

2017 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 35 boaters on the river on Saturday and 23 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	Schedule would be a bad idea, this river creates a unique environment where everyone is watching everyone, making it a much safer run.	Neutral	Neutral	400	The gorge and the whitewater!!	The water was lower than expected, although the PUD website states 375 Saturday and 400 Sunday, the gauge showed the actual levels to be around 350 Saturday and 375 Sunday.	Yes, every other year	Yes	
Moderately satisfied	Not a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times		Totally acceptable	Totally acceptable	450	The people	It only being 2 days a year	Yes, each year	Yes	
Moderately satisfied	Not a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times	The way you have now works great. All the boaters are friends and enjoy hanging out each drop, watching everyone go through and helping with safety.	Moderately acceptable	Moderately acceptable						
						I hear the gauge was off perhaps this year? The levels this year were noticeably lower than years previous, 375 and 400 may be perfect, but whether or not those readings were accurate I am unsure. I am however sure that the run could have used more water to make it over obstacles, obstacles that did not required you to get out of your boat in previous years.	The community and people of course, taco truck second and the kayaking third.	The drive, but that's not your fault!	Yes, every other year	Yes	

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Moderately satisfied	Not a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times		Moderately acceptable	Moderately acceptable	Seems to have been much lower then the previous years. If we could hold the flow it what it once was that would be great. The river may have changed as well but other then the first rapid everything seemed the same.	Quality of what the water used to be in the previous years and of course the people. This is such a great event and thank you for hosting!	Seemed like low water. Other then that everything was excellent.	Yes, each year	Yes	Only to those that are class 5+ boaters or are willing to walls around most rapids.
Extremely satisfied	Barely a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times	Twice a year!	Moderately acceptable	Moderately acceptable	400 cfs	I enjoyed the turnout at the event. There were lots of paddlers there which made for a good time. Also great whitewater	I think the flows could have been a little higher.	Yes, each year	Yes	The Chelan release was a great opportunity for some class V boating when just about all other runs were too low.

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Extremely satisfied	Barely a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times	Please do not schedule the runs.	Moderately acceptable		I didn't paddle Sunday, but Saturday's flows seemed a bit bony. I'm guessing that 400 cfs would be more ideal.	The beauty and challenge of the gorge.	n/a	Yes, every other year	Yes	I would recommend it to solid class 5 boaters that have good judgement.
Extremely satisfied	Not a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times		Moderately acceptable	Totally acceptable	425	The canyon, beautiful gorges.	Nothing.	Yes, each year	Yes	
Extremely satisfied	Not a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times		Slightly unacceptable	Totally acceptable	425cfs	the community around and the support of all the other kayakers on the run!	not enough water the first day	Yes, each year	Yes	
Extremely satisfied	Not a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times		Totally acceptable	Totally acceptable	400		Shoulder dislocation	Yes, each year	Yes	The Chelan Gorge is a remarkable section of river, made particularly special because it's rare to be able to run it, and it's fun to paddle with a large group of people.
Extremely satisfied	Not a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times		Moderately acceptable	Totally acceptable	A REAL 375 cfs and 400 seem to work just fine. Then again, many more people ran pinnacle this year on day 1, which is probably partly due to the lower water level.	The wet part.		Yes, every other year	Yes	

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Extremely satisfied	Not a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times	Please just turn the water on and let us have fun. Not having set times allows a lot of people from out of town to come to Chelan and participate in the release.	Totally acceptable	Totally acceptable	They are, but I have to point out that the levels on Sat and Sun were not the same as in years past. I have been attending the Chelan release since 2009 and that was not 375 cfs or 400 cfs.	The community and the unique nature of the river.	That it only happens for 2/365 days of the year. Such a cool recreational resource should be used more often.	Yes, each year	Yes	This style of kayaking is very unique in this area. Low volume creeking is not something that kayakers in the PNW normally get to experience.
Slightly satisfied	Barely a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times	Leave it up to the boaters	Slightly unacceptable		400	The remoteness of the canyon and difficulty of the whitewater	It seemed like the flow this year was significantly lower than previous years. Normally 375 is a great flow, but it was too low this year	Yes, each year	Yes	As long as you have the skills its an amazing once a year experience
Moderately dissatisfied	Not a problem	No, allow paddlers to self-regulate launch times	Make the level as it has been on years' past and everyone will be happy. I'm a veteran of this stretch and, without a shadow of a doubt, the river had less water in it that I've ever paddled on in there. I qualify my statement as a 20+ year riverman, not to mention paddling this stretch at least 20 times over the past 8 years. The flow was never above 300cfs on either of the days. Your calibrations are off.	Moderately unacceptable	Moderately unacceptable	375-425ish, actually in the riverbed... like in years' past.	There wasn't just one element...	The low flows.	Yes, each year	Yes	