

Gotham, Stacy@Waterboards

From: Colin Kessler [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, August 06, 2012 9:53 AM
To: Gotham, Stacy@Waterboards
Subject: box canyon flows

Hi Stacey,
As per our phone conversation, here is my feedback in writing:

The Box Canyon run ("The Box") on the Sacramento River between the Box Canyon Dam and the Prospect Access point in Dunsmuir is a world-class stretch of water. It's consistently challenging at Class IV and is incredibly scenic, even though the train follows the river for the second half of the run. I've seen bear, geese, osprey, mallards, wood ducks, river otter, deer, merganzers and a variety of song birds in the canyon. Having paddled in the European Alps and the Himalaya in addition to western North America, I am comfortable stating that The Box is among the highest quality runs I've seen anywhere. It is a section of wilderness that is worth protecting to the utmost.

Furthermore, I ran The Box 15 times this year (2012, March through June) and 16 last year (2011, March through July). When the water is up, I go. And I know there about 10 other locals that do it repeatedly too; after work, weekends, any free time. The number of individuals doing the run is not great, but the number of boats on the run is significant.

Most of us do not consider the run "in" when it is below 4.5 on the staff gauge at Cantera. I believe this correlates with approximately 450 cfs being released from the Box Canyon Dam. I made this correlation based on the spill level. The most the lake can discharge before the spillway flows is 450 cfs. Usually, we wait until the spillway flows to put on the run.

Hope these statements help. Could you tell me when the fall discharge is planned for? I know it's done every year to make room in the lake for the fall rains, usually for just one day, and would love to hop on The Box then.

Thanks for all your work,
Colin