

MADISON RIVER COMMERCIAL WATERCRAFT RENTAL DELIVERY PERMIT

MADISON RIVER WORK GROUP APPROVED RECOMMENDATIONS 5-27-2022

SUMMARY:

There are currently a small number of businesses that support river float parties by providing unguided rivercraft rentals and shuttle services at launch sites along the river. Watercraft Rental Delivery services providers currently operated under a shuttle SRP (Special Recreation Permit). It is recommended that another category of SRP be issued specifically for Watercraft Rental Delivery businesses along with modified reporting requirements.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Gather better data on floating recreation on the Madison River.
2. Provide a tool that may be used to guide future recreational use as part of a comprehensive Madison River Recreation Plan.

DEFINITIONS:

1. **Watercraft** – every description of floatation device that a river user may utilize when floating (whether the body is partially submersed or fully above the water) including all Vessels, as well as well as other floatation devices such as innertubes, float tubes (belly boats), and air mattresses. Wearable floating devices such as PFDs (personal floating devices including life jackets) are not considered to be Watercraft.
2. **High Density Zone** – the reach of the Madison River between Warm Springs Day Use Area and Greycliff FAS.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. A Watercraft Rental Delivery commercial permit shall be required for businesses that deliver rental Watercraft to launch locations along with river, along with their shuttle services, beginning in 2023.
2. Watercraft delivered to the river by the permit holder must display the service providers permit number (or name) to be distinguishable as a Watercraft rented from an authorized Watercraft Delivery Service.
3. Watercraft Rental Delivery service providers must record the number of river users that are launched per day along with the launch and take out locations and provide these logs in an annual report to the Department.
4. Businesses that rent Watercraft to users at other locations other than at a launch location on the river, where those Watercraft are transported to and from the river by the person(s) recreating on the river, are not required to obtain a Watercraft Rental Delivery SRP.
5. River users renting Watercraft from other rental companies at locations distant from the river must obtain non-commercial Madison River Float Permit in the same way they would obtain a permit if they were launching a privately owned Watercraft.
6. The Operations of Watercraft Rental Delivery Service Providers Shall Be Restricted to the High Density Zone between Warm Springs Day Use Area and Greycliff FAS.