

The best water levels and time of year to float the Dirty Devil

The biggest dilemma one faces when planning a float trip down the Dirty Devil is timing a trip when flows are sufficient for floating. On average, March and April are the only months that the river is potentially floatable. Most people do it in May or June because of warming temperatures. It is recommended to use a hard walled or inflatable kayak when flows are 100 cfs or higher. It can be done with flows as low as 65 cfs if you are willing to drag your boat for the first few days. Motorized crafts are not allowed on this stretch of river.

Another essential consideration for all visitors is flash flood potential. Do not attempt the Dirty Devil if there is a potential of flash flooding. Remember, the skies can be clear where you are, but a cloud burst upstream may send a wall of turbulent water down the

Are permits needed?

At this time no permits are needed for small private groups either from the Bureau of Land Management or National Park Service. NPS land is entered about two thirds of the way down the float (Glen Canyon National Recreation Area). It is always prudent to contact your local BLM and NPS offices regarding permit information prior to your departure.

A Special Recreation Permit is required from the BLM when anyone intends to make recreational use of the river for business or financial gain or for educational or scientific purposes. Group sizes are limited to twelve members. Contact the Hanksville BLM Field Office for clarification.

Wilderness Study Areas (WSA)

The Dirty Devil River corridor travels through two BLM Wilderness Study Areas, the Dirty Devil WSA and the Fiddler Butte WSA. These WSA's have been designated as such to preserve their wilderness characteristics including naturalness, solitude, and primitive recreation. Please recreate in a manner that retains these characteristics.

"Leave-no-Trace"

Proper outdoor ethics are expected of all visitors. These include using a portable toilet when camping near a vehicle, using designated campgrounds when available, removing or burying human waste in the back country, carrying out toilet paper, using camp stoves in the backcountry, never cutting or tearing live vegetation, carrying in your own firewood and using a fire pan for all open fires. Carrying out more trash than you carry in will help keep the canyon clean. Please be courteous to all users. This means not blocking launch sites with vehicles or excess equipment, not leaving litter, which includes organic waste, not yelling in the canyons unnecessarily, and traveling in small groups.

For more information and other floating opportunities

Do to the inconsistency of water flows it is always advised to come prepared with alternative plans if the water levels turn out to be too low. Contact the BLM office in Hanksville for other recreational activities in the area.

380 S 100 W
Hanksville, UT 84734
(435) 542-3461

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

Floating the Dirty Devil River

The name "Dirty Devil" tells it all. John Wesley Powell passed by the mouth of this stream on his historic exploration of the Colorado River. When someone asked whether it was a trout stream, a boatman shouted back, "No she is a dirty devil", and the river has been known by that name ever since.



**How do I access the put-ins/
trailheads and where do I
obtain the maps I need?**

Hanksville Put-in

Most boaters choose to put in at the end of 650 East Road (Landfill Road). To reach the put-in drive approximately 3/4 mile south of the Chevron gas station in Hanksville on UT-95. Turn left (East) on 650 East Road and drive about four miles to the end of the road (4X4 required). The road will fork twice before hitting the Dirty Devil, take the right fork both times.

Poison Spring Put-in/Take-out

The turn off for Poison Spring is at mile marker 17 south of Hanksville on UT-95. Head east on the Poison Springs road for 16 miles to reach the Dirty Devil. This is the only motorized access point between Hanksville and Hite and requires high clearance 4X4 and is frequently impassable; check current road conditions at the BLM office in Hanksville:

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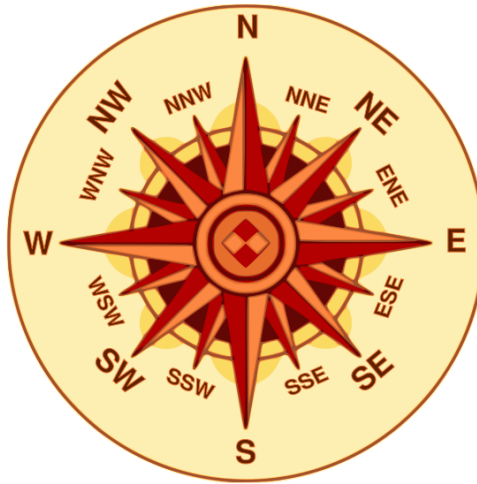
Hite Take-out

The Hite take-out is located approximately 50 miles southeast of Hanksville on UT-95. The take-out has ample parking spaces, toilets during the high use seasons provided by the NPS, and a boat ramp. The take-out is on the south side of UT-95 before crossing the Dirty Devil River.

Maps

We highly recommend purchasing BLM Surface Management Status maps (1:100,000 scale) sold at most BLM offices in Utah. These maps show the complex of non-paved roads which lead to the put-ins. The two maps that cover this float are Hanksville and Hite Crossing.

The USGS 7.5 inch quad topographic maps needed to cover this stretch of river are: Angel Cove, Angel Point, Burr Point, Stair Canyon, and Hite North. These maps can be purchased at some private outlets, visitor centers, online at www.usgs.gov/ or at the BLM office in Hanksville, UT.



The Float

The section from Hanksville to Poison Springs includes class I & II rapids. This includes regular waves, easy rapids, and does not usually require scouting. The section from Poison Springs to Hite can include class III rapids if the water flows are right. Class III rapids can include rapids, irregular waves, narrow passages, and scouting may be necessary. The entire section from Hanksville to Hite is 80 miles (about 50 miles from Hanksville to Poison Springs and 30 more miles to Hite) and most people do it in 7-14 days depending on the number of day trips up the many tributaries.

Other attractions

The real attractions of the Dirty Devil are the many side canyons. The first major one is the wide Robbers Roost Canyon and its many tributaries, which cut through Navajo sandstone. Further south, No Mans Canyon is dominated by the Kayenta formation. Larry Canyon, Twin Corral Box, and Sams Mesa Box have Wingate walls. And finally, you pass Happy, Hatch and Fiddler Cove canyons. All of these tributaries come from the east. Only two major tributaries drain to the Dirty Devil from the west, Poison Springs and Beaver Wash; both of which would be worth while to explore.

**Discharge of the Dirty Devil River in cubic feet per second (cfs)
for a 50 year period at Poison Spring Canyon**

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
AVER- AGE CFS	99	135	138	105	82	67	51	88	85	126	125	94