



Devils River State Natural Area

Access Permit for Paddlers

Overview

The Areas of DRSNA:

Del Norte Unit has been opened to the public since the early 1990s providing controlled public access to the Devils River area. During this time, “non-motorized access only” has been allowed to the river through the SNA (except for limited concessionaire shuttle access), with a gate preventing unauthorized motorized access for the last mile to the river. The SNA access road meets the river at a location known as San Pedro Point. Del Norte encompasses one mile of river frontage. The San Pedro Point Paddler Camp offers primitive camping for paddlers who are engaging in a down river paddle trip. There are 16 individual paddler camping spots reservable for one night only. Advanced reservation is required and paddlers must possess a correctly corresponding Devils River Access Permit to utilize the site. Day use (no camping) is also authorized at this site for visitors hiking or biking to the river.

Dan A. Hughes Unit is not presently open to public use, except for permit-holding paddlers. Planning is underway to determine public use and an opening date.

Paddlers using the Del Norte and Dan A. Hughes Units are required to obtain a Devils River Access Permit, and are expected to review and abide by the rules of behavior set forth in the permit while on the Devils River. **All property adjacent to the Devils River, except for the Baker’s Crossing bridge, the units of the Devils River SNA and Lake Amistad National Recreation Area (approximately 47 miles) are privately owned. Paddlers leaving the riverbed may be trespassing and subject to prosecution.**

TPWD has authorized a limited number of permits for paddler access at Del Norte-San Pedro Point, and at Dan A. Hughes-Devils Back.

Devils River Access Permits (DRAP’s): TPWD will issue up to 12 individual river access permits each day for the public to access to and/or from the river across TPWD-managed lands for overnight trips. Additionally, 12 individual permits will also be issued for day trips originating from the Del Norte or Dan A. Hughes units (trips to be completed in one day, no overnight). Any paddler accessing the Devils River SNA-Del Norte Unit (San Pedro Point), DRSNA-Dan A. Hughes Unit (Devils Back), or who have launched from private property or Baker’s Crossing, and are accessing the shores of the Del Norte or Dan A. Hughes Units from the river, or who have launched from private property or Baker’s Crossing and who are staying at the San Pedro Point paddler campground must have a correct **DRAP in their possession**. These permits are available by reservation only and can be obtained through the Texas State Park’s Customer Service Center.

Shuttle Service Providers: TPWD-approved concessionaire shuttle service providers are authorized to provide shuttle service for paddlers wishing to put in or take out at San Pedro Point or Devils Back. They are also allowed to provide shuttle service to paddlers wishing to put in at Baker’s Crossing.

Camping:

Baker's Crossing Paddler Camp: A small primitive camping area approximately 0.25 of a mile south of the Baker's Crossing bridge, on the southwest side of SH 163, is available for paddlers the night before their launch. There is a picnic table, no fires are allowed, and all trash must be removed. Only containerized fuel may be used at the site.

Del Norte Unit - San Pedro Point Paddlers Camp: Camping is allowed at San Pedro Point Paddler Camp in the Del Norte Unit for paddlers engaged in down river trips. This is a "paddler's only" camp, and there is a one-night maximum stay limitation. Reservations are required, and there is a \$5 per night, per person camping fee. Maximum capacity of this campsite is sixteen users.

Dan A. Hughes Unit - River Mile (RM) 29 Paddler's Camp: A primitive paddler's camp is available at river mile 29 for up to 8 paddlers, one night only maximum stay, and \$5 per night per person. A reservation is required. More than one paddling group (up to a total of 8 individual paddlers) may use this campsite at the same time.

These three sites are the only designated public campsites on the river at this time. Camping permits for Del Norte and Dan A. Hughes are available through the Texas State Parks Customer Service Center. Camping at Baker's Crossing is first-come, first-served. Camping at Lake Amistad is managed by the National Park Service (NPS), please contact NPS with any questions. **All other camping must be below the gradient boundary, on an island, or with permission from a private landowner.**

Planning your trip down the Devils River: It is highly recommended that any person considering paddling the Devils River review the Devils River State Natural Area web page (<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/devils-river>) and specific details about paddling the river from the related web page, "Preparing for a Trip on the Devils River," and other publications/Web pages on the subject, prior to obtaining a DRAP.

Anyone utilizing the San Pedro Point or Devils Back campgrounds must have a correct DRAP and must, while on either unit of the DRSNA, follow the "Critical Paddlers Information" requirements, which are available on the TPWD website (<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/devils-river/river-trip-guidelines>).

Permit Conditions:

- Waste Alleviation and Gelling Bags (WAG Bag) must be carried and utilized to properly remove your human waste from the river corridor. Disposal of WAG bags into a proper garbage receptacle at the conclusion of the paddle trip is your responsibility.
- Proper garbage containers must be carried and utilized. All garbage must be carried out of the river corridor. You must possess a secure container, durable mesh bag, or dry bag that will prevent the loss of any garbage into the river as well as prevent wildlife from accessing the garbage. Disposal of garbage into a proper receptacle at the conclusion of the paddle trip is your responsibility.
- Glass containers are not allowed.
- All gear and equipment must be adequately secured to or inside your boat in such a fashion that it remains attached to the boat during the event of a capsize or flooded boat. It is your responsibility to gather all gear, equipment and garbage lost when your boat gets flooded or capsizes.
- Each paddler must attach to themselves or their boat and clearly display an identifying boat band supplied by TPWD.

- If you are a self-shuttling then you must deposit the copy of this completed permit /itinerary in the receptacle at either the Baker's Crossing or Del Norte Unit headquarters location.
- All paddlers should practice good outdoor ethics, striving to leave no trace of their presence during their trip.
- Open fires are prohibited along the Devils River SNA water front and only within the gradient boundary elsewhere when Val Verde County is not under a burn ban. Containerized fuel camp stoves are recommended.
- The majority of the Devils River frontage is private property. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with gradient boundary law and respect private property by not trespassing.
- All other state boating laws apply.
- In order for this permit to be valid, the permit must be signed by the paddler.

Permitting Procedure: To obtain a DRAP call the Texas State Park's **Central Reservation Center** at 512-389-8901 and **ask for the Devils River agent.**

Paddlers should ask the agent if there are DRAPs available for the date for which the paddler(s) wish to put-in. Twelve individual overnight permits and twelve day-use permits are available each day. The permit numbers for overnight permits are counted based on launches each day with intent to camp. Paddlers launching from private property who are going to use a TPWD campsite or take-out site will be counted the day they actually launch from the private property or Baker's Crossing.

Permits may be obtained up to 11 months in advance and **cost \$10 each.** Each paddler will need an individual DRAP, though a trip leader may reserve and pay for an entire group. Once the reservation is made and the DRAP purchased, it will become non-refundable after 72 hours.

The DRAP will be mailed to the or emailed to the permit holder

General Advice: Once the paddler has reviewed all Critical Paddler Information and other necessary information about paddling the Devils River, they should decide their logistics of how they will get to the river and where they will launch and get picked up.

If a paddler (or one of the party) is an experienced Devils River paddler, then the group probably knows what to do as far as planning the support logistics of the trip. If a paddler(s) is new to the Devils River, and wants to consider shuttle service support to and from the river, they should contact a TPWD authorized Shuttle Service Provider **before** obtaining their DRAP to ensure that the Shuttle Service is available on the dates planned for the trip. They will also want to contact the TPWD Central Reservation Center prior to making a commitment with the Shuttle Service Provider to ensure that DRAPs are available on the date desired to launch. This process will take at least three phone calls. TPWD hopes to have a web-based DRAP process in the future.

Leaving a vehicle unattended at Baker's Crossing is not recommended. A personal drop-off/pick-up or a Shuttle Service Provider drop-off/pick-up is the recommended manner in which to paddle the Devils River.

TPWD-authorized Shuttle Service Provider(s): At this time the following TPWD-sanctioned Shuttle Service Provider(s) are authorized to utilize put-in/take-out points at Del Norte-San Pedro Point; and Dan A. Hughes-Devils Back. They are also allowed to utilize the put-in point at Baker's Crossing.