



# Overnight River Trips

## Gear Lists & How to Pack

Pack all of your gear in two waterproof duffels or bags:

- 1) Fishing gear and personal items that you will take on your fishing boat each day.
- 2) Camp gear, extra clothing, and personal items go on gear rafts and are taken to camp ahead of fishing boats.

## Daily Personal Gear

You will fish from inflatable rafts or drift boats, depending on the river, conditions, and time of year. Fishing gear and personal items for a full day on the river should be packed separately from your camp gear. Be sure these items are on your fishing boat. Please pack lightly and avoid excessive items. The following items should be placed in a small waterproof bag or backpack, such as a Patagonia Stormsurge Pack (30L), Simms Dry Creek Packs (25L or 35L), Fishpond Thunderhead Submersible Pack (28L), or Fishpond Wind River Roll-Top Backpack.

## What to Wear

- **Lightweight Fishing Shirt or Sun Hoody**
- **Quick Dry Pants or Shorts**
- **Ball Cap or Wide Brimmed Hat** for sun and errant fly protection
- **Polarized Sunglasses – A Must!**  
Smith & Costa make the best polarized fishing sunglasses. We recommend Brown, Bronze, and Copper photochromic lenses, which are the most versatile. Mirrored lenses block a little extra light and also come in handy as a mirror for applying sunblock on your face. You may choose to bring an extra pair as a backup or a brighter lens, such as Smith's Ignitor lenses in Rose or Yellow, for cloudy days or dark conditions. Although lighter lenses are great in dimmer light, they aren't as good in bright sunlight as they let more light through (VLT - Visible Light Transmission), leading to eye fatigue and headaches. Gray lenses are okay on bright days but too dark on cloudy days.
- **Lightweight Wading Boots, Shoes, or Sandals – No Cleats or Spikes in boats, please!**
- **Wet Wading Socks** – Simms Wet Wading Socks, neoprene socks, or wool socks

## What to Bring on Boat

- **Rain Jacket** – Every day, regardless of forecast or clear morning skies.
- **Rain Pants or Bibs** – *Optional*. Good to have in summer if you don't bring waders.
- **Warm Layer** – fleece jacket or shirt, puffy jacket
- **Fishing License**
- **Camera or Cell Phone** for photos and videos, plus spare lenses, batteries, and accessories
- **Water Bottle**
- **Toilet Paper, Wet Wipes, Hand Sanitizer**
- **Sunscreen & Lip Balm**
- Backpack (38L).
- **Bear Spray**

## Optional Items

- **Waders & Boots** – Spring & fall trips, not usually necessary in summer except for cool, rainy weather.
- **Wading Staff** – *Optional*.
- **Insect Repellent** – June & July mainly, sometimes August depending on conditions where you fish
- **Binoculars**

# Fishing Gear

Your rods and reels, fishing vest, or waterproof pack can be stored on your fishing boat. Vests can often be stored on the back of a seat, while waterproof packs can be placed under seats or tied to the side of rafts. Waders should be worn during spring and fall trips, or anytime the forecast calls for cool, rainy conditions. During the summer months, wear shorts or quick-dry pants with lightweight wading shoes or sandals. Be sure your wading boots do not have cleats or spikes which do not mix well with inflatable rafts or fiberglass boats. Waders are usually too hot during the summer, especially on float trips when you spend a great deal of time in the boat.

We provide rods and reels if needed. All flies and terminal tackle (leaders, tippet, indicators, split shot, floatants, etc.) are provided, but feel free to bring your gear. Please contact us before your trip for recommendations.

Nine-foot, 5 & 6 weight rods are versatile for most fishing. You can bring lighter rods (2-4 weights) for dry fly fishing and heavier rods (7-8 weights) for streamers, nymph fishing, and windy conditions.

- **Fly Rods & Reels**

**9', 5 & 6 weight rods** are versatile rods for most trout fishing in Montana and Wyoming.

**5 weight rods** do most things well, present dry flies more delicately than heavier rods, are suitable for light and standard nymphing, but aren't as good with large flies, weight, and wind.

**6 weight rods** handle split shot, indicators, heavy, large flies, and wind better than lighter rods.

**7 & 8 weight rods, 9' to 9' 6"**, are great for **streamer fishing**, large, heavy flies, sinking lines, & wind.

**2 to 4 weight rods** are good for **dry fly fishing** and smaller streams but don't handle large flies, weight, or wind well.

**9', 9' 6" & 10' rods** are excellent for **boat fishing** and **nymph fishing** and have superior mending abilities and leverage than shorter rods.

Rods **under 9'** aren't recommended for boat fishing or nymphing. However, 7' 6" to 8' 9" rods are great for short, accurate cast with dry flies, especially when wade fishing small streams and creeks.

- **Fly Lines**

Floating lines cover most fishing conditions; however, you can bring a sinking line if you wish to search deep holes for lunker trout. Weight forward lines are preferred, but double tapered lines work fine. A nymph taper is good for turning over strike indicators, split shot, and heavy nymphs. Finally, a streamer-specific line works well casting large profile, heavy streamers.

- **Fishing Vest or Pack**

- **Leaders**

**7.5', 2x – 3x** are preferred, very versatile, and great when fishing two flies.

**9', 2x – 4x** are also good options.

- **Tippet**

**2x – 4x** will cover most situations. Your guide will have plenty of tippet material and sizes.

Fluorocarbon tippet is excellent for nymph fishing; nylon tippet is best for dry flies.

- **Fly Boxes & Flies**

Contact us in advance for fly recommendations. We provide all flies, but it's best to buy locally with your guide's help if you purchase flies. Ask your guide's opinion of any flies you may want to bring.

- **Retractor(s), Nippers & Hemostats**

- **Ketchum Release** – responsible, fish-friendly release tool; release fish without handling or touching.

- **Monomaster** – responsibly store used tippet. <http://www.monomaster.nl>

- **Floatants**

Waterproof Treatments – FlyAgra, Aquel, Gink

Desiccants - Dry Shake, Frog's Fanny

- **Split Shot**

Sizes AB, BB & B are used most often, although sizes 1-6 can be useful at times.

- **Strike Indicators**

Air-Lock Biodegradable Strike Indicators in 3/4" are best and easily adjust without kinking your leader.

New Zealand wool is excellent for lightweight and short-leash nymphing.

Palsa or Umpqua Strike II indicators work well for short-leash nymphing and delicate presentations.

- **Tie-Fast Knot Tool** – Excellent for nail knots

- **Hook Hone**

- **Waterproof Thermometer** – for checking water temperatures

# Camp Gear

All of your camp gear should be packed in a soft-sided waterproof duffel and loaded onto the gear boats separate from your fishing boat. Be sure all items you need for the day are with you on your fishing boat. NRS Outfitter Duffels are available for your camp gear if needed; please let us know in advance. We recommend waterproof duffels such as NRS Outfitter Dry Bags or NRS Bill's Dry Bags in 65L or 110L. Other good options are Patagonia Stormsurge Wet/Dry Duffel (65L) or Black Hole Duffels 70L and 100L, Simms Dry Creek Waterproof Duffels in Small (60L) or Medium (155L), or Fishpond's Thunderhead Large Submersible Duffel (100L). **Do not pack your camp gear in rolling duffels with wheels or any hard-sided or hard-bottomed duffel with hard handles.** Please limit your camp duffel to **30 pounds**, not including your fishing and daily gear you take on the fishing boat. We provide waterproof bags for your sleeping bag and pad; these do not need to fit in your camp duffel. **Please avoid excessive items; pack lightly and as compact as possible due to limited space on the rafts.**

- **Sleeping Bag**

Please pack sleeping bags in compression stuff sacks for space-saving.

- **Sleeping Pad**

We provide pads but feel free to bring yours if you prefer. If you bring your pad, please deflate completely and roll as tightly as possible to save space.

*Recommended:* Nemo Roamer Self-Inflating Mattress

- **Small Lightweight Travel Pillow.**

*Recommended:* Nemo Fillo Camping Pillow.

*Guide Tip* - Clothing can be packed into stuff sacks to make a comfortable pillow.

- **Headlamp or Flashlight**

Headlamps allow hands-free use. Install new batteries and bring spare batteries or a USB charger to use with a power bank. Sleeping tents are equipped with small lanterns.

- **Pocket Knife**

- **Toiletries**

Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Biodegradable Soap - Dr. Bronner's, Deodorant. Hand Sanitizer.

- **Small Towel & Wash Cloth**

*Recommended:* PackTowl Body or Beach Towels

- **Personal Medications**

- **Trash Bags (2)**

Great for wet or dirty clothing and to keep separate from your dry, clean clothes.

- **Insect Repellent**

- **Charging Device**

For your cell phone and other electronics with appropriate charging cords for your devices.

*Recommended:* Goal Zero Venture 30 or 70, Sherpa 100PD Power Banks

- **Solar Charging Panel**

Recharge your Power Bank on longer trips.

*Recommended:* Goal Zero Nomad 20 or 50

- **Book, Flower & Wildlife Identification Books or Charts**

- **Area Map – Optional**

# Clothing

Be sure to check the forecast before your trip and pack accordingly. We conduct trips in all but the most extreme and unsafe conditions. Therefore, be prepared for rapidly changing conditions and inclement weather. Clothing not taken on your fishing boat should be packed in your camp duffel and put on the gear rafts.

## Summer Trips (*Mid-June to Mid-September*)

- **Rain Jacket**
- **Rain Pants or Bibs**  
*Optional.* Good to have in summer if you don't bring waders on a trip.
- **Warm Jacket (1)**  
Great for cool mornings, evenings, and rapidly changing weather.  
*Recommended:* Patagonia Micro Puff, Nano Puff, Nano-Air Jackets, or similar.
- **Warm Layers (1-2)**  
*Recommended:* Patagonia R1 Pullover or Patagonia Early Rise Snap Shirt
- **Warm Vest, Lightweight Gloves & Warm Hat (1 each)** for cool weather, mornings and evenings.
- **Quick Dry Pants and Shorts (2 Pairs each)**
- **Camp Pants (1-2)**  
For hanging out in camp, Kuhl pants, Mountain Khakis, jeans, etc.
- **Lightweight Fishing Shirts (2-3)**
- **Sun Hoodies (1-2)**  
Sun and biting fly protection. *Guide Tip* - doubles as a pajama top at night.
- **Bufs or Scarf** for sun and insect protection
- **Neck Cooling Towel** for hot weather
- **Extra Underwear**
- **Dry Socks (2-3 pairs)** for camp shoes, and **Wet Wading Socks (1-2 pairs)** for fishing
- **Dry Camp Shoes, Boots, Sandals, or Crocs** to change into after fishing for camp

## Spring & Fall Trips (*Before June 15 & After September 15*)

In addition to the items listed above, we recommend the following items in the spring and fall. Check the forecast and pack accordingly, even during the summer months, as cold fronts can bring unseasonably cool temperatures and precipitation.

- **Warm/Insulated Jacket (1-2)**  
*Recommended:* Patagonia Down Jacket, Simms Bulkley Jacket
- **Warm Mid Layer Shirt, Jacket, Hoody, Vest (1-2)**  
*Recommended:* Patagonia R1 Pullover or Patagonia Early Rise Snap Shirt, Down Vest, etc.
- **Baselayer Tops (2-3)**  
*Recommended:* Patagonia Capilene Lightweight, Midweight, Air, & Thermal Weight Tops  
Simms Lightweight & Midweight Tops, or similar synthetic or Merino Wool tops
- **Baselayer Bottoms (2 Pairs)**  
*Recommended:* Patagonia Capilene Midweight, Air, & Thermal Weight Bottoms
- **Warm Pants (1-2 Pairs)**  
Great for under waders, can also wear around camp.  
*Recommended:* Patagonia R1 Pants, Patagonia Tough Puff Pants  
Simms Challenger Sweat Pants, Simms Cold Weather Pant, or similar fleece pants
- **Warm Hat & Gloves**
- **Wool Socks (Several Pairs)**
- **Fleece Neck Gaiter**
- **Insulated Waterproof Boots**  
For wearing in camp to keep your feet warm and dry  
*Recommended:* Simms G3 Guide or Riverbank Pull-On Boots, Danner Alsea, Pronghorn, or Vital Boots
- **Waders & Boots – no spikes or cleats, please!**