

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/7/2025 10:54:49 PM

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Comments: I have floated the north fork by raft (once) and both the middle fork wilderness section (6 trips) and south fork wilderness section (2 trips) by kayak and pack-raft. I would first say that my experience on the north fork was satisfactory in terms of user experience and that my experiences on the wilderness sections was excellent. I will focus my comments on the middle and south fork wilderness sections as that is where I have more recent experience.

I applaud the efforts to maintain a favorable user experience on these waterways.

I support the effort to collect more data on river use and user experience. Free user permits and data collection without restricting river use seems to be a reasonable way to collect meaningful data to guide future management decisions. It does seem that there is currently a lack of statistically significant information about the use of these rivers.

My experience has been that the current use guidelines in terms of campsite location, waste management practices, and fire pan use are beneficial. I have encountered low numbers of fellow river users and clean, well cared for campsites. I value a pristine, uncrowded, and remote wilderness experience and have found that on the middle and south fork wilderness sections. I would rate my personal experience very high under the current river management approach in these areas. I would encourage land managers to continue to educate users on best practices for minimal impact on the river corridor. I would recommend that requirements for waste pack-out equipment and fire pan use consider the small size and carrying capacity of kayaks and pack-rafts.

I have experienced greater impact to my river experience from large groups travelling together. These big groups have a much greater impact on a pristine, uncrowded, and remote experience just with their large presence. I have witnessed permitted outfitter groups in numbers that exceed person and stock limits already in place. In my opinion the size of a group is as important to consider as the total number of river corridor users.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Dave Hus