



THE ORVIS-ENDORSED FLY FISHING GUIDE MANUAL

The Orvis-Endorsed Guide manual represents a summary of information obtained from Orvis-endorsed rendezvous, events, guide schools, and discussions with various endorsed guides throughout the country. Its purpose is to give the guide a better understanding of their responsibilities to the Orvis Company, the Orvis-endorsed programs, and to the basic professional guiding techniques that are required to be an Orvis-endorsed guide. While guiding goals and techniques may vary with different locations and operations, the basic rules of professional guiding applies to all Orvis-Endorsed guides regardless of location and operation.

When the Orvis Company places their stamp on you as an Orvis-Endorsed guide your responsibilities to the Orvis Company, to the ELOG Program, and to the guiding profession must become your primary goal. It is important to remember that the Orvis Company is not giving you an endorsement, they expect you to earn this honor through hard work, professionalism, and loyalty to their company and its products.

Modern competition has created the need for guides to have an edge over their competitors to successfully support themselves. The Orvis Company gives you that edge with its legendary reputation, powerful advertising programs, and excellent fishing equipment.

Through the ELOG Program, the Orvis Company promises its clients professional standards, expertise, and integrity throughout all endorsed operations. As a professional guide you must perform to the highest degree to make this promise a reality for the many Orvis clients you will be guiding.

THE ORVIS-ENDORSED LODGE OUTFITTER AND GUIDE

The lodge, outfitter, expedition, guide services, and guide programs make up the total Orvis-Endorsed Program. Each of the endorsed operations are categorized into one of these programs, depending on the services they provide. All programs maintain a staff of guides with the exception of the independent guide who is not permitted to hire guides and must do his own guiding.

The ELOG program was initiated in 1984, starting with a small number of operations and guides who were located primarily in the Rocky Mountain area. It has grown to include over 195 endorsed operations located throughout the North America. The total number of endorsed guides supporting these operations numbers well over 1,000.

A one-year contract is issued to the endorsed operations each year, providing the operation is in good standing with the Orvis Company. Contained in the contract are the listed responsibilities and standards the operation must assume and carry out to maintain the contract. Also included are the obligations that the Orvis Company assumes for the operation.

Only active endorsed guides receive the benefits of the ELOG program. If a guide leaves the program and no longer works for an endorsed operation they are required to remove the Orvis-Endorsed decals from all boats, boat trailers, and vehicles. Orvis-Endorsed guide decals, logos, or any type of advertising on clothing or paper indicating Orvis-endorsed guide is not permitted if you are not an Orvis-Endorsed guide. The non-Orvis guide is not permitted to purchase Orvis products under the ELOG guide purchase program.

WHAT IS AN ORVIS-ENDORSED GUIDE?

An endorsed guide is an individual whose employer is an Orvis-Endorsed operation and whose professional guiding skills have been checked out and approved by a representative of the Orvis Company or by the owner or manager of the operation the guide is employed by. Do not confuse the Orvis-Endorsed guide with the Orvis-Endorsed independent guide. The Orvis independent guides are under their own individual contract with the Orvis Company and the Orvis-Endorsed guide is responsible to their employer who must be endorsed by the Orvis Company.

DEFINITION OF A PROFESSIONAL GUIDE

Professional guides behave in a professional manner—mentally alert and physically prepared for a strenuous day of guiding. Their self-confidence can be observed but not heard; they are totally prepared for the day and ready to accept its challenges—good or bad. Their appearance and dress demonstrate pride in themselves and their operation. They immediately become a special person to clients and the client readily accepts their leadership.

PSYCHOLOGY OF GUIDING

A successful guide client relationship must be established as quickly as possible. If a guide has the poise and personality to be immediately accepted by a client as the leader he or she will have a head start on the day.

The guide's personality and ability to interact with clients are as important as fishing ability. Because you are an excellent fly angler does not mean you will be a great guide. Your people skills must match up with your fishing ability to be considered a professional guide.

WHY DO PEOPLE HIRE A GUIDE? THE MODERN CLIENT

Along with the evolution of professionalism in guiding, clients' expectations have also grown. They want and expect a total out-of-door experience with a happy and professional guide that not only includes good fishing and a great lunch but also knowledge about the guide's wilderness environment and how it all fits together to make it so exciting and beautiful. You must become a teacher of basic sciences dealing with the geology, flora, and fauna of your area, your river, and its biology.

Gone forever are the old days—when a client would climb into your boat indicating that he had left his wife home to take care of the kids, that he didn't care for a lot of fancy talk, that he would eat his own lunch if he found the time, that he didn't care when or if he got home, and that all he wanted was to hunt for big fish.

LOOK IN THE MIRROR

Personal cleanliness, which means a shower each morning, hair neat and groomed, clean shaven or beards trimmed, and fresh clothing is expected for all Orvis-Endorsed guides. Choose clothing that makes you more presentable.

It becomes easier for guides to regress on personal appearance as the season progresses. Look in the mirror each morning and ask yourself, "Is my appearance that of a professional guide or do I look like something that my clients would not enjoy spending the day with?"

ORGANIZING YOUR GUIDE TRIP

Organizing yourself and your guiding equipment for the guide trip is as important as the guide trip itself. This can be done either the night before or early in the morning. It is expected that you will be completely organized before meeting your client. Remember that the time you take preparing for the trip after meeting the client is his—time he is paying you to be a professional guide.

A checklist, covering all equipment, food and beverage requirements, personal gear, and other items that you might consider important should be referred to when preparing for a guide trip. The words, "I FORGOT," are not in a professional guide's vocabulary.

THE MORNING OF YOUR GUIDE TRIP

All endorsed operations must operate or have availability to an Orvis stocked tackle shop from which to base their guide operations. Make every effort to meet your clients at the shop, which gives them a chance to become acquainted with Orvis products and an opportunity to purchase items needed for this and future trips. Plan on arriving at the shop at least 30 minutes before your clients arrive completely organized for the day. After arrival, recheck your equipment, making sure that the Orvis outfit(s) you are required to take for client use is in good shape and that you have the proper rod for the water you will be fishing. At this point, you have everything set for the day and there will be no stopping for supplies on the way to the fishing area.

Make sure that you completely understand the fishing area assigned to you for the day. If you are floating, inform the drivers moving your vehicle of your launching and pull-out sites and make sure they know where you will hide the keys to your vehicle. Or better yet, give them an extra set of keys. Visit with other guides who have recently fished the area assigned to you for the latest tips. In return, give them information on areas that you have recently fished. Become a team player with other guides.

When your clients arrive at the shop you should be prepared and not engage in any further discussion with other guides regarding your day of fishing in front of clients. You must give the impression that you are their leader and are properly organized.

THE TACKLE SHOP

It is an endorsed guide's responsibility to become familiar with all Orvis products, especially those in your tackle shop and the

Orvis Spring Fishing Catalog. You are a field representative for the Orvis Company and you should have the knowledge to explain, demonstrate, and sell Orvis products. The more knowledgeable you are, the better you can serve your clients.

Many sales are created through friendship, and guides are in a perfect position to sell—knowing when and how is the key. Your guide trip is not expected to be a sales trip nor should there be any type of hard selling. In all probability, during your trip your clients will ask questions about the Orvis Company and its products. This is a good time to share your knowledge of Orvis products, and to help your client make more educated purchases.

MEETING YOUR CLIENTS

Upon entering the shop, your clients should immediately receive your full, undivided attention. Greet them with enthusiasm and a firm handshake when introduced. Introduce them to other guides if they are not busy and make them feel like they are part of the operation.

Learn to listen. Make sure your clients have a chance to give you their expectations of the trip before you review your ideas of the trip with them. If feasible, incorporate their suggestions when explaining the trip to them. Don't oversell yourself or build up expectations you cannot deliver during the day. Be confident yet humble. There is no place for egotism in the endorsed programs. Ask your clients if they have a medical problem you should be aware of and if so how do they want it handled. Explain the lunch menu and beverages you will have available during the day. If they are not acceptable, be willing to change if at all possible. Forget past history. If you had experienced fishermen and landed several big fish yesterday, don't mention it to your clients. It will add pressure, especially if they have a poor day.

Inspect their equipment without criticism. If their equipment is not up to par, inform them that you carry an extra Orvis outfit(s) as a backup that they are welcome to use. If they are not well-equipped suggest they purchase the items needed and check their fishing license. Make sure you understand and explain to your clients the fly policy that your shop has developed. There is more misunderstanding on the part of the client regarding numbers of flies purchased, flies borrowed, and flies used than any other item in the tackle shop.

When leaving the shop, load your client's equipment into your vehicle, open the doors for them, and make sure they are comfortable before you get in. In addition, make sure they buckle up. Small courtesies shown throughout the day will result in clients having greater respect for you.

THE RIDE TO THE FISHING AREA

The ride to the fishing area is an important part of the day. It is the time that should be spent getting acquainted with your clients and introducing them to your area. Be enthusiastic and positive. If you are asked questions you are unable to answer, be honest and tell them you don't know the answer but will try to get them information on the question at a later date. Your clients are on vacation and do not want to hear about your personal problems or any other problems you might have. They do not want to hear negative words about competitive guides and outfitters. When you arrive at your fishing area, your clients should be enthusiastic and happy that they have made a friend who will work hard to show them a great day of fishing.

FISHING FLOAT TRIPS—LAUNCHING YOUR BOAT

Public launching ramps can be very busy places, sometimes even confusing, when other guide and private boats are all trying to launch at the same time. Most guides launch their boats as fast as possible to make room for the next boat. Private boats are often slower, but remain patient. If you are waiting in line to launch your boat, be courteous to other guides and private fishermen. Introduce yourself and your clients to those in line and help others if needed. Make your launching into a fun time for your clients.

When pulling into a launching area, park your vehicle and trailer out of the traffic area, then organize your boat and your clients prior to launching. Explain the safety features of your boat, the location of life jackets, and water safety procedures. While your clients are putting on their waders and setting up their rods, prepare your boat for launching. If your fishermen are novices, assist them with their equipment and fly selection. Have your clients stand to one side when launching—quickly park your vehicle, leaving the keys where promised, and then assist your clients into the boat and depart the launching area.

FISHING FLOAT TRIP

Float a short distance from the launch area then either anchor or beach your boat and take a few minutes to explain the fundamentals of boat fishing. This is also an ideal time to give casting instructions, if needed or requested. Demonstrate wading techniques and again stress water safety, especially if you are on a rough section of the river. Explain to them why they must wear

eye glasses and a wader belt, particularly if they are wearing loose fitting waders. Your clients should not be uncomfortable on the river but they should be taught to respect it.

You are now ready to do some serious fishing with your clients. They should understand that they must take turns with their back casts and will only cover their area of water to prevent tangles. They should also have an idea how to keep the boat balanced by shifting their weight. Most of all, they should understand that you are the captain of the boat and when you ask them to sit down, balance the boat, or follow any other command they will immediately respond.

As you drift down the river, make every effort to help your clients enjoy the day. There is no place for stress on a happy fishing trip. Fish only the areas they can handle with their ability; encourage and teach them. If it happens to be a poor day for fishing and you get uptight, you will transmit your stress to the clients. There are good and poor days of fishing and as a guide you must learn to handle both.

Point out areas of interest, and the fauna and flora that can be seen from the river. Have your binoculars handy for the client to use. Try to determine what your clients want in the way of conversation; you can talk too much as well as not enough. In your conversations always be a good listener.

A mid-morning break is generally a good idea. It gives the clients an opportunity to relax and further enjoy the day. A beverage and snack should be offered. Help your clients, especially if they are older, from the boat. Make sure the older people have their legs working before you let go of them. A fall could result in a broken bone.

Be an alert boatman. River accidents can happen and are created by poor judgment and careless guides, not by the river. Your first responsibility is a safe trip down the river, which requires concentration even by an experienced boatman. Last minute decisions can be disastrous. Make sure you are familiar with the rivers you float.

THE FISHING FLOAT TRIPS—THE LUNCH BREAK

The morning fishing and fresh air has made your clients hungry and they'll be looking forward to their lunch with great anticipation. Don't disappoint them. Even a simple lunch, if served with style and enthusiasm, can be rewarding.

For your lunch break, choose a location protected from the weather and close to the river. Give your clients the option of fishing while you prepare lunch. A folding table with table cloth and folding stools will impress your clients. Wash your hands before handling food and do not nibble on the lunch as you prepare it. Serve your clients first and make sure they are comfortable before you eat. Remain with your clients during the lunch break; it is time for relaxed conversation and rest. Review the morning's fishing and discuss the remainder of the trip with them, making sure their comments are very important to you.

The lunch break is a good time for photography and the fun it creates. Keep your camera handy and photograph the entire trip. The photographs will make a great Christmas gift for your clients. With today's technology, digital cameras are a cost-effective and simple way to ensure a good shot is taken.

Make sure you pick up all trash from the lunch area, including trash left by other floaters, if evident. Help keep your river a wilderness one.

THE AFTERNOON FLOAT TRIP

Clients tend to relax more in the afternoon. As a guide, one of the roles you can play is to teach them how to float fish while building their confidence through your praise and lack of criticism.

Do not overreact when your client misses or loses a fish. All fish missed or lost are not big fish. Be honest with your clients.

If your client happens to hook up with a large fish, don't excite him. Beach your boat, if possible, and let him fight the fish from the bank. Wait until the fish is in shallow water before you attempt to net him. If you break the fish off with your net, which happens more than it should, you could be in deep trouble.

Make sure that your clients get the opportunity to cast the Orvis rod(s) that you have rigged in your boat at some point during the day. A different fly on the Orvis rod, rather than changing the fly on your client's rod, often works for difficult clients.

Upon arrival at the loading ramp, have your clients stand to one side while you quickly load your boat and move it out of the traffic area. Assist your clients in organizing their equipment. Make sure you have returned to them any items, such as flies, that may have ended up in your personal equipment.

Be a safe and defensive driver. If your clients insist on stopping for a beer on the way back to the shop, you should have a soda. Professional guides do not drink any type of alcohol during the time they are responsible for their clients.

Driving back to the shop is a good time to visit about future trips that might be possible with your clients. Support your employer with returning clients and he in return will keep you busy. If you are guiding the same clients on the following day,

make sure of the arrangements. Write down special requests in your pocket notebook so nothing will be forgotten.

Back at the shop recheck all equipment, making sure that the clients have removed all their equipment from your vehicle. This is also the time to ask your clients if they have any questions regarding items charged to them by the tackle shop that were used on the trip.

When telling your clients good-bye, make sure you include the satisfaction you had in guiding them and that you would enjoy guiding them again. Also get their addresses for future correspondence; email is a great way to communicate.

If you did an outstanding job in showing your clients a great day on the river, you have made new friends, friends that will support you as a guide in future years. If you did a poor job, you only get paid for the day.

THE WALK FISHING TRIP

The overall day of walk fishing may not be as exciting to novice fishermen as float fishing, however, as they gain more experience and ability, many prefer the walk fishing trip.

The walk fishing trip demands greater fishing skills than fishing float trips. Only a limited amount of water can be fished; bank fishing can be more demanding and often it is difficult for clients, especially older ones, to walk or wade the distances required. On the other hand, the walk trip can be made into an unhurried day of fishing that might be somewhat difficult on the fishing float trip, where you must float from point A to point B.

The basic guiding techniques of float fishing apply to walk fishing. The walk guide can devote 100 percent of his or her time to clients, making it an ideal trip for instruction in all phases of fly fishing. It is important that guides help and teach clients to the best of their ability. It is also important that the guide knows when the client wants to fish without instruction, or perhaps catch a fish without help.

If you leave your clients to look for feeding fish in an upstream pool, tell them why and where you are going and only be gone a short period of time. If they are fishing and wading in rough water, remain with your clients at all times.

It becomes much easier for the guide to fish on walk trips as they have more free time after the instruction period and can become bored watching clients fish. Professional guides do not fish on guide trips even when the clients give them permission. "Our guide caught the big fish of the day," is the remark of a disappointed client.

Set a pace that is comfortable for your clients when walking from your vehicle to the fishing area and when taking breaks point out the various plants, birds, and animals, explaining their place in the ecosystem. Turning the hike into somewhat of a nature walk will be appreciated by your clients.

The amount of gear that can be carried by the guide is limited. Check to make sure you have ample water, food, a first aid kit, and any other small items you might consider worthy of packing. Carrying a map of your area and showing clients the location of your fishing area in relation to other areas can be interesting for them.

DOES A GUIDING CAREER MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

Most people, including clients, consider a guide's life to be the ultimate of all professions. To them it is an exciting and easy way to make a living. Perhaps this might be true, but ask a guide who has already put in 100 days of guiding by Labor Day.

The best guides are those who love the guiding profession. They enjoy all aspects of it and want to guide their entire life. They realize they must live on a tight budget and that old age won't treat them very well, but they are willing to sacrifice for their way of life.

It is important to remember that if you choose a guiding career there is little chance for advancement as a guide. You will develop your own clients, keep very busy, and perhaps become famous in the fishing world, but in all probability you will not receive more money per trip than a guide who is just starting out in the fishing business.

REVIEW OF ORVIS-ENDORSED GUIDE TRIPS

This manual has attempted to review the requirements of Orvis-Endorsed guides, their responsibilities to clients, and to their guide trips. Many other amenities, not mentioned, can be added to the guide trip for greater client enjoyment. Each guide must develop their own personality and successful way of handling clients as well as improve themselves in all phases of the guided fishing trip to become a professional guide. As a guide, you will never stop learning, which makes it a stimulating profession. A good guide is one that can have a poor day of fishing and still bring back happy and satisfied clients.

The remainder of this manual will deal with other aspects of Orvis-Endorsed guide trips including the guide, the equipment, and Orvis requirements.

THE CLIENT REPORT

The client report was developed by the Orvis Company as a method of obtaining the client's impression and comments regarding Orvis-Endorsed operations they had visited within the current year. It has been successful in not only giving the Orvis Company a first-hand report on the operations, but also in giving the operations an accurate, objective assessment of their professionalism.

The client completes the report and sends it to the Orvis Company, which compiles the information on the report and forwards it to the operation involved. In order for the client report program to be successful, the endorsed operation must send their clients' addresses to the Orvis Company. If you, as an endorsed guide, have not seen a client report on your performance, contact us, as they are important to your future as a guide.

Approximately 50 percent of the client report is devoted to the performance of the guide, and the majority of the clients add additional comments on their guides and the day spent with them. In many reports, the client could not remember the guide's name. This suggests a poor memory on the part of the client or, more importantly, a guide who needs to work on his enthusiasm, personality, and people skills. How can you build a business if clients can't remember your name?

GUIDE VEHICLES AND TRAILERS

Traveling to and from fishing areas on today's busy highways can be stressful for both guide and client. Generally, there is a rush to get to the water in the morning and a rush to get clients back to the shop in time for dinner. All accidents are caused by people in a hurry. Regardless of the time, travel at recommended speeds with full concentration on the road and other vehicles in a hurry.

The guide's vehicle and trailer must be reliable and in excellent mechanical condition. There is no time for a breakdown on a guide trip. Wheel bearings going out on trailers, due to lack of grease, is one of the most common mishaps that end a guide trip. Spare tires and tools to change them should be checked often. Don't let yourself be embarrassed by not having a lug wrench to change the flat tire.

The type of vehicle you use for guiding should be comfortable for your clients, especially if the drive is of considerable distance. Compact cars and trucks are not the ideal vehicle for guiding, especially if you have large clients.

The vehicle must be neat and clean both on the inside and out. In warm areas, clients expect air conditioning in the vehicle. Seat belts must be available for client use and their use should be encouraged. If you operate a dirty and grimy vehicle and pull a trashy trailer, you will be pegged as a sloppy guide by your clients, an assumption that will probably be correct.

THE GUIDE BOAT

Numerous types of boats, from rubber rafts to jet boats, are currently used by guides. Each type boat might have an advantage over the other.

The equipment carried on a guide boat should always be organized and available to both guides and clients. Standard equipment such as life jackets, an extra oar, bail bucket, folding table, cooler, and long-handled dip net should have a reserved spot in your boat. Always have a trash bag handy and available for client use. Be proud of your boat and make it the outstanding one on the river.

THE GUIDE BAG

The contents of a guide bag may vary from guide to guide, but it should always contain equipment for any unforeseen emergencies that might occur during the guide's day with clients. The major emergency items should include a first aid kit, extra rain gear, extra jacket and pants, dry socks, blanket, cigarette lighter, sun glasses, mosquito repellent, and sun screen. Your first aid kits should be dust and water-resistant. Also, please keep in mind that new products are continually being developed for first aid use. Ask your doctor what's new and whether he would recommend adding the item to your first aid kit.

Items that enhance the trip for the clients such as binoculars, pocket books that identify the flora and fauna of your region, and a camera with adequate film should also have a permanent place in the guide bag.

Emergency boat repair material and tools, rope, and tape should also be included in the bag. Many guides also use the bag for extra fishing equipment such as reels, leaders, and flies.

The guide bag is an important part of the guide's equipment. Space is limited, so make a wise choice about its contents and check the interior often.

EMERGENCIES

The majority of accidents can be prevented and are within the guide's realm of responsibility. However, there are a lot of private citizens on or near water without proper equipment or training and they can get into trouble mighty fast. It is a guide's responsibility to help and assist these people if at all possible. If the situation warrants it, you the guide, must take command of any medical emergency. Your client might be more interested in fishing than receiving medical attention. It is your decision, not your client's, whether or not immediate medical attention is needed. Know your first aid and use it wisely.

All Orvis-Endorsed guides are required, where possible, to receive training and maintain current cards in Standard Red Cross First Aid and CPR. Even though guides have current cards it is suggested they attend review classes on an annual basis.

The majority of accidents are caused by negligence. If it's proven that you as the guide were negligent, it could result in a lawsuit. The only way to prevent negligence on a guide trip is not be negligent. It's that simple. Lazy and hungover guides are negligent. Don't you be one.

STREAM ETIQUETTE

It used to be that new fishermen were gradually introduced to the sport of fly fishing by a family member or friend who had a fishing background, and various rules of behavior would be acquired over time and adhered to as a matter of course. Nowadays, we welcome many adult newcomers to the sport with no tradition to rely on for guidance. As a result, streamside misunderstandings can easily arise.

The rules of streamside behavior are few and easily observed. Mostly they revolve around common sense, courtesy, and consideration of others sharing the stream. A section of water belongs to the first fisherman fishing it. It is inconsiderate to crowd him and just how close an approach is permissible is an obvious variable.

A slow moving or stationary fisherman has every right to remain just where he is. If you are moving, leave the water and walk around him, being certain not to disturb his fishing or the water he might be working. In a similar vein, a fisherman may be resting a pool or planning his next move. It is still his water, and you should not jump in without his permission.

A fisherman working in an upstream direction has the right of way over someone coming downstream. Wading upstream against the current forces you to move slowly, cover less water, and you are approaching the fish from behind. The fisherman working in a downstream direction covers more water, more quickly, and has the potential to disturb more water, i.e. careless wading could send silt or debris washing downstream, alarming fish someone else is working over.

Many streams flow through private property. Recognize that access is a privilege, not a right. Respect private property. If unsure about access, ask the landowner politely. On farm properties: don't trample crops, disturb livestock, or leave gates open.

Leave no litter at streamside. In fact, get in the habit of picking up discarded mono-filament, cans, and other trash, and carrying them out to be discarded properly.

Recognize that skilled anglers and/or heavy fishing pressure with excessively liberal limits can greatly reduce the available fish populations in any stream section unless voluntary restraint is practiced. Orvis encourages a catch-and-release philosophy of angling, allowing fish to mature, reproduce, and live to challenge other anglers in the future.

Multiple recreational use of streams is common. We may share the resource with tubes and canoes. It is the responsibility of the canoe to recognize that the angler has established a position before the canoe floated into view. The canoe should try to pass behind the angler. If space doesn't permit this, the canoe should float by quietly and with minimum disturbance.

In summary, behave on-stream toward other anglers as you would like them to behave towards you.

DRIFT BOAT ETIQUETTE

Knowing how to row is the first step in avoiding stream conflicts with wading fly fishermen and other boaters. River etiquette is now a necessity; particularly if driftboat-fishing is going to be any more enjoyable than rush-hour traffic. Float fishing conflicts fall into three categories: those with wade fishermen, those with other boaters, and those with land owners. Let's examine some solutions.

When float fishermen come upon a wading angler, they should give that individual a wide berth, leaving the wader at least 100 yards of untouched water. Instruct your clients to hold their casts while you pass. To the wader, the boat may appear to be right on top of his water, especially if he's a long-range spin caster. On a wide river, this means retreating to the middle. Putting your rods down, staying away and offering a cheerful greeting is the proper course of action.

On small rivers, problems are magnified. If you see a wade fisherman standing midstream and casting to a cutbank hot spot or riser, make every effort to stay away from his fish. This means talking to him and letting him know you intend to avoid his

water. Inform the wader to stay put and explain that you plan to float right behind him. Communication causes fewer interruptions.

For the situation where there is only one way for a boat to go by and you are wading, get out of the way and let the boat pass quickly. A friendly exchange of fishing information at this point is best for all. Too often other parties see only one choice. If in doubt, be friendly and courteous. Wader or boater, take that moment to look at the surroundings, check for hatches, or look under a rock for stream life.

Another problem is float fishermen stopping to wade a hot spot that already has wading fishermen in it. As a guide, it is very important that you give the public and other guided trips plenty of room.

BOAT RACING

Here the boats that put in late row downstream as hard as they can, slam on the brakes, and pull in the front of the lead boats! Some guides are among the worst offenders—they know the hot spots and they're going to get to them at all costs. It would be so much more pleasant if the latecomers just floated behind those in front of them, as they should, instead of turning to aggressive naval maneuvers to secure lead positions. Then everyone could drift in tranquility, taking what success the day handed them.

If someone else has command of a hot spot, use your skills to find other fish in other places. This is the mark of a real angler. You don't need 5,000 fish per mile; you need one at a time. Enjoy the river, don't compete for its limited resources. Here again, clients and fishermen should help ease competitive situations in which rowers might find themselves.

There are some rules to follow at put-ins and take-outs too, where boats tend to jam up during the morning and evening—load and unload your boat as quickly as possible. Move your vehicle and your boat away from the ramp itself, then rig up, drink coffee, and tell lies. Keep the ramps clear for other boaters. Offer help to someone having trouble backing down or loading a boat. This kind of friendly assistance uncorks bottlenecks and helps make crowded ramps more enjoyable than they can be in the all-too-competitive rush for fish.

CONSIDER THE LAND OWNER

In some western states, fishermen have the right to walk up to the high-water mark but not above. When stopping along private land, don't abuse your rights. Sure, it might be easier to walk along the edge of a rancher's manicured field rather than stumble over the rocks of the streambed. But trespassing is unacceptable and will lead, in the end, to reduced rights for all fly fishermen. Ranchers and landowners carry a lot of clout. Some are extremely touchy about the explosion of floaters and fishermen all over the west in the past 10 years.

Litter is another problem. On some waters, strike indicators, leader packs, and mono seem to be everywhere. Cigarette butts are another cause of litter and can be very dangerous—they start fires every year in these arid mountains.

Floating is a great way to gain access to the river. It is important as a guide that you respect others while on the river so drift boats do not get a bad reputation with the general public. We are here to enjoy the sport and share these experiences with our clients. Being respectful of others will ensure the future of fishing from a drift boat.

SUMMARY

This manual has only touched the surface of the professional field of guiding. Hopefully, it has given you a few ideas and suggestions that are worthy of your consideration.

The Orvis Company takes great pride in the Orvis-Endorsed Programs, and the guides are a very important part of these programs. It is up to you as a guide to further promote professionalism, the Orvis Company, and its products—an unbeatable combination.

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