

# Spokane River

## 1. PLEASE READ THIS BEFORE COMPLETING THE SURVEY

American Whitewater needs your help to define flows that support the full range of whitewater boating opportunities for the Lower Spokane River in Washington. This survey is designed so individuals can evaluate flows, which will then help American Whitewater describe how flows affect recreation quality. The Washington Department of Ecology is developing an instream flow rule and to inform this process we need to identify the range of flows necessary to support whitewater recreation experiences, from technical low water to challenging high water trips. The information you provide, will help us protect flows for river-based recreational opportunities.

Your honest participation in this study will help American Whitewater inform future management of the Spokane River, and build support for healthy river flows threatened by drought, development, and management policies.

PLEASE PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE STREAMGAGE AT WHICH FLOWS ARE REPRESENTED. CERTAIN GAGES MAY NOT BE THE GAGE YOU HAVE USED TO CHECK FLOWS FOR EACH SEGMENT IN THE PAST.

Please encourage your fellow paddlers to participate in this study. The more responses we get, the more robust our findings will be.



## 2. Paddler Information

### \*1. Your name

### \*2. What type of craft do you predominately use? (check only one)

- ☐ Oar frame raft    ☐ Cataract    ☐ Paddle Raft    ☐ Canoe    ☐ Kayak    ☐ Stand-Up Board

### \*3. Classify your skill level in your preferred craft (i.e. the highest level of whitewater you confidently paddle).

- ☐ Class III    ☐ Class III/IV    ☐ Class IV    ☐ Class IV/V    ☐ Class V

### \*4. How often do you go boating? (check only one)

- ☐ 1 time a season    ☐ 2-5 times a season    ☐ 5-20 times a season    ☐ 20+ times a season    ☐ 50+ times a season

### \*5. How comfortable are you with estimating the flow in cfs on your favorite stretch for paddling?

- ☐ Not comfortable at all    ☐ somewhat uncomfortable    ☐ neutral    ☐ somewhat comfortable    ☐ very comfortable

### \*6. How often do you check for the most current cfs level on the relevant in-stream flow gage before or after you go paddling?

- ☐ Never    ☐ Sometimes    ☐ Most of the time    ☐ Always

### \*7. How many years have you been paddling?

- ☐ 1    ☐ 2-5    ☐ 5-10    ☐ 10+

### 8. Your Contact Information (optional but this will enable us to contact you in the future in case we have any follow up questions).

Address:

Address 2:

City/Town:

State:

ZIP:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

## 3. Lower Spokane River

For purposes of this survey we are focused on the Lower Spokane River from T.J. Menach Bridge in Spokane to Plese Flats. For a map of this reach, please visit:

[Lower Spokane River](#)

### **\*9. Have you ever paddled this section of river?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

# Spokane River

## 4. Comparing Whitewater Flows for the Spokane River

For the questions on this page please rate the quality of the run in your particular craft, at each identified flow. Please pay particular attention to the gage referred to and respond with acceptable flows for that gage only.

**10. Please report the quality of the following flows on the Lower Spokane for your craft and skill level. Consider all the flow-dependent characteristics that contribute to the quality of your trip (e.g., boatability, whitewater challenge, safety, availability of surfing or other play areas, aesthetics, and length of run).**

**For more information on these stretches of river visit: [American Whitewater's Lower Spokane Page](#).**

**Flows represented are flow levels at the [USGS Spokane River at Spokane, WA Gage](#).**

	Totally Unacceptable	Moderately Unacceptable	Slightly Unacceptable	Marginal	Slightly Acceptable	Moderately Acceptable	Totally Acceptable
500	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
600	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
700	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
800	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
900	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1200	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1500	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2500	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7500	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15000	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**11. From a recreational perspective what is the lowest flow required to navigate this stretch? (please specify in cfs)**

## Spokane River

**12. From a recreational perspective what is the lowest flow that provides an acceptable experience on this run? The lowest acceptable is the lowest flow you would return to boat in your preferred craft, not the minimum flow that allows you to navigate. (please specify in cfs)**

**13. Some people are interested in taking trips at lower flows for a technical trip. Think of this “technical trip” in your craft. What is the best or optimal flow for a technical trip? (please specify in cfs)**

**14. Many people are interested in a “standard” whitewater trip at medium flows. Think of this “standard trip” in your craft. What is the best or optimal flow for a standard trip? (please specify in cfs)**

**15. Some people are interested in taking trips at higher flows for increased whitewater challenge. Think of this “high challenge trip” in your craft. What is the best or optimal flow for a high challenge trip? (please specify in cfs)**

**16. What is the highest safe flow for your craft and skill level? (please specify in cfs)**

**17. What is your preferred craft for running the Lower Spokane? (Choose one)**

- ☐ Hard shell kayak/canoe      ☐ Raft/Shredder      ☐ Inflatable kayak/canoe      ☐ Open canoe
- ☐ Other (please specify)

**18. Do you have any general comments on flows that you feel have not been addressed in the questions we’ve asked? Specifically if you do not have a good record of flows or dates from when you have run the river please include any qualitative observations on flows needs.**

## 5. This Completes the Survey.

Thank you for your participation in this survey!

Your responses will help American Whitewater and its partners help protect recreational water needs for the Spokane River, and provide a template for future quantification of recreational flow needs for additional management plans and river protection efforts in the region.

If you would like to directly support American Whitewater's efforts in the region please go to [www.americanwhitewater.org/donate/](http://www.americanwhitewater.org/donate/). By putting a request in the comment field you can direct your contribution to the Pacific Northwest River Stewardship Program.

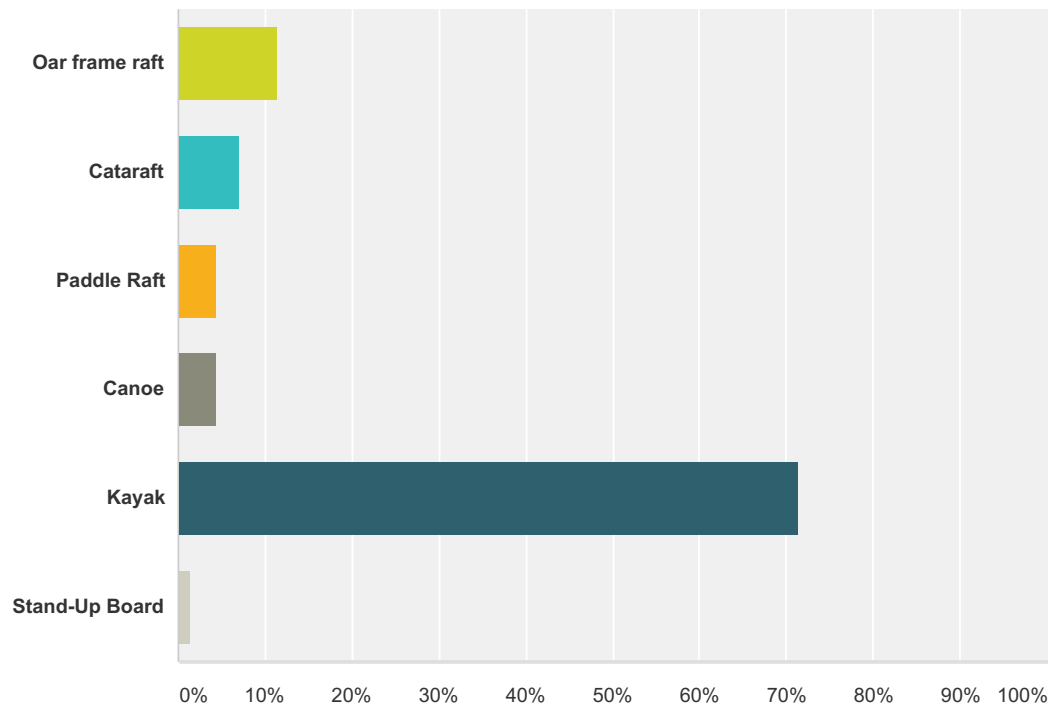
Spokane River

## Q1 Your name

Answered: 70 Skipped: 1

## Q2 What type of craft do you predominately use? (check only one)

Answered: 70 Skipped: 1

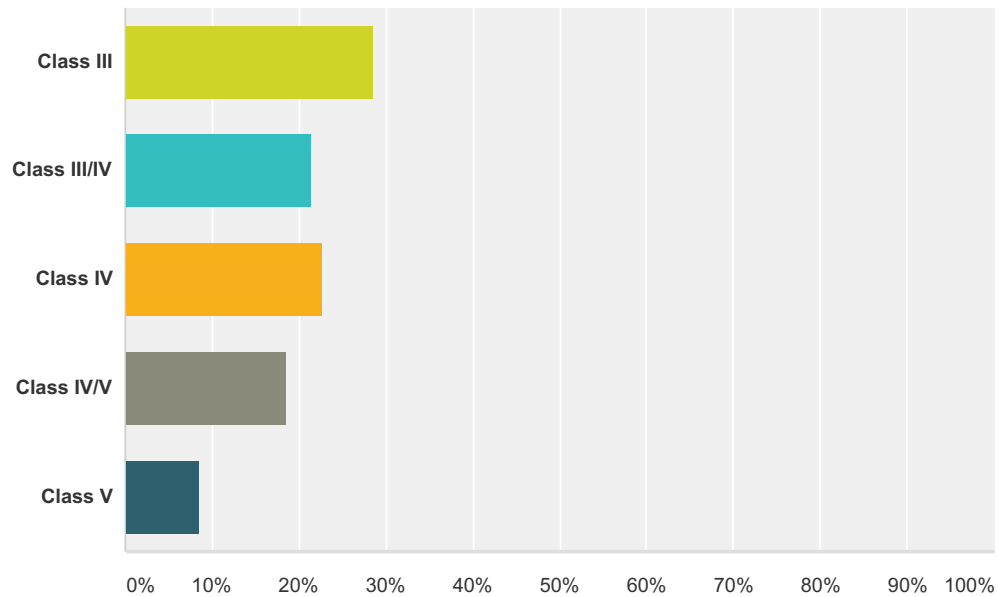


Answer Choices	Responses	
Oar frame raft	11.43%	8
Cataraft	7.14%	5
Paddle Raft	4.29%	3
Canoe	4.29%	3
Kayak	71.43%	50
Stand-Up Board	1.43%	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>



**Q3 Classify your skill level in your preferred craft (i.e. the highest level of whitewater you confidently paddle).**

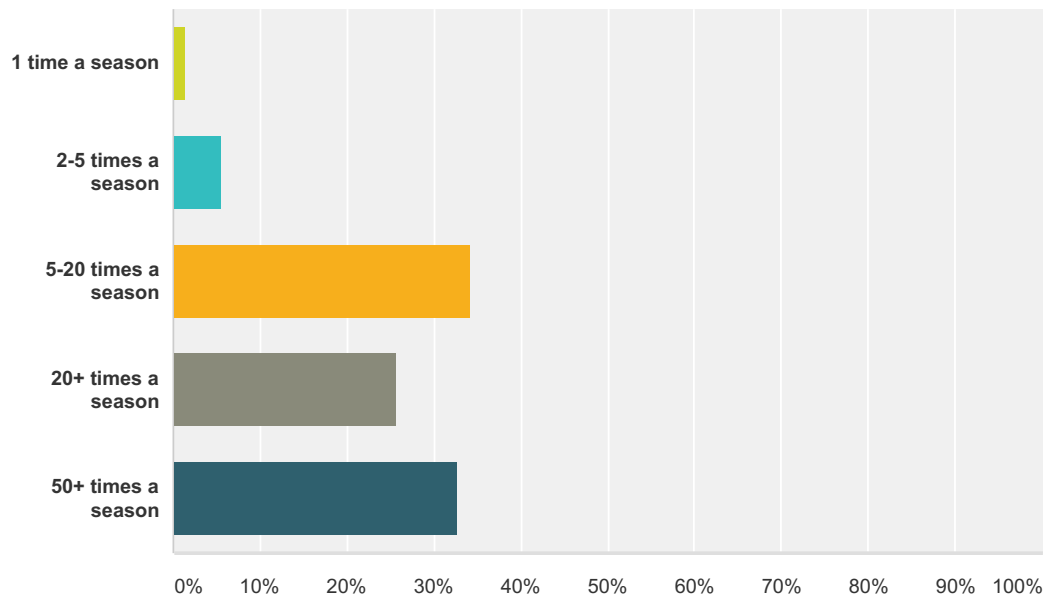
Answered: 70 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Class III	28.57%	20
Class III/IV	21.43%	15
Class IV	22.86%	16
Class IV/V	18.57%	13
Class V	8.57%	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>

## Q4 How often do you go boating? (check only one)

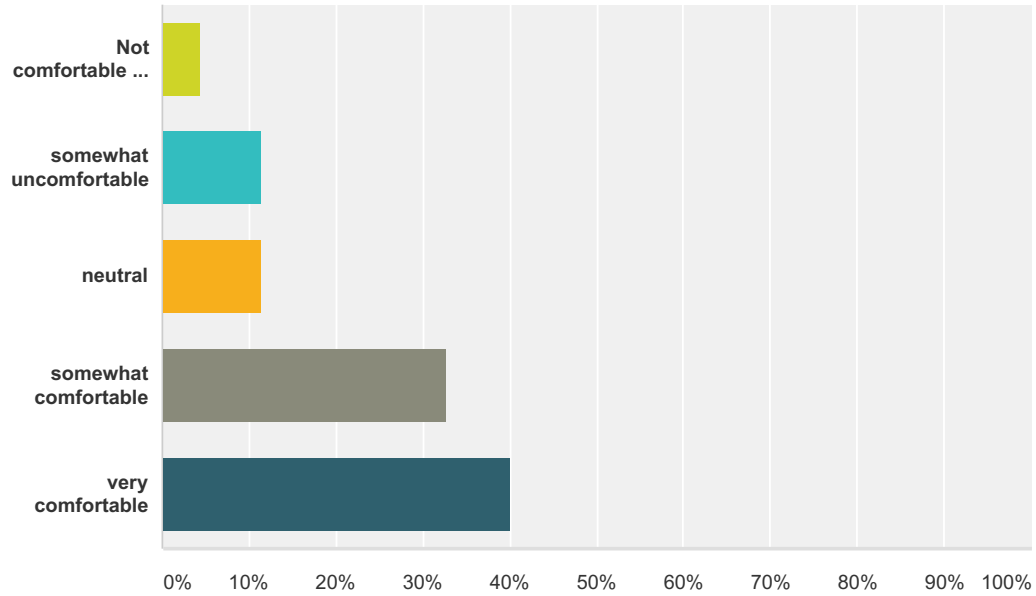
Answered: 70 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
1 time a season	1.43%	1
2-5 times a season	5.71%	4
5-20 times a season	34.29%	24
20+ times a season	25.71%	18
50+ times a season	32.86%	23
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>

### Q5 How comfortable are you with estimating the flow in cfs on your favorite stretch for paddling?

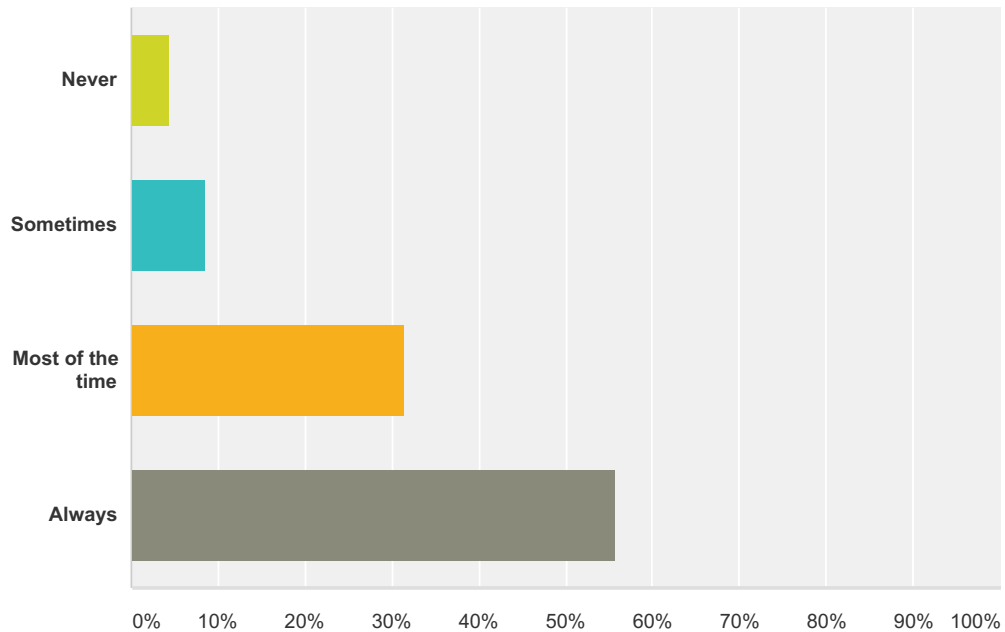
Answered: 70 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Not comfortable at all	4.29%	3
somewhat uncomfortable	11.43%	8
neutral	11.43%	8
somewhat comfortable	32.86%	23
very comfortable	40.00%	28
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>

**Q6 How often do you check for the most current cfs level on the relevant in-stream flow gage before or after you go paddling?**

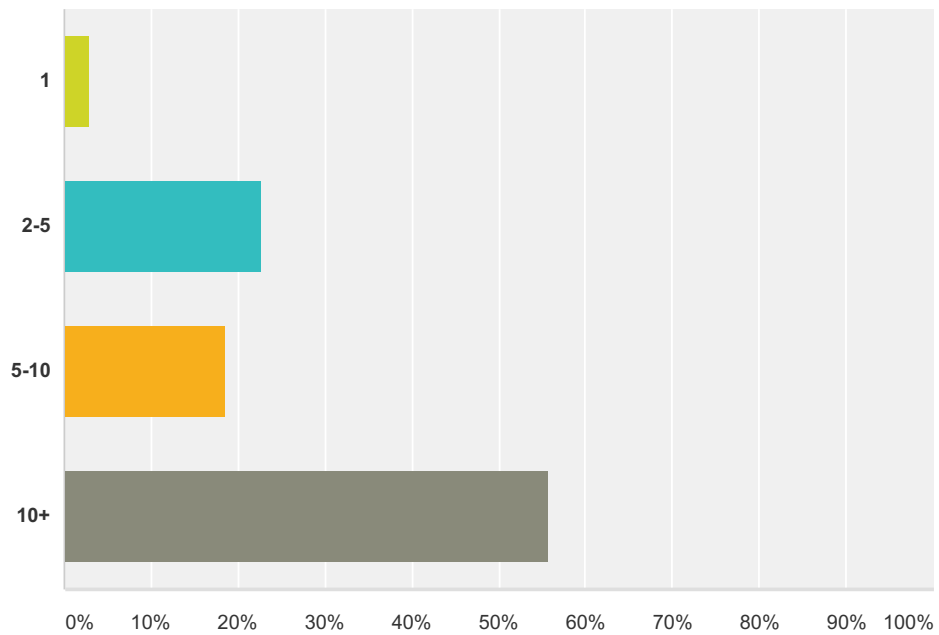
Answered: 70 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Never	4.29%	3
Sometimes	8.57%	6
Most of the time	31.43%	22
Always	55.71%	39
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>

## Q7 How many years have you been paddling?

Answered: 70 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
1	2.86% 2
2-5	22.86% 16
5-10	18.57% 13
10+	55.71% 39
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>

**Q8 Your Contact Information (optional but this will enable us to contact you in the future in case we have any follow up questions).**

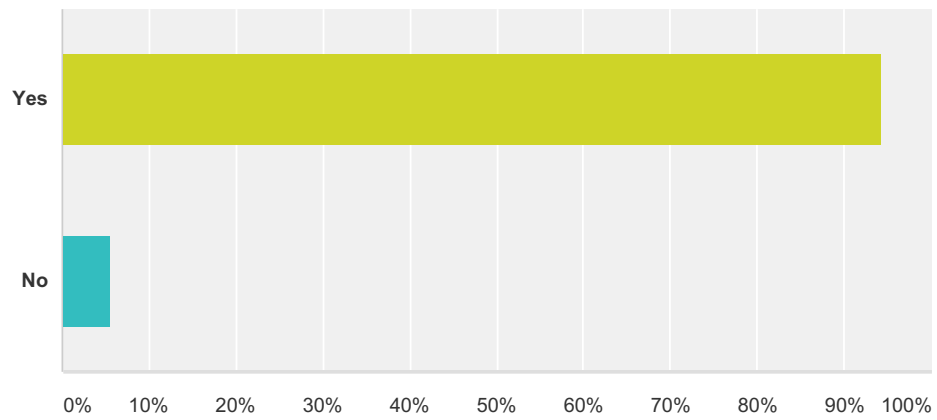
Answered: 55 Skipped: 16

Answer Choices	Responses	
Name:	0.00%	0
Company:	0.00%	0
Address:	85.45%	47
Address 2:	3.64%	2
City/Town:	90.91%	50
State:	92.73%	51
ZIP:	89.09%	49
Country:	0.00%	0
Email Address:	92.73%	51
Phone Number:	76.36%	42

# Spokane River

## Q9 Have you ever paddled this section of river?

Answered: 70 Skipped: 1



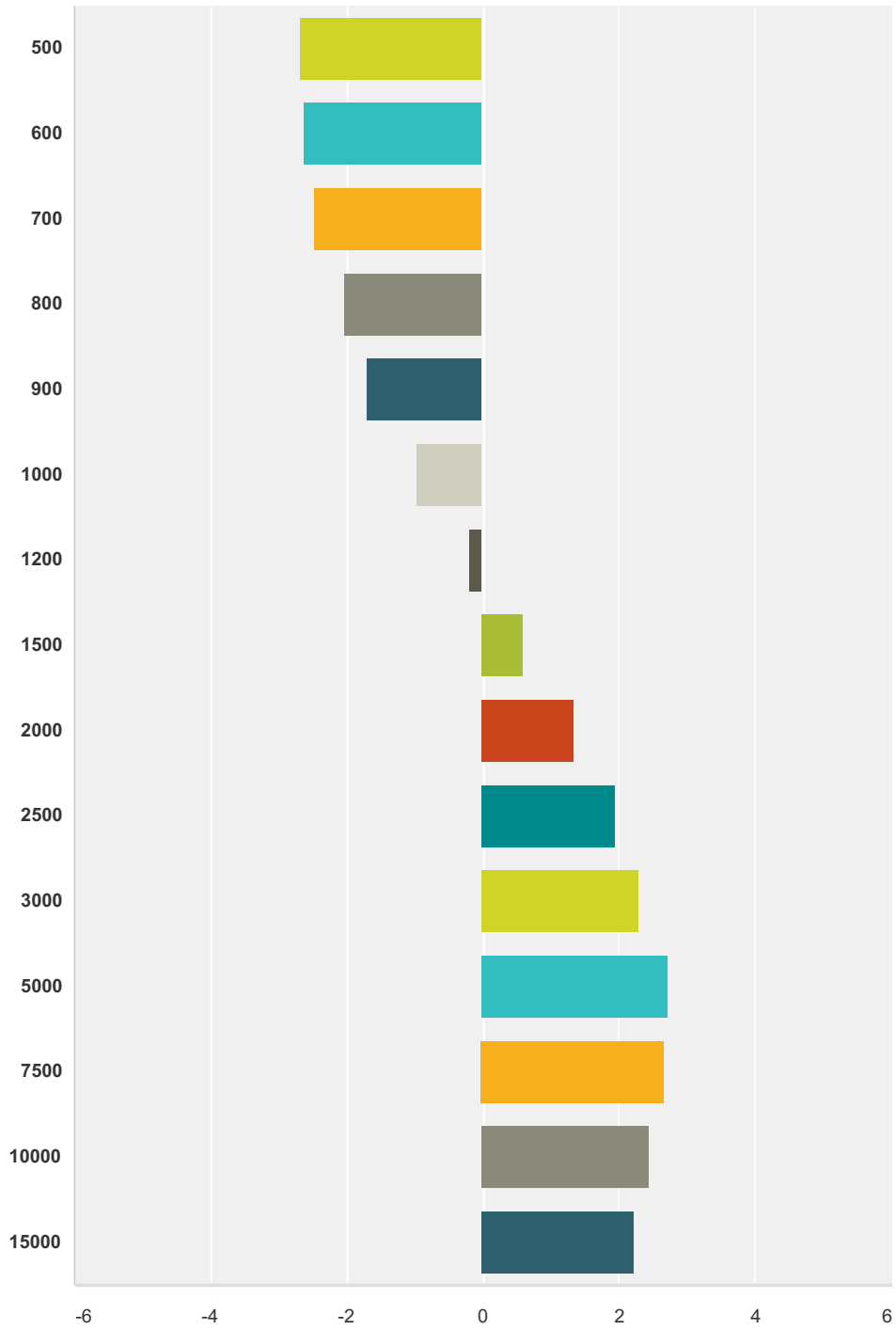
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	94.29%	66
No	5.71%	4
Total Respondents: 70		

**Q10 Please report the quality of the following flows on the Lower Spokane for your craft and skill level. Consider all the flow-dependent characteristics that contribute to the quality of your trip (e.g., boatability, whitewater challenge, safety, availability of surfing or other play areas, aesthetics, and length of run). For more information on these stretches of river visit: American Whitewater's Lower Spokane Page. Flows represented are flow levels at the USGS Spokane River at Spokane, WA Gage.**

Answered: 56 Skipped: 15



# Spokane River



	Totally Unacceptable	Moderately Unacceptable	Slightly Unacceptable	Marginal	Slightly Acceptable	Moderately Acceptable	Totally Acceptable	Total	Average Rating
500	87.50% 49	3.57% 2	3.57% 2	3.57% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	1.79% 1	56	-2.68
600	83.93% 47	5.36% 3	3.57% 2	5.36% 3	0.00% 0	1.79% 1	0.00% 0	56	-2.61
700	76.79% 43	7.14% 4	7.14% 4	7.14% 4	0.00% 0	1.79% 1	0.00% 0	56	-2.46

## Spokane River

800	<b>54.55%</b> 30	<b>21.82%</b> 12	<b>7.27%</b> 4	<b>10.91%</b> 6	<b>1.82%</b> 1	<b>3.64%</b> 2	<b>0.00%</b> 0	55	-2.02
900	<b>48.21%</b> 27	<b>12.50%</b> 7	<b>14.29%</b> 8	<b>14.29%</b> 8	<b>8.93%</b> 5	<b>1.79%</b> 1	<b>0.00%</b> 0	56	-1.70
1000	<b>33.93%</b> 19	<b>12.50%</b> 7	<b>12.50%</b> 7	<b>19.64%</b> 11	<b>10.71%</b> 6	<b>5.36%</b> 3	<b>5.36%</b> 3	56	-0.96
1200	<b>17.86%</b> 10	<b>19.64%</b> 11	<b>10.71%</b> 6	<b>17.86%</b> 10	<b>8.93%</b> 5	<b>12.50%</b> 7	<b>12.50%</b> 7	56	-0.20
1500	<b>12.73%</b> 7	<b>3.64%</b> 2	<b>16.36%</b> 9	<b>18.18%</b> 10	<b>12.73%</b> 7	<b>16.36%</b> 9	<b>20.00%</b> 11	55	0.60
2000	<b>9.26%</b> 5	<b>3.70%</b> 2	<b>5.56%</b> 3	<b>9.26%</b> 5	<b>20.37%</b> 11	<b>20.37%</b> 11	<b>31.48%</b> 17	54	1.35
2500	<b>7.41%</b> 4	<b>3.70%</b> 2	<b>1.85%</b> 1	<b>7.41%</b> 4	<b>7.41%</b> 4	<b>24.07%</b> 13	<b>48.15%</b> 26	54	1.93
3000	<b>5.66%</b> 3	<b>1.89%</b> 1	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>3.77%</b> 2	<b>7.55%</b> 4	<b>15.09%</b> 8	<b>66.04%</b> 35	53	2.30
5000	<b>1.92%</b> 1	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>1.92%</b> 1	<b>5.77%</b> 3	<b>13.46%</b> 7	<b>76.92%</b> 40	52	2.71
7500	<b>1.92%</b> 1	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>3.85%</b> 2	<b>1.92%</b> 1	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>11.54%</b> 6	<b>80.77%</b> 42	52	2.67
10000	<b>5.77%</b> 3	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>1.92%</b> 1	<b>1.92%</b> 1	<b>3.85%</b> 2	<b>7.69%</b> 4	<b>78.85%</b> 41	52	2.44
15000	<b>5.77%</b> 3	<b>1.92%</b> 1	<b>3.85%</b> 2	<b>3.85%</b> 2	<b>3.85%</b> 2	<b>3.85%</b> 2	<b>76.92%</b> 40	52	2.21

**Q11 From a recreational perspective what is the lowest flow required to navigate this stretch? (please specify in cfs)**

Answered: 52 Skipped: 19

**Q12 From a recreational perspective what is the lowest flow that provides an acceptable experience on this run? The lowest acceptable is the lowest flow you would return to boat in your preferred craft, not the minimum flow that allows you to navigate. (please specify in cfs)**

Answered: 52 Skipped: 19

**Q13** Some people are interested in taking trips at lower flows for a technical trip. Think of this “technical trip” in your craft. What is the best or optimal flow for a technical trip? (please specify in cfs)

Answered: 50 Skipped: 21

**Q14** Many people are interested in a “standard” whitewater trip at medium flows. Think of this “standard trip” in your craft. What is the best or optimal flow for a standard trip? (please specify in cfs)

Answered: 50 Skipped: 21

**Q15** Some people are interested in taking trips at higher flows for increased whitewater challenge. Think of this “high challenge trip” in your craft. What is the best or optimal flow for a high challenge trip? (please specify in cfs)

Answered: 49 Skipped: 22

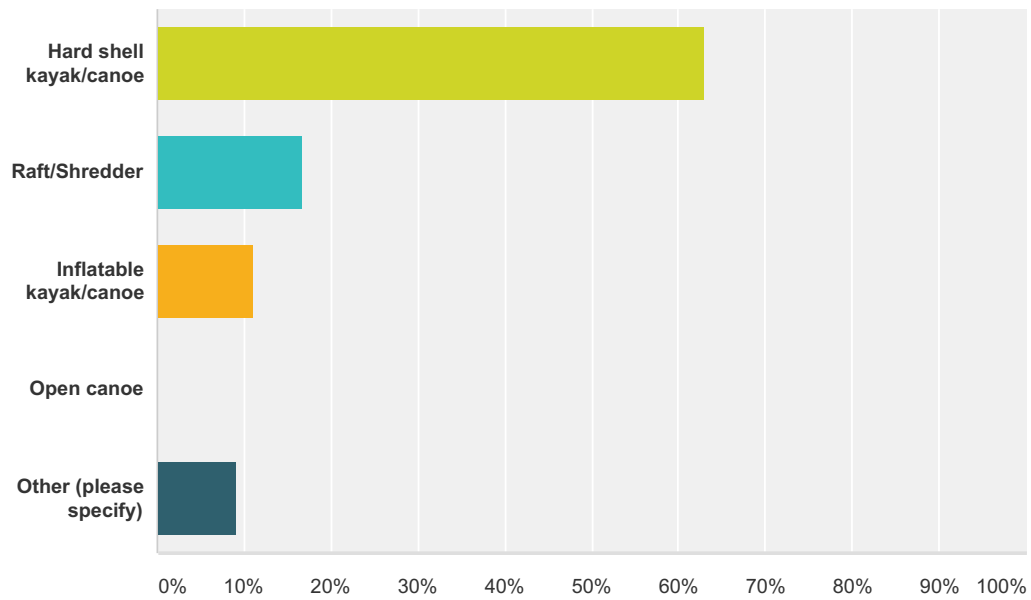
**Q16 What is the highest safe flow for your craft and skill level? (please specify in cfs)**

Answered: 50 Skipped: 21



## Q17 What is your preferred craft for running the Lower Spokane? (Choose one)

Answered: 54 Skipped: 17



Answer Choices	Responses	
Hard shell kayak/canoe	62.96%	34
Raft/Shredder	16.67%	9
Inflatable kayak/canoe	11.11%	6
Open canoe	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	9.26%	5
Total Respondents: 54		

**Q18 Do you have any general comments on flows that you feel have not been addressed in the questions we've asked? Specifically if you do not have a good record of flows or dates from when you have run the river please include any qualitative observations on flows needs.**

Answered: 16 Skipped: 55