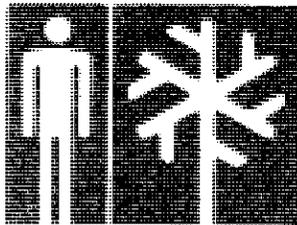


river management plan  
august 1979

DINOSAUR

NATIONAL MONUMENT / COLORADO-UTAH





PROPOSED  
RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN  
DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT  
COLORADO - UTAH

Prepared by

Dinosaur National Monument  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior

Recommended:

8/27/79  
Date

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8/28/79  
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## INTRODUCTION

Dinosaur National Monument is located at the northern end of the Colorado Plateau, a unique physiographic region characterized by high, semi-arid, sparsely-settled plateaus and bounded by mountain ranges. The stream-cut canyons which dissect these plateaus collectively define the Colorado River system. The canyons of the Green and Yampa Rivers, major components of this system, form the core of the 211,053-acre monument. The deep canyons of the Green River and its major tributary, the Yampa, are incised in the eastern end of the Uinta Mountains, dividing the monument into three highland plateaus. Although these highland areas are accessible in varying degrees from the surrounding lowlands, sheer cliffs and rugged terrain allow access to the rivers below at only a few places.

The remoteness of the river canyons is complemented by a complex geologic history, which unfolds as the rivers penetrate varied rock formations; canyon bottom oases for plant and animal communities; remnants of early civilizations and explorations; and an assortment of rapids, riffles, eddies, pools and meanders. These characteristics and the variety of moods they create provide a unique and tremendously popular recreation opportunity.

Recreational use of the rivers in the monument was virtually unknown until the 1960's. By 1967, almost 2500 persons floated the rivers annually. In the following five years, river use increased more than six-fold -- to over 17,000 boaters in 1972. These increases led to a serious concern that continued unrestricted use would result in serious degradation of the natural resources and environmental amenities of the river canyons, and would inevitably diminish the quality of the recreational experience.

The mission of the National Park Service is to protect and perpetuate the natural and historic resources within its jurisdiction, and to provide for the public enjoyment of these resources. Between the dichotomous extremes of total preservation of the river canyons and unrestricted recreational use, lies a realistic level, or carrying capacity, at which both of these mandates can be achieved. A fundamental consideration in determining this level is the quality of the visitor experience; use of the national parks should be both inspired by, and its rewards derived from, the natural features and character of the area. Thus, the river experience within the monument should provide more than whitewater thrills; it should offer a change from the fast pace, crowding and artificiality of our everyday surroundings.

Since the interim river use ceiling and management program were initiated at Dinosaur National Monument in 1972, the National Park Service has attempted to assess the ecological tolerance limits of the river canyons, as well as the psychological and sociological

parameters affecting the river experience. Research studies and public workshops have been conducted to obtain much-needed data and ideas. These efforts have clarified the nature and complexity of the issues involved and have demonstrated the urgency of revising the present river management system. The proposed river management plan attempts to provide a comprehensive system which will equitably distribute river use within ecological and sociological constraints, and in accordance with the legislative purpose and management objective of Dinosaur National Monument.

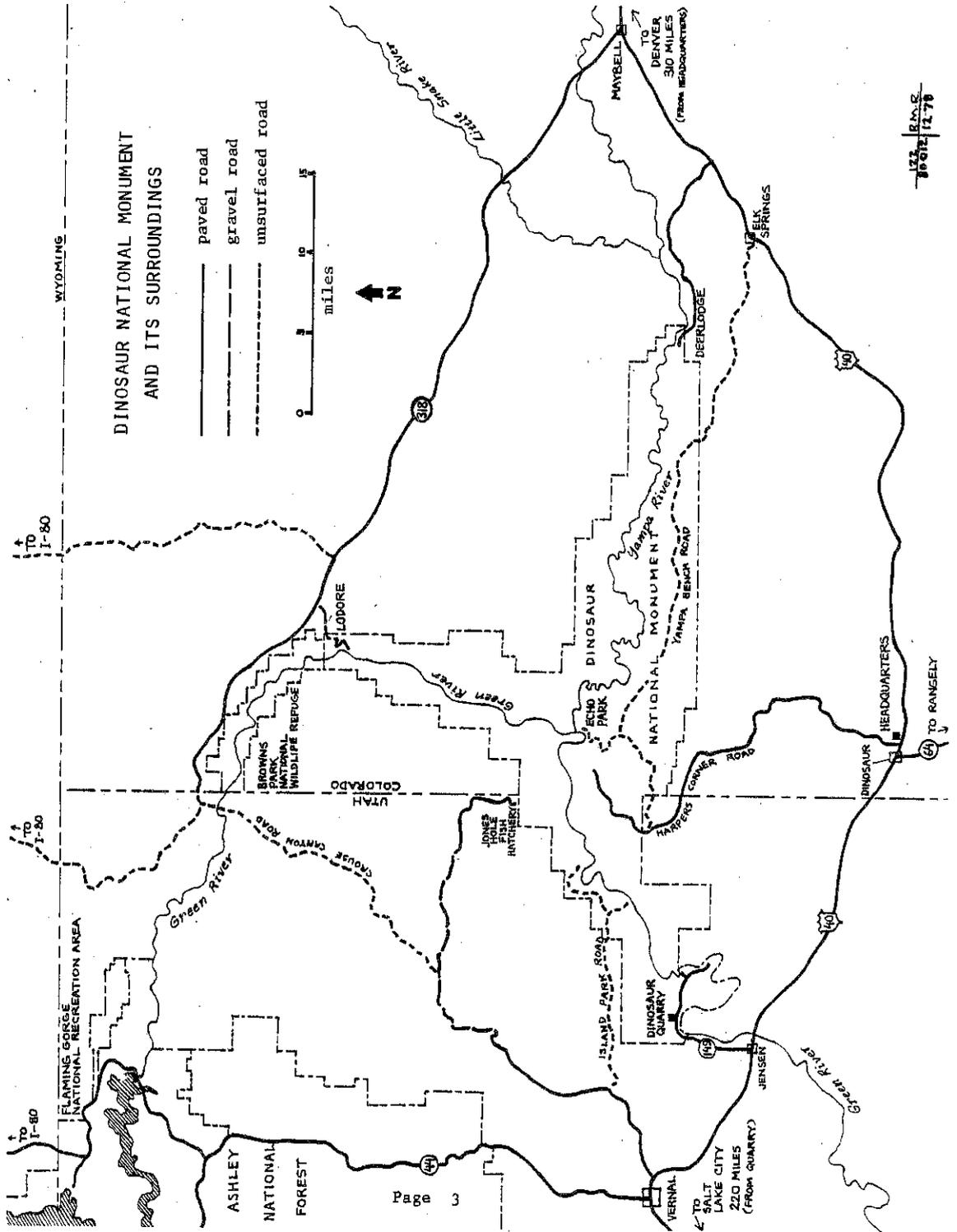
#### THE RESOURCE AND ITS USE

The Green River enters Dinosaur National Monument at its northern boundary in Browns Park and flows southward through the Canyon of Lodore. The Yampa River enters the eastern portion of the monument at Deerlodge Park and flows through deeply entrenched meanders until it joins the Green River at Echo Park in the center of the monument. The augmented flow of the Green then enters Whirlpool Canyon, meanders through the open country of Island Park, and moves swiftly through Split Mountain Gorge, leaving the monument at its southwestern boundary.

The Green River has been regulated since November 1962 by Flaming Gorge Dam, forty-seven miles upstream from the monument boundary. Impoundment has severely altered the natural regime of the river below the dam. Regulated releases from Flaming Gorge Reservoir have reduced the magnitude of high water peaks, increased early spring and late summer flows, and created erratic diurnal fluctuations. In addition to modifying the flow of the river, impoundment has lowered water temperatures, changed the natural ion balance, decreased turbidity, altered natural deposition and scouring processes, and modified riparian communities.

The Yampa River is the only remaining free-flowing tributary in the Colorado River system, although dams have been proposed at several locations upstream from the monument. The Yampa is the major drainage of northwestern Colorado. High flow, resulting from spring run-off, generally lasts only a few weeks in late May and June. During the remainder of the year, the 46-mile segment from Deerlodge to Echo Park is essentially unnavigable.

The two rivers, with different use seasons and road access locations, afford a variety of trips in the monument. Trip distance may vary from nine to seventy-two river miles, and trip duration from several hours to a week. Most river trips in the monument take place on the 45-mile stretch of the Green River between Lodore and Split Mountain Campground. These trips average 3 to 4 days in duration. During May and June, however, use is predominantly on the Yampa River. Yampa trips launch at Deerlodge Park and generally float the 72 miles to Split Mountain in 3 to 5 days. A relatively small number of trips



DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT  
AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

- paved road
- - - gravel road
- · · unsurfaced road



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launch at Echo Park, taking a day or two to float 26 miles to Split Mountain. Vehicular access to this launch site is limited by a steep, primitive road leading into Echo Park from the Blue Mountain highland. Rainbow Park through Split Mountain Gorge is a very popular day use activity.

River use, as it occurs in the monument, is actually a complex collection of visitor activities and experiences. The primary activity, recreational boating, varies according to the type of boats used and the nature of the group. Boats approved for use in the monument range from kayaks, sportyaks and dories to inflatable rafts up to 33 feet in length. Trips may be either commercial, organized and conducted by authorized National Park Service concessioners, or noncommercial, for people with the necessary skills and equipment to undertake a whitewater trip on their own. On most river trips, a few experienced individuals or commercial guides assume responsibility for organizing the trip and rowing the boats, while the remaining participants enjoy a more leisurely role. Other groups seek a participatory experience, with everyone sharing in rowing or paddling the boats and planning the day's activities.

While traveling down the river, the visitor has an unexcelled opportunity to observe and photograph outstanding scenery, wildlife, and historic and archeological sites. Hiking, fishing and swimming are also popular activities. Many trips have educational objectives and programs. A river trip offers an ideal setting for learning about and appreciating the environment and man's role within it.

Overnight camping in the river canyons is an integral part of the river experience. Designated campsites with primitive facilities have been established along the rivers for use by boating parties. During the primary use season, each group is assigned to specific campsites. The designated campsites concentrate off-river activities within defined areas, limiting the amount of the canyon environment that is subject to adverse impacts from human use.

The monument's boating season generally extends from April to October, although trips can be taken year-round. The most popular period is from mid-May through Labor Day weekend. The distribution of use through the week, the season and the canyons is uneven, causing crowding and congestion at certain periods and locations. Crowded conditions not only threaten the natural environment but diminish intangible values such as silence, solitude and wilderness.

## PLANNING INFLUENCES

### Legislation

The most significant legislative mandate guiding the management of river use in the monument is the Act of 1916 establishing the

National Park Service. It provides that:

"...The service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations, hereinafter specified, by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of said parks, monuments and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Dinosaur National Monument was established by Presidential proclamation in 1915 to protect an 80-acre tract encompassing an extraordinary concentration of fossilized dinosaur remains. In 1938, the monument was expanded by Presidential proclamation to include the rugged and scenic canyons of the Green and Yampa Rivers. An Act of Congress in 1960 made minor boundary changes and provided for access roads. Federal statutes affecting river management include the Antiquities Act of 1906, the Wilderness Act of 1964, the Concessions Policy Act of 1965, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

#### Public Input

Since the initial stages of preparing a river management plan for Dinosaur National Monument, there have been several opportunities for public involvement in the planning process, as well as frequent informal dialogue with individuals, organizations, commercial outfitters and land managers interested in river running. In February 1976, public workshops were held in Salt Lake City and Denver to identify issues of concern relating to river use and management in the monument. A broad range of comments and suggestions were offered by the approximately 180 people who attended these workshops.

Following the release of the environmental assessment in November 1977, additional public workshops were held in Flagstaff, Salt Lake City and Denver to obtain input on the river management alternatives presented in the assessment. Approximately 300 people attended the workshops and over 280 written comments were submitted.

A public review period will be scheduled after the release of the river management plan.

#### Research

Up-to-date scientific knowledge is a necessary component of sound resource management decision-making. When management decisions concerning river use levels in the monument became imperative in the early 1970's, a need for baseline information on the river

resource and its users was soon recognized. Therefore, the National Park Service initiated two research projects in Dinosaur National Monument to analyze the river carrying capacity issue. The first study, contracted to Utah State University, was oriented toward the behavioral aspects of carrying capacity. During the 1975 boating season, river recreationists were surveyed in the monument in an effort to obtain an understanding of who current users are, and how their perceptions and attitudes concerning the river experience might influence potential management strategies.

A second study, initiated in 1976 under a contract with Colorado State University, was directed toward defining the ecological tolerance limits of the river canyons. The research was aimed at quantifying the impacts of boaters on the soils and vegetation of the river campsites. The study has continued through three use seasons and will serve as a base for monitoring impacts in future years.

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Specific objectives have been established to guide the management of recreational use of the Green and Yampa Rivers within the monument. These objectives have been developed in conformance with National Park Service legislative mandates and the Dinosaur National Monument Statement for Management, and in consideration of public input and research data.

\*Manage river use in a manner consistent with the purpose for which Dinosaur National Monument was established and in accordance with the missions and policies of the National Park Service.

\*Adhere to wilderness management policies on all lands and waters proposed for wilderness designation.

\*Implement a system of management that will be equitable to all persons who desire an opportunity to float the rivers within the monument, and can be administered with limited funding and personnel.

\*Maintain or enhance diverse opportunities for experiencing nature, solitude and exciting whitewater recreation.

\*Enhance the visitor's opportunity to learn about and understand the natural and historical features of the river canyons.

\*Provide overnight camping in a manner that will minimize adverse impacts on the natural and scenic qualities of the river canyon environment.

\*Insure that accepted safety and health requirements are met by all river trip participants.

\*Manage river use so as not to interfere with or detract from other appropriate uses of the monument.

\*Implement an ongoing program to monitor the impacts of river use on the natural environment and to evaluate the success of selected management strategies.

\*Seek and maintain open channels of communication with all river users, river-oriented organizations, commercial outfitters and with other government agencies involved in whitewater river management.

#### RIVER MANAGEMENT POLICIES

The Dinosaur National Monument river management plan will encompass the Green River from Lodore to the Split Mountain boat ramp, and the Yampa River from Deerlodge Park to Echo Park. All visitor use of the river corridors, including banks, beaches, immediate attraction sites and hiking routes, will be regulated by the plan. A permit issued by the Superintendent will be required for all travel upon the waters within the monument.

##### Level and Distribution of Use

The management objectives established for river use within the monument call for providing a wilderness experience and minimizing adverse impacts on the natural resources and scenic qualities of the river environment. Both of these objectives can be met, and an increase in total use can be tolerated, if patterns of use are regulated. Since an annual use ceiling in itself cannot effectively control human impact, use will be controlled by constraints on the number and size of trips launching each day. River use will be distributed more evenly throughout the popular boating season; day use and off-season opportunities will be expanded. Total allowable use will be within such levels that necessary resource protection can be effected through boater information and education programs, and ranger patrols.

Two major river use seasons will be differentiated: the primary use season (May 10 - September 10) and the low use season (September 11 - May 9). Maximum daily launch limits will be established as follows for trips launching upstream from Rainbow Park. One-day trips launching at Rainbow Park will be administered under a separate system.

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Daily Launch Limits

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<u>Primary Season</u>	<u>Commercial Trips</u>	<u>Noncommercial Trips +</u>	<u>Total Trips</u>
May 10-19 and July 11-Sept. 10	2	2	4
May 20-July 10	3	3	6*

Low Use Season

Sept. 11 - May 9            --                            --                            1  
+ One launch per calendar week reserved for special populations program.  
\*not to exceed 4 launches at any one launch site.

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Maximum group size for all boating parties within the monument will be 25 persons, excluding authorized crew on commercial trips.

Day Use

Split Mountain Gorge, the nine-mile segment of the Green River between Rainbow Park and Split Mountain campground, offers an ideal one-day whitewater experience. Other stretches of river within the monument, such as Lodore to Echo Park or Echo Park to Split Mountain, can be floated in one day, but accessibility and river mileage make Split Mountain Gorge a more practical day trip.

In order to expand day use opportunities on the rivers and to facilitate the procedure for obtaining a day use permit, trips launching at Rainbow Park will be managed independently of trips launching upstream.

During the primary use season, a maximum of four trips per day, two commercial and two noncommercial, will be permitted to launch at Rainbow Park. All trips must launch before 11:00 a.m. in order to reduce encounters between day use and multi-day parties and to minimize congestion at the Split Mountain boat ramp.

During the low use season, Rainbow Park launches will be restricted to one trip per day.

Camping

The canyon-bottom ecosystem within the monument is limited in both area and distribution. Extensive human use of terrestrial areas has resulted in soil compaction, inhibition of vegetative growth, reduction of litter cover, unnatural increases in scavenging wildlife

populations, displacement of sensitive plant and animal species, and accumulation of foreign matter in topsoil layers. In order to minimize the extent of the area sustaining these impacts, designated campsites will be maintained in the river canyons. Overnight camping will be restricted to these sites, except in emergency situations or when authorized in advance by the Superintendent.

Campsite location will be based on historic use and with consideration of logistic, geographic, esthetic and safety factors. In order to maintain visitor use at levels which will not result in unacceptable deterioration of natural ecosystems or diminishment of the user experience, nightly capacities will be established for each campsite. Opportunities for single-group camping will be expanded.

The following river campsites will be available for use by boating parties:

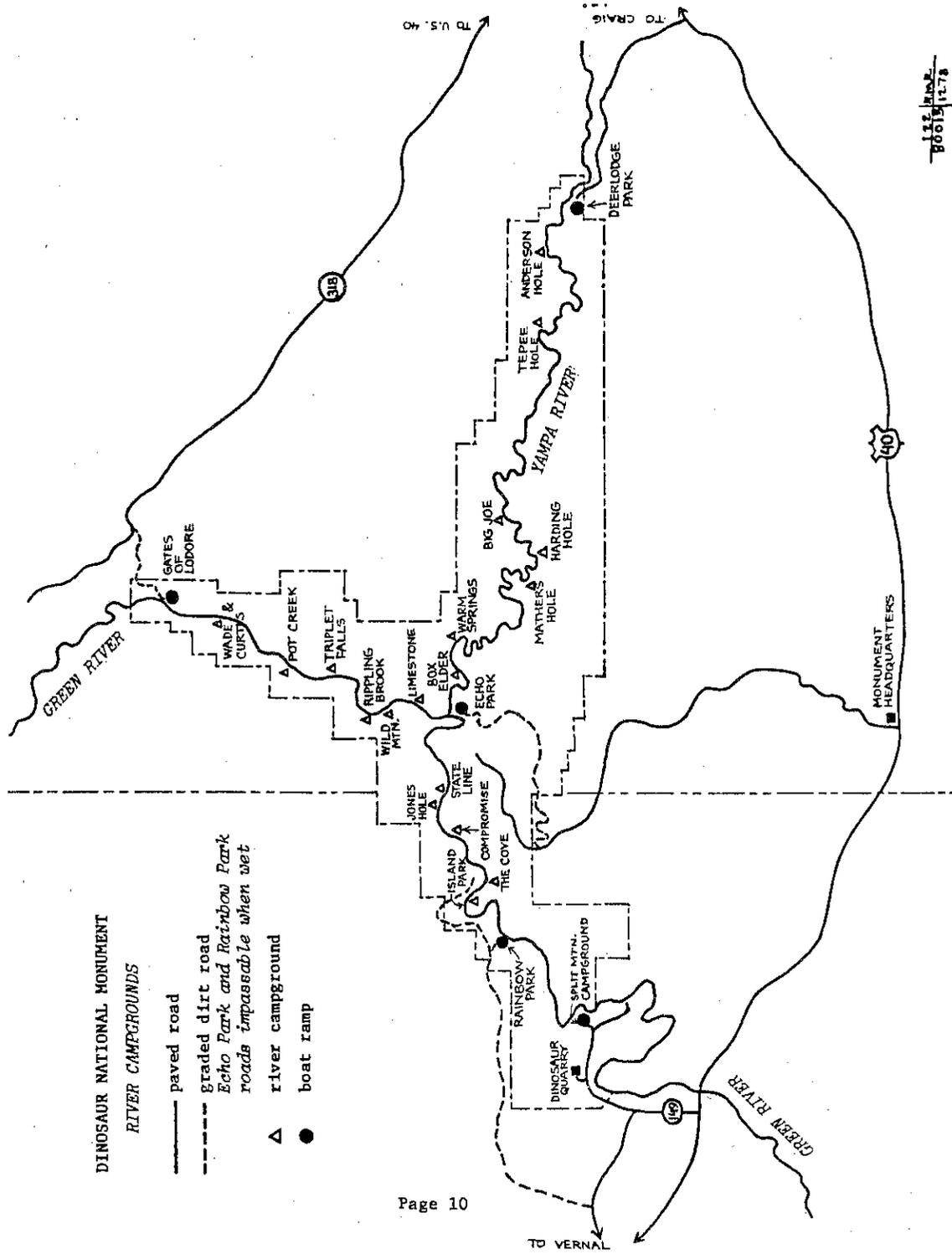
<u>Campsite</u>	<u>Capacity (groups)</u>
Lodore Canyon:	
Wade and Curtis. . . . .	1
Pot Creek . . . . .	2
Triplet. . . . .	1
Rippling Brook. . . . .	2
Wild Mountain . . . . .	1
Limestone . . . . .	1
Yampa Canyon:	
Anderson Hole. . . . .	2
Tepee Hole. . . . .	1
Big Joe . . . . .	1
Harding Hole . . . . .	4
Mather. . . . .	1
Warm Springs. . . . .	1
Box Elder. . . . .	3
Whirlpool Canyon:	
State Line. . . . .	1
Jones Hole . . . . .	4
Compromise . . . . .	1
The Cove . . . . .	1
Island Park. . . . .	1

In May and June, when upstream use from both the Green and Yampa Rivers combines in Whirlpool Canyon, congestion and limited campsite availability will be inevitable. During the primary use season, groups will be restricted to one night camping in Whirlpool Canyon (e.g. either State Line, Jones Hole, Compromise, The Cove or Island Park).

DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT

RIVER CAMPGROUNDS

- paved road
- - - graded dirt road
- Echo Park and Rainbow Park roads impassable when wet*
- ▲ river campground
- boat ramp



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In order to promote opportunities for hiking, exploration and leisurely travel, boating parties will be permitted to camp up to two nights in any campsite above the confluence of the Green and Yampa Rivers. This restriction will only be applicable during the primary use season. Extended lengths of stay may be authorized by the Superintendent. If circumstances exist where a permittee requests permission to spend more than one night in Whirlpool Canyon or more than two nights in an upstream campsite, and the specified request does not conflict with another group's preferred itinerary, the Superintendent may authorize an exception to the above restrictions.

Boating parties who plan to take overnight hikes must obtain a Backcountry Permit prior to launching and must observe monument regulations governing backcountry camping. Backcountry camping is not permitted along the banks of the Green and Yampa Rivers or Jones Hole Creek.

Developed facilities in the river campsites will be minimized to conform with the wilderness character of the river experience. Pit toilets will be maintained but will be reduced in number to correspond with the designated group capacity for each campsite. Existing pit toilet structures will be replaced with an esthetically-compatible, open-air design. As time and funds permit, picnic tables will be removed and fire grates will be replaced with stationary fire pans.

The volume of use and limited availability of campsites necessitates campsite scheduling during the primary use season. Each permittee will be assigned specific campsites at the time a boating permit is issued. Campsite assignments will be made on the basis of permit applications, campsite availability, and the priority assigned in the permit selection process. During the low use season, no campsite assignments will be made and boaters will have the freedom to camp in any vacant, designated campsite.

#### Allocation of Use

Two categories of river use will be recognized -- commercial and noncommercial. Commercial trips will be conducted only by authorized National Park Service concessioners. Noncommercial boating permits will be allocated to individuals or organizations whose proposed trip meets the following criteria:

1. There is a bona fide sharing of costs where no part of the fees are:
  - a. collected in excess of actual costs of the trip.
  - b. for salary or financial gain in any manner for any of the group, its leaders or sponsors.
  - c. for capital increase of the major equipment or facilities used on the trip.

2. Boatmen and other crew may not be paid in any manner.

3. There is no media or direct mail advertising or soliciting for trip participants.

(See criteria for special populations program.)

During the primary use season, half of each day's launches will be assigned to commercial outfitters and half will be available for noncommercial trips. This policy includes one-day trips launching at Rainbow Park. The even split of daily launches will be more representative of demand patterns and use trends in recent years, and will provide a means for monitoring demand in each category.

Low use season launch dates will be available to either commercial or noncommercial boaters on a first-come, first-served basis.

#### Noncommercial Permits

Two separate systems will be established for obtaining noncommercial boating permits.

#### Primary Use Season (excluding Rainbow Park launches)

In order to obtain a permit for a river trip during the primary use season, an individual must submit a written application between December 1 and January 15 prior to the boating season. Application materials sent out from the monument will include an application form and instructions on completing it, current monument boating regulations, and information on river campgrounds and access. Applications will require: 1) the name, address and telephone number of the applicant, 2) preferred launch site, 3) first, second, third and fourth choices for launch date, 4) whether or not other launch dates would be acceptable, 5) first and second choices for campground assignments, 6) qualifying experience and 7) an affidavit clause. An individual may submit only one application for consideration in the primary season drawing.

A drawing will be held after January 15 to select permittees and establish a priority list for launch dates. If an application is drawn and there is a conflict of launch dates with a prior applicant, the individual will be contacted and given an opportunity to select another launch date. Applicants receiving a permit will be notified shortly after the drawing. Unsuccessful applicants will be informed of their position on the waiting list. Individuals submitting applications after the January 15 deadline will be placed on the waiting list after the initial applicants. Noncommercial boating permits will be valid for up to 25 persons. Applicants selected to receive a permit must submit a passenger list, including names, addresses and telephone numbers, to the River Ranger at least four weeks in advance of the scheduled launch date. Final confirmation of a trip will not be given until a passenger list has been received. Failure to submit a passenger list or other requested information

four weeks prior to the launch date will automatically cancel the individual's permit. Additions or changes in the passenger list will be allowed prior to the launch date if they are processed through the River Ranger's office. Additions or substitutions will not be allowed at the launch site.

A no-repeat rule will be implemented, restricting each person to no more than one trip during the primary use season of any year (excluding one-day trips launching at Rainbow Park). The no-repeat policy will remain flexible so that if launch dates are available after all applicants on the waiting list have been considered, additional trips may be authorized by the Superintendent.

A noncommercial boating permit will be issued only to the individual who applied for it. Permits will be nontransferable. The permittee will be held responsible for the qualifications and experience of each person operating a boat on the trip and for providing equipment that conforms with monument regulations and safety standards.

An automatic data processing program will be initiated as soon as is economically and technologically feasible. Computer technology will be utilized to select applicants, establish a priority list, assign launch dates and campsites, and screen applications and passenger lists for violations of the no-repeat rule.

#### Day Use and Low Use Season

Noncommercial permits for one-day trips through Split Mountain Gorge and for trips during the low use season will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis. Permits will be issued to qualified persons any time after March 1 if the desired launch date is available. An individual may not apply for several day use permits or low use season permits at one time. An additional day use permit can be requested only after the date of any previous trip by that individual. Likewise, an individual cannot apply for an additional low use season permit until the launch date of his/her previous low use season trip has passed.

A lottery system for selecting low use season and day use permittees may be initiated if demand necessitates.

A passenger list must be submitted prior to launching by all day use and low use season permittees.

#### Concessions

The Concessions Policy Act of 1965 directs the Secretary of Interior to provide, through the use of concessions, those commercial facilities and services within National Park System areas that are considered necessary for the visitors' use and enjoyment of the area. Since most park visitors do not have the necessary skills, knowledge, physical stamina or equipment to undertake a whitewater river trip on their own, a guided trip by a commercial outfitter represents the only realistic opportunity for these people to experience the river canyons within the monument.

Therefore, concession permits will be issued to commercial river outfitters to provide guide or support services for individuals, families or groups who wish to take a river trip.

#### Concession Permits

Concession permits will be issued to no more than eleven persons and/or companies. Only two concessioners will be authorized to conduct one-day trips through Split Mountain Gorge. When current concession permits expire, public notice will be made of the intent to renew permits. Existing concessioners, or anyone interested in providing river guide services within the monument, will be required to respond to a fact sheet. The following criteria will be used in evaluating the responses and granting permits: experience, financial capabilities, amount of use requested, services to be provided, trip pricing, equipment and interpretive programs. As required by the Concessions Policy Act, preference in granting permits will be given to current concessioners who have provided satisfactory service.

Diversity of services will be a major objective of river concessions management. In order to provide a broad spectrum of river use opportunities, fact sheet proposals will be evaluated both individually and as a group. Variety will be sought in terms of the size and type of boats, full-service versus participatory trips, deluxe versus economy trips, trip length, and emphasis on special subjects or activities.

There is a well-documented demand for river trips oriented towards special interests or groups of people. Concessioners will be required to provide special services adapted to the objectives and financial resources of organized groups, educational or scientific trips, youth groups, and programs for disadvantaged persons.

The number of concessioners and their respective allocations will be based upon responses to the fact sheet. Allocations will be based upon an economically viable unit. Each concession permit will specify both a user-day allotment and the number of launches to be assigned each year to the concessioner. Launch dates will be assigned prior to the boating season. An opportunity will be provided for the concessioners to participate in the development of each year's launch schedule. Scheduled launch assignments will be flexible, to allow the possibility of accommodating persons with specific trip needs. The River Ranger must be notified prior to the launch date of any changes in the assigned schedule.

The term of concession permits will not exceed five years. Permits will not be transferrable without the written approval of the National Park Service. Concessioners will be required to submit annual financial

reports. A franchise fee will be determined on a per-user-day basis. All rates and brochures must be submitted for approval by the Superintendent.

#### Commercial Crew

All concession employees operating a boat carrying passengers for hire must possess a valid Boatman or Apprentice Boatman permit issued by the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation, and a current Red Cross standard first aid card or equivalent certification.

Each concessioner must register any employee who will be working within the monument with the Superintendent. The River Ranger will maintain a list of these employees. The following information must be submitted annually for any person employed as a crew member on trips within the monument:

- 1) Name, mailing address, birthdate
- 2) Current status (trip leader, boatman, apprentice boatman, "swamper", etc.)
- 3) Utah Boatman or Apprentice Boatman permit number
- 4) First aid certification and expiration date

Each commercial crew member must be registered prior to any trip on which he/she is working. Unregistered persons will automatically count as passengers against the concessioner's user-day allocation.

Commercial crew will not be included in the 25-person group size limit. Unless otherwise authorized by the Superintendent, commercial crew will consist of no more than one person per boat plus one additional person. Authorized training trips will be a standard exception to this policy.

#### Special Populations Program

The rivers in Dinosaur National Monument have been used in the past by several organizations whose structure, budget and the nature of the people they serve hinder them from easily utilizing the river running opportunities available in either the commercial or non-commercial sectors. These and other socially motivated organizations serve people with special problems or physical or emotional needs that otherwise would limit access to national parks and wilderness-type experiences.

Recognizing the need to better serve special populations and socially motivated outdoor activities, a pilot program was conducted in 1979. The River Management Plan adopts the concept of the pilot program by

reserving one launch each week during the primary use season for groups qualifying as special populations.

Special populations are defined as those people for whom full participation and access to river running opportunities in Dinosaur National Monument have been limited by physical, social or economic barriers. This includes, but is not restricted to any of the following, if it constitutes a limiting factor: the sensory impaired (blind, deaf or mute), the physically handicapped or mobility impaired, the mentally ill or retarded, recidivistic youth, the elderly, inner-city residents, the non-English speaking and other disadvantaged minorities.

Within the non-commercial launch allocation, one launch date each calendar week beginning May 10 and ending September 10 will be available for this program. Each successive launch date will be on a different day of the week to provide a variety of opportunities. Organizations qualifying for this program may apply for one or more of the reserved launch opportunities on a preferred dates basis. Applications will be received between December 1 and January 15 and processed similarly to the other noncommercial applications.

If launch dates remain after each qualifying group has drawn for their preferred date(s), then additional permits may be granted by the same procedure. Applications in excess of the available dates will be placed on a waiting list. Any launch dates not applied for will revert to the non-commercial sector.

Special populations groups may arrange with one of the authorized river concessioners to provide all or part of the necessary services for their trip.

Organizations or groups applying for launch dates set aside for the special populations program may not also apply for trips through the regular non-commercial permit procedure. One day and low use season trips, however, will be available to these groups on the same basis as all others.

The Dinosaur National Monument Boating Regulations will apply to the special populations program except that organization river staff members may be paid professionals and will not be subject to the no repeat rule. Special populations participants will be subject to the no repeat rule. This program is aimed at serving non-profit groups and participants may not be charged more than a pro-rated share of actual trip costs.

In addition to the special populations trips reserved within the non-commercial use allocation, river concessioners will be required to develop affirmative programs and rate structures adopted to the needs of special populations groups.

### Resource Protection

#### Camp fires

The use of gas or propane stoves will be encouraged for camp cooking. Wood or charcoal fires may be built if they are contained in fire pans and all ash and charcoal residue is carried out of the canyons. Ash and charcoal may not be deposited in the rivers.

Due to the upstream impoundment of the Green River, the depletion rate of driftwood exceeds the system's ability to replenish the supply. Therefore, wood gathering will be prohibited along the Green River from Lodore to Jones Hole during the primary use season. During this period, firewood must be supplied from sources outside the monument. Below Jones Hole, along the Yampa River, and during the low use season, the use of driftwood will be permitted. Gathering wood from standing or fallen trees, dead or alive, will be prohibited at all times.

During periods of high fire danger, the Superintendent may impose a temporary ban on all open fires.

#### Waste Disposal

Pit toilets will be provided at all designated campsites for the disposal of human wastes. No other wastes or garbage may be discarded in the pit toilets.

Liquid wastes, including dishwater, must be strained prior to disposal in the main river current. All other refuse must be carried out of the canyons and placed in an acceptable disposal area.

### Education and Information Programs

Boater education and information programs will be implemented to increase public awareness of river management policies and to insure protection of natural and cultural resources. Boating regulations and resource protection measures will be distributed with all concession and noncommercial permits. In addition, printed materials or pre-trip programs relating to minimal impact camping, river etiquette and natural history will be developed. If requested in advance and approved by supervisory personnel, monument staff will be available to participate in interpretive or boater training programs.

It will be the responsibility of commercial guides and non-commercial permittees to insure that members of his/her group follow monument regulations and resource protection measures.

### Safety and Sanitation Requirements

Boating safety and sanitation requirements developed in the past have been found to be adequate and will continue to be included in the Dinosaur National Monument Boating Regulations. The following requirements will be addressed in the regulations, which are reviewed annually and revised to incorporate additional or updated information:

- \* Boat specifications and capacities
- \* Use of life preservers
- \* Emergency equipment required, such as extra oar or paddle, repair kit, pump, bail bucket, and first aid kit
- \* Qualifying experience

Sanitation guidelines for food and water handling will be included with all concession permits. Sanitation practices will be monitored in the concessions evaluation program. Information on recommended sanitation practices will also be included in boater education programs and materials. Sanitation guidelines will be subject to change as new and more effective procedures become known.

### Monitoring and Plan Review

Continued monitoring will be necessary in order to provide documentation of ecological changes and the effectiveness of management programs. Transects established during the Colorado State University river impact study will be monitored periodically to analyze long-term trends in the river campsites and control areas. This will provide substantive information relative to use levels, campsite suitability, and the need for additional resource protection programs.

Research programs aimed at providing baseline data or inventories of species and ecosystems will continue to be supported and pursued in the river canyons. Particular emphasis will be directed towards endangered or threatened species and the impacts they may incur as a result of river use and management policies.

in compliance with Executive Order 11593, known archeological and historic resources will be monitored to assure that they are not being disturbed by river users. If necessary, protective measures will be implemented to preserve these sites.

Concessions operations will be evaluated annually to insure that the public is being provided satisfactory service and that management objectives are being met.

The special populations program will be continuously monitored to determine its effectiveness in expanding the opportunities available to special populations. Applications will be carefully scrutinized to insure that groups meet the objectives and criteria of the program.

In order for the river management program to be effective and responsive to change, there will be an ongoing effort to identify, evaluate and correct problems and deficiencies. As new information becomes available through the monitoring process, the River Management Plan may be modified. Policies which are found to be inconsistent with the protection of natural or cultural resources will be revised as needed. Changes that affect use allocations will not be implemented without allowing time for public review and input and for concessioners to adjust their operations. To assure that the River Management Plan remains a functional document, it will be reviewed annually by the monument staff.

## APPENDIX A

### Maximum Use Level Computation for the Primary Season

Potential river use during the primary season (May 10-September 10) has been computed based on group size, daily launch limits and average trip duration. It should be noted that these figures represent maximum potential use and that actual use is expected to be lower, especially in the noncommercial category. Low use season visitation has not been computed because there is insufficient data for projecting demand for this period.

#### Commercial

Launches above Rainbow Park:

(2 trips per day x 72 days) + (3 trips per day x 52 days) = 300 trips  
300 trips x 22 passengers average per trip<sup>1</sup> = 6,600 passengers  
6,600 passengers x 3.5 days average per trip = 23,100 user-days

Rainbow Park launches:

2 trips per day x 124 days = 248 trips  
248 trips x 25 passengers maximum per trip = 6,200 passengers  
6,200 passengers x 1 day per trip = 6,200 user-days

Total = 29,300 user-days (plus crew)

#### Noncommercial

Launches above Rainbow Park:

(2 trips per day x 72 days) + (3 trips per day x 52 days) = 300 trips  
300 trips x 25 people maximum per trip = 7,500 people  
7,500 people x 3.5 days average per trip = 26,250 user-days<sup>2</sup>

Rainbow Park launches:

2 trips per day x 124 days = 248 trips  
248 trips x 25 people maximum per trip = 6,200 people  
6,200 people x 1 day per trip = 6,200 user-days

Total = 32,450 user-days

Combined Total = 61,750 user-days (plus crew)

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<sup>1</sup>Commercial use was calculated on an average of 22 passengers per trip because concession allocations will not allow commercial outfitters to carry the maximum group size (25 passengers) on every trip.

<sup>2</sup>Noncommercial use was calculated on a maximum of 25 people per trip. However, average group size for noncommercial trips is expected to be in the range of 15 to 17 people. Reduced group size combined with a significant percentage of cancellations is expected to significantly reduce actual use. Noncommercial use includes an estimated 1,662 user days reserved for the special populations program.

APPENDIX B

Summary of Proposed Statistical Changes

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Present Maximum</u>	<u>Proposed<sup>1</sup> Maximum</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Commercial user-days available during the primary season:			
Launches above Rainbow Park	23,262	23,100	- .7
Rainbow Park launches	4,289	6,200	+45
TOTAL	27,551	29,300	+ 6
Noncommercial user-days available during the primary season:			
Launches above Rainbow Park	---	24,500	---
Rainbow Park launches	12,449	6,200	---
TOTAL	12,449	32,450	+161
Total user-days available during the primary season	40,000	61,750	+ 54

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<sup>1</sup>See Appendix A for detailed computation of these figures.

## APPENDIX C

Dinosaur National Monument  
Dinosaur, Colorado 81610

## BOATING REGULATIONS

A permit issued by the Superintendent is required for all travel upon the waters of Dinosaur National Monument. Travel, as used herein, includes boat and raft use, or the use of any floating or mechanical device to support a person or property, or used by any means which may be deemed hazardous by the Superintendent (Section 3, Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations). A boating permit is nontransferable and must be used by the individual or concessioner to whom it is issued.

A maximum of 25 persons per trip is allowed, excluding crew on commercial trips. Each person may take only one trip a year during the primary use season (May 10 through September 10). Repeat trips will be permitted through Split Mountain Gorge and during the low use season (September 11 through May 9). This rule applies to everyone except commercial boatmen on commercial river trips.

A complete listing of all passengers, including names, home addresses and telephone numbers, must be submitted prior to launching. Final confirmation for a multi-day trip during the primary use season will not be given until a passenger list has been received; failure to submit a passenger list to the River Ranger at least four weeks prior to the launch date will result in cancellation of the permit. The passenger list may be revised at any time prior to the launch date by notifying the River Ranger at monument headquarters. Additions or substitutions to the passenger list will not be allowed at the launch site.

The River Ranger should be notified of any trip cancellations as far in advance of the trip date as possible.

The safe navigation of the Yampa and Green Rivers requires suitable boats, appropriate equipment and adequate whitewater experience. Because of this, certain requirements have been established to help provide for the safety of those floating the rivers. A permit may be issued for travel on the rivers if the following requirements are satisfied.

I. Boat Specifications

- A. Inflatable craft must be at least 12' x 5' and weigh in excess of 85 lbs. It must have at least 4 separate air chambers. Inflatable rafts larger than 19 feet in length must use an oar frame and oars.

- B. The use of outboard motors is prohibited except for authorized management trips or emergencies.
- C. Sturdy plastic or fiberglass kayaks, whitewater canoes, dories and sportyaks, if properly rigged, are approved craft provided that the paddler has adequate prior experience in whitewater. Conventional rowboats, open canoes, inflatable canoes and fold-boats are not approved for use on these waters. Inner tubes, air mattresses or similar devices may not be used for river running.
- D. The minimum party size for canoe and kayak groups to travel without raft support is three boats. Unsupported groups of this size must consist of paddlers having had experience on major whitewater rivers or other comparable rivers (Class III or greater).

II. Boat Loading Requirements

The following shall be considered safe maximum loads under normal conditions. These limits may be reduced by the River Ranger where other factors dictate a lighter load (such as the amount of gear carried). Capacities for types or models of boats not specifically listed in the regulations will be determined according to the dimensions of the boat.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Rafts with oars and frames</u>		<u>Rafts without oars and frames</u>	<u>Dimensions</u>
	<u>No. of Persons w/gear</u>	<u>w/out</u>	<u>No. of Persons</u>	
Avon Redshank	3	4	4	12'3" x 5'6"
7-man & Miwok	3	4	4	13' x 6'
Avon-Adventurer	4	5	5	13' x 6'3"
Avon-Professional	5	6	7	15' x 7'4"
10-man & Shoshoni	5	6	7	15' x 7'6"
Yampa	5	6	7	16' x 7'
12-man	5	6	7	16' x 7'6"
14-man	6	7	8	17' x 8'
Green River	6	7	8	17' x 8'
Havasu	6	7	8	17'6" x 7'6"
Spirit & Leyland 17	7	8	8	17'6" x 8'
20 ft. Salmon	8	9	-	20' x 8'
22 ft. pontoon	9	11	-	22' x 8'
27 ft. pontoon	11	15	-	27' x 8'
33 ft. pontoon	14	17	-	33' x 8'

### III. Equipment

- A. Each passenger and boatman must wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket of proper size and in serviceable condition while on or in the river. Although the State of Utah's "flat water wearing exemption" will be honored, it is strongly recommended that life jackets be worn in Island Park. At least one extra life jacket must be carried per raft. Life jackets are subject to examination at the launch site. The permittee will be held accountable for proper condition and use of life jackets.
- B. Every boat must carry at least one extra oar or paddle (for kayakers, one extra paddle for every three boats).
- C. Each boat with a floor must carry a bail bucket.
- D. Each raft party must carry an air pump and a suitable repair kit.
- E. Each party must carry a standard 24-unit first aid kit or equivalent.
- F. Each party should have a map of the portion of the river they are floating.
- G. Canoes and kayaks must have a spray skirt and be equipped with flotation.
- H. Kayakers must wear a helmet in rapids.
- I. The operation of generators along the river is prohibited, except at launch points (Lodore, Deerlodge, Echo park and Rainbow Park).

### IV. Experience

Each party must be in the charge of a competent, responsible and experienced leader who has a good understanding of monument regulations, knowledge of rapids and previous experience on rivers of comparable or greater difficulty (Class III or greater).

The responsibility for judging the competency and qualifications of each boat operator and in seeing that equipment meets monument standards will be that of the permittee.

### V. Park Regulations

The following rules and regulations apply to all persons within the boundaries of Dinosaur National Monument.

- A. Firearms or explosives of any kind are not permitted within Dinosaur National Monument.

- B. Fishing in Dinosaur National Monument is permitted in season, if the fisherman is in possession of a valid fishing license for the state in which he is fishing (Utah or Colorado).
- C. The destruction, injury, defacement, removal or disturbance in any manner of any natural feature or object is prohibited, particularly:
  - 1. By shooting, molesting or attempting to capture any bird or wild animal, or by picking or gathering flowers or other plants.
  - 2. By writing, scratching, painting, carving, or chiseling your name or other inscriptions ANYWHERE.
  - 3. No one is allowed to collect specimens of plants, fossils, minerals, animal life, or archeological objects without written permission, obtained in advance, from the Superintendent.
- D. Regulations prohibit the discarding of cans, rubbish and other refuse in the water or along the shores of the river.
- E. Dogs or other pets are not allowed on river trips or in back-country areas.

## VI. Resource Protection

- A. Camping: Camping is permitted at designated campsites only, except in an emergency or if otherwise authorized by the Superintendent. Campsites will be assigned at the time of permit issuance to all boating parties with trips scheduled during the primary use season (May 10 - September 10).

To minimize congestion in Whirlpool Canyon during the primary use season, each party will be restricted to one night camping below the confluence of the Green and Yampa Rivers. Echo Park and Rainbow Park are not available for enroute camping by boating parties.

- B. Fires: The use of gas or propane stoves is strongly encouraged for camp cooking. Wood or charcoal fires may be built if they are contained in fire pans. Wood gathering is prohibited along the Green River from Lodore to Jones Hole during the primary use season (May 10 - September 10). During this period, firewood must be supplied from sources outside the monument. Below Jones Hole, along the Yampa River, and during the low-use season, the use of driftwood is permitted. Gathering wood from standing or fallen trees, dead or alive, is prohibited at all times.

All fires must be completely extinguished when unattended. Wildfire is a very serious threat to the canyons. To reduce the potential of man-caused fires, build one small fire rather than several scattered ones or a bonfire. Do not build fires near vegetation that could ignite. Control your fire, especially on windy days.

All ash and charcoal residue from fires must be carried out of the canyons. Ash and charcoal should not be disposed of in the rivers.

- C. Waste Disposal: All refuse must be carried out of the canyons and placed in an acceptable disposal area. Particular attention should be given to the proper disposal of pop tops, cigarette butts and toilet paper.

Properly bagged trash may be deposited in the garbage trailer (an old horse trailer) parked near the Echo Park boat ramp. Boaters should not deposit trash in the garbage cans provided for campers at Echo Park, Deerlodge and Rainbow Park, or in the pit toilets.

All liquid wastes, including dishwater, must be strained to remove solids, such as coffee grounds and food particles. Strained liquids may be disposed of in the main river current (not a back eddy).

The recycling of aluminum cans is encouraged. A container is provided at the Split Mountain boat ramp for aluminum recycling.

- D. Water: Each party should bring its own water supply. Water from the wells and springs along the river is not safe to drink unless treated. River water should not be used untreated as raw sewage is occasionally discharged into the river east of the monument.

Drinking water is available at Lodore and Echo Park, but is not available at Deerlodge.

The use of soap in sidestreams is prohibited. Biodegradable soaps may be used sparingly in the river.

Construction of rock dams in Jones Hole Creek is prohibited.

## VII. Other Information

- A. Physical Condition and Safety: A raft trip on the Green or Yampa Rivers is a rigorous adventure. This trip should be attempted only by those in good physical condition and health.

Think of your safety and the safety of others while in the monument. Taking unnecessary risks or merely rough-housing can invite tragedy. You may be hours or even days from medical help. Should an accident requiring the assistance of others occur while you are on the river, it is recommended that you wait for another raft party rather than attempting to climb out of the canyons. Please report any accidents to a Park Ranger as soon as is practical.

A Ranger must be notified upon the completion of your raft trip. This is essential to prevent unnecessary search and rescue operations.

- B. Access to River and Length of Trip: The run from Deerlodge Park to Split Mountain is usually made in three to five days.

The trip through Lodore Canyon to Split Mountain is usually made in three or four days.

The Green River, below its junction with the Yampa, may be entered at Echo Park or Rainbow Park. The roads to these points of entry are dusty and sometimes impassable when wet. The road to Echo Park cannot be negotiated with trailers larger than the standard utility size.

- C. Noncommercial Trip Criteria: In order to qualify for a noncommercial boating permit, the following conditions must be met:

1. There is a bona fide sharing of costs where no part of the fees collected are:
  - a. in excess of actual costs of the trip,
  - b. for salary or financial gain in any manner for any of the group, its leaders or sponsors,
  - c. for capital increase of the major equipment or facilities used on the trip.
2. Boatmen and crew may not be paid in any manner.
3. There is no media or direct mail advertising or soliciting for trip participants.

- D. Commercial Operations: There are authorized concessioners who, in season, make regular and charter trips down the Green and Yampa Rivers within the monument. For particulars on these trips, please contact Park Service information desks within the monument or write to Dinosaur National Monument, P.O. Box 210, Dinosaur, CO 81610, and request a complete listing of commercial operators. No additional commercial operations will be allowed to begin conducting trips in the monument.

- E. Parking: At the Split Mountain parking lot, boaters leaving their vehicles should unhook all trailers and park both units perpendicular to the curb. This will help alleviate congestion.

Vehicles left at Deerlodge Park should be parked opposite the camping area to avoid taking up needed camping space.

