description:** The Salt River Canyon is a very remote and potentially dangerous place. The river is 52 miles of solid Class III-IV, and is not recommended for novices and beginners. Put-in at Hwy 60 Bridge, takeout at Hwy 288 bridge.

**Management agency and contact info:** USFS, (928) 402-6200

[https://www.recreation.gov/permits/Salt\\_River\\_Canyon\\_Wilderness\\_Permit/r/wildernessAreaDetails.do?page=detail&contractCode=NRSO&parkId=147640](https://www.recreation.gov/permits/Salt_River_Canyon_Wilderness_Permit/r/wildernessAreaDetails.do?page=detail&contractCode=NRSO&parkId=147640)

**Permit application due:** Feb 1st; \$16.00 application fee, \$125.00 boater fee  
**Shuttle info:** 125 miles/3 hours-hwy 60/hwy 188/hwy 288

#### **San Juan River**

**Location:** Southeastern Utah.

**Description:** 27 miles from Sand Island to Mexican Hat (upper). 57 miles from Mexican Hat to Clay Hills (lower). The San Juan River flows through impressive red rock, sandstone cliffs and desert lowlands. There are numerous archeological sites (e.g., ruins, petroglyphs) located along the river. The left bank of the river is Navajo Nation land, and requires a permit from the Navajo Nation to hike or camp on the land. Summer-time flows typically produce Class II-III rapids with sections of flat and Class I water between.

**Management agency and contact info:** BLM, (435) 587-1544

[https://www.recreation.gov/permits/San\\_Juan\\_River\\_Permit\\_Lottery\\_And\\_Reservations/r/wildernessAreaDetails.do?page=detail&contractCode=NRSO&parkId=75510](https://www.recreation.gov/permits/San_Juan_River_Permit_Lottery_And_Reservations/r/wildernessAreaDetails.do?page=detail&contractCode=NRSO&parkId=75510)

**Permit application due:** Jan 31st. Lottery season is April 15-July 15. Other dates are first come-first serve. \$6.00 application fee, \$10.00 (San Island to Mexican Hat) & \$20.00 (Mexican Hat to Clay Hills) per person permit fees.

**Shuttle info:** 22 miles one-way from Sand Island to Mexican Hat. 98 miles one-way from Sand Island to Clay Hills. Shuttle services - Valle's Store, (435) 683-2226 (upper only), Val's SJ Shuttle (435) 699-3592.

#### **San Miguel River**

**Location:** SW Colorado

**Description:** No permit needed; 46 miles of class II-III, from Bilk Creek to Pinon Bridge (below Norwood). At least 6 access points, refer to website or call for more info.

**More info:** BLM Uncompahgre field office (970) 240-5300, web: <https://www.blm.gov/office/uncompahgre-field-office> and American Whitewater:

<https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/view/river-detail/10895/main>

#### **Yampa River**

**Location:** NW Colorado and NE Utah, through Dinosaur National Monument. The Deerlodge Park put-in is located off of CO Hwy 40, NE of Rangely, CO.

**Description:** 71 miles from Deerlodge Park put-in to Split Mountain take-out (on the Green River). The Yampa is one of the few remaining undammed rivers in the West. It runs through towering canyon walls, beautiful sand beaches and varied desert terrain. Summer-time flows typically produce Class II-IV rapids; rapids on the Yampa can be continuous and challenging in sections.

**Management agency/contact info:** NPS, (970) 374-2468

[https://www.recreation.gov/permits/Dinosaur\\_Green\\_And\\_Yampa\\_River\\_Permits/r/wildernessAreaDetails.do?page=detail&contractCode=NRSO&parkId=115139](https://www.recreation.gov/permits/Dinosaur_Green_And_Yampa_River_Permits/r/wildernessAreaDetails.do?page=detail&contractCode=NRSO&parkId=115139)

**Permit application due date:** January 31<sup>st</sup>. \$15.00 application fee, \$185.00 permit fee.

**Shuttle info:** 88 miles one way from Deerlodge to Split Mountain. Shuttle services - River Runners, 435-781-4919, Wilkins Bus Lines, 435-789-2476

***Dolores River Boating Advocates protects and enriches the recreational and ecological values of the Dolores River through advocacy, stewardship and education.***