

Rio Chama Wild and Scenic River, NM

Application Process: Because of the high demand for trips in late spring and summer, the BLM uses a lottery system to reserve weekend (Friday-Saturday) launch dates from April 15 through September 15. Lottery applications are accepted between December 1 to January 31 through <https://www.recreation.gov/permits/621743>.

The Rio Chama launch calendar is split into two seasons: Early Season (April 15 to July 15) and Release Season (July 16 to September 15). Individuals may apply for each of these seasons. Although the lottery only awards Friday launches, lottery winners may launch on either Friday or Saturday.

Weekday (Sunday – Thursday) and unclaimed weekend launches will become available for reservation on Recreation.gov starting April 1. No advance reservation is required for a launch after September 15 and before April 15. You simply show up at the launch site, fill out a self-permit envelope, pay the fees and go.

Fees: \$6.00 non-refundable application fee. Reservation Fee: to accept an awarded launch, at least 1 participant's \$5.00 fee must be paid. A \$5.00/person fee is due when the time the permit is printed. There is an additional \$5.00 per person fee charged by El Vado Ranch to launch and to park vehicles.

Cancellations: If you cancel your permit 14 days or more prior to reservation date you will receive a full refund minus the reservation fee. If you cancel 13 days or less, there is no refund. You can modify the group size up until the time you print the permit if space is available.

Additional Information: Flows are highly variable, based on water availability, irrigation demand and rainfall. Please watch for flow information on the USGS website nm.water.usgs.gov or call (888) 882-6188 for a recorded message.

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