

Ohiopyle Falls Access Update
July 24, 2009

The Bureau of Parks had a public meeting regarding access to the Falls on November 22, 2008. In addition, they asked for feedback in the form of questionnaires, letters and e-mails by December, 31, 2008. The meeting was well attended even though we had bad weather and the response was very high and positive. American Whitewater also responded to the issue and has been in constant contact with John Hallas, Ohiopyle State Park Manager.

All responses were reviewed by the Ohiopyle State Park Manager and some sort of a report was submitted to the Bureau of Parks. In addition, John Hallas was asked to put on a presentation to prominent personnel of the Bureau which also went well. It is important to note that John Hallas would like paddlers to have access beyond our organized events. AW commends his efforts and hopes he continues this process. If you come in contact with John, thank him for his efforts.

Unfortunately, we have yet to get any official word from the Bureau of Parks. We have been working on this issue for the last 20+ years and the last 11 in earnest. We hope to get a response from the Bureau soon. Regardless of the response AW will continue to pursue access to these falls.

We will post any response from the Bureau and any other update to this web site. In addition, we will also post what our next course of action will be if we get an unfavorable response.

July 31, 2009 Update

We have just received the attached letter dated July 31, 2009. Basically they have denied us access without explanation as to why. AW will prepare a response and continue to pursue Falls access. Your participation in the August 22, 2009 Festival is a way of showing the Bureau of Parks that Falls running is not a stunt, but rather a challenging component of whitewater sports.