



THE PIEDRA RIVER EXPECTATIONS BY WATER LEVEL

The following descriptions are to help understand the effects of different water levels on river conditions. We try our best to give a general guideline of the time frame at which these water levels occur, but please keep in mind that we are working with Mother Nature and we cannot guarantee the water level will correspond to the outline below. Each water level on the salt provides a special adventure, and we want you to arrive with the proper expectations for your trip. The abbreviation CFS (Cubic Feet per Second) is a gauge of the amount and how fast water is flowing down the river. Below are variations in river conditions by CFS Levels, and the approximate time of year that they occur..

Upper Box

Very High (1800- 2,500 CFS) (Early to late May on large snow pack years)

You will find loads of big soaking splashes with many Class II+ and III rapids with sections of continuous white water. There are two strong class IV rapids at the end of the trip with large holes capable of overturning boats.

High Water (1,100-1,800 CFS) (May through the third week of May)

The river contains numerous class II+ rapids requiring technical moves and handing out cooling splashes. A few smaller class III and two class IV rapids appear at the end of your journey. However there are lots of splashes through out the day and lots of paddling.

Medium Water (750 -1,150 CFS) (Typically late May through early June)

Lots of maneuvering is required to navigate the river, and keeping the boat moving toward the larger rapids at the end of the day, which remain in the class IV- realm. If the paddlers are not working well together the raft will become broached or stuck in the early rapids.

Low Water (450-750 CFS) (Typically later June through early July)

The water is a very technical stream that requires precise maneuvering and close teamwork to continue down stream, without getting stuck. Many technical rapids occur (class II- and II+ rapids) with many little splashes throughout the day. Two big rapids, Lime Stone and Lone Pine, become class III rapids. At the end of the day the water is warmer, and on hot days wetsuits are only needed for protection in the event of a swim in shallow water.

Lower Box

Very High (1800- 2,500 CFS) (Early to late May on large snow pack years)

Class IV and V rapids make this big water rafting in a remote pristine wilderness location. This trip is only for the physically fit who are looking for an extreme adventure (with one definite portage). The river plunges over large drops into huge holes, which if not hit correctly they will overturn boats with continuous fast water below the rapids. Swimming unintentionally, while always a serious matter, is especially dangerous, requiring immediate aggressive rescue attempts by fellow paddlers and the swimmers themselves.

High Water (1,100-1,800 CFS) (May through the third week of May)

At this water level the river has big class IV+ rapids with lots of class II and III big waves splashing the entire raft. There will also be holes that will submerge the entire boat. The pools become more prominent between the large drops than at higher water. Long sections of continuous rapids still exist at this level. There is typically one rapid will be portaged around.

Medium Water (750-1,150 CFS) (Typically late May through early June)

Medium water showcases large drops in the Lower Box with good passenger soaking hits, minus the boat crushing holes found in higher water. The river becomes more technical with lots of precise maneuvering required to negotiate the river and the rapids. A strong current into protruding rocks creates many wrapping hazards. There are many class IV rapids in the heart of the canyon with lots of continuous class II+ rapids to class III rapids on the rest of the river.

Low Water (450-750 CFS) (Typically later June through early July)

There are four rapids rating as class IVs, and one rapid a class V that is often portaged. There are still three class III and lots of class II rapids. This water level is extremely technical. Broaching and high siding will almost certainly occur. Boats will be spinning off rocks and dropping through near vertical chutes. Violent stopping of the craft can occur as we drop off narrow chutes and attempt to dodge rocks. Wrapping the boat is a possibility. Swimming in rapids will almost certainly result in some bruising and/or scrapes. Even on warmer days wetsuits will be required to protect from cold water.

Check out our rafts in action on the Lower Piedra!

Mild to Wild

Rafting & Jeep Trail Tours

P.S. Space is limited. Reserve your seats as soon as you decide on desired trips and dates at (800) 567-6745 or <http://www.Mild2WildRafting.com>.

For a great lodging option in the mountains of Durango see <http://www.vrbo.com/13051>.

For Give Aways, Hot Deals, Specialty Trips, Photos, Video, Articles, Reviews & Tips:

Become a "fan" on Facebook: <http://bit.ly/d6QAAC>

Follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/Mild2WildRaft>

970.247.4789

1.800.567.6745

www.Mild2WildRafting.com

50 Animas View Drive, Durango, CO 81301