

# Middle Fork Fly-Fishing Suggestions



IDAHO  
RIVER  
JOURNEYS

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The Middle Fork of the Salmon is a celebrated trout stream that is home to a hearty population of Westslope Cutthroat Trout. If you don't have your own gear and want to try your hand at fly-fishing, let us know and we will outfit you with everything except a fishing license. With some help from our guides, you will be catching (and releasing) trout after a little practice. You can purchase a fishing license by phone at 1-800-554-8685 or at a local fly shop. Kids 14 and older must have a license. Between the ages of 14 - 17 they qualify for a reduced fee Junior licence. Those 13 and under do not need a license.

**RODS:** Any fly rod, that is balanced for line weights 4-7 and lengths 8-9 feet. Make sure the rod is in an unbreakable case. Avoid bringing classic or collector rods. Our Orvis rods are 8 to 9 feet in length with 4 or 5 weight line.

**LINES:** The basic fly line should be a floating type in a double taper or weight forward. The fly line should be matched with the rod. Behind the fly line should be enough backing (18 to 20 pound test Dacron) to fill the reel.

**LEADERS:** Most people bring a couple of 4X or 5X leaders. Bring a spool of 4 or 5 pound tippet material as well.

**WADERS:** Please do not bring waders.

**MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT:** Eye protection is important. We recommend polarized sunglasses with a lanyard for spotting fish through the reflective glare of water.

A wide-brimmed hat comes in handy for protection from the elements and the occasional misguided fly.

Bring a fingernail clipper, or "angler's clipper," for trimming leader and tippet. Small needle nose pliers, or a similar tool, is helpful for "debarbing" hooks. Middle Fork regulations require that all barbs on hooks be flattened.

**SUGGESTED FLIES:** Sizes 8 - 12x

Local Idaho shops have a wealth of information about fly selection. McCoy's in Stanley is an outstanding store and can help with licenses, flies, and other gear. Flies that work well on the Middle Fork include the following:

Parachute Adams  
Fat Albert  
Elkhair Caddis  
Royal Coachmen  
Royal Wulff  
Purple Haze  
Black Gnat  
Irresistible  
Stimulator  
Sofa Pillow  
Dave's Hopper  
Chernobyl

If you are just starting out, any of the above would be a good first time selection. Buy 4 or 5 patterns and ask the fly shop to debarb them for you. Here are some local shops that are knowledgeable about the Middle Fork.

McCoy's Tackle  
Ace of Diamonds Street  
Stanley, Idaho 83278  
208-774-3377

Idaho Angler  
1682 S. Vista Blvd.  
Boise, Idaho 83706  
1-800-787-9957

Salmon River Fly Box  
818 Main Street  
Salmon, ID 83467  
208-756-1939

If you are just learning to fly-fish, it is not necessary to bring a bunch of gear. The crew carries tools and a supply of flies. Make sure you have a license but other than that, we supply just about everything you will need. Have fun.

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