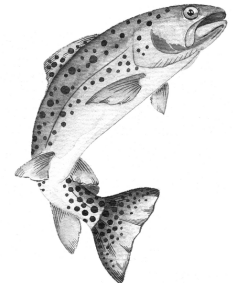


The Middle Fork of the Salmon is one of the premier dry fly-fishing rivers in the west. Clear, cold water, lots of fish and few people. What could be better? (How about spectacular scenery and natural hot springs?)

The Middle Fork is managed as a "catch-and-release" river, so all flies must be barbless and no fish are allowed to be harvested. The result is a thriving fishery that produces a lot of fish and a lot of happy fisher-people.

Experienced fly-fishers will be in heaven and those new to the sport or those who have always wanted to try fly-fishing should consider bringing along a small set-up and giving it a try; there are few places where beginners can have more success.



### GEAR

#### You'll need:

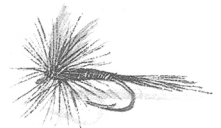
- License - You will need a valid Idaho State Fishing License. You can get it in Stanley before your trip (McCoy's, 208-774-3377) or on-line through the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, (<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/licenses>).
- Rod - Any 4 to 7 weight, 8 to 9 foot rod will work. It will need to be protected in a sturdy, unbreakable case. Please do not bring an irreplaceable rod (things happen).
- Reel - A single action fly reel with an adjustable drag is fine; an inexpensive backup is a good idea. Automatic reels always seem to break in the backcountry.
- Line - Floating double-taper or weight-forward line weighted to match your rod.
- Leader - 3 or 4, 9-foot 4X or 5X leaders with a 15 yard spool or two of 2 to 5 pound tippet should take care of you for the trip.
- Wading shoes or sandals - Felt-bottoms (no studs), or just tennis shoes or river sandals. The wading is rocky; toe protection is helpful.
- Flies - Two or three dozen should do it. See below for patterns.
- All the other stuff - Sunglasses, hat, floatant, nippers, forceps, desiccant, etc. (Pare down your equipment to the minimum and we will all be happier).

#### You won't need:

- Waders - The water is cold, but the air is generally hot so "wet-wading" in shorts and good wading shoes is usually the best way to go.
- Wading boots - Overkill. Shoes or sandals should be fine. If you really like your boots (and they don't have studs), they'll be fine.
- Net - Not really necessary since we're releasing everything anyway. One of those quick-release hook remover things (Ketchum Release), is helpful, but not necessary.
- Wet-fly gear - The dry fly fishing is so good that you can leave your streamers and wet flies at home. If you are really into nymphing, that can be fun, but watching the trout come to the surface is a real thrill on the Middle Fork.
- Tackle box - Go light and compact. You can bring your vest (and wear it over your life-jacket). A lot of people bring chest or lumbar packs (and they always seem to be the first ones fishing when we stop).
- To match any hatches - Attractor patterns work well and the fish are actively feeding almost all the time so catching fish on the Middle Fork is a pretty basic (easy) exercise. (At the end of the trip you will think you are a better fly-fisherman than you really are).

### FLIES

You'll be fishing primarily for hungry Westslope Cutthroat trout who come to the surface readily. Big, (size 10 to 14), easy-to-see (dry) flies work well and are fun to fish with. Make sure your hooks are barbless, (or bring pliers or a file to pinch or remove the barbs). The folks at McCoy's (208-774-3377) can give you lots of advice; here is a general rundown of what has worked consistently in the past:



Yellow and Red Humpy  
Elkhair Caddis  
Dave's Hopper

Parachute Adams  
Irresistible  
Yellow and Orange Stimulator

Sofa Pillow  
Chernobyl Ant  
Black Gnat