

## JOHN DAY RIVER LAUNCHES AND CAMPING INFORMATION

The Mainstem of the John Day River is divided into four segments based on geographical features, road access, and recreational use patterns. Boating experiences and recreational opportunities vary by segment.

Please visit [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) for information about [overnight permits](#) and [day use permits](#) for the Wild and Scenic portion of the John Day River (Service Creek to Tumwater Falls). Please also see our [segment map](#) for reference.

### Boat Launch & Take-Outs

- Spray (River Mile 170.8) City of Spray land, toilet, campground, launch fee
- Wooden Bridge (RM 162) no toilet, no camping
- Muleshoe (RM 159.2) toilet, campground
- Service Creek (RM 157.2) toilet, walk-in campground
- Twickenham (RM 144.1) private land with easement for boat access and boater parking only, toilet, no camping
- Priest Hole (RM 137.1) toilet, primitive camping
- Lower Burnt Ranch (RM 131.7) toilet, primitive camping
- Clarno (RM 109.2) toilet, no camping
- Thirtymile (RM 84), primitive camping
- Cottonwood / J.S. Burres (RM 39.6) toilet, no camping; Camping available across the river at Cottonwood Canyon State Park
- Rock Creek (RM 22) no toilet, primitive camping
- McDonald Crossing (RM 20.7) no toilet; last take-out before Tumwater Falls; toilet and parking available  
½ mile downstream on east side at John Day Crossing

Private and public campgrounds are located throughout the John Day basin, and the BLM manages four semi-developed (no water, no trash service) sites along the mainstem and North Fork of the John Day River:

- Muleshoe Campground, along Hwy. 19 approximately 10 miles west of Spray, OR.
- Donnelly Service Creek River Access Park, at the Hwy 19/207 junction, 13 miles west of Spray, OR (walk-in site).
- Lone Pine and Big Bend, approximately three miles NE of Kimberly, OR, along the North Fork.

The John Day River has annual campfire restrictions in place from June 1 – October 15. During the fire closure, no wood or charcoal fires are permitted. Gas/propane campfires are not allowed. Gas/propane cooking stoves and lanterns are authorized. When campfires are allowed, they must be contained in a fire grate provided at a developed campground or in a raised metal fire pan with all ashes carried out of the canyon for disposal. Campfires directly on the ground are unsightly, create resource damage, and are not permitted.