

## 2015 Whitewater Boating on the Chelan River Survey Results

How satisfied were you with the overall whitewater boating experience on the Chelan River.	During the weekend, there were 19 boaters on the river on Saturday and 13 on Sunday. Was crowding a problem on your run?	Should there be a set launch time for boaters to minimize the number of boaters in each section of the river at a time?		If you paddled on Saturday at flows of 375, score the quality of this flow for your craft and skill level. Please consider all the flow-dependent characteristics that contribute to a high quality trip (e.g., boatability, whitewater challenge, safety, availability of surfing or other play areas, aesthetics, and length of run).	If you paddled on Sunday at flows of 400, score the quality of this flow for your craft and skill level. Please consider all the flow-dependent characteristics that contribute to a high quality trip (e.g., boatability, whitewater challenge, safety, availability of surfing or other play areas, aesthetics, and length of run).	If you could select an optimal flow for boating on this reach given your craft and skill level, what flow would you prefer? Please specify cfs.	What aspect of the paddling experience did you enjoy the most?	What aspect of the paddling experience did you enjoy the least?	Would you participate in this event again?	Would you recommend this Chelan River whitewater boating experience to other boaters?	
Response	Response	Response	Comments	Response	Response				Response	Response	Comments
Extremely satisfied	Not a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times	With the current volume of paddlers there wasn't any real issue with crowding, but a significant increase could cause crowding on the river. One of the fun aspects of the Chelan Gorge is that it's a run that accommodates a large group well, and there is a camaraderie that goes along with running some very large and technical drops while everyone is looking out for you and cheering you on.	Totally acceptable			Specifically to the Chelan gorge: Warm water and sunny skies, in a bedrock gorge with all your buddies cheering you on.	In regards to the Chelan Gorge specifically: The high volume of trash that people have pitched over the canyon rim. Basically every small canyon had cars, metal, and other garbage that people have been tossing in to the river canyon over the last 60 years (a guess because we saw a car from the 1950's in there).	Yes, every other year	Yes	If you are a class V boater in the PNW this is a great run to come and get on the water late in the season after all the other rivers have dried up.
Extremely satisfied	Not a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times		Totally acceptable		375	The high quality rapids and a solid group of paddlers and safety.	I can't think of a downside.	Yes, every other year	Yes	Its a totally unique gorge with rapids that are uncharacteristic of those found in nearby rivers.
Extremely satisfied	Not a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times			Totally acceptable	400-500cfs - would like to try it higher	kayaking when there was no water in the rest of the state	the paddle in. is there a way to access the river from the rim road, ie down a trail? is there parking there?	Yes, every other year	Yes	
Extremely satisfied	Not a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times		Totally acceptable	Totally acceptable	425cfs	the group-paddling aspect on the river.		Yes, each year	Yes	
Extremely satisfied	Not a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times		Totally acceptable	Totally acceptable	I think how it was done was perfect. 375 day one and 400 day 2.	The encouraging environment at entrance exam. I was terrified, but felt safe because there were so many bomber paddlers around me setting safety. Everyone was so stoked!	Getting beat down in the bottom of entrance exam! doesn't have to be fun to be fun!	Yes, each year	Yes	It is awesome! classic whitewater in a stunning setting!
Extremely satisfied	Not a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times	Yes at 40 boaters on Saturday this year, if those numbers grow, we may need to work out heats to make sure everyone gets through in a timely fashion.	Totally acceptable	Totally acceptable	375	The group camaraderie, safety focus, and overall stoked crew of incredible paddlers represented from all over the state (and Canada). There was a fantastic energy in the canyon and I appreciate Dan Patinellis taking charge with the Chelan PUD to make sure the event went smoothly.	I wish there were more releases!	Yes, each year	Yes	
Extremely satisfied	Not a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times			Totally acceptable	400 was a good time	All around great river experience. Great turnout, fantastic crew, and beautiful weekend.	Let's have a better camping situation...	Yes, each year	Yes	
Extremely satisfied	Not a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times		Totally acceptable		385 cfs	The camaraderie between boaters was incredible. The safety and good vibes were overwhelming. Since we were the only rafters, we really appreciated everyone's patience and support. It took a long time for the group to move through each rapid, but that was part of the fun. It was great watching so many skilled boaters. I will definitely be back next year!	The end of the run is a nightmare in a raft, but not much to be done about that.	Yes, each year	Yes	

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Response	Response	Response	Comments	Response	Response				Response	Response	Comments
Moderately satisfied	Barely a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times		Totally acceptable	Totally acceptable	375	Great community event with everyone paddling as a group.	The brown water early on Saturday morning.	Yes, every other year	Yes	The number of boaters you have quoted in question 2 are low - there were way more than 19 people on Saturday.
Extremely satisfied	Barely a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times	The current method works well for safety. All the boaters (with maybe a rare exception) seem to really enjoy traveling downstream as a group. This means that when someone does swim, they (and their boat) don't go very far before getting towed or roped to shore.	Totally acceptable	Totally acceptable	400 cfs	The group dynamic is unmatched; everyone loves sharing the stoke out at Chelan. It's a great end of summer mini-festival.	Fat Lady, Final, all that mank at the end.	Yes, each year	Yes	Of course, I am VERY selective of those I invite to such events. Solid Class V boaters only.
Extremely satisfied	Barely a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times		Totally acceptable	Totally acceptable	i liked having the two flows. perfect	it was an awesome stretch of whitewater with a fun group of boaters. I've never run a stretch of river with that many people. not sure if this was the best or just the most unique part of the weekend.	loosing my 400 dollar paddle.	Yes, each year	Yes	
Extremely satisfied	Slight problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times		Totally acceptable	Slightly acceptable	375	The quality of the whitewater and the beauty of the gorge. It's an amazing and interesting place.	The bottom hole in entrance exam is pretty mean. The sieve rapid makes running pinnacle a little dicey.	Yes, every other year	Yes	It's a novel experience and a great section of hard whitewater that is totally worth checking out., especially in September, when nothing else is running.
Extremely satisfied	Not a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times	Fine as it is. Note, there were far more than 19 on Saturday. I think I heard 37?	Totally acceptable	Totally acceptable	400	Community	Not being able to camp at the Horseshoe Park		Yes	
Moderately satisfied	Marginal problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times		Neutral				Fix the camping	Yes, every 3 or more years	Yes	
Extremely satisfied	Slight problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times		Slightly acceptable		I have only paddled at 375, but hear that 400 was the better flow	The community and challenge of the gorge	The weather! Where was the sun on Saturday?	Yes, each year	Yes	The combination of class V water, community, scenery, and safety made for a awesome combination. I was a new-comer and was completely accepted into the group.