

# NEWS RELEASE

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION



## Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

1550 Dewey Ave., Baker City, OR, 97814 [www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman](http://www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman)

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### Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Powerboat Permit Reservation System to Change in 2014

**Baker City, OR** - In 2014, private powerboaters will have the opportunity to utilize an online reservation system for the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (HCNRA) portion of the Snake River. Following the national direction in the President's "Recreation One Stop Initiative", for private powerboaters the HCNRA will be moving from a call-in system to the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) website format. This was the same system that was successfully implemented for float boats in 2009 on the Snake River and for other rivers in Idaho under the 4 River Lottery. This change will not affect commercial powerboaters.

Hells Canyon National Recreation Areas District Ranger, Mary DeAgüero states, "I know this will be an adjustment for people but the new reservation system will provide a more efficient and equitable opportunity for private powerboaters to obtain permits for the Snake River. We will be providing tools and will be available to help folks through this transition; additionally it will help focus our efforts in providing other goods and services for river users".

The details of the private powerboat permits, such as number of permits, season of use, etc. will not be changing, only the tool in which to obtain a permit. The online reservation system will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, which will allow users to check for cancellations at any time that is convenient for them. The public will also have access to a well-informed call center and HCNRA personnel if they need assistance with the website or do not have access to a computer.

The powerboat reservations only apply during the primary season, which is the Friday of Memorial Day weekend through September 10.

*The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to State and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. The USDA is an equal opportunity employer.*

Please continue to visit the Forest Service office in Clarkston, WA who will continue to assist with travel plans into the beautiful and unique Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. If you have any questions about the new permit system to be implemented in 2014, please call Public Affairs Officers Jodi Kramer at 541-523-1246 or Matt Burks at 541-523-1364.

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