

ACCESSIBLE DRIFTBOAT OPENS THE OUTDOORS TO THOSE WITH MOBILITY ISSUES

Don't be discouraged from fishing by a disability.

Jason Thatcher, owner of River Pursuit Guide Service based in Red Bluff, has a wheelchair accessible driftboat that will get you to prime fishing holes despite physical limitations. The boat will be on display at the four upcoming ExpoSure sportsmen's and outdoors shows.

Through Blue Line Outdoors, a nonprofit foundation, Thatcher and his boat provide outdoor boating trips for law enforcement officers who have been involved in critical situations, are injured or have mobility issues. He has hosted about 300 officers on both hunting and boating trips since mid-2018. Thatcher and his boat can also be hired by the general public through his guide service.

"I can accommodate people other than those in a wheelchair," Thatcher said. "Rather than having to get over the side of the gunnel, people can walk in under their own power. It's a great service to be able to include just about anybody who wants to go on the river. It's an opportunity to experience fisheries." Thatcher, who was in law enforcement for 10 years in Northern California, said he hopes the driftboat and trips will provide therapy for people who are recovering from a health issue.

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