

# Fires and Waste

**The Middle Fork of the Salmon is a Wild and Scenic River with special requirements for visitors. The river corridor is defined as a ¼ mile on either side of the river. While in this corridor, you must pack out all refuse, including ashes and human waste.**

Bottle or liquid gas stoves are fine, but all fires must be built within a fire pan to contain charcoal and ashes. A fire pan can be any fire-resistant container with 2-inch sides or more, and must be large enough to prevent your fire and ashes from spilling onto the ground. The fire pan may be rigid, folding, collapsible or of blanket style construction. Innovative ideas include hubcaps, large baking pans, homemade sheet metal pans, or a fireproof blanket supported by a collapsible, folding wire frame.



The ash container must be metal or a hard plastic container with a sealable lid, such as an ammo-can, paint can, a heavy-duty plastic bucket or Tupperware-type container. Plastic bags are not sufficient.

Limited by space constraints, you will need to pay special attention to reducing the volume of ash or charcoal that accumulates during your trip. Build only small fires; use only small pieces of wood; stir frequently to assure complete burn down; and after the first fire, use the old ashes and charcoal to lay under each new fire so that they will continue to burn down.

When using relatively small fire pans, there is increased likelihood that some of the fire may escape from the pan in the form of charcoal, partially burned wood, or ash. Carefully clean the fire pan area of all evidence of fire to satisfy the intent of the fire pan regulations.

**Porta-Potty Requirements.** A porta-potty can be a plastic pail with a tight-sealing lid. Dry clorox or pine-sol helps reduce odor. The container should have some type of vent to release methane gas build up. Biodegradable plastic bag systems are a lightweight alternative; be sure it meets EPA Group II waste standards and can be disposed of in landfills. Several options exist for hikers and horseback riders; lots of good information can be found on the internet.

## Tidbits

**NO SOAP!** All pollutants, even biodegradable soap, are banned from water sources, especially hot springs.

**FISHING** on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River and its tributaries is catch-and-release only, using only artificial flies and lures with one barbless hook. The use of bait is prohibited. Please see the enclosed card with a summary of the regulations. Idaho requires you to purchase a fishing license.



**DOGS** are allowed, but need to be leashed at guard stations and whenever you come into contact with other visitors. You will also need to clean up any deposits your animal(s) make.

**BEARS** - Black bears should always be considered unpredictable and potentially dangerous. A black bear will usually detect your presence and flee the area before you notice-unless the bear has been conditioned to people and their foods. When hiking make noise to announce your presence. Keep all foods, soaps and other smelly items away from tents and sleeping areas. Finally, maintain and leave clean camps.

