

Middle Fork of the Salmon River

Application Process: Launch reservations for May 28 - September 3 (lottery control season) are assigned by the Four Rivers Lottery System at www.recreation.gov. Lottery applications are accepted December 1 - January 31 annually. Results are posted online on February 14. Any declined or cancelled launch dates can be reserved by others. Successful applicants must confirm their reservation and pay part of their recreation fees by March 15. Unconfirmed lottery dates are then released for reservation on March 16 at 8am MT. Cancellations for August 15 through September 15 will not be reissued after March 15.

Cancellations for control season launch dates will only be available for reservation during a two-hour booking window each day. Starting April 2nd, the booking window will open daily at 7am PT and will remain open for two hours. Prior to April 2nd, the booking window will open daily at 8am PT.

Reservations for pre and post season float permits are released on October 15 at 8am MT on a first-come, first-served basis. Cancellations for pre-season and post-season dates are posted at a random time on the website within 24 hours of being released.

Fees: Application \$6.00 non-refundable fee.

Recreation Fee - \$4.00 per person per day or be a valid Middle Fork/Main Salmon Rivers Season Pass holder. Permit holders will be responsible for submitting complete and final payment of fees for their entire group [online](#) at least three days prior to the actual launch date. Payments for recreation fees will not be accepted at the launch sites.

Season Passes: \$40 and are available for purchase from the Middle Fork and North Fork offices. This pass entitles the holder only (not other members of their party) to float the Middle Fork and/or Main Salmon Rivers without further payment of Recreation Fees within one year from the date of purchase.

Federal Park Passes - A fee reduction of 50% is available to valid Senior or Access Pass holders. Season pass holders and persons using a Senior or Access Pass for a fee discount must present their pass, along with their photo ID, to the launch personnel issuing the permit.

Cancellations: If you cannot make the trip, you must cancel your reservation; no exceptions. Cancellations should be made at www.recreation.gov as soon as possible, but have to be submitted no later than 21 days prior to your launch date to avoid a penalty of non-participation in the control season lottery for the Middle Fork Salmon for 3 years. If you need to cancel your launch reservation after payment of fees has been made, your recreation fees will be refunded.

Please view the [Cancellations and No-Shows on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River](#) for detailed information, penalties, and exceptions.

Additional Information: Anyone who wants to launch a boat on Idaho waters will have to buy and display an [Idaho Invasive Species Fund sticker](#). (Inflatable, non-motorized vessels less than 10 feet long are exempt). For more information and purchase options call (800) 247-6332.

There is a maximum of 12 watercraft per permit for August 15 - September 15 launches due to spawning Chinook salmon.

Big Creek floaters must obtain a Tributary Permit from the Krassel Ranger District but they are not required to obtain a Middle Fork of the Salmon launch reservation and permit if they will go all the way out in one day (no overnight stays). Because chinook salmon spawn in Big Creek, tributary permits are only allowed from June 1 through July 31. Contact the Krassel District at 208-634-0600 to obtain a tributary permit.

Contact:U.S. Forest Service
Middle Fork Ranger District
HC 63 Box 1669
Challis, ID 83226

Telephone: (208) 879-4101 **Fax:** (208) 879-4198 **Reservations/Cancellations:** (877) 444-6777

Office Hours: 7:45am – 4:30pm, Monday – Friday

Websites: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/scnf/recreation/wateractivities/?cid=stelprdb5302105>
and [Four Rivers Lottery Information](#) and