

## Summary of Wilderness Ethics Talk

- The Middle Fork of the Salmon River is a special place, a Wild and Scenic River flowing within the Frank Church—River of No Return Wilderness. We need your help to keep these places wild.
- Leave No Trace; Take Only Memories. Trash: it's the little things that count. With 10,000 people floating through this 104-mile stretch of river, if each person left a twist-tie, a cigarette butt, or a gum wrapper, you can imagine what the camps would look like after a month or so. So after you have the boats packed but before you leave camp, have your group do a thorough search for micro-trash, and don't forget to check tree branches for items that may have been hung up.
- No Soap in H<sub>2</sub>O! Soap is not allowed in any hot springs, river, stream, lake, etc. If you want to wash up, be sure your soapy water is above the high water mark. For dish water, strain first, then broadcast above the high water mark; do not dig sump holes. The strainer is part of your required equipment to help keep food particles around the camps to a minimum. Toothpaste should be diluted then spit above the high water mark also; diluting prevents white toothpaste splotches around the camps.
- Food attracts ants, bees and other critters, including bears. Use a napkin or paper plate to catch food particles, including crumbs, to avoid attracting wildlife and insects. Please do not feed the wildlife. A fed bear is a dead bear, and our food can spoil the squirrels' stash of natural foodstuffs. Do not pour any grease into streams; pack it out using a sealed container. Avoid pouring out any drinks on the ground, except water. Designate a bucket for unfinished drinks and liquids, and as long as there is no grease or soap in the water, you can pour it into the current.
- Human waste must be packed out. Keep a garbage bag near the potty; do not put anything in the potty except feces and toilet paper (TP) – it clogs the SCAT machine. Urine goes in the water or wet sand. For the more modest folks, or for use at night, offer a pee bucket (sorry – no TP in the bucket), then dump the urine into the current. If you take any dogs, pack out their feces too.
- Fires must be built in a firepan; carry out ashes. Gather only dead and down wood.
- Do not drink untreated water. Filter, boil at least 30 minutes, or treat chemically.
- Wildlife – we're in their house. Avoid disturbing the animals, and take precautions to eliminate surprise meetings, such as with snakes, bears, cougars, wolves, etc. Also beware of bees and yellowjackets, and wear protection against ticks and mosquitoes, just to name a few.
- Fishing is catch-and-release only. Must have an Idaho fishing license and single barbless hook.
- Cultural Resources. Artifacts that you see are for everyone; please leave where you find them. Do not touch the pictographs; the oil on your fingers will break down the paints.
- Follow the Golden Rule. There are over 10,000 people recreating within this area every summer. You will see other people, and they are here to enjoy this special place too. Patience and courtesy are encouraged; if a sweep boat is behind you, let them pass – they are heavy so they travel faster than other craft, and they cannot brake. All groups are welcome to stop at any of the camps to view cultural resources, visit the hot springs, etc. We do ask that groups not stay in or visit these camps after 7 p.m. as a courtesy to the group that has been assigned there. The same for loud music; please keep it down after 7 p.m. Also, the take-out at Cache Bar gets very congested at times. Several groups can disembark at the same time, but your group needs to use only one of the three spaces, break down as quickly as possible (no lunches on the ramp), and remember the busiest time period is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily.