

## **OUR INVITATION**

We would like to invite you to experience the feeling of the Northwest's most beautiful and exciting whitewater rivers. Float through dense forests ringed by towering snow capped peaks, or alongside sage brush canyons under clear blue skies. Feel whitewater cascade over the top of you, the raft bucking like a young bronco as you crash through the rapids...emerging suddenly onto a crystal clear pool. These are just some of the sensations you'll experience on our whitewater rafting adventures; or relax and view large concentrations of bald eagles on our scenic Skagit River float trip. We have trips for nearly any age or ability, from one day to five days in length. So pick up our paddle and we will introduce you to a grace of motion only nature can provide. Come join us!

## ABOUT OUR OUTFIT

### NOBODY DOES IT BETTER

Downstream River Runners is a pioneer in the world of Washington whitewater, opening up new rivers and advancing state of the art rafting techniques. We were the first to conduct trips on many of the rivers in this brochure.

The Downstream River Runners staff is highly trained and dedicated to provide a first class river rafting experience for you. From our equipment and instruction to our transportation and food, we strive for outfitting excellence in every aspect of your raft trip.

At Downstream our first concern is safety and we take pride in the fact that we set the standards our competitors aspire to attain. We don't hire rookie guides and turn them loose with you. Every Downstream river guide is a nationally certified Swiftwater Rescue Technician, not just the trip leader. That's been our policy since 1987. We know how to use rescue equipment other companies don't even carry.

We were the first to introduce self-bailing boats with foot cups for extra security in rough water and every raft carries a first aid kit, not just the sweep boat. We provide quality wetsuits for men and women in 25 different sizes. We don't use uni-sex wetsuits, they are not an adequate fit to ensure your comfort and safety.

Few things are as enjoyable and life expanding as a professionally conducted river trip. People need to keep in mind though, that this is not a tourist attraction like Disneyland. This is adventure travel. We treat your fun seriously and to that end we are more exclusive in booking our clientele. If you've never paddled before, are overweight and can't swim, we won't take you and your 10 year old child on a rough whitewater trip, simply because your check clears the bank.

We make recommendations based on 35 years of experience, not the desire to take unwary participants to places they don't belong for the sake of a buck. Remember the Everest expedition! Nature can be indescribably beautiful and heartlessly unforgiving. Unlike the reduced rate, high volume outfitters, we have had the privilege of providing quality river trips for 35 years with a perfect safety record because we understand and implement risk mitigation strategies from the point of reservation through the trip and shuttle.

We hope you find our candor refreshing and choose to book your adventure with dedicated professionals. We are the "Starbucks" of river recreation, not the "Folgers" and just like everything else in life, you get what you pay for. See the difference our 35 years of experience makes! Raft with Downstream and enjoy the magic of Pacific Northwest Rivers.

## THE BEST FOR OUR GUESTS

- Exhilarating outdoor adventure
- Several river trips to choose! 1 to 5 days
- State-of-the-art equipment
- 25 sizes of men's and women's wetsuits & booties
- Washington and Oregon State Licensed & Insured
- Scenic float trips for all ages
- Deli-buffet lunches
- Courtesy bus shuttle at the river
- Highly Experienced Certified guides (SRT-CPR-First Aid)

## ABOUT WASHINGTON RIVERS

Washington State has a great diversity of rivers which few people realize exists. Most of these rivers find their source in the rugged Cascade Mountains, which divide the state into two distinct climates of eastern and western Washington. Each winter the rain and snowfall replenishes the water table and snow pack in the Cascades. The spring and summer run-off provides us with an opportunity to savor several different and unique river trips.

Generally speaking, the eastern Washington climate is warmer and drier than the west side of the Cascades, particularly in the spring months. The scenery on the east side reflects the summer suns intensity on basalt walls, dry sage-brush hillsides and pine forested canyons. On the other hand, western Washington's marine climate creates thick forests of fir, cedar, maple and alder that dominate the river's edge. One thing that east and west have in common is that their waters are cold. Typically we are rafting melted snow and ice that has just run down from the mountains. The weather can greatly affect the conditions on these steep Cascade rivers so we keep a constant vigil, via the internet, on water levels throughout the state. A link to the USGS is provided on our website so you can check out the river levels for yourself!

Our rafting season is April through September. Each river has it's own season and in the late summer we raft rivers that are dam controlled or fed by glaciers.



## ABOUT RIVER RUNNING

There are several ways to run a river. The majority of our tours are conducted in paddle rafts. We use rugged 13 and 14 foot boats that carry 6 people plus a guide in each. We won't stuff you into a raft with 8 or 9 people like the low priced, high volume outfits. Everyone has a canoe paddle and is involved sometimes drifting easily, sometimes paddling aggressively as the guide calls out six basic commands that the crew responds to. Your teamwork becomes a truly rewarding experience.

On our Grande Ronde and Owyhee River trips in Oregon, we also have oar boats for those few that do not want to paddle but prefer to relax and take photographs. In the oar boat, the guide alone commands the raft with a center mounted rowing frame and 10 foot oars.

Some of our guides, including the owner, Casey Garland, prefer using the stern mounted rowing frame. This configuration allows the guide additional control with oars in the back of the raft and paddlers up front. The best of both oar and paddle techniques, this hybrid is well suited to young ones, older ones, inexperienced paddlers and foreign guests who don't speak English.

## **READING THE RIVER**

When estimating the difficulty of a river for purposes of navigation, three factors must be taken into consideration.

**VOLUME:** The amount of water traveling down a river is measured in cubic feet per second (CFS). Volume alone does not determine difficulty.

**GRADIENT:** The average amount of vertical drop in the river bed measured in feet per mile. Since gradient figures are based on the average drop over many miles, gradient alone is not necessarily an indication of difficulty. The average gradient of the Colorado through Grand Canyon is only 8 feet per mile, yet huge rapids exist there. Some individual rapids like the Boulder Drop on the Skykomish drop 20 feet in 135 yards or a gradient of 260 feet per mile!

**BEDROCK:** The shape, composition and contour of the river bed. Each river is unique and over time individual rapids may change. From hard bedrock gorges to meandering gravel beds the variety is endless.

A combination of the above three criteria determine how difficult a river will be on a given day. Each river description in our on-line brochure has a link to the USGS river level gauge so you can check it out for yourself. To help you visualize what rivers look like at different levels, a general explanation of high and low water is provided below.

## **HIGH AND LOW WATER**

**LOW WATER:** During low water, the river is not as powerful as during high flows. Waves are typically much smaller, the current is slower and less "pushy". However, if the river bed is rocky the channel or route may actually be more difficult than higher flows and require very precise paddling to maneuver through the rapids and rocks.

**MEDIUM WATER:** Medium water levels are optimum for rafting. Many of the rocks exposed during low water are covered up and the route is more easily navigated. The waves are strong, stationary and the rapids are well defined within the river bed. The current is swifter and the rapids are "punchy".

**HIGH WATER:** During high water, the river is definitely moving roster and is much more powerful. Many of the rocks dividing the channel at lower levels may now be just under water causing powerful holes. The water forms waves that may build and then fall as it surges through the channel. High water can also cause rapids to "wash out" and become easier with smaller waves. Time in between rapids is reduced, rescue can be difficult and the water is very "pushy."

## **DIFFICULTY RATING SCALE**

Bear in mind that a river's level of challenge changes greatly with fluctuations in water level. The ratings in this brochure are based on the average flows we normally run. The water level during your trip may be higher or lower depending on climatic conditions.

- I. **VERY EASY.** Moving water with a few riffles and small waves. Few or no obstructions.
- II. **EASY.** Easy rapids with waves up to 3 feet. Wide, clear channels that are obvious without scouting. Some maneuvering required.
- III. **MEDIUM.** Rapids with numerous standing and breaking waves. Narrow but clear passages that require complex maneuvering. Some rocks, eddies and reversals.
- IV. **DIFFICULT.** Long difficult rapids with constricted passages that require precise maneuvering in very turbulent waters. Powerful waves among rocks and boiling eddies. Scouting from shore sometimes necessary.
- V. **EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.** Big drops and violent rapids which nearly always must be scouted from shore. Riverbed is extremely obstructed and steep with very powerful waves, currents and reversals.
- VI. **UNRUNNABLE!** Difficulties of Class V carried to the extreme of navigability. Nearly impossible and very dangerous. These rapids are always portaged.

## **BOOKING INFORMATION**

Downstream River Runners, Inc. is Washington's most experienced whitewater outfitter. 34 years of commercial experience with a perfect safety record. That's no accident. No one has ever been seriously injured on our carefully conducted trips and we want to keep it that way. We prefer providing smaller, safer and more intimate trips for a discriminating clientele who value service over price.

It is important for us to make each and every trip the finest possible so that your needs and enjoyment are truly catered to by highly skilled and intelligent guides who are at the top of their profession. We want you to experience every aspect of the river trip, not just the rapids. Interpretive discussion regarding the environment and native species adds a lot to your understanding and appreciation of rivers and their place in the world's ecosystem.

We also want to get to know you. We run rivers all the time, the most memorable trips for us are the one where we get to meet cool people from around the globe and share this unique experience with them! This rarely happens when your part of a 100+ person trip being pushed and hurried down the river so the guides can get back to run a second trip on the same day. Been there, done that, didn't like it. Two trips in a day is a burn out for the guides and increases the risk of a mishap.

With Downstream River Runners you get: a broad selection of extraordinary rivers; state-of-the-art equipment; abundant, healthy foods; smooth shuttles, 25 different sizes of men's and women's wetsuits; and above all, truly professional guides who are there to share their knowledge and expertise with you. You won't feel like someone lost in the "herd" being attended to by rookies, or guides who are there for their own edification.

Here are some helpful details for booking not just a trip, but a memorable adventure!

How to book your Rafting Trip:

1. Call our office at 206-906-9227 to check for availability and reserve your space(s).
2. You can give your VISA, MasterCard or American Express credit card or send in a check for the required deposit. A non-refundable deposit of \$30.00 per person is required. If you are reserving within 30 days of a trip, full payment is due at the time of reservation. When we receive your deposit, we will send you (preferably by email) a trip registration packet. The registration package includes: driving/rendezvous information; sample copy of our release form; gear list and wetsuit sizing chart.
3. The remainder of your fare is due 30 days before your trip. Information you provide regarding wet suit sizing for you or your group members is due back to us at least 14 days prior to your trip.

While it is best to make reservations early and avoid disappointment, sometimes we will have unsold space. If you should wish to join a trip on short notice, please give us a call, for there may be an opening.

If you reserve and your plans change before you send in your deposit, we would greatly appreciate a call letting us know as soon as possible so we can offer the space to others.

## **PLEASE READ OUR POLICIES**

### **RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED**

Make reservations early! Space is limited and prime weekend dates fill up fast. Reservations are accepted by telephone. Reservations made within 30 days of the trip start require full payment at the time of reservation. Office hours are between 10am and 6pm Monday through Thursday and 10am to 3pm on Fridays.

Please understand that when a reservation is made with Downstream River Runners, it is a commitment for us to hold space for you and possibly turn others away from that particular trip. If you choose to cancel, it can be difficult for us to rebook a trip, especially when the cancellation is close to the trip date. With this in mind we must be firm in adhering to the following payment/cancellation/ refund policy.

### **PAYMENT / CANCELLATIONS / NO SHOWS**

To reserve space, a \$30. non-refundable deposit is required for each participant and the balance is due 30 days prior to trip start. We prefer payments be mailed to our office, but we will gladly accept Master Card, VISA, and American Express over the telephone. All reservations made within 30 days of the trip are considered final with no cash refunds, unless we cancel due to extreme weather conditions, insufficient reservations or other factors beyond our control. In such cases your money will be fully refunded. \*Exception: If we determine river conditions to be unsafe, we reserve the right to transfer parties to a different river on the same day or arrange to run the same river on another day. We will make every effort to give you as much notice as possible.

If you must cancel there are no cash refunds, however, you may choose to receive a credit for future Downstream trips, or substitute another person to take your place. We will do our best to

accommodate substitutions or changes in wetsuit sizing up to 5 days before the trip. If you do not notify us of your cancellation at least 5 days before your trip and you fail to show up for any reason, no rescheduling, substitutions or credits will be made. We regret we cannot make exceptions for personal emergencies or illness.

## RESPONSIBILITY

In 35 years of rafting we have maintained a perfect safety record. However, when you are dealing with nature and people, there is always an element of risk involved. We make every effort to provide you the finest, most fun-filled trip possible. Our staff will give detailed 1/2 hour safety talk before each trip and it is important that you listen and do as they say. You will assume responsibility for many decisions affecting your safety during this trip. These activities can be physically demanding with inherent elements of risk.

We can assume no responsibility for injury to trip members, their personal belongings, or for any time and expenses involved. We require all participants to sign a liability release form before embarking on any trip. The Downstream staff may cancel any participant that arrives improperly prepared, physically unfit, under the influence of drugs or alcohol, without previous rafting experience (where applicable), or for any reason that poses a threat to the safety and well being of our staff or other guests. No refunds or credits will be given.

Each participant must fit into one of our lifejackets with all buckles fastened. Our lifejackets fit a maximum torso circumference of 52 inches. People with a history of heart trouble, asthma, epilepsy, allergy to bee stings, or any other potentially serious medical condition should consult their doctor before coming on a rafting trip. For safety and liability reasons, we advise pregnant women not to participate in any of our activities.

## MINORS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

Minors under 18 years of age not accompanied by their parent or legal guardian must bring to the river our release form signed by their parent or legal guardian. Our release form can be downloaded from this website or we can email or *snail mail* you.

## GROUP ORGANIZER RESPONSIBILITY

Persons acting as group organizers must be sure that each participant receives a copy of our policies, wetsuit sizing information and driving directions.



### **BALD EAGLE FLOAT TRIP**

1 day, December and January  
Marblemount to Rockport  
9 miles; difficulty Class I  
Cost \$65.

During the winter months the banks of the middle Skagit become host to one of the largest concentrations of bald eagles in the United States. Migrating south from Alaska and Canada, over 300 of these spectacular birds come to feed on the winter spawn of salmon. Typically we

see at least 50 birds as they perch in trees along the shore and glide overhead in search of food. If you've never seen a bald eagle up close, you'll be surprised how big they are! This trip is suitable for persons of any age or physical ability. Wet suits are not necessary, just your warm winter clothes and boots. Suitable for all ages. Lunch is not provided on this trip.

### **LOWER SKYKOMISH**

1 day, Mid week only during June and July  
Gold Bar to Sultan  
7 miles; difficulty Class I & II  
Cost \$65.

Only one hour from Seattle. Suitable for families, scout troops, senior citizens or anyone seeking a mild and scenic introduction to river touring. See spectacular views of Mt. Index, Mr. Baring and the Merchant Peaks as we wind our way downstream through open braided channels, gravel bars and clay banks. A great section of river for a first time trip. Wetsuits are not necessary. No experience necessary.

### **UPPER SKAGIT**

1 day June thru October  
Goodell Campground to Copper Creek  
9 miles, difficulty Class I & II with one class III rapid.  
Cost \$85.

Unsurpassed for its beauty, the Skagit River is a perfect trip for both the photographer and the entire family. Delightful vistas of the towering snow capped North Cascade peaks will satisfy any mountain lovers' dreams. Paddling the Skagit in the fall will provide striking glimpses of spawning salmon through brilliant reflections of flaming red and yellow leaves mixed with evergreens. The Skagit's flow is controlled by Seattle City Light's Ross, Diablo, and Gorge Dams. The sensuous blue-green water and thickly forested slopes have remained so pristine that they comprise a national recreation area adjacent the North Cascades National park.

While much of the Skagit River is gently undulating Class I & II, 6 miles downstream from the put-in the river narrows and stampedes into the Class III "S-Curves". The Skagit is best enjoyed from mid-July through late October. Our trips on the Upper Skagit are conducted under special use permits granted by North Cascades National Park.

### **SUIATTLE**

1 day, June through August  
Rat-Trap Bridge to Sauk/Suiattle confluence  
12.7 miles, difficulty Class II & III  
Cost \$85.

As summer settles in and the snow pack vanishes, the glacial melt of the Suiattle flows on. Fed by the glaciers on the north and east side of Glacial Peak, the Suiattle is an excellent choice for late season whitewater. Raft down this pristine river lined with cedar and fern on milky waters caused by glacial ice grinding rock into a fine powder known as glacial flour. As it winds its way through the braided gravel channels, meager signs of hillside logging are your only clue that civilization exists on the Suiattle. It truly provides you with one of the best wilderness experiences in Western Washington. This young rivers' clay and silt banks are forever

changing as the powerful force of the water erodes them away and provides a new challenge every year. Crash through the fury of “*Hurricane*”, a class III rapid, wetting your appetite for more on a series of waves as continuous as they are exhilarating. *An extraordinary way to enjoy a summer day.*

## **SAUK**

1 day, April through July (sometimes into August on high snow pack years.)

Whitechuck to Darrington

8 miles, difficulty Class III & IV-

Cost \$85.

Part of the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers System, The Sauk charges down through the Mr. Baker National Forest near Darrington. Beginning at the confluence of the glacially fed Whitechuck River and the snow fed Sauk, we immediately plunge into an ongoing frenzied dance of whitewater. Leaping and crashing with energy, the upper 5 miles of the Sank are demanding. We'll run head on into a series of galloping rapids culminating in the rapid known as " *Jaws*". The Sauk, like its sister river the Suiattle, is young, steep, and capable of altering its channel during flood waters.

After lunch the Sauk takes on a more moderate tempo with time to enjoy its heavily forested banks, trees dripping with moss and lush maiden hair ferns. A variety of waterfowl are readily seen in this area and the crystalline waters of Clear Creek are a delight as they enter in stark contrast to the milky green Sauk. An exceptional experience and one of our favorite whitewater trips. Only 1.5 hours drive time from Seattle. Swimming ability is required. Previous experience is recommended, but not required for healthy active people.

Our trips on the Sauk and Suiattle Rivers are conducted under special use permit granted by the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

## **GREEN RIVER GORGE**

1 day, March and April (a dam controlled river with unpredictable releases)

Palmer to Flaming Geyser Park

14 miles, difficulty Class III & IV

Cost \$95.

An extraordinary gorge type river on the west side of the Cascades, the Green River is a northwest favorite. A steep 'pool and drop' river, the clear green waters plunge down through narrow, smooth walled channels and large boulder gardens. Lush cedar and fir woods with rain forest qualities dominate the canyon rim. In our opinion, the Green is the prettiest river of the Western Cascades and certainly one of the most 'Bravado' trips we offer.

A minimum flow of 1,500cfs is needed to raft the Green. At water levels between 2,800 to 3,500cfs, the Green becomes constant whitewater and more demanding than the Skykomish. Since the river is dam controlled, the water levels are not predictable and we seldom know more than a week in advance of a scheduled water release. Those wishing to join this epic adventure must contact the office to sign up for the High Water Hotline. We require swimming ability and previous paddling experience.

## **NORTH FORK SKYKOMISH**

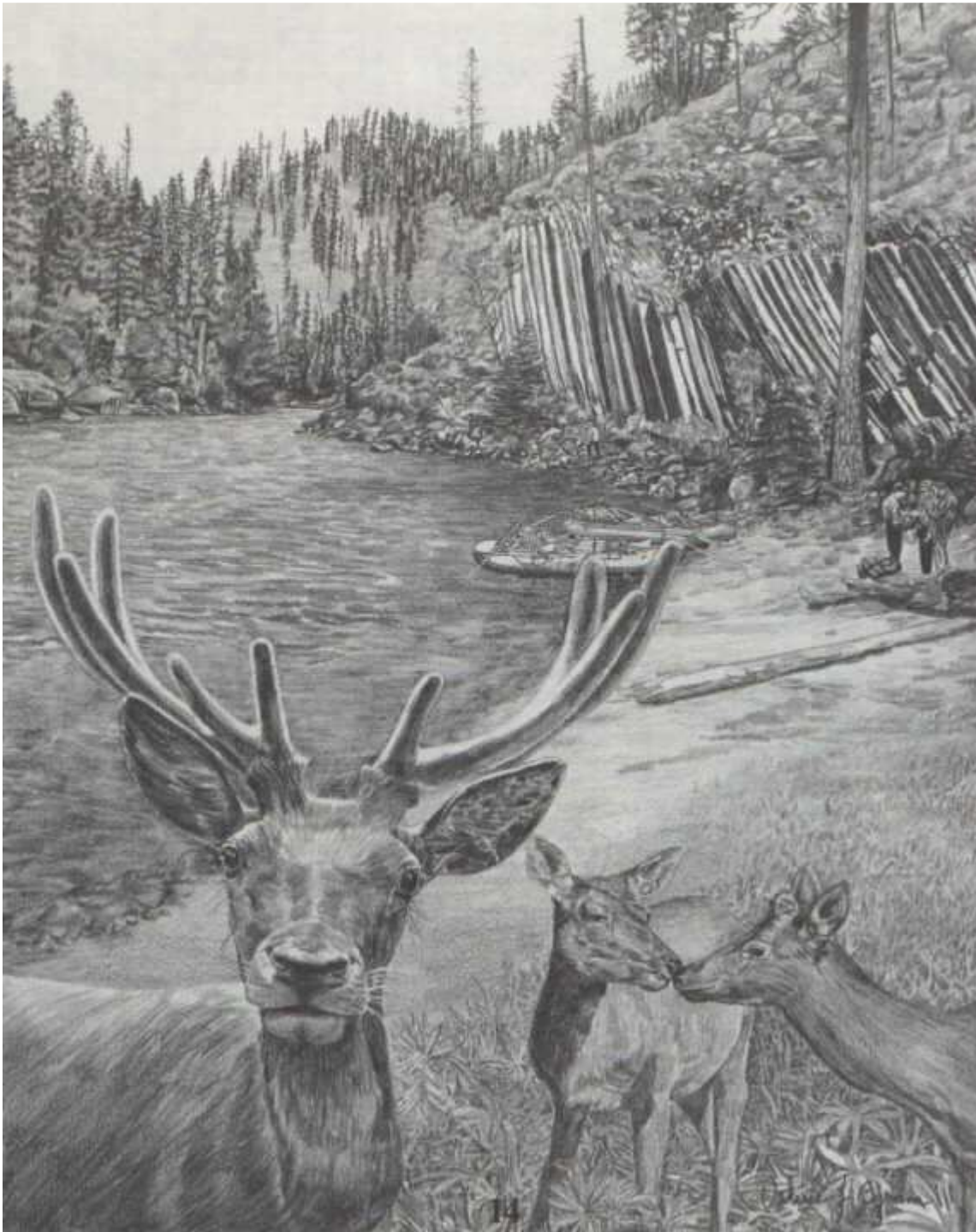
1 day, late April through May

Galena to Index

14 miles, difficulty IV+

Cost \$95.

While this section of the 'Sky' doesn't have a class V Boulder Drop like the main stem, it's actually a more demanding and more dangerous run. The class IV rapids are continuous making rescue significantly more difficult. Only run-able at the peak of the snow melt in late April and early May, the water of the N. Fork is extremely cold. The channel is very complex, strewn with boulders and there are plenty of log jams and sweepers. Seriously, folks, don't even consider this run unless you've got lots of rafting experience and are willing to endure potentially cold and rainy conditions. Significant previous experience and strong swimming ability are required of each participant. Drysuits are recommended and group size is limited.



## **TIETON**

1 day, September  
Rimrock to Windy point  
13 miles, difficulty III  
Cost \$75.

Each September, when all the other rivers are low, we look forward to rafting the Tieton River. The Tieton offers prime end of season river rafting as irrigation water is released from Rimrock Lake Dam for the orchards in the Yakima Valley and the salmon run up the Yakima River. Only 45 minutes west of Yakima, this 13 mile stretch of whitewater is swift running, dropping 50 feet per mile with constant Class III rapids and numerous camping facilities along shore. Every

autumn, when the mountain air is brisk we're camped out there from the Labor Day weekend through September. Combine great scenery with steady whitewater, and you've got a recipe for a great time. The trip begins in pine-forested canyon, bright with fall colors and gradually becomes more open sagebrush country with dramatic basalt formations rising abruptly from the river.

Previous experience is not required, but please don't confuse the Tieton run with a float trip on the Yakima. We're talking whitewater here and our professional guides will make your Tieton River ride one of the most enjoyable outdoor experiences you've ever had. Lunch is not provided on this trip, there's nowhere to stop! Our trips on the Tieton are conducted under special use permits granted by the Wenatchee National Forest.

## **KLICKITAT**

1 day programs - *Call!*

2 day programs - May

Gauging station to Leidl Bridge

22 miles & difficulty III & IV

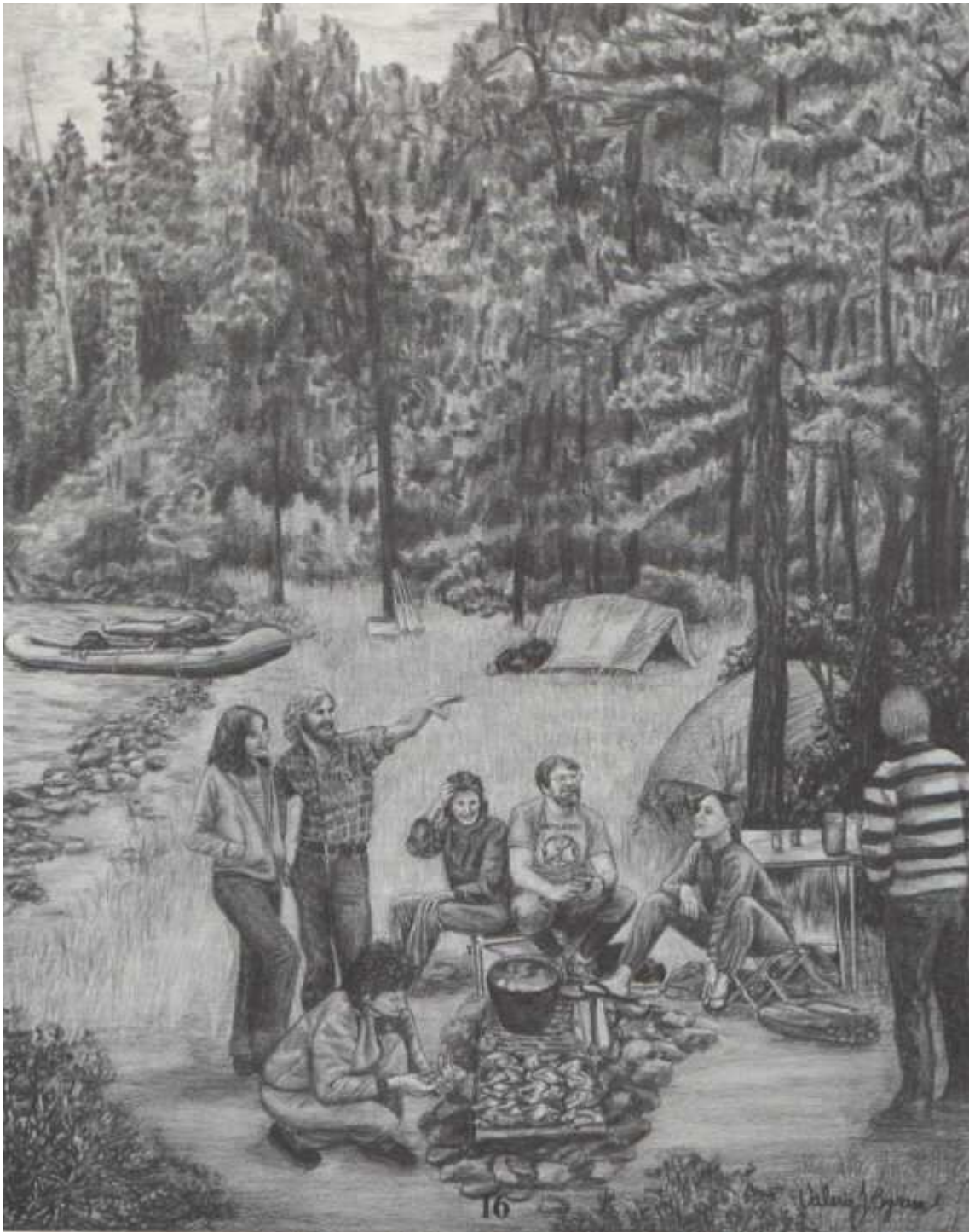
Cost for one day trip: \$125.

Cost for two day trip: \$250.

The Klickitat is one of Washington's premier whitewater rafting trips, and was pioneered by Downstream River Runners during the 1983 season. Cascading through a spectacular gorge in south central Washington, the Klickitat will hold you awestruck with its dramatic scenery and sense of wild solitude. Very similar in character to the Tieton but more remote and demanding, the Klickitat is only runnable in the spring. The place is truly enchanted: 200 foot high walls of hanging columnar basalt border the narrow channel echoing the river's intensity. The lower gorge affords spacious views of the canyon rim, spotted with pines and usually flooded with sunshine.

On our two day program, we start the first day by running the Class II & III white water of the lower gorge. After you've gotten your feet wet and worked up an appetite, well break for lunch. We then continue downstream, getting everyone tuned up for the running of the upper gorge on the morrow. That evening, at our remote riverside camp, ready yourself for a sumptuous dinner prepared by the guides and served with panache. After dinner relax around the campfire, getting to know your fellow paddlers and enjoy a private concert with Casey and his guitar.

Rise the next morning to a hearty breakfast and prepare yourself for the challenge of the upper gorge. While none of the rapids are greater than Class IV-, they just keep coming as they rush through the narrow channel of the upper gorge. The river is swift and constantly dropping (50 feet per mile) which keeps the excitement at a peak level. Even so, we will stop occasionally to catch our breath and savor the beauty of this wilderness canyon. All in all our two day Klickitat trip is a most unique and satisfying experience.



## **GRANDE RONDE**

3 days, May or July

Minam to Troy

38 miles, difficulty Class II+

Cost \$375.

The Grande Ronde is one of Oregon's most beautiful river canyons and a tributary of the famous Snake River in Hell's Canyon. This remote and deep canyon is moderately forested

with large meadows and beaches for camping. Photographic opportunities abound in this big game country as the river meanders through the steep canyon, with bend after bend exposing lovely views second to none. The whitewater is mild but consistent and the trip is well suited for families or those who would prefer just to relax and enjoy the sun, majestic scenery and our catered camp cuisine.

The weather is typically warm and sunny. Casey always brings his guitar on this trip and encourages other musicians to join the trip. We've had some great concerts and they seem to get better each year. Do yourself a favor and check out of the city and into the woods. You deserve a break and the Grande Ronde adventure will leave you with great memories for a lifetime. Our trips on the Grande Ronde are conducted under a special use permit from Umatilla National Forest.

### **OWYHEE**

5 days, April, May  
Rome to Leslie Gulch  
67 miles, difficulty III  
Cost \$800.

Sometimes referred to as the miniature Grand Canyon, the Owyhee is one of the great rivers of North America. Located in southeast Oregon this true desert river is remote and isolated. On the flyway, the Owyhee is a paradise for bird watchers and fascinating for the geologist. Well float past towering pinnacles, multicolored landscape and sheer canyon walls rising 1,000 feet from the river. Run only during spring runoff, there are many challenging rapids as well as Indian petroglyphs, hot springs, big horn sheep and antelope.

This 5 day adventure leaves plenty of time for fishing, hiking, photography and campfire camaraderie. Don't underestimate the value of the Owyhee experience! Life is not a rehearsal; so if you haven't seen this river, don't miss out! Please sign up no later March 10<sup>th</sup>. Our trips on the Owyhee are conducted under a special use permit from the Bureau of Land Management.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND UPDATES PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE**

[www.riverpeople.com](http://www.riverpeople.com)

or

**Give us a call at (206) 906-9227**

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