

RMCC Lower Colorado River Trip

Ruby/Horsethief Canyons (aka Loma to Westwater)

Sunday - Monday

Put-in: Loma boat launch

Take-out: Westwater Ranger Station, UT

Paddling distance: 24 miles

River difficulty: Class I

ACA Event Status: ACA sanctioned trip. CURRENT ACA membership or \$10 event fee required. NO helmets required

Meet-up time at Loma boat ramp put-in: 8am Sunday. The Loma boat ramp is located on the south side of I-70 at the Loma exit. Cross over the freeway, turn left, and follow the signs down to the boat launch area.

Estimated time of take-out: approx. 12pm Monday

Estimated shuttle time: 45 minutes (each way)

Trip Coordinator: Bill Ashworth, 720-352-6456, washwort@gmail.com

Direction to Westwater Station from Loma Boat Ramp: Follow I-70 west into Utah for 19.5 miles. Take the Westwater Exit 227 and follow BLM 192 and 191 to Westwater Ranch Road (about 6.4 miles)

Overview:

Since Loma is a 4+ hour drive from the Front Range, most paddlers will arrive in the area Saturday night. However, there will be no group campsite – everyone's on their own. There's a state park in Fruita about 7 miles from Loma and numerous others farther away. Colorado National Monument is a short distance away from Fruita and often has Friday night campsites available

After assembling at 8am on Sunday, we'll off load all our boats and river gear and start the shuttle. Non-drivers will start rigging the boats and we'll launch around 11:00-11:30.

We should make camp about 15 miles downstream at our designated campsite at around 3-4pm and everyone who's interested is encouraged to bring a LITTLE something to share for a happy hour in the late afternoon/early evening. Monday morning launch is targeted for around 9:30am and we should be back at the Westwater BLM Ranger Station around noon.

Paddlers should bring:

- Boats suitable for Class I paddling (solo or tandem canoes; recreational, river, or sea kayaks)
- Standard overnight canoe camping gear (contact Bill for additional information or check out the REI suggestions <http://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/canoe-multiday-touring-checklist.html>)
- Food and WATER (or filter)
- Money for: the reserved campsite (\$5 more or less depending on group size), ACA event fee (if applicable), groover dump fee (\$1.00)
- BLM required equipment: <https://www.coloradocanyonsassociation.org/news/2019/7/1/know-before-you-go-rules-of-the-river>

RMCC will provide:

- Group toilet
- Group handwashing station
- Fire pan