

**d. What knowledge and experience do you have in the proposed operating area related to the activities you are requesting?**

**Experience Performing Activities**

We have over 15 years of professional experience conducting advanced rescue instruction, commercial guiding, public packraft and kayak education, and tactical river operations for elite military and public service clients. Our training and commercial programs are fundamentally different from standard outfitting services; we deliver globally recognized certifications, operational risk education, and hands-on leadership development in river-based environments through commercial rafting and downstream travel.

Through these programs, we have developed a level of operational depth and international expertise in complex river environments—skills that most regional outfitters have not had the opportunity to acquire in such austere conditions.

I have guided for one of the most respected Outfitters in the United States for over 20 years. I have over two decades of proven experience as a commercial river guide and have spent much of that time guiding on waters located in Idaho.

We are a comprehensive, globally respected company capable of delivering world-class training and commercial guided services that have been refined through nearly two decades of real-world operational integration across global environments. This is a defining distinction between us and other regional outfitters, many of whom are primarily focused on providing only float access and only meet minimum standards of training and preparedness.

**Experience in the Operating Area**

We were founded on the banks of the Payette and Salmon Rivers and are proud to be Idaho-born and have operated in Idaho in various capacities since our inception in 2011. Our team recreates on the Little Salmon River every spring, running both kayaks and rafts at peak flows. We possess intimate knowledge of its hydrology, hazards, portages, and unique seasonal characteristics. Additionally, our team operates as professional river guides in a number of Western States and internationally, and has compiled a knowledge base and depth of skill not normally present with other commercial operators.

The Little Salmon is not just another Class IV river—it is one we know firsthand. Our experience includes:

- Early season kayak and rafting runs from above Hazard Creek to the Main Salmon Confluence and beyond.
- Safety boat support for recreational groups
- Instructional support for local and regional outfitters operating in the area
- Instructor familiarity with all major rapids and access points
- Instructors and guides who call Riggins and McCall, Idaho home

LS1 has been part of our training and recreation landscape since our inception. We have been deeply engaged with the IOGLB over the years to consider commercial activity on this river. Our operational readiness and community integration in the Riggins area uniquely position us to both utilize and protect this corridor.

This Operating Plan reflects our commitment to exceeding industry norms and applying best practices developed through military, federal, and commercial instructional contracts across the U.S. and internationally. Our program's foundation is rooted in real-world guiding and emergency operations experience, ensuring that public safety, environmental stewardship, access to public waterways, and training excellence are achieved on the Little Salmon River.

**e. How many clients will be taken out at a time for each activity proposed? How accessible is the area? What type of terrain and weather conditions can clients expect and what season(s) do you plan on operating in for each activity requested? What equipment will be used to accommodate your target number of clients? How many boats, vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, snow machines, wagons, sleds, float tubes, tents, packs, and equipment will be used to provide services to your clients in this area? Please describe the power boats by weight capacity, passenger capacity, horsepower, and length. Floats boats should include the type of boat, passenger capacity, and length.**

Client Group Size:

2 groups of 4, 1-2 guides per trip.

We will provide transportation to river access points by using a combination of passenger vans and trucks with rafting trailers for commercial rafting trips.

Access:

Access via Highway 95 corridor using designated public lands access and private property commensurate with our application and supporting documentation.

Operational Season:

Spring and early summer (March–July) with closures respected downstream of Rapid River in May through July, annually. As we fine-tune our operation on the Little Salmon, we are balancing potential market share while advertising two distinct programs:

Camp Use:

Day-use operations primarily; minimal to no camping anticipated. If needed, camps will be located on established and approved public sites or permitted private access and we will undergo any formal procedure to amend this activity into our operating plan. This is not anticipated but we did want to provide clarity on the issue.

Equipment:

For commercial rafting trips, we will likely utilize three paddle boats or stern frame/paddle assist rafts, each carrying up to 6-7 clients. Additional safety kayakers or safety catarafts will be deployed as needed based on river volume and conditions. Equipment used and provided will depend on the nature of the program being delivered.

It is important to note that LS1 has a defined operating season, and water volumes can fluctuate drastically over a short period of time. Safety is in our name, and we would request the right to

adjust operations based on best management practices for local conditions as they change. This means that we may augment our risk management ratio of guides to clients and instructors to students in our morning risk management and pre-trip meetings. Additionally, we may determine that we require not only a safety kayaker but also a safety cataraft to manage certain sections effectively. These are techniques not widely considered in the U.S., but our international guiding scope has seen this drastically reduce the potential for long swimmer exposure.

For commercial rafting trips, we will provide all required gear to participants at no additional cost, including:

- Wetsuits or other thermal protection appropriate for the conditions
- Type V PFDs
- Helmets
- River booties

For technical training programs, including downstream travel, participants may be required to bring their own PPE depending on the agreement with their agency (e.g., fire departments or military teams). However, we will always maintain and offer a complete set of all necessary PPE to ensure all participants can safely engage, regardless of personal PPE brought. All gear provided or required will meet or exceed industry standards for river instruction and guiding and will be inspected by qualified trainers and guides.

Vehicles:

Trucks, passenger vans, boat trailers, and other logistical vehicles for shuttles will be used based on the overall operational scope and logistical challenges.

**f. Will animals such as bear/lion dogs, riding horses/mules, and pack horses/mules be used for any of the activities? Who will be handling these animals? How will they be cared for to ensure the animals' and clients' safety?**

Animals:

No animals will be used in any operation.

**g. What is your plan to reduce/manage the risks of your activity and provide emergency medical care for clients in this operating area? Specifically describe what first aid kits will be available and how accessible they will be to clients and guides? What other related equipment will be available? What communication systems and devices will be available for emergencies? What is the emergency evacuation plan to get any injured to the closest hospital if the need arises?**

Risk Assessment and Emergency Services Plan

Pre-Trip Participant Evaluation:

It is important to note that we conduct a thorough pre-trip assessment of all clients, including:

- Minimum age restrictions based on predetermined water flow and rapid classification
- Health screening questionnaires to assess participant readiness
- Maximum age limitations for certain high-flow segments where risk thresholds potentially exceed safe operating margins for elderly participants

These measures ensure that all activities are conducted in a controlled and appropriate risk environment for the individual and group. The team creates full operational functionality through engagement in pre-trip meetings and risk management discussions based on the day's departures and water levels. Additionally, we will reserve the right to cancel any launch and issue full refunds to clients if the conditions are deemed unsafe through our risk management and mitigation process. This will be clearly stated in the registration process for all clients and trainees.

#### Medical Readiness:

- Major BLS trauma kits tailored to trip type and group size will be carried on each outing.
- The primary medical kit will be kept in the last boat (sweep position) to ensure availability in downstream incidents.
- Mini first aid kits will be stored on each raft or inflatable, containing gloves, wound care supplies, bandages, and OTC meds as approved by our medical direction.
- All guides (not only Lead guides) hold current OEC, WFR, EMT/NREMT, Paramedic or higher medical certifications with basic CPR/AED training.

#### Communication Systems:

- Garmin inReach satellite devices will be carried by each trip leader and accessible to the group during the entirety of the trip.
- Devices allow 2-way satellite communication, real-time SOS alerts, and geolocation tracking.
- In areas of reliable cell reception, we will still carry an InReach device; however, it may be preferable to utilize advanced texting and App services such as Backcountry SOS, allowing us to text 911 with an immediately accurate geolocation pin accompanying our text. Speaking directly with EMS is important.
- The older technology of satellite phones can be of some value, but they sometimes prove to be unreliable in transcribing detailed information shared with EMS via text with real-time geolocation services. Additionally, the InReach can be turned on and gain a signal at the beginning of the trip, so it is always ready for immediate use. Satellite phones have been shown to potentially delay response times and drop calls in austere environments.

#### Evacuation Protocol:

All our instructors and guides are trained in life-saving emergency triage and stabilization. On-scene decision-making will follow this model:

1. Stabilize and assess the patient.
2. If the patient can be safely transported, the team will initiate evacuation to the nearest facility. This may be facilitated by initiating field contact with our on-base management team to initiate a meeting location along Highway 95. This may greatly reduce the cost to an individual requiring basic and non-life-threatening medical care.
3. If advanced care is needed, Life Flight Network or EMS will be activated via Garmin InReach or cell phone through EMS Apps or a direct call to 911.
4. Our guides and instructors are trained in Helo evacuation protocols and will be able to work through EMS dispatching to determine the closest available landing zone if life

flight is required

Nearest Medical Facilities:

- Salmon River Medical Clinic (Riggins): Urgent Care, ~1 mile
- St. Luke's McCall Medical Center (McCall): Level IV Trauma, ~46 miles
- St. Mary's Hospital (Cottonwood): Level IV Trauma, ~60 miles
- St. Joseph Regional Medical Center (Lewiston): Level III Trauma, ~115 miles
- St Alphonsus Reg'l Medical Ctr, (Boise): Level II Trauma ~150 miles

Life Flight Access Points:

- Primary air support from Life Flight Network bases in Lewiston and Boise.
- Typical evac route to St. Joseph Regional or St. Alphonsus (Boise – Level II).
- Landing zones designated at Highway 95 pullouts or BLM clearings.