

Nic Matulich's BWCA Supplemental Personal Gear List

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Absolutely Required

- **Proper Footware** – no going barefoot due to hooks in the input/output areas
- **PFDs** – while swimming. (The outfitter supplies PFDs but you may bring your own instead.)

Strongly Suggested

- **Water Pump** – with prefilter attached. (if anyone needs a prefilter, let me know and I will pick some up, about \$6)
- **Compass** – to orient maps
- **Mosquito Repellent** – deet 30% or 40%. Lotion or pump spray (no aerosols due to plane travel restrictions)
- **Collapsible Bucket** – for cleaning dishes, doing laundry. REI sells them in stores:
<http://www.rei.com/product/685002>
- **Map Set** – each group will get one, but additional map sets can be purchased. Bring a sharpie to mark up like the original (with notations from John Schiefelbein, the Outfitter)
- **Stick Matches in a Waterproof Case** – like Coghlan's from REI, OSH, or Mels:
<http://www.rei.com/search?query=waterproof+match+case&button.x=0&button.y=0>
- **Pliers, Small Crescent Wrench** – to fix broken stoves
- **Bright Ribbon** – to uniquely mark groups bags – to avoid mix ups at the portage locations
- **Fishing Pole Case** – to transport poles on the plane, you can make your own out of PVC

Nice to Have (but not necessary)

- **Map Cases** – keeps the maps accessible and dry, attach to the thwart
<http://www.thecompassstore.com/mapcase.html>
- **Sponge** – a cheap bailing sponge – from the dollar store (NOT a tile sponge or similar – they don't absorb water well)
- **Underseat bag** – to keep personal gear accessible while canoeing
- **Knife** – for cleaning fish. Filet knife is supplied by the outfitter but a shorter knife like a Mora or Gerber is great for cleaning:
<http://shop.sportsmansguide.com/net/cb/new-swedish-mil-mora-knife.aspx?a=78455>
<http://shop.sportsmansguide.com/net/cb/gerber-caping-knife.aspx?a=552586>
- **Landing Net** – deep enough to land a long pike but short enough to fit in your duffle
- **Machete** – easier to use than the outfitter supplied bow saw. I like the one called a kuhri by Cold Steel:
<http://www.coldsteel.com/machetes.html>
- **Small Sharpening Stone** – (or quick sharpener):
<http://shop.sportsmansguide.com/net/browse/knives.aspx?c=7&p=4&ipp=48&dc=1017&ra=false>
- **FRS Radios** – at least a pair per group would be handy.
- **Paracord** – a few hundred feet for group to lash up a dining fly, etc.
- **Dining Fly**
- **Snacks** – that don't easily melt or have individual wrappers
- **Gloves** – fingerless paddling gloves. Biking gloves work. Leather can get smelly after a week.
- **Duct Tape** – the universal fix it device. Like The Force – has a dark side, and holds the universe together.
- **Croakies** – for glasses and sunglasses (suggested by Doc)

Other Tips

- **Group Gear** – not all of the above items are need by everyone – coordinate with your group as to who will bring what
- **Campfires** – be sure to enjoy campfires while on the trip. Wood is plentiful.
- **Travel Day Gear** – you can lock up gear at the outfitters that you don't want to take on the water – like suitcases, wallets, cell phones, and a change of close for the return flight.
- **First Aid Kit** – Each group needs to leave room to take a large first aid kit.