

Slate River Floating Information

Planning a trip to SUP the Slate? *The Slate River is a wild and special place—the river meanders through public and private property, critical wildlife habitat, high-quality wetlands, and agricultural lands grazed by livestock. With your stewardship, we can keep it wild for future generations. Help our community keep it wild by adhering to the following river etiquette:*

River Access

- **Only use designated river access points** to put-in and take-out on the river. (PHOTO OF MAP TBD)
- The only access points are:
 - Upper Reach:** *Oh-Be-Joyful Campground, Gunsight Bridge, River Flats, Rec Path Bridge*
 - Lower Reach:** *Rec Path Bridge, Skyland Bridge*
- **Parking isn't a plenty**—please carpool or ride your bike to the access points.

Remember, you cannot leave the river mid-float, you must use an access point to start and finish. Please note that much of what you float through is private property.

Be a Good Neighbor

- **Respect our neighbors** and do not go on private property.
- **Please leave your dogs at home.** To be respectful of wildlife, cattle, and our neighbors, it is recommended to not float with your furry friend. Dogs are legally not permitted to put-in or take-out on river at Rec Path Bridge.
- **No amplified music or sound systems.** From Gunsight Bridge to the Rec Path is a quiet float zone due to critical wildlife habitat.
- **Float in groups of six people or fewer.** Please space out from other groups when you launch and let faster groups float through while on the river.
- **Don't be that guy:** don't litter and pack out your trash.
- **Go before you float!** Don't use the river bank as a toilet.

Don't be Scarin' the Herons—Voluntary No-Float Period in Effect until July 15

The Slate River wetlands provides a fragile refuge for resident and migratory wildlife, including, Great Blue Heron, Elk, and Waterfowl. **The stretch of river from Gunsight Bridge all the way to the Rec Path Bridge has a voluntary no-float period from March 15-July 15 due to the critical nesting period of the Great Blue Heron rookery.** After July 15, if the conditions allow for floating, float respectfully and quietly. Wait at the Lower Loop bench to regroup and begin extra quiet travel through the rookery. Watch for the signs that indicate you're traveling through their home.

***Please note that during this voluntary no-float period, or when the river is too low to float, recreationists are still permitted to float on the public lands administered by the BLM, which would mean from Oh-Be-Joyful Campground to River Flats.*

Go with the Flow

Make sure you are comfortable with conditions, and **float at your own risk.** The Slate River is snow-melt driven; peak flows can lead to dangerous conditions, and by mid-late summer, the water level becomes too low to float, making for an unenjoyable experience. **It is your responsibility to check conditions before heading out.** It's suggested to talk to local shop and outfitter personnel about the current conditions.

[Click here to check out the current conditions \(link to facebook page--TBD\)](#)

No Lifeguard on Duty!

Avoid becoming a statistic—wear a PFD! Dangerous obstacles such as strong currents, rocks and log jams can be hazardous at both high and low flows. Be prepared for changing weather & river conditions, and long stretches through private land and without a restroom. **Tubing is not recommended.**

Cow-abunga

We share this area with local ranchers and their cattle. Fences are needed to keep cattle from wandering. When you encounter a river fence (made of white plastic), **hold tight and float underneath the fence**; it is designed for this purpose! If you encounter any cows near the river, show them the same respect you would any other user.