



State of Idaho

Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board

BRAD LITTLE
Governor
RUSSELL BARRON
Administrator

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Board Meeting Minutes of 09/02/2026

Board Members Present: Tammy Overacker - Chair
Kenneth Long
Carl Rey
Lonnie Allen
Derick Attebury

Division Staff: John Price, Executive Officer
Greg Loos, General Counsel
Matthew Storm, Designations Coordinator
Steve Hogue, Investigations Supervisor
Allegra Earl, Licensing Program Manager
Christian Runnalls, Board Support Specialist

Others Present: Eric Nelson, Prosecuting Attorney

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM MT by Tammy Overacker.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the May 28, 2026, minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment: Louise Stark, retired guide, outfitter, and ex-board member, expressed concern that the Board previously prioritized federal decision-making impacting operating areas. She urged ongoing engagement with federal agencies on upcoming rule changes, especially amid Forest Service reorganization. Stark recommended that the Board communicate proactively and re-evaluate the current Memoranda of Understanding, which she finds concerning, aiming for a new signed agreement by 2027.

Scott Feiner expressed opposition to expanding outfitting on the B01 section of the Boise River. Mr. Feiner noted that as a fisherman, he values the river's preserved, non-commercial nature near Boise. Mr. Feiner stated that the public is unaware that outfitters can be licensed there and plans to take legal action to restrict commercial use.

Patrick O'Neil expressed opposition to permitting or licensing on the B01 section of the Boise River. Mr. O'Neil emphasized the Boise River value as a pristine resource and expressed concern that commercialization would strip Idaho of a rare and precious natural asset.

Kevin Cablik opposed outfitting on the Boise River B01 section, citing fiscal, safety, and ecological concerns. Mr. Cablik warned that opening this section would increase costs to taxpayers and Idaho funds, urging a cost analysis. He emphasized the need for public dialogue and expressed safety concerns. He also called for the removal of current licensing.

JR Mayard stated his opposition to the use of the B01 river section and that he is in agreement with the prior comments made.

Tony Hauser expressed his opposition to licensure on B01 due to safety concerns. Mr. Hauser emphasized that this is the Governor's designated river and should remain non-commercialized. As the only non-commercialized river home to blue trout, Mr. Hauser expressed concern about the potential negative impact on the health of the fisheries.

Mike Reed stated his opposition to licensure on the B01 Boise River section. Mr. Reed expressed concern about the impact on fisheries and wants to keep the river with trout as an Idaho resource.

Erik Weiseth, Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association (IOGA), acknowledged concerns but emphasized the Board's priority is public health and safety in licensing. The river section was proposed during a previous year's negotiated rulemaking (NRM) process without public comment on today's concerns, despite ample opportunity. Mr. Weiseth pointed out that some Idahoans rely on outfitters to experience the state's natural areas, citing the Middle Fork River as an example. Outfitters are held to higher safety standards than the public and are best qualified for river safety. Mr. Weiseth corrected a previous statement, clarifying that outfitter fees are collected by the Board and do not impact public funds or taxpayers. He also briefly addressed the Oregon reciprocity issue, stating IOGA is working with the Board on potential solutions.

Additional Information relating to public comments can be found attached to these minutes.

DIVISION BUSINESS

Universal Discipline Training: Mr. Loos provided an overview of House Bill 703, codified in Idaho Code section 67-2616 (Universal Discipline), which became effective on July 1, 2026, including the disciplinary enforcement tools available under the statute.

Public Member Training: Mr. Loos presented training to the Board on the role and importance of Public Members appointed to regulatory boards.

State Travel Policy Update: Mr. Price presented a summary of the changes incorporated into the updated Idaho State Travel Policy, which took effect on July 1, 2026.

Financial Update: Mr. Price presented the Board's financial report for the fourth quarter of Fiscal Year 2026.

BOARD BUSINESS

IDFG Presentation: Ellary Tucker-Williams, Legislative and Community Engagement Coordinator for Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), provided an update on outfitter tag

allocation, covering its history, current setup, areas of agreement, next legislative steps, upcoming NRM, and a proposed timeline.

Legislation Coordination: Mr. Weiseth discussed allocation tag reform, including an agreement with IDFG and the need for legislative rulemaking in 2027-2028. The reform aims to align utility zone allocations, recalculate non-controlled hunts, and decouple outfitter tags from non-resident tags. Additional fees may be added to offset designation costs, with a timeline for completion. Ms. Tucker Williams noted IDFG's strict restrictions on tag fee use and the need to navigate legal rules. Mr. Storm summarized that proposed changes are minor and ongoing collaboration with IDFG and IOGA will address designation impacts.

2027 Tag Designation Uncapped Elk – General Deer: Mr. Storm presented historical outfitter tag allocation data, focusing on 2027 uncapped elk and general deer outfitter designations. He reviewed the 2022-2026 outfitter tag allocations and actual use and then detailed 2027 designations. He summarized the designation process, highlighting three cases that required Board tie-breakers, and shared staff-proposed tie-breaker designations.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2027 outfitter tag designation for uncapped elk and general deer as presented and to direct staff to send out designation letters to outfitters. The motion carried unanimously.

Oregon Snake River Rulemaking: Mr. Price noted Oregon State Marine Board rulemaking requiring licensure for Snake River outfitters and guides, potentially impacting Idaho operators with additional fees and licensing. This opposes reciprocity and burdens outfitters using Oregon facilities. Mr. Weiseth added that the only river access is on the Oregon side, and guides face high Oregon license fees. His main concern is the financial and administrative burden of extra licensure, compounded by the licensing disparity between states. The Board considered submitting a comment to the Oregon State Marine Board advocating true reciprocity.

A motion was made and seconded to draft a comment on behalf of the Board to be reviewed by board member Long and sent to the Oregon State Marine Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Stan Potts Update: Mr. Price indicated that the Forest Service offered the Stan Potts permit to two outfitters to share, with the boundary to be determined collaboratively. Neither party initially reached an agreement, but the boundary has since been established; however, neither outfitter is fully satisfied with the outcome.

Waiting List/Prospectus Procedure: Mr. Price suggested adding a review step for the Executive Officer to assess the Forest Service's decision before finalization, to prevent conflicts like the Stan Potts incident. Following discussion, the Board decided to maintain the current process, but to specify the number of licenses intended to be granted to the Forest Service and enhance communication with the EO before approving candidates.

Permanent Controlled Tag Transfer Request: Mr. Storm stated that two outfitters who have been transferring tags would like a permanent transfer of tags.

A motion was made and seconded to approve permanent transfer of CH 2175 in Unit 10A from Shattuck Creek Outfitters to Back 30 Outfitters beginning with the 2027 tag designation process. The motion carried unanimously.

Work Plan Update: Mr. Price provided an update on the work plan, including completed items and tasks.

Licensing Report: Ms. Earl presented the licensing report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made and seconded to enter executive session under Idaho Code section 74-206(1)(d) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure under the Idaho Public Records Law, Idaho Code section 74-106(9). The purpose of the executive session was to discuss documents relating to the fitness of a licensee to retain a license or registration. The vote was: Ms. Overacker, aye; Mr. Rey, aye; Ms. Allen, aye; Mr. Long, aye; and Mr. Attebury, aye. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Exit Executive Session: A motion was made and seconded to exit executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION(S) RESULTING FROM THE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motions Regarding Discipline:

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the prosecuting attorney to include the violations for case numbers 2037301 and 2090490 into an existing administrative complaint as discussed in executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to close case numbers 1764979 and 1917101 with an advisory letter. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to authorize the prosecuting attorney to negotiate a Stipulation and Consent Order with terms discussed in executive session for case numbers 1931301, 2131560, and 2099371 and to allow the Board Chair to sign on behalf of the Board. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

The next meeting is on 11/04/2026.

From: Bob Ladenburger <bob.ladenburger@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 9:17 AM
To: DOPL OGLB Licensing
Subject: Comment on "BO1--Boise River, South Fork--Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge"

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To whom it may concern:

I wish to register my strong opposition to the commercialization of this section of the South Fork of the Boise River. This section of the Boise River is unique due to its close proximity to the Boise metro area, its beauty, fishery and wild nature. The initial reasons for its protection from commercialization have not changed since this was established by the state of Idaho. **I would ask that you remove the State's approval to allow commercial use of this section of the river.**

Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely,

Bob Ladenburger
4015 N Sandpoint Way
Boise, ID. 83702

From: Madeleine Langston <madeleinelang11@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 9:20 AM
To: DOPL OGLB Licensing
Subject: BO1-- Boise River, South Fork—Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge

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Hello,

My name is Madeleine Langston and I was born and raised in Idaho. My family has been fishing and doing overnight trips on the south fork of the Boise since I could remember, I learned how to fly fish and row a raft on this river. It is the most special place not only for those memories but because of the most important and unique qualities of the area, that guiding is not allowed. The beauty of Idaho and principles on which it stands are being threatened by commercializing a place that will not withstand the traffic of guiding. Please protect our wild and beautiful spaces and reverse the BO1 decision to allow guiding in this area.

Thank you.

Madeleine

From: Graham Sours <grahamsours@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 10:03 AM
To: DOPL OGLB Licensing
Subject: BO1-- Boise River, South Fork—Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

Dear Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board,

My name is Graham Sours, and I am writing to oppose commercial outfitting and guiding on **BO1 — Boise River, South Fork — Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge**. I respectfully ask the Board to remove the State's approval for commercial use on this stretch of river.

The South Fork Boise is special because it has remained a largely non-commercial, self-directed river experience for decades. Idaho already has many excellent rivers where commercial guiding is appropriate and available. The South Fork offers something increasingly rare: a remote river where private boaters and anglers are responsible for developing the skills, judgment, and experience necessary to safely enjoy it.

The Canyon Section is approximately 17 miles of roadless river with significant whitewater, changing flows, logs, rocks, and hazards that can change throughout the season. Rescue is difficult, and boaters need to be prepared to self-rescue. Increasing commercial traffic and introducing more inexperienced passengers into this environment adds unnecessary risk.

I am also concerned about increased fishing pressure, competition for limited camps and river space, waste, and the precedent this approval creates. If two outfitters are permitted today, it becomes much harder to prevent additional commercial operators or expanded use in the future.

This decision is bigger than two outfitters. It is about what we want this river to be for the next generation.

Not every exceptional public resource needs to become a commercial opportunity. Some places should remain challenging, wild, and non-commercial.

Please preserve the unique character of the South Fork Boise River and remove commercial approval for **BO1 — Boise River, South Fork — Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge**.

Thank you for considering my comments and including them in the public record.

Sincerely,

Graham Sours

From: Lindsey Johnson <lejohnson@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 10:45 AM
To: DOPL OGLB Licensing
Subject: BO1-- Boise River, South Fork—Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge

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Dear Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board,

My name is Lindsey Johnson. As an Idaho parent, I am writing to strongly oppose commercial outfitting and guiding on BO1 — South Fork Boise River, Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge. I respectfully ask the Board to remove commercial approval for this stretch to preserve its unique character for future generations.

The South Fork is special because it has remained a traditional, self-directed river experience for decades. While Idaho offers many rivers where commercial operations thrive, the South Fork provides something increasingly rare: a space where private boaters and anglers build self-reliance, safety judgment, and respect for nature.

Introducing commercial traffic to this 17-mile roadless canyon presents major safety and conservation concerns:

- **Safety Risks:** The canyon features severe hazards, changing flows, and isolated terrain where rescue operations are extraordinarily difficult. Bringing less experienced commercial clients into this environment creates unnecessary hazards.
- **Environmental & Resource Strain:** Commercial use will accelerate fishing pressure, intensify competition for limited campsites, increase waste management issues, and degrade the river's overall health.
- **Harmful Precedent:** Approving permits now opens the door to ongoing commercial expansion that will be nearly impossible to reverse.

Not every exceptional public resource needs to be commercialized. Some places should remain wild and challenging so our youth can experience true wilderness. Please preserve the non-commercial character of the South Fork Boise River by denying commercial use for BO1.

Thank you for your time and for including my comments in the public record.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Johnson

From: Sam Langston <sam@slangston.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 10:58 AM
To: DOPL OGLB Licensing
Subject: FW: BO1-- Boise River, South Fork-Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to permitting commercial guiding — for rafting and fly-fishing — on the South Fork Boise River's Canyon Section (the "Governor's River").

I understand that Cascade Raft and Kayak and Idaho Angler have received Forest Service approval to commercially guide this section and are now seeking public support. I ask the Department to withhold that support and reconsider this decision. My concerns fall into three areas: safety, resource over-use, and the erosion of a designation that has protected this river for decades. The general public should have the opportunity to experience this resource without the negative impacts that come with commercial guiding.

Concentrating guided fishing pressure onto a non-braided river means far more repeated pressure on the same fish and the same water, raising real concerns about fish exhaustion and fish-kill. Increased traffic also brings the usual impacts of higher use: more waste, more trail and campsite degradation, and eventually the likely need for a permit system to manage demand that doesn't currently exist. I'm also concerned this approval sets a precedent for opening the upper section to guiding as well — running counter to the original intent of our highly regarded Governor Cecil Andrus, which was to protect this fragile resource.

Approving these two outfitters creates a lucrative opportunity that other guide services will understandably want access to as well, which would only compound the safety and over-use concerns above. This river has been protected from commercial use for decades under Governor Andrus's "Governor's River" designation, specifically to preserve a free-flowing, self-reliant, non-commercial experience. That protection is part of what makes the South Fork Boise valued by the boating and fly-fishing community in southern Idaho — it is one of the few rivers left where people are expected to learn it themselves, at their own pace, rather than pay for exclusive guided access.

Guiding on other rivers throughout the state has shown that a wealthy few can monopolize the prime fishing dates, turning access into something exclusive to those who can afford to buy their way in. The fisheries of most Blue Ribbon trout streams throughout the Mountain West have suffered as a result, and I have personally witnessed the decline in fishery health caused by increased notoriety and constant guiding pressure on rivers such as the Madison, the Yellowstone, and the Henry's Fork of the Snake and others. Most of these are larger watersheds with greater fish numbers and a far higher capacity to absorb fishing pressure — and even they are experiencing a notable decline in fish health.

I understand Trout Unlimited is hosting a public forum on October 6 (12–3 pm, 230 Collins Rd. Building 1, Boise, ID 83702) where representatives from these outfitters will present their proposal. I plan to attend and would welcome the chance to raise these concerns there as well, in addition to this written comment.

Thank you for considering these concerns.

Sam Langston, MAI

Langston & Associates
210 West Jefferson Street
Boise, Idaho 83702
208-384-1300 (Office)
208-869-3801 (Cell)
sam@slangston.com



From: Brent Hardy <brent.hardy@qissupply.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 11:27 AM
To: DOPL OGLB Licensing
Subject: BO1-- Boise River, South Fork—Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge

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To whom it may concern,

I would like to protest the commercial use consideration for the BO1-- Boise River, South Fork—Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge. This one of the last classic canyon runs that is limited to for public use only and was specifically designated by the governor as such. The SF Boise is a true blue ribbon trout stream and putting this level of pressure on the river will result in the same decline in population and size of fish that the SF of the Snake has experienced over the years. The SF Boise is a braidless narrow 2-bank channel that will be degraded with constant pressure from guided trips from multiple outfitters. Hooking mortality will rise and the few lunch/camping areas will be run down and inevitably overrun with trash and human waste. There are no toilet facilities after Danskin Bridge until the trail head below Neal bridge. The fish themselves will be endlessly molested like the 11 miles above Danskin Bridge to the Anderson Ranch Dam. If we do not protect this resource we will lose it. Too many Idaho rivers have been turned from gems to mediocre fisheries in this state already. Let's not let another one be lost so that a limited few can profit from it.

Brent Hardy
Soil Scientist, CPESC



T: 970.442.6100
M: 208-863-7529
brent.hardy@qissupply.com - www.qissupply.com

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From: engelburgg <engelburgg@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 12:01 PM
To: DOPL OGLB Licensing
Subject: Public Comment for commercial use of BO1

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to formally submit my public comment opposing the commercial use of the South Fork Boise River from Danskin to Neal Bridge.

It has come to my attention that outfitters are attempting to obtain special use permits in the Boise National Forest to commercially guide fishing in this remote and pristine river canyon. While the current limits set by the board limit the number of boats allowed in the canyon for commercial use, opening the door will only lead to requests for additional boats and outfitters and lead to overuse of this pristine waterway. The Boise National Forest Use Plan prohibits the commercial use of this river section BO1, Danskin to Neal Bridge.

Additionally, two commercial helicopters associated with Alpine Aviation were observed landing on the south fork Boise river canyon floor full of what appeared to be clients being taken to the canyon for fishing and sight seeing. This cannot be allowed, and is the opposite of what Idaho wilderness represents.



“Where wilderness is concerned, there can be no compromise. Wilderness, like life itself, is absolute.”

Thank you for considering my feedback on this matter.

Sincerely,

Adam Engel

From: Tom Walther <tom@nationwideequipmentllc.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 1:31 PM
To: DOPL OGLB Licensing
Subject: Guide License Input for South Fork Boise River

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Hello,

I am writing to express my opinion AGAINST allowing commercial fishing guides on the South Fork Boise Canyon between the Danskin and Neal Bridges.

I feel this is a precious resource that should be maintained for rafters and anglers who have “earned” the right to raft this section of river without commercial interference. There are several Class IV rapids that to this point, has kept out the masses, and restricted people who lack the skill to enter the Canyon. As Idaho grows, there is a growing pressure on our natural resources, and it seems a shame to open it up to people who simply have the money to pay for access. Let’s keep this part of Idaho wild, and preserved for those who have earned the right to access it!

Thanks for your consideration.

Tom Walther
Boise, ID
208-890-2165

Sent from my iPhone

From: Kate Schmitz <kate.schmitz15@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 1:46 PM
To: DOPL OGLB Licensing
Subject: Public Comment for Sept 2 Hearing — Please Keep South Fork Boise (BO1) Non Commercial

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To the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board,
My name is Kate Schmitz, I'm writing about "BO1 -- Boise River, South Fork -- Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge," ahead of the September 2 meeting.

I should say up front that I'm new to this -- this is my first year boating, and I don't have decades on the water like a lot of the people who love this river. But that's actually part of why I'm writing. Even as a beginner, I've been completely in awe of the South Fork Boise -- the beauty of that canyon, and honestly the skill it takes to run it well. Watching more experienced boaters read the water, know which eddies are safe to catch, know when a rapid that looked fine last month isn't fine anymore -- it's made me realize how much there is to learn, and how much respect this river demands.

That's exactly what worries me about opening the canyon section to commercial guiding. From everything I've learned this year, this isn't a forgiving stretch of water. It's remote, roadless for miles, and there are rapids down there where falling out of the boat can be fatal -- it's happened before. If something goes wrong out there, there's no quick way to get help -- no cell service, no road access, sometimes hours between you and the rim. Even as a beginner, I've already seen how much boaters rely on each other to self rescue and look out for one another on this river. I worry that bringing in larger numbers of paying clients, some of whom may not be in shape for the demands of that terrain, raises the odds of someone getting hurt in a place where help simply isn't close by.

I've also heard from people who've fished it for years that the canyon doesn't braid -- there are really only two banks to work -- so adding regular commercial traffic on top of existing private use seems likely to wear the fishery down and eventually mean more restrictions for everyone, not fewer.

What strikes me most, even as someone new to this, is what would be lost if this door gets opened at all. This river has been managed as non commercial for decades -- known as the "Governor's River," a name it earned when Governor Cecil Andrus kept it off limits to commercial guiding. That's not a small thing to walk away from. And once one stretch gets approved for commercial use, it's hard to imagine other outfitters not lining up to ask for the same, which would only make the safety and overuse concerns I mentioned above worse over time.

I understand this is a business opportunity for the outfitters involved, but as someone who's just gotten a small taste of what makes this river special, I don't think it's worth what would be lost. I'd ask the Board not to approve commercial guiding on this reach, and to let it stay what it's been for decades.

Thank you for including this in the record for the September 2 hearing.2 hearing.

Kate Schmitz

Boise, Idaho

From: Daniel Doherty <daniel@43re.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 1:50 PM
To: DOPL OGLB Licensing
Subject: South Fork Boise River, commercial licensing on the Governor's River

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to permitting commercial guiding — for rafting and fly-fishing — on the South Fork Boise River's Canyon Section (the "Governor's River").

I understand that Cascade Raft and Kayak and Idaho Angler have received Forest Service approval to commercially guide this section and are now seeking public support. I ask the Department to withhold that support and reconsider this decision. My concerns fall into three areas: safety, resource over-use, and the erosion of a designation that has protected this river for decades. The general public should have the opportunity to experience this resource without the negative impacts that come with commercial guiding.

Concentrating guided fishing pressure onto a non-braided river means far more repeated pressure on the same fish and the same water, raising real concerns about fish exhaustion and fish-kill. Increased traffic also brings the usual impacts of higher use: more waste, more trail and campsite degradation, and eventually the likely need for a permit system to manage demand that doesn't currently exist. I'm also concerned this approval sets a precedent for opening the upper section to guiding as well—running counter to the original intent of our highly regarded Governor Cecil Andrus, which was to protect this fragile resource.

Approving these two outfitters creates a lucrative opportunity that other guide services will understandably want access to as well, which would only compound the safety and over-use concerns above. This river has been protected from commercial use for decades under Governor Andrus's "Governor's River" designation, specifically to preserve a free-flowing, self-reliant, non-commercial experience. That protection is part of what makes the South Fork Boise valued by the boating and fly-fishing community in southern Idaho—it is one of the few rivers left where people are expected to learn it themselves, at their own pace, rather than pay for exclusive guided access.

Guiding on other rivers throughout the state has shown that a wealthy few can monopolize the prime fishing dates, turning access into something exclusive to those who can afford to buy their way in. The fisheries of most Blue Ribbon trout streams throughout the Mountain West have suffered as a result and I have personally witnessed the decline in fishery health caused by increased notoriety and constant guiding pressure on rivers such as the Madison, the Yellowstone, and the Henry's Fork of the Snake and others. Most of these are larger watersheds with greater fish numbers and a far higher capacity to absorb fishing pressure when compared to the South Fork of the Boise—and even they are experiencing a notable decline in fish health.

I understand Trout Unlimited is hosting a public forum on October 6 (12–3 pm, 230 Collins Rd. Building 1, Boise, ID 83702) where representatives from these outfitters will present their proposal. I plan to attend and would welcome the chance to raise these concerns there as well, in addition to this written comment.

I'm a father, brother, son, uncle and steward of this very special place that needs your continued protection.

Thank you for considering these concerns.

Daniel Doherty

From: Mark Menlove <marklmenlove@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 6:53 PM
To: DOPL OGLB Licensing
Subject: BOI — Boise River, South Fork – Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge

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To Whom it May Concern

I write to express deep concern and to voice my strong opposition to permitting commercial guiding for rafting and fly-fishing on the South Fork Boise River's Canyon Section (the "Governor's River").

I just learned that the U.S. Forest Service has approved two commercial guide companies to offer guided fishing and rafting on this section and are now seeking public support. I urge the Department to reconsider this decision.

Such an approval is not only counter to the original intent of our highly regarded Governor Cecil Andrus, which was to protect this fragile resource, it would set a precedent for opening the upper section to guiding as well. This river has been protected from commercial use for decades under Governor Andrus's "Governor's River" designation, specifically to preserve a free-flowing, self-reliant, non-commercial experience. That protection is part of what makes the South Fork Boise valued by the boating and fly-fishing community in southern Idaho. The South Fork Boise is one of the few rivers left where people are expected to take care of themselves rather than hiring commercial guides, at prices most of the general public cannot afford, to do the work for them.

Commercial guiding on other rivers throughout the state has shown that a wealthy few can monopolize the prime fishing dates, turning access into something exclusive to those who can afford to buy their way in. Most of these rivers and trout streams have suffered significant damage and declines in fish numbers and health of the ecosystems from increased and constant guiding pressure. Please do not allow this to happen to our beloved South Fork Boise River. Please do not allow commercial guiding and permitting on the South Fork Boise.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Menlove

3745 N Stone Creek Way, Boise, ID 83703

From: Blake Holgate <holgate.creative@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 8:27 PM
To: DOPL OGLB Licensing
Subject: South Fork Boise River Canyon guiding

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Hello,

I'm writing to express my incredible disappointment to the recent news I heard about guiding becoming legal on the canyon section of the south fork Boise river. I, as many other users who know the system regularly, think it's a bad idea on many levels.

Approving outfitters on this section of sacred native redband trout river is egregious at best. How is it going to be limited to one outfitter? Two boats per day? Have you ever floated this section of river, and I ask you seriously? Two boats can't even pass each other in most places. Aside from the fact that it's continuous white water with expert navigation skills. And the impact on an incredible and delicate wild fishery. Yes, I float and fish rivers like the Middle Fork Salmon, as well as literally most other Idaho rivers. And, I also pay for guides when doing so on rivers that support such activities like the South Fork Snake, Henry's Fork, Main Salmon, and many others. But the South Fork Boise canyon section is different, and I don't think that you actually know this or you wouldn't consider commercializing it.

I'm interested to know if you've conducted any fish impact use studies. How the increased pressure will affect the local populations and spawning habitat. How the publicity will affect the sustainability of a non-permitted river, of which few are left. Or is that your angle as the licensing god for Idaho outfitters...more is better? I also plan to never purchase or recommend another referral or customer to either the fly shop and river outfitter listed on this permit. My daughter works for one of them and she just quit.

I plan to attend the public forum that Trout Unlimited is having. I don't see anything from your organization that addresses the ecological side of what you are proposing. I'm really disappointed in your decision making, from a third generation Idahoan who uses public land every single day. Don't privatize our rivers for commercial gain. This is just gross. Please explain your logic.

Blake Holgate
208-863-8464

From: Luke Hopstad <slhopstad@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 9:20 PM
To: DOPL OGLB Licensing
Subject: Do not commercialize the South Fork of the Boise River

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To Whom it May Concern:

Keep the South Fork Boise River Canyon Section Non-Commercial

A Request to Preserve the “Governor’s River” for Idaho’s Private Boaters, Anglers, and Outdoor Community

It has come to my attention that Cascade Raft and Kayak and Idaho Angler have received approval from the U.S. Forest Service to commercially guide paying clients on the Canyon Section of the South Fork Boise River, and that they are now seeking broader public support and permission to conduct these commercial operations.

I strongly oppose the commercialization of this section of the South Fork Boise River.

The Canyon Section is not simply another stretch of river suitable for commercial outfitting. It is a uniquely remote, roadless, dynamic, and technically demanding 17-mile section of the South Fork Boise that has, for decades, remained free of commercial guiding. That history has created something exceptionally rare in Idaho: a river experience where private boaters and anglers are responsible for developing their own skills, understanding the river, and accepting the responsibility that comes with entering a remote wilderness environment.

That should be preserved.

The South Fork Boise Is Special Because It Has Remained Non-Commercial

During Cecil Andrus’s tenure as Governor of Idaho, the South Fork Boise became known as the “Governor’s River,” with commercial guiding traditionally prohibited or otherwise excluded.

I believe it is important that the public understand exactly what has changed, why it has changed, and under what authority.

If commercial guiding is now being authorized after decades of non-commercial use, the public deserves a transparent explanation of:

- What specific authorization has been granted to Cascade Raft and Kayak and Idaho Angler;
- What agency or agencies granted that authorization;
- The legal and administrative basis for changing the longstanding non-commercial status;
- What documentation exists regarding Governor Cecil Andrus's original designation or policy concerning commercial use;
- What environmental, fisheries, safety, and recreational-use analysis was conducted before commercial guiding was authorized; and
- Whether the public has an opportunity to formally comment or challenge the decision.

This should not happen quietly or simply become a matter of precedent because two commercial operators were allowed onto the river.

Once commercial use begins, it becomes substantially more difficult to reverse.

Safety Is a Serious Concern

The Canyon Section is a remote river with significant and changing hazards. It is not a controlled commercial rafting environment.

In October 2015, major landslides dramatically altered the river and created significant new rapids, including Buffalo Creek and Fiddler's Creek. The Canyon also contains areas such as Log Jam, where large ponderosa pines can periodically enter and obstruct the river corridor.

These hazards are not static.

The river changes from year to year as new logs, rocks, debris, and other obstructions alter existing rapids and create new hazards. A rapid that was manageable during one trip can be substantially different the following year. River flows can also vary dramatically, with different flows creating entirely different hydraulic and navigational challenges.

There are sections where falling out of a boat is not simply an inconvenience—it can be life-threatening.

The remoteness of the Canyon compounds the problem. There is no easy road access for emergency response. Boaters need to possess meaningful self-rescue skills and be prepared to deal with an accident without expecting immediate outside assistance.

I have also heard numerous accounts of boaters being forced to spend the night in the Canyon or hike to the canyon rim because they were unable to self-rescue.

There has also been at least one fatality associated with the Canyon in recent years.

My concern is not that commercial guides are incapable of managing a river. My concern is that commercialization changes who is likely to enter the river and the expectations those people may have about their own abilities and the level of assistance available to them.

A paying client may reasonably assume that because they are with a professional guide, the river is inherently safe or that the guide can compensate for a lack of personal river skills.

That assumption can be dangerous on the South Fork Boise.

Commercial Guiding Could Increase Risk for Everyone

The danger is not limited to commercial clients.

If commercial operations place additional inexperienced boaters on a technically demanding and remote section of river, private boaters may ultimately find themselves involved in rescue situations.

That creates a difficult and potentially dangerous dynamic: private boaters who never intended to participate in commercial operations may be placed in a position where they feel obligated to assist a commercial group in distress.

Conversely, commercial groups could encounter private boaters who themselves lack the skills necessary to safely navigate changing conditions.

There is another concern as well.

Someone who receives a successful guided trip through the Canyon may subsequently believe that they have acquired the skills necessary to run it independently. The reality is that one guided trip does not necessarily prepare someone to recognize how dramatically the river can change with different flows, new wood, altered channels, or newly formed hazards.

The South Fork requires judgment, experience, and humility.

Overuse Could Harm an Exceptional Fishery

The Canyon Section also presents a unique problem from a fisheries perspective.

This is not a highly braided river with numerous channels and extensive fishing access. The Canyon largely concentrates boat and angler activity into a relatively confined river corridor.

Much of the fly-fishing occurs along the river's banks, where slower water provides holding habitat for fish. Consequently, increasing the number of guided anglers does not simply distribute additional fishing pressure across an enormous system. It concentrates additional pressure onto the same limited stretches of productive water.

More commercial fishing trips mean more anglers, more repeated presentations, more boat traffic, and more pressure on the fishery.

The potential consequences include increased fish stress, accidental fish mortality, disturbance of holding water, increased campsite use, and additional human impacts such as trash and human waste.

The question should not simply be, "Can commercial operators legally guide here?"

The more important question is:

Can this particular river sustain additional commercial use without fundamentally changing the experience and resource that have made it special for generations?

I believe that question deserves a much more thorough examination before commercial use proceeds.

This Could Be the Beginning of a Much Larger Change

I am also concerned about precedent.

If Cascade Raft and Kayak and Idaho Angler are permitted to commercially guide the Canyon Section, what happens next?

Other outfitters may reasonably argue that they should receive the same opportunity. Once several commercial operators are established, additional operators could seek access, potentially increasing the number of commercial trips substantially.

And once commercial use is established in the Canyon, it becomes difficult to argue that other sections of the South Fork should remain protected from commercial activity.

What begins as two companies running a limited number of trips can ultimately become a much larger transformation of the river.

Fairness to the People Who Have Learned This River

There is also an important cultural and recreational consideration.

For decades, people have experienced the South Fork Boise without commercial guiding. Private boaters and anglers have invested time, effort, and considerable personal responsibility into learning this river.

They have learned to read the water.

They have learned where the hazards are.

They have learned how different flows affect the rapids.

They have learned how to rescue themselves and their companions.

And they have developed a deep respect for the river precisely because there has been no commercial shortcut to that experience.

There are some places where the difficulty is part of the reward.

The South Fork Boise is one of those places.

The opportunity to challenge yourself, develop the necessary skills, and earn the privilege of safely navigating this river is part of what makes the experience meaningful.

Turning that experience into a commercial product risks changing the very character that makes the South Fork Boise unique.

I Am Asking for Transparency and Preservation

I am not opposed to professional river guides or commercial rafting in general. There are many rivers where commercial outfitters provide valuable services and safe recreational opportunities.

I am opposed to commercializing **this particular river section** because of its unique history, remoteness, hazards, fisheries, limited river corridor, and longstanding non-commercial character.

Before this change moves forward, I believe the public deserves a transparent process and answers to several basic questions:

- 1. What specifically changed that now permits commercial guiding on the Canyon Section?**
- 2. Who authorized the change, and under what statutory or administrative authority?**
- 3. What documentation exists regarding Cecil Andrus's designation or policy concerning the South Fork Boise as the "Governor's River"?**
- 4. What safety assessment was conducted regarding the Canyon's remote and changing hazards?**
- 5. What fisheries and environmental analysis was conducted regarding increased commercial angling pressure?**
- 6. What limits will be placed on the number of commercial trips, boats, anglers, and operators?**
- 7. How will cumulative impacts be evaluated if additional outfitters request permits?**

8. What opportunity does the public have to comment on or challenge the decision?

Most importantly, I ask that we step back before allowing a decades-old tradition of non-commercial use to disappear simply because commercial access has become possible.

The South Fork Boise Canyon is a remarkable resource. Its value is not merely measured by the number of people who can be taken down it or the revenue that can be generated from it.

Its value is also found in its solitude, difficulty, remoteness, wild character, exceptional fishery, and the fact that it has remained a place where Idahoans can experience a challenging river on their own terms.

Please keep the South Fork Boise Canyon Section non-commercial.

Let it remain the Governor's River—a special place preserved for the people of Idaho, private boaters, private anglers, and future generations who deserve the opportunity to experience this extraordinary river as it has been experienced for decades.

I would welcome the opportunity to speak with anyone interested in working together to understand the legal history of the Governor's River, determine exactly how commercial authorization was granted, and explore what can be done to preserve the South Fork Boise Canyon as a non-commercial river.

This is not simply about stopping two companies from guiding. It is about deciding what kind of river we want the South Fork Boise to remain.

Respectfully,
Luke Hopstad

Sent from my iPhone

From: Dana Menlove <ddmenlove@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 10:33 PM
To: DOPL OGLB Licensing
Subject: Opposing commercial guiding on the S Fork Boise

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to permitting commercial guiding of any kind (rafting or fly fishing) on the South Fork Boise River's Canyon Section (or any section of that river, for that matter). For decades this special river has been protected from commercial use under Governor Andrus's "Governor's River" designation, specifically to preserve a free-flowing, self-reliant, non-commercial experience. The potential cost of negative impact to the fish, the land and water, and the experience of general public boaters and fishermen is too great to risk, and it's a slippery slope before other commercial outfitters will be pressing for permits - even on the upper section.

Please reconsider this decision and withhold support for these permits.

I understand that there will be a public forum hosted by Trout Unlimited on October 6 where these outfitters will lay out their plans. I intend to be in attendance to express my concerns and opposition to commercial guiding on this pristine river.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dana Menlove

--

Dana Menlove

208.860.8496 | www.danamenlove.com

From: Adam Johns <adamfjohns@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2026 10:49 PM
To: DOPL OGLB Licensing
Subject: Protect the South Fork Boise River from Commercial Outfitting

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I am writing to formally request that commercial outfitting and guiding not be authorized on the Canyon section of the South Fork Boise River below Anderson Ranch Dam.

My primary concern is protecting the fishery, habitat, and long-term health of the river. For decades, this 17-mile roadless section has remained free from commercial guiding, helping preserve a unique, relatively low-use experience for anglers, boaters, wildlife, and the river itself.

The South Fork is a confined river corridor with limited fishable banks, campsites, and opportunities for users to spread out. Adding commercial fishing and rafting trips will inevitably increase pressure on the fishery, campsites, riparian areas, and wildlife habitat. I don't believe there is a compelling public or conservation benefit that justifies increasing commercial use of this special resource.

Safety is also a significant concern. The Canyon is remote and technically demanding, with large rapids, changing flows, woody debris, and conditions that can change dramatically throughout a season. River users must be prepared to self-rescue, and increasing traffic and introducing inexperienced clients adds risk in a place where outside assistance is difficult.

I am also concerned about the precedent. Authorizing two outfitters today could lead to additional commercial-use requests in the future, creating even greater pressure on the river.

Not every special place needs to be commercialized. The South Fork has remained special precisely because of its wild, non-commercial character. I respectfully ask that management decisions prioritize the fish, habitat, and long-term health of the river and keep the Canyon section non-commercial for future generations.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Adam Johns
Boise, ID

From: Stephen Besson <bessonstephen@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 10:40 AM
To: DOPL OGLB Licensing
Subject: Guided fishing

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

Please don't allow guided fishing on this section of river. It's already too crowded and this would only make things worse. It's nice to have one unmolested section of river for the rest of us.

From: [Derek Cooper](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: South Forth of the Boise River
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 11:38:45 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[South Fork Boise River Public Comment.pdf](#)

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Pease see attached public comment on the topic of the south for of the boise river regarding outfitters being allowed to operate from Danskin's bridge to Neal bridge.

Thanks

D

Derek Cooper



CONTRACTORS

1315 1st Street S

Suite 101

Nampa, ID 83651

Cell: 208-697-2332

Office: 208-465-8887

Derek@rrccontractors.com

Subject: Public Comment Opposing Commercial Use of the South Fork Boise River — BO1, Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge

To the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board:

I am writing to formally oppose commercial guiding and commercial use of the South Fork Boise River Canyon Section from Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge.

I was born and raised in Idaho. Hunting, fishing, camping, floating rivers, and spending time in the mountains have been part of my life for as long as I can remember. Some of my best memories have been made outdoors, and those experiences have given me a deep appreciation for what makes Idaho different from so many other places.

One of the things I value most about Idaho is that we still have wild places where a person can get away from roads, crowds, businesses, and development and experience the outdoors on its own terms. The South Fork of the Boise River Canyon is one of those places.

I believe we have a responsibility to keep it that way.

The Canyon Section of the South Fork is not just another recreational stretch of river. It is remote, roadless, technically demanding, and constantly changing. For decades, it has also remained largely free from commercial guiding. That history is part of what makes it special.

The South Fork has long been known as the “Governor’s River,” associated with Governor Cecil Andrus and a tradition of protecting this river from commercial guiding. Before we walk away from that history, I believe Idahoans deserve a clear explanation of what has changed, who authorized the change, and why a river that has been treated as non-commercial for decades should suddenly be opened to commercial operations.

My biggest concern is that once we open that door, it will be very difficult to close it.

Today it may be a small number of outfitters and a limited number of trips. Tomorrow another outfitter will reasonably ask for the same opportunity. Then another. Eventually, what started as an exception becomes accepted use, and the character of the river changes permanently.

We’ve seen this happen to outdoor places all across the West. Increased access leads to increased use, which eventually leads to more regulations, restrictions, permits, and limitations on the very people who have traditionally enjoyed those places.

As an Idaho hunter and fisherman, that concerns me greatly.

There are fewer and fewer places where an ordinary Idahoan can simply go hunt, fish, float, camp, and enjoy the outdoors without feeling like everything has become a commercial product. We should be extremely careful about giving up the places that remain.

I am especially concerned about the impact commercial fishing could have on the South Fork fishery. Unlike a large braided river system where fishing pressure can be spread across numerous channels and miles of accessible water, much of the productive fishing in the Canyon is concentrated along two banks and limited areas of holding water.

Increasing the number of guided anglers means repeatedly fishing those same stretches of water. Over time, that means additional pressure on the fishery, more handling of fish, more boat traffic, greater campsite use, and more human impact on a relatively confined river corridor.

As fishermen, we all understand that just because we *can* put more people on a piece of water doesn't mean we *should*.

There is also a very real safety issue.

This is a remote canyon with changing rapids, wood, rocks, debris, landslides, fluctuating flows, and limited opportunities for emergency access. When something goes wrong in this canyon, help isn't necessarily five or ten minutes away.

People who run this section privately understand—or quickly learn—that they need the skills and judgment necessary to take care of themselves and the people they are with. That self-reliance is part of experiencing a place like the South Fork.

Commercialization changes that dynamic.

A paying customer can understandably believe that because they hired a professional guide, the experience has been made safe for them. But no guide can eliminate the inherent risks of a remote and changing river.

It also potentially puts private boaters in the position of assisting in rescues involving commercial clients. In a canyon where rescue itself can put additional people at risk, that should be taken seriously.

I am also troubled by the reports and photographs of commercial helicopters landing on the canyon floor with what appeared to be clients for fishing and sightseeing purposes. The photographs included with one of the submitted public comments show helicopters on or immediately adjacent to the river corridor. That kind of activity represents exactly the direction I do not want to see Idaho's remote places heading.

There should still be places where access takes effort.

There should still be places where you have to develop the skills, put in the time, and earn the experience.

There should still be places where the value isn't measured by how many customers can be taken there or how much revenue can be generated from it.

The South Fork Boise Canyon should be one of those places.

I want to be clear that I am not opposed to outfitters and guides. They provide an important service throughout Idaho, and there are many rivers, hunting areas, fishing waters, and recreational opportunities where commercial guiding is appropriate.

But not every place needs to be commercialized.

Sometimes the best management decision is simply to leave something alone.

I grew up in Idaho loving the same things that generations before me loved about this state—the hunting, fishing, rivers, mountains, solitude, and freedom that come with having truly wild country in our backyard. I want my kids, and the generations that come after us, to have the opportunity to experience those things too.

Once we commercialize a place like this, we aren't likely to ever get the old version of it back.

For that reason, I respectfully ask the Board not to approve or expand commercial guiding on BO1, the South Fork Boise River from Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge.

I also ask the Board to fully examine the history of the "Governor's River," the authority under which commercial use is now being considered, the cumulative effects on the fishery and river corridor, the safety implications of increased commercial traffic, and what happens when additional outfitters request the same access in the future.

Please don't look at this simply as a decision about one or two outfitters.

This is a decision about what we want the South Fork Boise River to look like 10, 20, and 50 years from now.

Some places are worth protecting simply because they are still wild.

Please keep the South Fork Boise River Canyon non-commercial and preserve it for Idaho's private boaters, hunters, anglers, families, and future generations.

Thank you for considering my comments and including them in the public record for the September 2 Board Meeting.

Respectfully,

Derek Cooper

Idaho Resident, Hunter & Angler

From: [Susie Ladenburger](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: Comment on "BO1--Boise River, South Fork--Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge"
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 1:11:29 PM

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I strongly oppose the commercialization of this section of the South Fork of the Boise River. This section of the Boise River is unique due its beauty, the fishing and its wild nature. The initial reasons for its protection from commercialization have not changed since this was established by the state of Idaho. **I would ask that you remove the State's approval to allow commercial use of this section of the river.**

Susie Ladenburger
Sent from my iPhone

From: mike@idahomc.com
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: No Guided Trips for the South Fork of the Boise River
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 1:56:33 PM

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I would like to request that any requests for commercially guided rafting or rafting/fishing trips be denied for the SF of the Boise river in order to preserve the pristine nature of river and to maintain a healthy fishery. Thanks,

Mike

Mike diVittorio
925 Parkhill Court
Boise, ID 83702

Mike diVittorio
Cell: +1 (208) 859-2486

From: [Tony Hauser](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: Public comment for guiding on the South fork of the Boise.
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 2:02:50 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I have lived in Boise for almost 30 years. My favorite summertime activity is fishing at the South Fork of the Boise River.

Allowing guiding on the South fork of the Boise River, on any stretch of that river, would be a grave mistake. The population in Southwest Idaho is exploding, and there are already a lot of people on the river. The last thing we need is more boats on the water. And once two permits are issued, what is going to prevent more? That is pandora's box, and we should not open it.

If you take a look at the Owyhee River in nearby Adrian Oregon, it has become overrun with anglers. The quality of the fishing has diminished, and guide services certainly contribute to that.

In Idaho, we pride ourselves on the non-commercialization of certain areas of public land. The South Fork of the Boise is one of those areas. One of the hallmark qualities is that there are no guides. It has always been that way. Changing that rule would be bad for the river. And once it happens, there is NO turning back.

When looking at economic impacts, there might be a microscopic bump from the commerce. Keep in mind that one of the reasons people move to Idaho is the outdoors. Any degradation to the quality of the experience can create a net negative economic consequence.

When looking at environmental impacts, that can be severe. The fishing pressure has already been high on that river. Guided fishing usually has significantly higher catch rates than a recreational angler, which can impact fishing quality throughout that river system.

Ultimately, we need to ask ourselves: Why allow this? How does it benefit the state? It certainly doesn't enhance the experience for local anglers, except the guide services that are cashing in.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Tony Hauser

From: [Andrea Evans](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: SouthFork of the Boise River Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 2:06:02 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

I am writing to oppose the opening of the Southfork of the Boise River to commercial angling or guided services. I am a native of Idaho who has spent her spare time in the Idaho backcountry. I love Idaho and feel blessed to call Idaho home. I greatly appreciate that elected officials throughout history from this state took bold steps to preserve and protect aspects of this state. We have a unique situation in Idaho for outdoor opportunities and it can serve all level of outdoorsman and for varying uses. Opening up the SF of the Boise in my opinion limits the opportunity for outdoorsman who seek to hone their skills rafting and fishing in an area that remains fairly wild and pristine. Furthermore, I believe that the fact that the SF is what it is encourages those utilizing it to truly appreciate the land and what we have. They work to protect and keep it pristine. By opening this river up a dramatic change will occur and I fear over use. My son recently completed hunters safety and one of the big takeaways from his class was the importance of creating an environment that can be sustained. Also, the importance of the hunter to develop his/ her skills. The SF of the Boise river creates that challenge that outdoorsman deserve. Commercialization will risk the current environment and I oppose that. Please consider this request. I appreciate your time and consideration of this important issue.

Thank you,
Andrea Evans

From: [Feighner, Scott](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: BO1-- Boise River, South Fork—Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 3:31:13 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image013.png](#)
[image017.png](#)
[image041.png](#)
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[image044.png](#)
[image046.png](#)
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To whom it may concern at Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board (OGLB):

My name is Scott Feighner, a resident of Boise, and I would like to put the following sentiments into the public record for the upcoming Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board on September 2, 2026.

I have run river section mentioned in the title of my email, referred to as the “Canyon” of the South Fork of the Boise, over three hundred (300) times, and would hope you find my insight to this river helpful and valuable for furthering conversations.

I do plan to be at the OGLB board meeting September 2, 2026. I look forward to seeing you in person and continuing this conversation.

Section of River:

-

The following statements are in regards to the OGLB’s current approval(s) to allow commercial use of **BO1-- Boise River, South Fork—Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge**, which provides two (2) licensed float-fishing outfitters, one (1) boat at a time, maximum of two (2) anglers, and operations restricted on weekends and holidays, and no overnight camping.

My ask:

-

While I understand that the outfitters that currently hold these permissions/licenses from the OGLB *cannot* use them without Federal/Boise National Forest approval(s), my ask is for the OGLB to:

- remove the current provisions allowing commercialized-use for the 17-river-mile section of BO-1, Danskin boat launch to Neal on South Fork Boise (“the Canyon”); and
- not issue any future permissions to allow for the commercialization of the 12.5 mile stretch from Anderson Ranch Dam to Danskin boat launch— “The Upper Stretch”.

- please consider all implications when renewing/issuing future commercial licenses for the entire 30 miles of river below Anderson Ranch Dam. If Federal Laws change, and special use is permitted, the moniker of the “Governor’s River” will disappear forever, and Idaho’s citizens will have lost something special that makes Idaho one of the best places to live in the nation.

Safety & Increase Use:

- In October 2015, the “Canyon” went through 2, biblical land-slides, creating 2 new class four rapids—the biggest being Buffalo Creek rapid, and another called Fiddler’s Creek rapid. There is also a rapid in their called “Log Jam” which regular catches large ponderosas, blocking the entire river corridor (see photos below of why is called “Log Jam”)
- If you fall out of the boat in the Canyon, you could die from cardiac event due to cold water exposure, blunt force trauma, or drowning. I was on the river the same day when Dr. Richard Arave of Boise died.
- Because of the “roadless” nature of this canyon and remoteness, all boaters need to be able to self-rescue. I have pulled even the most-skilled boatmen/women off many a boat off rocks with my z-drag, and I know personally boaters that have had to spend the night/hike to the canyon rim, unable to self-rescue that same day.
- I fear that allowing people to have a *guided* experience down this river, may attract clientele that are **not** “river savvy”/not in shape/have no experience in a boat—add a fly rod in their hands and things get even more complicated.
- there are multiple non-swimmable rapids with volcanic rock and dead ponderosas pine in the river. People who are not boy savvy *will* fall out. There are 10 or so “no-swim” rapids, and countless more that could put boaters in the water.
- The danger of this river inevitably will put people/boats in harm’s way, creating a situation where private boaters might have to assist the commercial folks (and vice versa?)
- I think a lot of private boaters, who may not have the skill, will get guided down this section one (1) or two (2) times, and then think they have the skill set that they can boat this section themselves, only to find themselves in a life-threatening situation for themselves or other boaters trying to assist in their rescue
- This river changes every year: new logs and rocks inevitably make runs down the Canyon Section “different” every year. Some years it is down-right scary to see a new ponderosa completely blocking the river or a new bolder right in the path of a class 3 or 4 rapid with little to no warning/no ability to stop your boat. (photos below)
- This river changes during the same season: in one year, the river can go from 10k CFS (highest I have ever seen it) down to 300 CFS. Each CFS flow presents different challenges/obstacles, making runs “different”/ “scarier”/ “more technical”.

Fairness:

- If the outfitters you have given permission to guide the “Canyon” get Federal permissions to make this a reality--other outfitters might complain/appeal to the forest service and OGLB, pleading that they too be allowed to guide it, and further increase Safety concerns and Over-

use mentioned above, if future permits are issued or if there are changes to the current rules from OGLB.

- As this has been non-commercial for many decades due to Federal protections, it really saddens the hearts of those that have committed themselves to take the time to learn the South Fork (and respect its changing nature)
- There are some things in life that you should figure it out yourself, and this river is that! It makes this river so much more rewarding! “Paying to play” is not the Idaho way

Photo Gallery:

Note, I took these photos and/or was on river when most photos were taken. I am just one person...it is inevitable that these rescue situations will multiply as more people get exposed to this river.

“LOG JAM Rapid”—this rapid sits below a blind corner, and frequently becomes impassible from a boat after a high-water, dam releases or landslides that put ponderosas into the water.

Log jam rapid from photo from below showing logs crossing the entire river corridor.



Log Jam Rapid from the canyon rim



Scary upstream approach to Log Jam Rapid, after blind left hand canyon corner.



Log Jam rapid continued....

Safety assessment of how to deal with obstruction at Log Jam. Photos below taken at low-water.



Boat below unable to avoid log in Log Jam rapid that crosses entire corridor, resulting in dangerous swims and boat recovery operation



Boaters having to line boat through, after boat pictured above flipped.



Fiddler's Creek Rapid: Formed in the same year as Buffalo Creek rapid, the slide of the Fiddler's Creek, produced a high gradient drop rapid into car sized volcanic boulders lining all over the river—there is no clear run on how run this rapid. At lower flows it is almost guaranteed that a boat will be pinned or stuck in this rapid, and raft floors get punctured in this rapid with frequency.

Boat Stuck in Fiddler's Creek rapid

Captain of boat below has over 30 trips down Middle Fork Salmon as private boater, often in high water in Spring run-off above 5 feet, and has numerous runs down Nork Fork Payette's 15 miles of class V white water above Banks, Idaho.



Pinned boat in Fiddler's creek rapid, blocking the only runnable channel:

--Boater is former Guide on Middle Fork Salmon and Selway Rivers with thousands of hours white water experience.



Example debris in Fiddler's Creek Rapid. Photo is at low water in Fall, but this log posed a very real threat to boater safety earlier that summer.



Buffalo Creek Rapid: This formed in land-slides of 2015. This is the “scariest” of all rapids in the canyon, lined with volcanic rock, making this a “no-swim” rapid. The gradient drop in this rapid is so significant that lining a boat is not an option, and the ever changing nature of this rapid has made this a very dangerous/nearly impossible to portage boats or to have passengers “walk around” this rapid. You have to run it (and pray).

Green boat pictured below stayed in Buffalo Creek rapid for 4 days, until the owner of the boat could assemble the proper team to rescue. The day of pin, passengers aboard had to swim to shore and climb out the top of Canyon rim—which was “a 4-hour, class 5.6 rock climb to the rim” according to the captain. The team in the green boat eventually received a ride home via Black Hawk helicopter which had been dispatched due to poor communication about injuries sustained to boaters. The Green Raft in river created an additional obstacle for other boaters for 4 days, creating additional safety concerns for other users of the river who were required to go around this boat. Captain of green boat has extensive back country survival skills, and is a current teacher of avalanche and back country safety classes.



Buffalo Creek Pins continued...

Men in photo are former guides on Selway and Middle Fork Salmon river.



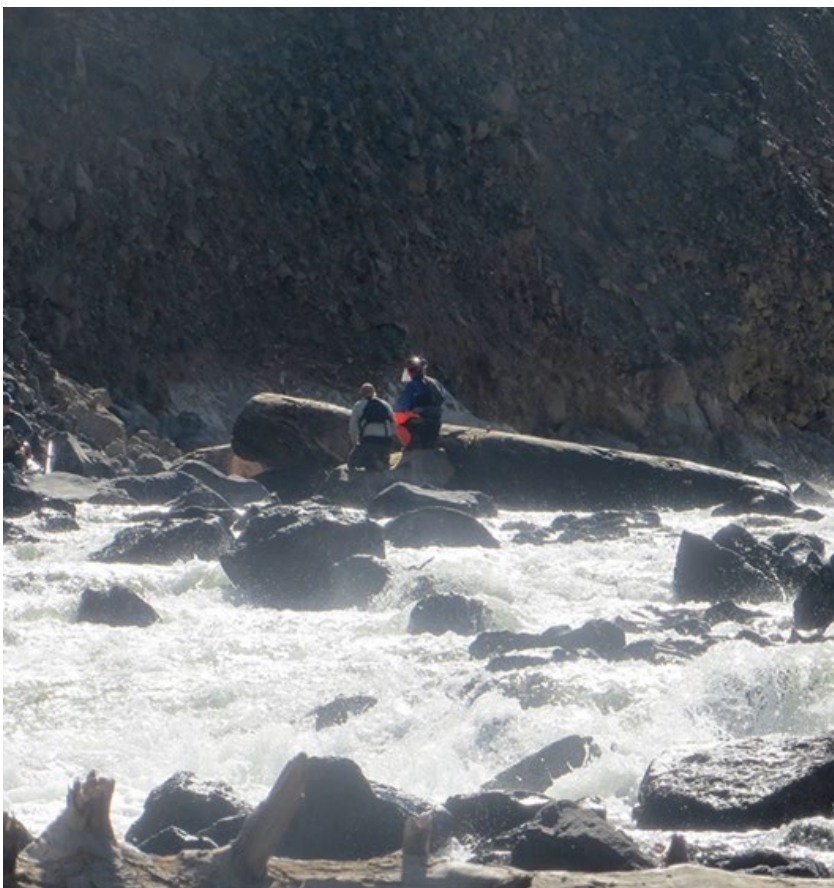
Photo of an “inexperienced” boater stuck in Buffalo Creek Rapid—the captain has run this canyon 15 or so times, and would be considered “novice” for the Canyon of the south fork. He possesses technical skills that could easily navigate other rivers such as the Main Payette and Cobarton stretch of the Payette, but is not equipped to do this river without experienced folks in his party.



This was the log that trapped and killed **Richard Argave in Buffalo Creek**-photo taken in October 2016, after river had lowered to safe enough levels to approach. I was on the river the day of Richard's passing.



Photo of Buffalo Creek rapid, downstream of the log that pinned and killed Dr. Richard Argave in 2016. Photo taken in the Fall of 2016 when able to approach safely.



I look forward to continuing the conversation and hope that you will consider my asks above.

Scott Feighner

Mobile: +1 208 861 4812

From: [John Corddry](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: Guiding on the South Fork
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 3:40:31 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

Thanks for the opportunity to submit comments regarding commercial guiding on the South Fork.

I am opposed to guided fishing on the South Fork of the Boise River.

I see no upside for anyone other than the permit holders.

Access is already plentiful and the fishery is healthy. Wading and/or floating opportunities are available for the entire season.

Don't change the Governor's river, it's already amazing!

John Corddry

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From: [Mike Pena](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: BO1-- Boise River, South Fork—Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 3:52:50 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

To whom it may concern at Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board (OGLB):

My name is Mike Peña a resident of Meridan, and I would like to put the following sentiments into the public record for the upcoming Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board on September 2, 2026.

Section of River:

The following statements are in regards to the OGLB's current approval(s) to allow commercial use of **BO1-- Boise River, South Fork—Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge**, which provides two (2) licensed float-fishing outfitters, one (1) boat at a time, maximum of two (2) anglers, and operations restricted on weekends and holidays, and no overnight camping.

My ask:

While I understand that the outfitters that currently hold these permissions/licenses from the OGLB *cannot* use them without Federal/Boise National Forest approval(s), my ask is for the OGLB to:

- remove the current provisions allowing commercialized-use for the 17-river-mile section of BO-1, Danskin boat launch to Neal on South Fork Boise ("the Canyon"); and
- not issue any future permissions to allow for the commercialization of the 12.5 mile stretch from Anderson Ranch Dam to Danskin boat launch— "The Upper Stretch".
- please consider all implications when renewing/issuing future commercial licenses for the entire 30 miles of river below Anderson Ranch Dam. If Federal Laws change, and special use is permitted, the moniker of the "Governor's River" will disappear forever, and Idaho's citizens will have lost something special that makes Idaho one of the best places to live in the nation.

Fairness:

- If the outfitters you have given permission to guide the "Canyon" get Federal permissions to make this a reality--other outfitters might complain/appeal to the forest service and OGLB, pleading that they too be allowed to guide it, and further increase Safety concerns and Over-use mentioned above, if future permits are issued or if there are changes to the current rules from OGLB.
- As this has been non-commercial for many decades due to Federal protections, it really saddens the hearts of those that have committed themselves to take the time to learn the

South Fork (and respect its changing nature)

- There are some things in life that you should be figure it out yourself, and this river is that! It makes this river so much more rewarding! “Paying to play” is not the Idaho way

Thank You,

Mke Peña

From: [Lew Goldman](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: S-Fork of Boise Canyon Section
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 3:55:28 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

To whom it may concern,

I hope this email finds you well. I have been floating this section for close to 20 years, I have fished all around the world, this is one of the more special places I have come across and one of the main reasons is the no-guiding policy... Please do not disrupt this Idaho treasure and allow Cascade and Idaho Angler permission to guide this section, regardless of how impactful it will be... Keep it wild...

Thank you for your time and consideration. Have a nice day!!

Best,

Lew Goldman
208.867.0189 | GoldmanRyden.com



Powered by Silvercreek Realty Group

From: [Colton Reid](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: South Fork Boise River Guiding
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 3:59:13 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

Good afternoon,

I am a 23 year old who has grown up in Boise and have recently attained a full time job in Boise. I have no plans on moving. Part of that is because of the hobbies I enjoy that Idaho holds. A major part of my life is fishing, and more specifically, fishing the South Fork of the Boise river.

I am writing to express my concern regarding allowing guiding services on the South Fork of the Boise river. Please don't do that to this beautiful river.

Thank you

From: [Greg Gaddis](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: South Fork guiding
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 4:00:39 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

Please record my comments as a "NO" to allowing guiding on the South Fork Boise river.

Thank you.

Greg Gaddis
208-869-9294
Boise, Idaho

From: [Mike Reid](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: South Fork Boise River
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 4:03:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

It has come to my attention you are considering Selling permits to guide professionally on the SF Boise River. I am voicing my strong displeasure at this possibility. I am both a rafter and an angler and I oppose professional guiding on this watershed.

Is it worth destroying this resource just because some local greedy merchants see it as an opportunity for more cash flow? I don't think so, and I am sure most Idahoans feel the same. I strongly urge you to not let this go through.

Regards,

--

Mike Reid
(208) 794-8786

From: [Quentin Knipe](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: Guiding on SF Boise
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 4:07:10 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

I oppose commercial guiding on the South Fork of the Boise River.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [John Gwin](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: SOUTH FORK OF THE BOISE RIVET CANYON GUIDE PERMITING
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 4:36:22 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

Please!! Do not allow permits to be issued to commercially guide the South Fork of the Boise River Canyon.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Raeber, Scott CCIM/MBA](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: BO1-- Boise River, South Fork—Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 4:37:04 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
[image.png](#)
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To Whom It May Concern,

I fully support the email below from Scott Feighner. This section of the South Fork is a gem that needs to remain off limits to guide services. It is also a dangerous section that OGLB should not encourage recreational use on.

I am pictured in one of the pinned boats below and I would not consider floating this section of the river without an extremely experienced oarsman / woman accompanying me.

Please deny any applications or requests to make the South Fork of the Boise River open to guide services. There are plenty of other rivers appropriate for guiding and this is not one of them. It should remain as it has always been.

Thanks for your sincere consideration.

Scott Raeber

Partner, CCIM, MBA | Idaho

Email: scott.raeber@colliers.com

Direct: 208-859-0409

755 W Front Street, Suite 300 | Boise, Idaho 83702 | United States

From: Feighner, Scott

Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 3:30 PM

To: 'DOPL OGLB Licensing' <OGLB-Licensing@dopl.idaho.gov>

Subject: BO1-- Boise River, South Fork—Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge

To whom it may concern at Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board (OGLB):

My name is Scott Feighner, a resident of Boise, and I would like to put the following sentiments into

the public record for the upcoming Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board on September 2, 2026.

I have run river section mentioned in the title of my email, referred to as the “Canyon” of the South Fork of the Boise, over three hundred (300) times, and would hope you find my insight to this river helpful and valuable for furthering conversations.

I do plan to be at the OGLB board meeting September 2, 2026. I look forward to seeing you in person and continuing this conversation.

Section of River:

The following statements are in regards to the OGLB’s current approval(s) to allow commercial use of **BO1-- Boise River, South Fork—Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge**, which provides two (2) licensed float-fishing outfitters, one (1) boat at a time, maximum of two (2) anglers, and operations restricted on weekends and holidays, and no overnight camping.

My ask:

While I understand that the outfitters that currently hold these permissions/licenses from the OGLB *cannot* use them without Federal/Boise National Forest approval(s), my ask is for the OGLB to:

- remove the current provisions allowing commercialized-use for the 17-river-mile section of BO-1, Danskin boat launch to Neal on South Fork Boise (“the Canyon”); and
- not issue any future permissions to allow for the commercialization of the 12.5 mile stretch from Anderson Ranch Dam to Danskin boat launch— “The Upper Stretch”.
- please consider all implications when renewing/issuing future commercial licenses for the entire 30 miles of river below Anderson Ranch Dam. If Federal Laws change, and special use is permitted, the moniker of the “Governor’s River” will disappear forever, and Idaho’s citizens will have lost something special that makes Idaho one of the best places to live in the nation.

Safety & Increase Use:

- In October 2015, the “Canyon” went through 2, biblical land-slides, creating 2 new class four rapids—the biggest being Buffalo Creek rapid, and another called Fiddler’s Creek rapid. There is also a rapid in their called “Log Jam” which regular catches large ponderosas, blocking the entire river corridor (see photos below of why is called “Log Jam”)
- If you fall out of the boat in the Canyon, you could die from cardiac event due to cold water exposure, blunt force trauma, or drowning. I was on the river the same day when Dr. Richard Arave of Boise died.
- Because of the “roadless” nature of this canyon and remoteness, all boaters need to be able to self-rescue. I have pulled even the most-skilled boatmen/women off many a boat off rocks with my z-drag, and I know personally boaters that have had to spend the night/hike to the canyon rim, unable to self-rescue that same day.
- I fear that allowing people to have a *guided* experience down this river, may attract clientele

that are **not** “river savvy”/not in shape/have no experience in a boat—add a fly rod in their hands and things get even more complicated.

- there are multiple non-swimmable rapids with volcanic rock and dead ponderosas pine in the river. People who are not river savvy *will* fall out. There are 10 or so “no-swim” rapids, and countless more that could put boaters in the water.
- The danger of this river inevitably will put people/boats in harm’s way, creating a situation where private boaters might have to assist the commercial folks (and vice versa?)
- I think a lot of private boaters, who may not have the skill, will get guided down this section one (1) or two (2) times, and then think they have the skill set that they can boat this section themselves, only to find themselves in a life-threatening situation for themselves or other boaters trying to assist in their rescue
- This river changes every year: new logs and rocks inevitably make runs down the Canyon Section “different” every year. Some years it is down-right scary to see a new ponderosa completely blocking the river or a new boulder right in the path of a class 3 or 4 rapid with little to no warning/no ability to stop your boat. (photos below)
- This river changes during the same season: in one year, the river can go from 10k CFS (highest I have ever seen it) down to 300 CFS. Each CFS flow presents different challenges/obstacles, making runs “different”/ “scarier”/ “more technical”.

Fairness:

- If the outfitters you have given permission to guide the “Canyon” get Federal permissions to make this a reality--other outfitters might complain/appeal to the forest service and OGLB, pleading that they too be allowed to guide it, and further increase Safety concerns and Over-use mentioned above, if future permits are issued or if there are changes to the current rules from OGLB.
- As this has been non-commercial for many decades due to Federal protections, it really saddens the hearts of those that have committed themselves to take the time to learn the South Fork (and respect its changing nature)
- There are some things in life that you should be figure it out yourself, and this river is that! It makes this river so much more rewarding! “Paying to play” is not the Idaho way

Photo Gallery:

Note, I took these photos and/or was on river when most photos were taken. I am just one person...it is inevitable that these rescue situations will multiply as more people get exposed to this river.

“LOG JAM Rapid”—this rapid sits below a blind corner, and frequently becomes impassible from a boat after a high-water, dam releases or landslides that put ponderosas into the water.

Log jam rapid from photo from below showing logs crossing the entire river corridor.

From: [Michael Hormaechea](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: BO1 - Boise River, South Fork - Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 5:15:24 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

DOPL OGLB Licensing:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to permitting commercial guiding for rafting and fly-fishing on the South Fork Boise River's Canyon Section.

I understand that Cascade Raft and Kayak and Idaho Angler have received Forest Service approval to commercially guide this section and are now seeking public support. I ask the Department to withhold that support and reconsider this decision. My concerns fall into three areas: safety, resource over-use, and the erosion of a designation that has protected this river for decades.

Concentrating guided fishing pressure onto a small, non-braided river means far more repeated pressure on the same fish and the same water, raising real concerns about fish exhaustion and fish-kill. Increased traffic also brings the usual impacts of higher use: more waste, more trail and campsite degradation, and eventually the likely need for a permit system to manage demand that doesn't currently exist. I'm also concerned this approval sets a precedent for opening the upper section to guiding as well, running counter to the original intent of our highly regarded Governor Cecil Andrus, which was to protect this fragile resource.

Approving these two outfitters creates a lucrative opportunity that other guide services will understandably want access to as well, which would only compound the safety and over-use concerns above. This river has been protected from commercial use for decades under Governor Andrus's "Governor's River" designation, specifically to preserve a free-flowing, self-reliant, non-commercial experience. That protection is part of what makes the South Fork Boise valued by the boating and fly-fishing community in southern Idaho — it is one of the few rivers left where people are expected to learn it themselves, at their own pace, rather than pay for exclusive guided access.

The fisheries of most Blue Ribbon trout streams throughout the Mountain West have suffered as a result of commercial guiding and I have personally witnessed the decline in fishery health caused by increased notoriety and constant pressure on rivers such as the Madison, the Yellowstone, and the Henry's Fork of the Snake, among others. Most of these are larger watersheds with greater fish numbers and a far higher capacity to absorb fishing pressure compared to the South Fork of the Boise.

I understand Trout Unlimited is hosting a public forum on October 6 (12–3 pm, 230 Collins Rd. Building 1, Boise, ID 83702) where representatives from these outfitters

will present their proposal. I plan to attend and would welcome the chance to raise these concerns there as well, in addition to this written comment.

Thank you for considering these concerns. I urge you to withhold support of these permits.

--



From: [Ben Pursley](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: Southfork of the Boise
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 5:20:54 PM
Attachments: [Letter to OGLB 081926.docx](#)

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

Please see attached letter...

To whom it may concern at Idaho Outfitters and Guide Licensing Board:

My name is Ben Pursley, a 5th generation Idahoan and current resident of Boise. I would like to put the following sentiments into the public record for the upcoming Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board for September 2, 2026.

I grew up going to the Southfork of the Boise, with my late father, Ken Pursley. His law group, Givens Pursley, held their annual business retreat camping along the upper section of the Southfork, and enjoying the amazing fishing opportunities, reserved for everyday Idahoans. I have been fortunate enough to have my own boats, and regularly (8-12 times each summer) run the canyon stretch, Danskin Boat Ramp to Neal Bridge, and I know well the various hazards and impacts on the fishery, if/when more boating pressure is allowed.

This section of river is both very dangerous, especially for people/guests with insufficient white water boating experience, and it also creates the continuity between the reservoirs for maintaining a world class fishery in the protected (Governor's River designation) waters upstream from Danskin Boat Ramp.

There are few opportunities for local boaters to access water that isn't overrun with commercial guides, and it is my hope that guides are not allowed on this particular stretch of river, now and in perpetuity. Conversely, there are numerous water ways and fisheries that are already currently available for commercial use, that don't have so much inherent danger and associated risk to one of Idaho's last remaining world class fishery.

Governor Cecil Andrus, who protected the upper stretches of the Southfork, and who did all he could to protect the Whitecloud wilderness area from commercial enterprises and exploitation, knew the importance and sacred duty to protect certain elements of our natural world from commercial uses. You can choose to honor his legacy, by protecting the surrounding water ways and fishery, or you can risk denigrating that legacy and this amazing fishery for one of the last remaining protected water ways in Idaho. The choice is yours.

Your humble fellow Idaho citizen and outdoor enthusiast,

Ben Pursley

208-850-4050

From: [Jamie Cooper](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: against permits on South Fork
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 5:38:31 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

I have heard that two permits for guiding on the South Fork of the Boise are being considered. I am very much opposed to allowing guides on the river as it is already under pressure with too much traffic. You will hurt this fishery and further crowd our outdoor environment. Keep this river private - as Cecil Andrus set it up.

From: [Alex Homaechegarria](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: Against South fork boise guiding
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 6:11:43 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

As a born and raised Idahoan and lifelong angler, I could not be more against allowing commercially guided services to ANY part of the south fork of the boise. I hope this does not come to pass as it will instigate a vehement reaction to rescind this decision. Sincerely,
Alejandro A. Homaechegarria M.D.

From: [Patrick O'Neill](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: BO1-- Boise River, South Fork--Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 6:15:41 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Patrick O'Neill, and I am resident of Boise, Idaho. I would like to submit the following thoughts into the public record for the upcoming Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board on September 2, 2026. I am going to be wordy and I apologize for that.

I respectfully request that you remove the current provisions allowing for commercialized use of the 17-mile stretch of the South Fork of the Boise River from Danskin boat launch to Neal Bridge, and not issue any future provisions for commercial use of the 12.5-mile section from Anderson Ranch Dam to Danskin boat launch.

The Canyon is a special and rare place, not only in Idaho, but across the country. There is fantastic fishing, fantastic whitewater, and very few people on any given day. This is almost unheard of in the Western US, and it is made possible by two primary drivers:

- Commercial guiding is not permitted
- It is a very dangerous stretch of river with Class IV/V rapids and extremely limited (if not impossible) access to Search and Rescue services

One of the beautiful things about the Canyon is that it is open and available for anyone and everyone to float. The people of Idaho do not require a permit of any kind. What is required to float/fish the Canyon is skill and expertise. The traffic on the river is self-regulated by the river's well-known reputation for life-threatening rapids and lack of egress if a boat does get pinned (which happens frequently).

This is a perfect scenario for a river so close to the large population base in the Treasure Valley. The people that oppose the commercialization of the South Fork of the Boise are not trying to restrict access for anyone. However, we are passionately opposed to allowing people to "pay to play" on the South Fork.

There is a defined path to being able to float/fish the Canyon. First, you need to go along with somebody with the required skill and experience. At some point, you start rowing the easier sections of the river in their boat. You watch and listen as the experienced

boaters scout the dangerous rapids. You pay attention to the plan for each rapid and you listen to the backup plan (plans B through Z) that could come into play when things don't as expected. You ask questions. You start to make your own plan for each rapid and ask the experienced boaters if you are on the right track. You take their feedback and file it away. You build experience.

Eventually, you HAVE to row Buffalo by yourself with other boaters watching from the landslide above. It feels like a huge accomplishment because it is. No matter how many times you run it after that first one, Buffalo is still something for which you must mentally prepare. Your life, and the lives of your passengers, are on the line.

If commercial guiding is allowed on the South Fork of the Boise River, with a special emphasis on the Canyon Section, then the people of Idaho will have lost something precious. There are very few things left in Idaho that a person CAN'T buy, and the South Fork of the Boise should remain one of them forever.

Thanks for reading.

Patrick

--

Patrick O'Neill
President
404.376.0243
patrick@orstedusa.com
www.orstedusa.com



From: [Bryan Biggs](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: South Fork Boise - NO Guiding
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 6:45:44 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

I appreciate guiding. I am a ski guide for Avalanche Science.

As a rafter and a fly fisherman, I love that this particular stretch of river in Idaho is based on self-sufficiency.

By allowing guiding in this area, it will change the complexion of the river.

Please avoid allowing this to happen.

Best,
Bryan Biggs

From: [Brandon Fannesbeck](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: Boise River, South Fork—Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 7:20:38 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

To whom it may concern at Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board (OGLB):

My name is Brandon Fannesbeck a resident of Boise, and I would like to put the following sentiments into the public record for the upcoming Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board on September 2, 2026.

While I understand guides have to make a living and it provides more opportunities to people that may never have a chance to experience fly fishing, the South Fork of the Boise River upper section and canyon section are one of the only sections of blue ribbon fisheries in the northwest that have not been overtaken by guides. The popularity of the south fork has increased over the last five years and the crowds have put immense pressure on the river. The average fisherman can however, still arrive on the south fork on a Saturday morning and have great day floating and fishing during the summer without having to get in line with guides and high paying clients. It is getting crowded.

This summer, on two occasions, I went to drop off my shuttle rig at Danskin boat ramp only to find every available parking spot for a truck and trailer taken. I had to park on the main prairie road. The traffic in the canyon will only get worse and there is not the infrastructure to handle guides marketing more trips down the canyon or the upper section. Please leave this section of river to the people.

I do plan to be at the OGLB board meeting September 2, 2026. I look forward to seeing you in person and continuing this conversation.

Section of River:

The following statements are in regards to the OGLB's current approval(s) to allow commercial use of **BO1--Boise River, South Fork—Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge**, which provides two (2) licensed float-fishing outfitters, one (1) boat at a time, maximum of two (2) anglers, and operations restricted on weekends and holidays, and no overnight camping.

My ask:

While I understand that the outfitters that currently hold these permissions/licenses from the OGLB *cannot* use them without Federal/Boise National Forest approval(s), my ask is for the OGLB to:

- remove the current provisions allowing commercialized-use for the 17-river-mile section of BO-1, Danskin boat launch to Neal on South Fork Boise ("the Canyon"); and

- not issue any future permissions to allow for the commercialization of the 12.5 mile stretch from Anderson Ranch Dam to Danskin boat launch— “The Upper Stretch”.
- please consider all implications when renewing/issuing future commercial licenses for the entire 30 miles of river below Anderson Ranch Dam. If Federal Laws change, and special use is permitted, the moniker of the “Governor’s River” will disappear forever, and Idaho’s citizens will have lost something special that makes Idaho one of the best places to live in the nation.

Thank you
Brandon Fonnesbeck

From: [Jason Moodie](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: South Fork of Boise Guide proposal
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 7:43:38 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

I heard there is a proposal to allow commercial guiding on the South Fork of the Boise River below Danskin bridge. As a lifelong Idaho resident, I am 100% against this. With the growth Idaho has experienced in recent years, fishing pressure is already substantial on this stretch of river. This pressure is only going to continue to increase as more and more people move to Idaho. There simply is not enough room or reason to allow commercial guiding on this treasured fishery. Please do not open that door and allow commercial guiding.

Sincerely
Jason Moodie

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kevin Cablik](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: Boise River South Fork - Danskin to Neal Bridge - Commercial Use
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 7:44:33 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

To the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board,

My name is Kevin Cablik, and I am a resident of Idaho writing to submit my comments for the public record regarding commercial outfitters on the South Fork of the Boise River for the upcoming meeting on September 2, 2026.

I am strongly opposed to allowing commercial use or guiding of any kind on the South Fork of the Boise River, specifically the stretch from Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge (as well as the upper section from Anderson Ranch Dam to Danskin).

While I echo the public safety hazards of this dangerous and frigid Class IV/V section and agree with the sentiment that Idahoans should preserve uncommercialized waters where local skills matter more than money, my primary concern is the long-term degradation and eventual restriction of this resource.

Allowing commercial permits will inevitably trigger a cycle of overuse, extreme pressure, and heightened environmental exposure on a delicate ecosystem. As traffic increases, the board and managing agencies will inevitably respond with heavy-handed regulations.

We have already seen this exact scenario play out on waters like the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, where heavy commercialization led to rigid permit lotteries. Today, local Idahoans face win rates under 2% just to float a river in their own state, effectively turning a public resource into an exclusive "pay-to-play" destination for out-of-state commercial clients while squeezing out local private boaters.

The self-regulating nature of the South Fork Canyon works. Please protect this rare, unregulated stretch for local private boaters and refuse all current and future commercial permit requests.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Kevin Cablik
Managing Partner
CK Property Group, LLC
(678) 858-6757

From: [B.D.O](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: South fork canyon
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 7:44:59 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

I strongly oppose allowing commercial guiding on the lower canyon section of the South Fork Boise River. This stretch provides an increasingly rare opportunity for anglers to experience a remote, noncommercial fishery, and that character should be protected.

Guides have an important place on Idaho's waters, but not every section of river needs commercial use. With increasing recreational pressure on the South Fork, the lower canyon should remain a place for private, non-outfitted recreation. Once the door is opened it can never be closed again, and we are disrespecting the next generation for profit to a few entities.

-Brad Oppen

From: [Nic Moodie](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: South Fork Boise River Concerns
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 9:05:13 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

Hi,

I am writing to voice my concern about the guide permits South Fork of the Boise River. I am opposed to this since this river is already heavily pressured.

Thanks, Nic Moodie

From: [Steve Keating](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: Commercial Guiding on the SFB Canyon
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 9:07:57 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

Please stop, this is a terrible idea! The top section receives tons of pressure, without commercial activity. The fishery has held up for the most part due to the canyon seeing a much lower pressure. Commercial guiding the canyon will have a negative impact on the entire fishery, the fish are transitory!

Why ruin one of Idaho's last gems? I moved here in 1996 and the canyon is one of the last places you can get away, to say this idea is heart breaking is an understatement!

Steve Keating
208-850-5148
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Matt Hauser](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: Guides on South Fork of Boise River
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 10:34:45 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

I am writing to indicate my opposition to allowing guiding services to be performed on the South Fork of the Boise river. We have a family home in Boise and the highlight of visiting there has always been fishing this river. Over the years it has continued to get more pressure, particularly after covid 19 brought awareness to this state land. There is already significant boat traffic and allowing guide services will increase the number of boats and diminish the fishing experience for all involved. Please do not provide permits to allow guiding services on this river.

From: [Rodney](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: BO1-- Boise River, South Fork—Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 11:33:01 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

To whom it may concern,

As a private boater, fisherman and hunter, I strongly oppose allowing outfitter or commercial guiding of any kind on the South Fork of the Boise River from Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge Bridge(also known as the Canyon section).

Having fished on the South Fork since the early 90's and floated the Canyon since the 00's....I don't want to see this section of river overwhelmed like almost every other river in this state. I have a 10 year old son and I really want him to have a chance to experience some of the very special places in Idaho that I discovered in my younger years.

Please protect this stretch of river for southern Idaho boaters, for all Idaho boaters that have interest, the drive and the know-how to take it on. We have given enough of this state away at this point. Don't let this section of river go.

Sincerely,

Rodney Evans
610 Wyndemere
Boise, ID 83702
M:208.724.6491

From: [Nolan Dotson](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Cc: [Brandon Fannesbeck](#); [Josh Christofferson](#); [Christian Trout](#); [Jay Rogers](#)
Subject: Against the South Fork Boise Guide Permits
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 9:20:43 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

Good morning,

I know that this is after the due date, but I would like to note that I am against the permitting of any guide boats on the South Fork of the Boise River. The Governor's Rule that has been in place for this fishery has been keep the fishery healthy even amidst the added pressure of growing Boise and surrounding areas. This year alone we have seen triple the amount of people on the upper and canyon section of the south fork of the Boise River. That will continue to get worse with the growing population but adding guide boats will accelerate the over-crowding and lead to stress on the fishery and its resources.

Thanks,



Nolan Dotson
VDC/BIM MANAGER
CELL 503.867.0389

ANDERSEN CONSTRUCTION
An Employee-Owned Company
Boise Office
12552 Executive Dr
Boise, ID 83713
208.275.8905

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From: [Nathan Taylor](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: BO1-- Boise River, South Fork—Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge
Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026 1:32:44 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

To whom it may concern at Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board (OGLB):

My name is Nate Taylor, a resident of Boise, and I would like to put the following sentiments into the public record for the upcoming Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board on September 2, 2026.

I have run river section mentioned in the title of my email, referred to as the “Canyon” of the South Fork of the Boise, over one hundred (100) times, and would hope you find my insight to this river helpful and valuable for furthering conversations.

I do plan to be at the OGLB board meeting September 2, 2026. I look forward to seeing you in person and continuing this conversation.

Section of River:

-

The following statements are in regards to the OGLB’s current approval(s) to allow commercial use of **BO1-- Boise River, South Fork—Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge**, which provides two (2) licensed float-fishing outfitters, one (1) boat at a time, maximum of two (2) anglers, and operations restricted on weekends and holidays, and no overnight camping.

My ask:

-

While I understand that the outfitters that currently hold these permissions/licenses from the OGLB *cannot* use them without Federal/Boise National Forest approval(s), my ask is for the OGLB to:

- remove the current provisions allowing commercialized-use for the 17-river-mile section of BO-1, Danskin boat launch to Neal on South Fork Boise (“the Canyon”); and
- not issue any future permissions to allow for the commercialization of the 12.5 mile stretch from Anderson Ranch Dam to Danskin boat launch— “The Upper Stretch”.
- please consider all implications when renewing/issuing future commercial licenses for the entire 30 miles of river below Anderson Ranch Dam. If Federal Laws change, and special use is permitted, the moniker of the “Governor’s River” will disappear forever, and Idaho’s citizens will have lost something special that makes Idaho one of the best places to live in the nation.

I believe the safety implications alone is reason enough to Cancel any guiding especially through the canyon. It is an ever evolving river that brings different challenges at every level it flows. Every flow completely changes every rapid. Some areas are not rapids at flows and change to dangerous hazards at

different flows. There is no access for emergency support with the nature of the canyon. It is an experienced boater river only. Especially needing guidance from a person that knows the entire river at every flow.

There is no way that the tax revenue from guiding 2 boats is relevant to the income of the state of Idaho. There is no significant financial benefit to the State or area.

This is a pandoras box of getting novice people on this river that will come on their own later and cause overcrowding and safety concerns. Because of this, the ecology of the river could easily be damaged by people not respecting the sanctity of the river.

This is the last pure boise resource that is not commercialized. Let's leave something to the Citizens of the state that make Idaho great. The population is ever expanding as is and is becoming busier and busier every day. No need to force more boaters on the river.

Thanks for listening to my concerns.

Nathan Taylor
801-641-8189

From: [Gary Wiener](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: Displeasure with possibility of guide trips on the South Fork Boise River
Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2026 4:35:30 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

To whom it may concern:

It has come to my attention that **Cascade Raft and Kayak** and **Idaho Angler**, two commercial outfitters in Boise, have gotten permissions to commercially-guide paying clients down the “Canyon Section” of the South Fork Boise river to fly-fish guide

Trout Unlimited is hosting a forum by which someone from **Cascade Raft and Kayak** and/or **Idaho Angler** will be explaining to the public what they are trying to do, persuading the public this is a good idea. This public forum will take place **October 6, 12 pm to 3 pm, 230 Collins Rd. Building 1, Boise, ID 83702.**

The section of the South Fork Boise in consideration for “commercial-use” flows below Anderson Ranch Dam, and is dubbed “the Canyon”—a 17 mile, roadless section with incredible fishing, camping, wildlife, and filled with some splashy class 2 and some very large class 4 rapids. The South Fork Boise is super special in the fact that **Cecil Andrus**, during his tenure as Governor, dubbed this the “Governor’s River”, not allowing any commercial use/guiding of this river. **NOTE:** I don’t really know anything about how/what laws the Governor Andrus used to declare it “non-guidable”, but is it is apparent that this “non-commercial use” designation appears to be coming to an end...

Because of this river’s decades of non-guiding, it allows for private boater and private fisherman only, keeping this an amazing fishery and white water experience that countless outdoor enthusiasts adore. Additionally, the non-guidable nature of this river is *very* unique, and the fly fishing and boating community of Southern Idaho, absolutely *love* the non-guidable nature about the South Fork Boise.

Concerns:

Over-Use:

- The South Fork Boise Canyon Section does not “braid”. The lack of braiding does NOT lend itself well to have a ton of boats/fisherman on the water, as there are only two river banks to fish. In a “braided river”, you might find 8 to 10 banks to fish.**NOTE:** most fly fishing occurs “toward the banks”, due to slower water on the banks that can “hold fish”.
- The fish in this river, if you put people on it, will receive a tremendous amount of

pressure and be subjected to fish-kills and exhaustion.

- The over use may then subject this river to require permit
- More people=trash/feces/etc.
- Only a matter of time before they open the top section to guiding as-well

Fairness:

- This will be a *very lucrative* business for Cascade Raft and Kayak and Idaho Angler. My fear is that other guide companies might complain/appeal to the forest service, pleading that they be allowed to guide it too, and further increase Safety concerns and Over-use mentioned above.
- As this has been non-commercial for many decades, it really saddens the hearts of those that have committed themselves to take the time to learn the South Fork (and respect its changing nature)
- There are some things in life that you should be figure it out yourself, and this river is that! It makes this river so much more rewarding! "Paying to play" is not the way.

I hope this doesn't become a reality.

Respectfully,
Gary Wiener
1411 N 24th Street
Boise, ID 83702
(208) 794-8636

From: [Doug Zamzow](#)
To: [DOPL OGLB Licensing](#)
Subject: Fwd: FW: Boise River South Fork - Danskin to Neal Bridge - Commercial Use
Date: Saturday, August 29, 2026 6:41:52 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside the State of Idaho network. Verify links and attachments BEFORE you click or open, even if you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your agency service desk with any concerns.

To: OGLB-Licensing@dopl.idaho.gov <OGLB-Licensing@dopl.idaho.gov>

Subject: Boise River South Fork - Danskin to Neal Bridge - Commercial Use

To the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board,

My name is Doug Zamzow, and I am a resident of Idaho writing to submit my comments for the public record regarding commercial outfitters on the South Fork of the Boise River for the upcoming meeting on September 2, 2026.

I am strongly opposed to allowing commercial use or guiding of any kind on the South Fork of the Boise River, specifically the stretch from Danskin Bridge to Neal Bridge (as well as the upper section from Anderson Ranch Dam to Danskin).

While I echo the public safety hazards of this dangerous and frigid Class IV/V section and agree with the sentiment that Idahoans should preserve uncommercialized waters where local skills matter more than money, my primary concern is the long-term degradation and eventual restriction of this resource.

Allowing commercial permits will inevitably trigger a cycle of overuse, extreme pressure, and heightened environmental exposure on a delicate ecosystem. As traffic increases, the board and managing agencies will inevitably respond with heavy-handed regulations.

We have already seen this exact scenario play out on waters like the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, where heavy commercialization led to rigid permit lotteries. Today, local Idahoans face win rates under 2% just to float a river in their own state, effectively turning a public resource into an exclusive "pay-to-play" destination for out-of-state commercial clients while squeezing out local private boaters.

The self-regulating nature of the South Fork Canyon works. Please protect this rare, unregulated stretch for local private boaters and refuse all current and future commercial permit requests.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Do the right thing please.

Respectfully,