



2019 SMITH RIVER STATE PARK & RIVER CORRIDOR PRIVATE FLOAT TRIP APPLICATION

Deadline: Postmarked by US Postal Service on or before February 14, 2019

RETURN TO: MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS LICENSING BUREAU - SMITH RIVER 1420 E 6th AVE PO BOX 200701 HELENA MT 59620-0701

MONTANA FWP

Mail in this application or use it as a guide to apply online at stateparks.mt.gov or over the counter at any FWP regional or area offices.

Application form with fields for DATE OF BIRTH, NAME, MAILING ADDRESS, PHYSICAL ADDRESS, HOME PHONE, WORK PHONE, RESIDENT/Non Resident status, and Country. Includes a section for mailing list preferences and a signature line.

LAUNCH DATE CHOICES NOTE: The typical float season extends from mid April through mid July

1ST CHOICE MONTH - DAY - YEAR 2019 2ND CHOICE MONTH - DAY - YEAR 2019 3RD CHOICE MONTH - DAY - YEAR 2019

All valid applications postmarked on or before THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019 will be entered in the random drawing. Applications postmarked after February 14, 2019 will be returned to the applicants.

REMINDERS FOR 2019:

- * Food, garbage and other attractants must be properly stored. Go to stateparks.mt.gov/smith-river/ for additional information and requirements.
* The fee for Montana Residents and Non Residents is a \$10.00 non-refundable application fee that must accompany each application.
* Applicants must be a minimum of 12 years old at the time of submitting the application.
* Each successful permit can have a maximum group size of 15 people including children.
* Successful permits are non-transferable and non-refundable. If you drew a permit successfully last year (2018) and did not float and did not properly cancel you are not eligible to apply this year.
* Successful applicants who receive a permit during the time period of May 15 through July 15 (peak season) will not be eligible to apply for a permit for this time period the following year.
* A Super Permit drawing will also be conducted. Go to stateparks.mt.gov for details and to purchase unlimited chances.

PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

MONTANA RESIDENTS - \$10.00 Personal checks are accepted.

NON-RESIDENTS - \$10.00 NO PERSONAL OR COMPANY CHECKS. Pay by money order or cashiers checks.

MAKE PAYMENT TO: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

CHECK NUMBER CHECK AMOUNT \$

DRAWING CONDUCTED IN EARLY MARCH - RESULTS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN MARCH ON THE FWP WEBSITE AT: stateparks.mt.gov SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE A PERMIT WITH A FLOATER INFORMATION PACKET.

Take another shot at the dream. Enter Smith River Super Permit Lottery. Go to stateparks.mt.gov and click on Super Permit

2019 SMITH RIVER STATE PARK & RIVER CORRIDOR
PERMIT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

READ THIS INFORMATION COMPLETELY BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION
RETURN ONLY THE APPLICATION WITH \$10 NON-REFUNDABLE APPLICATION FEE

Please call the Smith River State Park office in Great Falls, Montana for any additional questions: (406) 454-5840

- ▶ To apply for a private float permit for Smith River State Park & River Corridor, fill out the attached application and return to:
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Licensing Bureau- Smith River
1420 East 6th Ave.
PO Box 200701
Helena MT 59620-0701

- ▶ All applications must be **POSTMARKED** or submitted on or before **Thursday, February 14, 2019**.

- ▶ A \$10 non-refundable application fee applies for all applicants regardless of whether you're a Montana resident or non-resident. You must be a minimum of **12 years old** at the time of submitting the application. This application fee must accompany each application. Successful applicants will be required to pay the applicable float fees at Camp Baker during registration on launch day. Unsuccessful applicants will not receive a refund.

- ▶ The actual float fees, to be paid during registration at Camp Baker on the launch day are as follows.

Under 6 years (resident/non-resident)	FREE
6-12 years (resident/non-resident)	\$15.00
13 and older (resident)	\$25.00
13 and older (non-resident)	\$60.00

- ▶ You may submit only **one application per person**. Submittal of more than one application per person will disqualify those applications from the drawing. You may submit up to three different launch dates on your application in the priority of first, second and third choices. Only one date will be chosen via the drawing process and it is based on your order of choice and the availability of a launch for that specific date.

- ▶ The drawing will be conducted in early March 2019. Successful applicants will receive a permit with a floater information packet. Results of the drawing will be made available in early March on the FWP web site at: stateparks.mt.gov

- ▶ Beginning on Monday, **March 11, 2019** you may call the Smith River Reservation Line at (406) 454-5861 Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon MST to:
 1. Request any remaining launch dates that may be available
 2. Pick up a cancelled launch date
 3. Cancel a launch date

- ▶ Permits are non-transferable and non-refundable. Permit holders must bring photo ID to the put-in. Permit holders must cancel their permit if they are not going to use their launch regardless of weather or water flows above 100 cfs. **Failure to cancel a permit at least 2 days prior to your launch date, at flows above 100 cfs, will result in losing next years' privileges for the Smith River permit drawing.**

- ▶ Successful applicants who receive a permit during the time period of **May 15 through July 15 (peak season)** will not be eligible to apply for a permit for this time period the following year. This pertains even if the permit is cancelled. They may still apply for launch dates outside this time period, accompany other permitted trips during this time period or acquire a cancelled permit for any launch date.

- ▶ **FOOD STORAGE REGULATION:** Food, garbage and other attractants must be properly stored. Go to stateparks.mt.gov/smith-river/ for additional information and requirements.

NOTE: Please submit ONLY the following application fee with your completed application:

Montana Residents (12 years +)	\$10.00 non-refundable application fee (Personal checks accepted)
Non-Residents (12 years +)	\$10.00 non-refundable application fee (Personal checks <u>not</u> accepted. Money Order or Cashier's Check only)

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

COMMON QUESTIONS

REMINDERS FOR THE 2019 FLOAT SEASON

- **FOOD STORAGE REGULATION:** Food, garbage and other attractants must be properly stored. Go to stateparks.mt.gov/smith-river/ for additional information and requirements.
- The fee for **Montana residents** and **non-residents** is a \$10 non-refundable application fee that must accompany each application.
- Applicants must be a minimum of **12 years old** at the time of submitting the application. There is no age restriction to participate on a Smith River float trip.
- Each successful permit can have a maximum group size of 15 people including children.
- Successful permits are non-transferable and non-refundable. If you drew a permit successfully last year (2018) and did not float and did not properly cancel you are not eligible to apply this year.
- Successful applicants who receive a permit during the time period of **May 15 through July 15 (peak season)** will **not** be eligible to apply for a permit for this time period the following year. This pertains even if the permit is cancelled. They may still apply for launch dates outside this time period, accompany other permitted trips or acquire a cancelled permit for any launch date.
- In addition to the regular private float permits, FWP will issue one Super Permit each year. The recipient of the permit will be allowed to launch on any date of their choosing for that year. There is no limit to the number of chances someone may purchase (\$5 per chance). The money from the sale of Super Permit chances will be deposited into the Smith River Corridor Enhancement Account. The Super Permit drawing will occur after the regular private lottery, which means unsuccessful applicants will have an additional opportunity to draw a coveted Smith River permit!

Q. WHEN IS THE FLOAT SEASON? The float season varies widely depending on snowpack runoff, rainfall and amount and timing of irrigation. The "typical" float season runs from mid-April through mid-July with occasional floating in September and October. A permit and payment of fees is required to float year-round. ***Be prepared for any and all types of weather especially rain and snow early in the float season.***

Q. IS THERE A LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF GROUPS PER DAY AND FLOATERS PER GROUP? Yes! A maximum of nine groups are allowed to launch per day. One launch per day is allocated to outfitted groups, except on Sundays and Wednesdays, when two outfitted groups are permitted. A maximum of 15 people are allowed per group.

Q. WHAT KIND OF BOATS CAN BE USED ON THE SMITH RIVER? Non-motorized watercraft only! Rafts are used by 75% of floaters and canoes used by about 10% of floaters. These are the most appropriate craft although drift boats, inflatable kayaks, and hard-sided kayaks are also taken down the river.

Q. HOW MANY DAYS DOES IT TAKE TO FLOAT THE SMITH RIVER? The float is 59 river miles from Camp Baker to Eden Bridge. A minimum of two nights and three full days should be planned for at normal water levels (350 + cfs). Most trips take four to five days. Factor in probable river flows, distances you wish to cover each day, and the type of experience you are seeking. Large drift boats and catarafts generally begin to experience navigation difficulty at river flows below 350 CFS, rafts below 250 CFS and canoes below 150 CFS. These are estimated levels to assist floaters in trip planning and difficulty may be encountered at levels above those listed.

Q. IS THERE A LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF NIGHTS ALLOWED ON THE SMITH RIVER? Yes! During the peak season of May 15 through July 15, floaters are limited to a maximum of 4 nights camping, including nights spent at private cabins or ranches. Layover nights (2 or more nights at the same camp) are permitted at mid-canyon boat camps (Two Creek to Upper Parker Flat) however, only one layover night is permitted during the peak season (May 15 – July 15).

Q. WHAT ABOUT DECLARING BOAT CAMPS? During the registration process, each group selects designated boat camps, based upon availability, for each night on the river. Registration and boat camp selection is completed the morning of your scheduled launch based upon the order of sign-in (no more than 24 hours in advance) at Camp Baker. A sign-in sheet is located in a metal box on the porch of the Ranger Station.

Q. IS THERE WHITEWATER ON THE SMITH RIVER? There is one section of class II whitewater at mile 47 and a tricky area at mile 49. However, the Smith always moves quickly with sharp turns, rocky shallows and snags partially across the river. You should have at least intermediate boating skills before floating the Smith.

Q. CAN I HIRE A PERSON TO PERFORM SERVICES FOR ME DURING MY FLOAT TRIP (EXAMPLE: ROW GEAR BOAT, COOK MEALS, CAMP SET-UP ETC)? No. Hiring a person, group or organization to perform any type of service for compensation during a private permitted float trip on the Smith River is considered illegal outfitting. There are eight (8) commercial outfitters who are authorized and permitted by Montana State Parks and the United States Forest Service to conduct commercial float trips on the Smith River. However, these outfitters are allocated a specific number of launches on specific days throughout the float season and conduct fully outfitted float trips for persons not possessing a private float permit. They are not authorized to provide specific services for private permit holders.

Q. WHAT IS THE SMITH RIVER CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNT (CEA)? The CEA was established to fund long-term protection strategies for the river corridor. 5% of all floater fees and \$50 from each outfitted client is placed in this account. In addition, all revenue generated from the sale of Super Permit Lottery chances are deposited into the CEA.

If you have any questions or would like any more information regarding the general permit or Super Permit drawings, please call Montana State Parks, a division of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, at (406) 454-5840 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. MST, Monday through Friday.