



## **SALT RIVER EXPECTATIONS BY WATER LEVEL**

The following descriptions will help in understanding the effects of different water levels with 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 cannot guarantee the water level will correspond to the outline below. Each CFS (Cubic Feet per Second) water flow on the Salt provides a special adventure, and we want you to arrive with the proper expectations for your trip. Cubic Feet per Second is a gauge of the amount, and how fast, water is flowing. Below are variations in river conditions by CFS Levels, and the approximate time of year that they occur.

### **4500-10,000 CFS- Very High Water (Rare)**

Huge waves with long sets of continuous rapids make this an extremely thrilling level. Day trips may raft the first 7 miles twice as Cibecue Creek is often too high to cross. There will be numerous large holes capable of capsizing rafts in almost every named rapid and several rapids become Class IV on the one day stretch with IV+ on two day and longer trips. This level is for VERY adventurous adults looking for a major adrenaline rush. The Salt at this level is not for the timid!

### **2500- 4000 CFS- High Water (Mid March on a big snow year)**

You will find exciting whitewater with lots of Class III big wave action; two rapids become class IV on the one-day trip. This is a great level for the rapids in White Rock Canyon on the second day of our campout trips. You'll get lots of drenching waves and several rapids with holes capable of capsizing the rafts. There is huge fun to be had with big hits and roller coaster waves at this water level.

### **1500-2500 CFS- Medium High (Mid March to Mid April)**

Still Lots of Class III to III+ action on the one-day trips, with Class IV rapids at Rat Trap and White Rock rapids on the second day of the campouts. Overboard rapid becomes particularly exciting on the one-day trip. The likelihood of capsizing is greatly decreased at this water level. Lots of soaker waves throughout the day make for an awesome day of paddling.

### **900-1500 CFS- Medium Water (Mid April to early May)**

Lots of Class III rapids on all trips, and the campouts still hold Class IV rapids in the lower gorges. The pools between rapids elongate giving you more time to take in the beautiful scenery. There is still plenty of water for exciting hits with big splashes for the entire boat, but not with the frequency or big waves found at higher water levels.

### **600-900 CFS- Medium-Low Water (Mid April to Mid May.)**

The river begins to show its technical side as the rapids take on more chute-like characteristics. Fast water with splashy waves and holes provide thrilling hits. Paddlers must work together to avoid rocks, getting stuck, high siding or wrapping the boat. Rapids remain Class III with great surfing opportunities (yes, you can surf in Arizona, Colorado, and Utah!) Warm water makes for fun splash fights and swimming as you enjoy this desert oasis. Those looking for a high adventure experience should attempt the river in an inflatable kayak!

### **400- 600 Low CFS- (End of Season Water usually Mid May - Late May or earlier on light snow years)**

Class III rapids remain and difficult technical maneuvering is required to avoid wrapping and high siding. The lead into some rapids will be clogged by rock bars and will require pushing and bouncing the boat to get into the chute-like rapids. The River is still an adventure, but you must appreciate the challenge that comes with negotiating a restricted a twisted waterway. Surfing in the warmer water at rapids like Overboard, beneath towering cliffs, makes for big smiles as water sprays over the boat. Getting stuck a few times is a small sacrifice to experience the fun of technical rapids in this spectacular canyon. For a more adventures option try our inflatable kayaks!

You can check water levels at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/uv?09497500>