

## River Flow Guidelines

### **Below 2000 cfs (cubic feet per second)**

#### **Typical River Conditions**

- Chili Bar Dam controls flows
- Clear Water
- Rapids rated up to Class III+
- Flows may increase quickly due to upstream hydroelectric operations

#### **Group Responsibility**

(each level builds on previous levels)

- Class III equipment: multi-chamber raft, Type III white water PFD's, full size paddles, throw rope, first aid & wrap kits
- Class III skills - boat in control, allow adequate space between groups in rapids, no loose lines or gear, standard hand signals
- Be trained in swift water safety / rescue, CPR, first aid

### **2000 - 4500 cfs**

#### **Typical River Conditions**

- Current speed, wave size & hydraulics increase noticeably
- Cold snow melt water during winter and spring months
- Strainer hazards on some riverbanks

#### **Group Responsibility**

- Wet suits/dry suits recommended
- Guide has South Fork high flow experience
- Keep group compact for quick response to swimmers
- No single-boat trips

### **4500 - 8000 cfs**

#### **Typical River Conditions**

- Large waves & holes can flip boats
- Water always extremely cold
- Hypothermia risk from long swims
- Strainer hazards along entire river
- Flow may increase rapidly, turn silty during and after storms
- Some rapids Class IV (above 6000 cfs)

#### **Group Responsibility**

- Wet suits/dry suits necessary
- Helmets recommended Advanced boating skills required
- Wear high flotation PFD's Know routes to avoid boat flips - "When in doubt, scout"

- Rig boat for flips
- Group fitness: Everyone must be able to paddle hard, recover from flips, swim to safety in strong current

## **Warning: Flows above 8,000 cfs demand the utmost respect and caution**

### **8000 - 12,000 cfs**

#### **Typical River Conditions**

- Winter storm flows and harsh weather
- Large floating debris
- Swims are a distinct possibility

#### **Group Responsibility**

- Trained safety boaters advised
- Swims may be life threatening due to strainers
- Scout all rapids

### **12,000 - 30,000 cfs**

#### **Typical River Conditions**

- Difficult to avoid boat flipping waves & holes

#### **Group Responsibility**

- Teams of experts only with trained safety boaters
- Rescue & communication gear necessary

### **Above 30,000 cfs**

#### **Typical River Conditions**

- Flood stage conditions

#### **Group Responsibility**

- Boating not recommended due to extreme hazards
- River subject to immediate closure