

EQUIPMENT LIST FOR WYOMING BACKPACKING EXPEDITIONS

Please bring whatever you think you would like to take into the mountains. We will look over your equipment and discuss what is appropriate upon your arrival. We can provide the major items if you need them. Do not hesitate to call us for specific recommendations when purchasing equipment. **Orvis** has excellent flyfishing products. 888-235-6464 or www.orvis.com. **Patagonia** clothing is the state of the art. 800-638-6464 or www.patagonia.com.

1. Backpack: Most people are bringing soft packs. Some of the lightest are made by Golite, Deuter, etc. Make sure you have enough space to carry a considerable volume of food. This is one area where considerable weight can be saved.

2. Packcover: A waterproof cover that fits over your pack. No pack by itself is completely waterproof.

3. Sleeping bag: Any good down or synthetic bag is suitable. We recommend about a 20-degree rating. In waterproof stuff sack and garbage or trash compactor bag. Down bags can conserve weight.

4. Tent: Any lightweight mountain style is suitable. It should definitely have a fly. Weight should be under 4 pounds for a two-man or 8 pounds for a four man. Seal seams.

5. Stuff Sacks: Several in miscellaneous sizes are nice for organization. Bring trash compactor bags.

6. Sleeping Pad: Ensolite, covered foam, or ThermaRest are fine. Should be light and non-bulky. Backpacking chairs that double as pads can be useful.

PERSONAL CLOTHING

We recommend using the layer system in the mountains incorporating "warm when wet" (also known as wicking) layers to insure your comfort and safety. Warm when wet materials include wool, polypropylene, bunting, pile, capilene, synchilla, and thermax. Cotton, cotton flannel, or Duofold with cotton are not recommended as insulating layers. **100% NO COTTON.**

7. Boots: Light weight with Vibram type soles. Best fitted with two pair of wool or polypro socks or one lightweight liner and a heavier sock. **Cotton socks mean blisters and discomfort.** Tennis shoes, flip flops, sandals, or crocs might be good camp shoes.

8. Pants: For the main summer, windpants (travel pants—some come with zip off legs). Windpants are worn alone most of the time. They keep off the bugs and are great to wade in, as they are dry again in two minutes. After September 1, wool or synchilla pants, long johns, and windpants. A lightweight pair of **shorts** is nice (much of the time).

9. Long Johns: Can be used with windpants in the main part of the summer. In the fall they are a must.

10. Underwear: As suits your needs. Usually one set to wear and one set in reserve.

11. Upper insulating layers: Two layers for the main part of the summer--at least one should be a "warm when wet" type. Three layers for the fall. Down jackets and vests are OK for one layer. All to fit loosely.

12. Cotton Shirt: Should be light, tightly woven, and long-sleeved to keep off bugs and protect from high altitude sun.

13. Hat: Something with a wide brim to keep the sun and rain off. Stocking cap necessary in the fall or if you naturally cold. Fleece neck gaiters are nice.

14. Socks: Wool or polypropylene only. Two sets plus an extra pair to "keep wet".

15. Gloves or mittens: Wool, polypro, and/or bunting only. Only needed for the fall or for those who are extremely cold blooded. Fingerless are fine.

16. Raingear: Jacket (with hood) **AND pants.** No ponchos or plastic. Make sure these are reliable and that seams are sealed. Most bring waterproof, breathable kind.

17. Sunglasses: These are very important and should be **polarized** for spotting fish.

18. Day Pack: This is absolutely necessary for carrying your lunch, raingear and an extra layer while away from camp (2000-3200 cu. in). Make sure it is light. A fishing vest simply does not have enough room. Can double as a stuff sack when not in use.

FISHING GEAR

19. Fly Rod: We recommend a 7 1/2 to 9 foot graphite rod for 4 to 6 weight lines. Our favorite is an 8 and 1/2 foot for a 5-wt. line. Should be in a sturdy but light case. Does not have to be a "pack rod." Two- piece rods can be carried as a walking stick.

20. Reels: Any sturdy single action type with backing will do. Should have backing.

21. Fly Line: A good tapered floating line to match your rod is recommended. A sinking line or sink tip on an extra spool might be used if you have one.

22. Leaders: Several 7 1/2 to 9 feet in 3X and 4X are necessary. 9 ft. 4X is our standard. Extra tippet material in 2X, 3X, 4X, 5X. **Orvis** Super Strong is good. Fluorocarbon leaders and tippets are fine.

23. Waders: We mostly wade wet in midsummer with felt-soled wading shoes. Check for your specific trip. For the fall we use the lightest stocking foot type available. Flyweight hippers are light enough anytime. Very light felt wading shoes are highly recommended. Neoprene socks can replace your "keep wet" socks above. **Orvis** Clearwater Endura stockingfoot breathable waders are great.

24. Fly Floatant (paste), clippers, hemostat, ketchum release, split shot, and strike indicators. Only small amounts needed.

25. Flies: Bring all your favorites. They're light. We will have the right ones for sale on your arrival. Your old favorites can surprise you. The following is my standard list. It covers all your bases. Nymphs: Hare's Ear #12-16, Beadhead Hare's Ear #12-16, Copper John #12-18, Olive Scud #12, Trueblood shrimp #12, Martinez Black #12, Pheasant Tail #12-18, Matt's Fur #8-10, Brassie #18-20. Dries: Irresistible Wulff #10-12, Ausable Wulff #12-16, Elk Hair Caddis #12-16, Adams Parachute #12-18, Adams #18-20, Griffith Gnat #16-18, Stimulator #12-14, Clump Parachute #18. Streamers: Woolly Bugger #6-8, Yarn Leach #6-8.

26. Fishing Vest or Pack: Great to keep things organized. Pare before you arrive. Don't bring lots of junk! There are a number of small chest or fanny packs that are light and work great.

27. Cheaters: magnifying glasses.

MISCELLANEOUS

28. Water Bottle: Nice for mixing juice. Should have a large mouth. Quart size.

29. Camera: Not necessary, but nice to record your trip. Check battery.

30. Mosquito Repellant: A must in summer.

31. Chapstick: A must at high altitude.

32. Sunscreen: A must at high altitude. Some people need **hancream**.

33. Bandana: Blowing your nose, etc.

34. Small Towel: To dry off after washing up. (Pack towels OK).

35. Flashlight or Headlamp: Make sure it is very small and light with new batteries.

36. Knife: A small pocketknife is useful.

37. Toothbrush and Toothpaste.

38. Hiking Poles: with shocks in the handles....can help the old knees.

39. Toilet articles and medicines keep to a minimum.

What we provide: We provide all food and cooking/eating gear, toilet paper, maps, and first aid supplies. We maintain a large supply of backup gear and clothing should you come up short. We can provide packs, pads, fly gear,

sleeping bags and tents. We maintain a large stock of flies, leaders, floatant, and tippet. **Not provided:** accommodations and meals before and after your trip, as well as the appropriate licenses and **gratuities**.

TRANSPORTATION

You should plan on arriving for gear checking by mid-afternoon of the day before your trip begins. We can pick you up at the Riverton, Wyoming airport, which is serviced from Denver by Great Lakes Airlines (Frontier and United). You can plan on getting to the airport for the earliest flight the day after your trip. For those driving, you will be able to leave by mid-afternoon on the last day of the trip. Salt Lake City is 4 and 1/2 hours; Jackson is 3 hours; Casper: 2 and 1/2; Denver: 6. You will need to rent a car if you fly into these airports, but it can be considerably cheaper. Large groups should consider larger airports as Riverton is only serviced with 19 passenger planes. Please let us know your arrival plans.

PHYSICAL CONDITION

It is not necessary to be in perfect physical condition to backpack. However, those persons with recurrent back, heart, or knee conditions should inform us of their medical situation so that we can evaluate and consult. An incident in the backcountry could have serious consequences. The better condition you and your feet are in, the more pleasant your trip. Any physical conditioning is good: walking, tennis, jogging, running stairs, weights--all can help. Our trips are at a minimum of 9000 feet in altitude up to 12,000 feet. Any exercise that makes you breathe hard will benefit you at our elevation. Arrival a few days prior to your trip is very helpful for acclimatization. Your boots should be well broken in and your feet as tough and callused as possible to prevent blisters.

The weight of your pack completely depends upon the length of time you are going to be out. Please pare down your gear carefully. A week's worth of food weighs about ten pounds per person. Your pack for a week's trip will weigh about 45 pounds, going in. With extreme care you could cut this to 35 pounds. It will get lighter each day as food is consumed. **We adjust pack weight according to physical ability and size.** We always start out slowly so that we everyone gets used to his burden and the altitude. The important aspect here is the DESIRE to do physical work.

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Meet

George and Hank Hunker, 2939 Sinks Canyon Rd. Take road to Sinks Canyon State Park (WY 131) from 5th Street in the center of Lander. Go about 6 miles to the end of the long, curved guard-rail on the left. Turn right just before the blue sign and go up the steep hill. This is 2939 and there are small numbers on a post.

Jim Ferguson, 660 Evergreen Lane. Turn away from the mountains (north) at 6th Street off of Main St. in Lander. Go 3 blocks to Amoretti and turn left. Look for Evergreen Lane on right within a block. Once on Evergreen, go straight ahead to the white house.