

PLEASE NOTE: The Black Canyon is a Class 5 Boating Opportunity

– Experts Only –

The Black Canyon is rated Class 5¹ whitewater, appropriate for expert boaters only. Class 5 whitewater is described as extremely long, obstructed, or very violent rapids, which expose a paddler to added risk. Drops may contain large, unavoidable waves and holes or steep, congested chutes with complex, demanding routes. Rapids may continue for long distances between pools, demanding a high level of fitness. What eddies exist may be small, turbulent, or difficult to reach. At the high end of the scale, several of these factors may be combined. Scouting is recommended but may be difficult. Swims are dangerous, and rescue is often difficult, even for experts. A very reliable Eskimo-roll, proper equipment, extensive experience, and practiced rescue skills are essential. The Class 5 rating is intended to serve as guidance only. Whitewater boaters should assess their ability to run the Black Canyon based on their individual skill level, river flow level, and weather conditions.

Disclaimer: PacifiCorp is by no means promoting or inviting the public to participate in whitewater boating activities on the Black Canyon of the Bear River. Flows below the dam may change substantially without warning. PacifiCorp assumes no responsibility for damage to equipment or personal injury resulting from any change in flow.

Black Canyon Boater Program

The structure of PacifiCorp’s whitewater boater flow program has been modified by agreement between the Parties to the Bear River Hydroelectric Project Settlement Agreement, also known as the Bear River Environmental Coordination Committee (ECC). In 2012, the ECC agreed to change from the previous forecast-dependent flow program to a scheduled program. On scheduled days, flows of 900 cfs or inflow, whichever is greater, will be provided on each day. Between adjoining release days, night-time flows of 200 cfs will be maintained.

2026 Scheduled Whitewater Release Dates and Times

Four boater events are scheduled for 2026 and include three weekend events (Saturday and Sunday) and one three-day event (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). Boater flows are scheduled for the following dates:

- March 28 and 29, 2026
- April 11 and 12, 2026
- April 24, 25 and 26, 2026
- September 12 and 13, 2026

Releases will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 4 p.m.

¹ American Whitewater International Scale of Whitewater Difficulty