

**STATE OF IDAHO
OUTFITTERS AND GUIDES LICENSING BOARD**

**SPECIAL MEETING
December 19, 2001**

A special teleconference meeting of the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board was called to order at 8:00 AM on Wednesday, December 19, 2001. Members present via telephone included Chairman Wayne Hunsucker, Vice Chairman Scott Farr, Ray Lyon, Bill Bernt, and Will Judge. LuVerne Grussing with the Cottonwood Resource Area office of the BLM joined the discussion and Executive Director Dean Sangrey participated from the Board office in Boise.

The first item on the agenda pertained to the petition received by the Board from several boating outfitters in the Riggins area. They requested that the Board consider approving some additional outfitted steelhead fishing opportunity on the SA7C section of the Salmon River, which runs from Spring Bar to Hammer Creek. Their request was based, at least in part, on the expected large return of fall and winter steelhead to Idaho waters this fall. At the present time there are three outfitters licensed to provide float boat steelhead fishing trips on this stretch from October 1 to March 31. They are: Pat Marek, Salmon River Challenge (SRC); Dave Bingaman, Exodus (E); and Kerry Brennan, Rapid River Outfitters (RRO).

Prior to the conference call, Director Sangrey polled the three current outfitters, requesting a breakdown of their activities so far this fall. According to their responses, each business has been fairly busy since October 1st. RRO has recorded a significant amount of business, especially during the month of November. Kerry stated the season got off to a slow start, with some windy days that prohibited operations entirely. Both SRO and E expressed similar results, although they had not been as busy as RRO.

The BLM had previously recommended that no additional outfitted authorization be approved for this section beyond the number of boat days authorized in the current river management plan. In the alternative, he suggested a system could be established whereby the existing outfitters could make their unused boat days available to other outfitters on the river. This process would require voluntary participation by each outfitter.

Based on the following circumstances: 1) not all of the currently authorized use on the SA7C section is being utilized; 2) the significant steelhead return in 2001 may be somewhat of an anomaly; 3) there is a difference of opinion within the local community whether the additional use is needed; and 4) the Board feels there is little need for this additional service at this time, MSC (Lyon-Judge) TO DENY THE REQUEST OF THE PETITIONERS TO EXPAND THE NUMBER OF OUTFITTERS ON THE SA7C SECTION OF THE SALMON RIVER.

The second item on the agenda was a review by the Director of several concerns that have come to the Board's attention regarding outfitted fishing conditions in the Big Wood River and Big and Little Lost River drainages. Citizen complaints have been received in past years related to perceived overcrowding in some of the fishing areas on these rivers, a perception that there are too many guides authorized in the area, and that some of the licensed professionals do not conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner at all times. Director Sangrey plans to initiate a coordinated review of this situation, working with the outfitters, local citizens and community leaders, and the IOGA. The goal for this project will be to formulate some recommended solutions that would be implemented prior to the 2002 fishing season. The Board encouraged the Director to proceed with the project.



WAYNE HUNSUCKER, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:



DEAN SANGREY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR