

THREE RIVERS RAFTING - SELWAY PRE-TRIP INFORMATION

(revised 2001)

Water levels on the Selway are unpredictable. They vary according to:

1. How much snowpack there is to feed the river,
2. How hot the weather is (i.e. How fast is the snow melting),
3. Is there any rain feeding the river?

Obviously, we have no way to change these factors. The Selway is a free flowing river, not dam controlled.

You may contact our office (888-926-4430) in Lowell, Idaho or call Marty Smith at the Doubletree Edgewater Inn in Missoula, Montana the day before you leave home for an update on river conditions (406-728-3100). Leave a message and we will return your call in the evening.

This is the game plan that we follow in dealing with different water levels:

- By far the most common and popular plan is to run the river. Unless the river is at extreme levels, we have the equipment and guides to challenge moderate to high water levels.
- If the level is marginal, near our cut-off level, we will consult the National Weather Service and their river forecasting models. NWS projects river levels, taking into account snow measurements and their five day weather forecast. We check the gauge readings transmitted from the lower end of the river (Lowell), correlate that information with charts from past years, and estimate what the flow is at the launch site (Paradise). If this information is favorable, we leave Missoula and go to the launch site.
- When we arrive at Paradise and read the gauge, we consult our guides who have been there since the night before. Using all data available to that point, our experience with judging the flow and our pre-determined decision points, we decide on the proper course of action.
- If the river is judged unrunnable by late afternoon, we will remain at Paradise Campground and have a "High Water Party." The next morning we will return to Missoula. This is a rare occurrence. Should it occur, we will refund your trip charges or you may apply them to a trip the following year.

We are not responsible for your costs associated with getting to Missoula or your expenses while there. If cancellation expenses concern you, we suggest trip cancellation insurance, available through most travel agents.

On some occasions we may have to fly **into** a public airstrip part way down the river due to low water conditions. Conversely, we may have to fly **out** if the water level rises dramatically past our cut-off level. **Should a flight be necessary, you will incur an additional \$50 flight fee that is not included in your trip payment.** The scenic flight is

worth the price, taking you over spectacular mountains through the heart of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

WE START OUR TRIPS FROM THE DOUBLETREE INN EDGEWATER IN MISSOULA, MONTANA, AND OUR ORIENTATION MEETING WILL BE AT 6:00 PM (MST) THE EVENING PRIOR TO YOUR LAUNCH DATE!!

If you are flying commercially or driving you should arrive in Missoula, Montana the day before your trip begins. You will be met at the Doubletree Inn Edgewater at 6:00 PM (MST) on the evening prior to your trip. If your travel arrangements do not allow for your arrival by 6:00 PM (MST), please let us know and we will make special arrangements. If you are driving you may leave your vehicle in the motel parking lot for the duration of the trip. We depart the Doubletree Inn Edgewater at 8:00 AM (MST) on the morning of your launch date. Our van or bus will take you to the river put-in at the Paradise Guard Station, a 3-4 hour drive on good roads, or to the Missoula airport for the flight in. We will make a stop for fishing licenses, tackle, and liquor if you desire. (Please note that alcohol is not sold in the state of Montana on Sundays) At approximately 2:00 PM (MST) on the fourth or fifth day (depending on trip length), we will take you via van back to the Missoula Doubletree Inn Edgewater, arriving at approximately 6:00 PM (MST). **We strongly suggest arriving in Missoula the day before your launch, and departing the day after your trip ends.**

AIR SERVICE TO MISSOULA: Commercial service is provided by Northwest, Delta, and Horizon Airlines.

LODGING IN MISSOULA: We suggest that you make advance reservations for the Missoula Doubletree Edgewater Inn through us. There is a discounted \$69 rate for Three Rivers Rafting guests for single or double rooms.

RIVER WEAR UNITS: Our suggested gear list is designed to meet a variety of weather conditions. By layering yourself properly, you can stay warm while in the boat. Our river wear unit consists of:

1. WET SUIT BOOTIES
2. A PILE/FLEECE SUIT
3. A SEMI-DRY SUIT

This unit has been proven on the river as an excellent system when the weather is cool or when you are being exposed to periodic splashings of cold water, both of which can occur on the Selway. We recommend that the booties be worn with wool socks underneath. The pile suit is a synthetic that provides loft and insulation under the semi-dry suit. The semi-dry suit is a jumpsuit with neoprene cuffs and collar.

There is no additional charge for this unit. Please call or write with sizes so we can reserve a unit if you desire one.

**PLEASE PACK LIGHT!
WE PROVIDE TENTS, EATING, AND COOKING EQUIPMENT.**

SEE THE SUGGESTED GEAR LIST FOR WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING.