

## Rio Chama

**Application Process:** Because of the demand for trips in late spring and summer, the BLM uses a lottery system to reserve **weekend (Friday-Saturday)** launch dates from May 1 through Labor Day weekend. Please note that for a launch after Labor Day and before May 1, no advance reservation is required – you simply show up at the launch site, fill out a registration form, pay the fees, and go.

There are two ways you can apply for a spring/summer weekend launch:

1. You can print the form located in this [PDF](#), fill it out completely and send by regular mail to: BLM Chama Permits, 226 Cruz Alta Rd., Taos NM 87571. Include a check or money order for \$6.00 for each application. (You may pay for more than one application with the same check or money-order.)
2. You can request an application packet by calling 575-758-8851. You fill out the application completely and return to BLM Chama Permits, 226 Cruz Alta Rd., Taos NM 87571 with a check or money order for \$6.00 per application.

Applications must be postmarked or received on or before January 31. During the first week of March, only lottery winners will be notified via the US Mail (non winners will not be notified). Weekday launches may be obtained by calling the first working day of April.

**Cancellations:** If a trip leader must cancel, he/she can transfer the permit to another member of the group, or can give the launch up so that BLM can reassign it to another group.

**Fees:** \$6.00 application fee.

\$5.00/person fee is due at the launch site (year round).

There is an additional fee charged by El Vado (Coopers) Ranch to launch and to park vehicles – (575) 588-7354.

**Additional Information:** Flows are highly variable, based on water availability, irrigation demand and rainfall. Please watch for flow information on the USGS website or call (888) 882-6188 for a recorded message. Winter Season (Labor Day – April 30): No advance reservation required, however, minimum flows are around 50cfs. All boaters, regardless of season, must fill out a boater registration form at the launch site

**Contact:**

Bureau of Land Management Taos Field Office  
226 Cruz Alta Road Taos  
NM 87571-5983

**Email:** [blm\\_nm\\_rio\\_chama@blm.gov](mailto:blm_nm_rio_chama@blm.gov)

**Telephone:** (575) 758-8851

**Fax:** (575) 758-1620

**Website:** <https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/permits-and-passes/lotteries-and-permit-systems/new-mexico>