

CrossCurrents Fly Shop

crosscurrentsflyshop@gmail.com

www.crosscurrents.com

311 Bridge Street
Craig, Montana 59648
406-235-3433
 instagram.com/crosscurrents



326 N. Jackson Street
Helena, Montana 59601
406-449-2292
 facebook.com/crosscurrentsflyshop

Smith River DIY Checklist & Planning Form

Your Smith River Float Permit

Money for Float Fees for each person in the party.
 Fees: Resident- \$25, Non-Resident \$60.

Cash or Checks for Vehicle Shuttle(s) -
 about \$150-\$175 per vehicle and worth every penny!

Cash for Ice Cream! -Heavenly homemade ice
 cream sandwiches at Heaven on Earth Ranch (mile 28)

Spare Vehicle Keys For the Shuttle! Hide one
 on the outside of the vehicle and keep another key with
 you on the river - in a very secure place!

Smith River Map -Get one before hand to plan your
 trip -and they're great souvenirs. CCFS sells LOTS of
 River Rat Maps for the Smith & other MT rivers.

Raft or Kick-Boat -CrossCurrents Fly Shop
 rents &/or sells rafts and kick-boats!

Minimum Flows for boats: 385 cfs for Drift
 Boats, 210 cfs for Rafts, 160 cfs for Kick-Boats,
 150 for Canoes & Kayaks. (@ gauge blw Eagle Creek)

Rod Holder for Raft -CCFS includes one with our
 Raft Rentals. They accommodate up to four, 9' or 9.5'
 rods fully rigged. Your rods are perfectly protected and
 easily accessible.

Tent -Get the best one you can buy if you don't have
 one already. Make sure it is seam sealed and waterproof
 even in wind driven rain. You may bring a tent of any
 size since you will be carrying it in the boat -like car
 camping.

Tent "Footprint" or Ground Cloth

Spare Tent Stakes and Guy Lines

Camp Chairs -CCFS rents camp chairs.

Roll-A-Table -Super handy! We usually have 2 of
 these on each trip -one to cook on, one to prep & serve
 on. CCFS rents tables.

NRS River Wing canopy rainfly -To put over
 the cooking and eating area if its raining. This item can
 really save a trip. CCFS rents River Wings.

Sleeping Bag rated at 0° to 30° Synthetic is
 better because it will still keep you warm even if it gets
 wet (you will be on a river ya know!). It's not uncommon
 for nighttime temps to dip below freezing even in July!

Compression Stuff Sack for Sleeping Bag
 -makes packing much easier.

Sleeping Pad [& Roll-A-Cof] Full length
 sleeping pad is better than shorter. The Roll-A-Cots are
 great and they pack up nicely! CCFS rents Roll-A-
 Cots.

Pack Pillow -you'll be bummed if you forget this.

110L Dry Bag (3.8 cf) [16"x 33"] (at least one
 per person) -THESE ARE A MUST! One of these
 will hold your sleeping bag & sleeping pad & all
 your clothes. - CCFS sells and rents dry bags.

140L Dry Bag (5.0 cf) [16"x 42"] These are
 the big size! They are good for multiple people or
 bigger items -like your tent. - CCFS sells and rents
 dry bags.

15L Dry Bag (915 ci) [9.5"x 13"] Like the
 Fishpond Thunderhead Dry Bag. To keep your day
 use stuff handy and dry. - CCFS sells Fishpond.

Yeti Sidekick Dry Bag 1L or 3L or 6L -The
 smaller sizes are perfect for your wallet, phone, etc. The
 6L makes for a great fishing gear bag. CCFS sells Yeti
 gear.

Stuff Sacks -These may be made out of
 waterproofed fabric but they are not waterproof. They
 are handy for putting your clothes and other gear in to
 keep things organized. (i.e. -all your socks are in one
 small stuff sack, your spare shirts are in another stuff
 sack, etc.)

Freezer Zip-Lock Bags (2 Gallon, Gallon & Quart
 size) -Put your clothes in these and then put them in a
 stuff sack to keep things organized.
 You'll also put your batteries, cameras, snacks and other
 stuff in them so bring a bunch and some extra for small
 garbage items as well.

Headlamps & Flashlights -It's nice to have both. CCFS sells good headlamps.

Battery Bank(s) &/or Batteries -And Cables for your devices. Solar chargers are also nice.

Lantern -Needs to be in a dry carrying case/box.

Extra Mantles for Lantern if burner style

Camp Cook Stove -A 2-burner stove is great.

Fuel for Stove & Lantern

Good Matches &/or Windproof Lighters!!

Fire Starter -Can use lantern fuel, charcoal lighter fluid or those little blocks work well.

Camp Saw &/or Hatchet -For cutting & splitting firewood. When camping on Forest Service Lands **YOU MUST HAVE** an axe, bucket & shovel!

Leather Gloves -Work/Garden gloves for hauling firewood, setting up camp, pot holders, etc. These can really come in handy -pun intended!

Cook Ware, Cooking & Eating Utensils -Based on your meal plan.

French Press / Coffee Percolator -caffeinate!

Fine-Mesh, Metal Strainer -Perfect pasta and for straining out dirty dish water.

Sturdy Paper Plates, Plastic Utensils & Paper Towels -Paper plates reduce the amount of dishes you have to wash every meal and make good fire starters. FYI- a roll of paper towels fits nicely into those 2 gallon freezer ziplock.

Biodegradable Soap, Sponges, Scrunges, Tub(s) -For doing dishes and washing your hands.

Clorox Wipes -Great for sanitizing your dishes, utensils, tables, etc. -and the Groover!

Plastic Bags From small, shopping bags to 40-55 gallon "contractor grade" bags. For dirty/wet cloths, muddy boots and garbage & cans (Separate trash and aluminum -they have big trash and recycling bins at Eden Bridge.)

Coolers (50-110 quart) -We sometimes use 2 coolers per boat- a big one for the camp food and a small one for day stuff & drinks. -**CCFS rents Yeti, RTIC and Orion super colors that are Bear Resistant Food Storage Compliant**

Ice Cubes & Ice Blocks -Use both in your coolers. The blocks will last much longer but the cubes will take up all the empty space in the cooler once you pack it. If you want cubes for drinks -keep it separate in a ziplock bag!

Water Bottles & Large Water Containers

-Bottles to drink out of during the day (like a Yeti) and a 2.5 gal. and/or 5 gal. containers (like a Scepter) for using in camp and refilling your smaller water bottles. (FYI- Freezing gallon or 1/2 gallon jugs gives ice for coolers and then water to drink or cook with when it melts!)

Water Filter/Purifier -You usually cannot filter water directly from the Smith due to it's high turbidity most of the float season. You can filter the water from the clear tributaries. **There are 2 easy to access, natural springs to get good, potable water from at mile 6 and mile 29. You do not have to filter the water from these springs.**

Toilet System!! -Starting in 2024, FWP removed all the latrines. You now have to pack out your poo! See the regulation for what specific types of Toilet Systems are approved. -CCFS sells approved toilet systems -we do NOT rent them!

Toilet Paper!! -Double bagged in freezer ziplock bags. Everyone bring some! Need I say more?

Anti-Bacterial Handy Wipes & Anti-

Bacterial Hand Wash -Make sure you put some in the bags with the toilet paper! And make everyone use them before they cook &/or eat.

Polarized Sunglasses (and a back-up pair!)

-CrossCurrents sells Smith Optics, Orvis and Suncloud Sunglasses

Sunglass Retainer -These are cheap insurance and extremely handy. CCFS sells Chums

Hard Case for Sunglasses/Rx Glasses -soft case doesn't protect as well as a hard case.

Your Rx Glasses if you wear them. Bring them in a hard case as a backup to contact lenses.

Eye Glass Cleaning Cloth &/or Kit -This little item can really make a difference.

Contact Lens Kit -If you wear contacts, bring a little kit with you in the boat in case you loose or or have problems with one. Spare lenses, mini mirror, solution, drops, hand-wipes, alcohol wipes.

Travel Packs of Kleenex -put in boat bag

Pack Towel -It's great for drying off after a dip.

- Toiletries** -The usual stuff: toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, deoderant, contact lens solutions, mirror, womanly stuff for the women, etc.

- Medications** -If you need to take Rx meds, then make sure you bring them! You may want to let someone in the group or the entire group know that you need Rx meds to help remind you to take them or what to do if there is a problem. [i.e. diabetic shock, etc.]

- Hand Lotion!** -Most people suffer from “river hands” by the end of the first day. Lotion will ease this problem.

- Sunscreen** -And a couple spares - because you can't remember which bag you put it in! -CCFS sells fly line safe Sunscreen & Lip Balm

- Lip Balm** -And a spare or two - “Oh no, I left it in my pants that I packed in the bottom of the dry bag!”

- Insect Repellent** -some camps can get bad!

- Small Notebook & Pen** -It's nice to look back in a journal or some short notes written while you were on your trip. It also helps in planning next trip –like notes on camp sites you liked or things you forgot, etc..

- Binoculars** -You'll enjoy viewing the wildlife and canyon!

- Camera &/or GoPro** -If you want to use something other than your phone.

- Snack Foods** -You'll want plenty of snacks handy all day long. FYI- calories don't count on the Smith.

- Carabiners** -Handy for clipping things together &/or to the boat. (Your sandals, small bags, etc.)

- Gear Ties** -Another handy way to attach anything, anywhere. (i.e. hanging a light in your tent)

- NRS Cam Straps** -You'll find a hundred uses for these things -aside from holding your raft frame to the raft! From 2' to 15', they are also perfect for securing all your gear in/to the raft.

- Rope** -Like 550# Cord. Great hanging stuff up and for repairs and extra tent lines, boot laces, etc.

- Duct Tape** -“Montana chrome” If it's moving and it shouldn't!

- Super Glue** -A bunch of uses on a river trip. Excellent for sealing a painful crack in your “river hands” or repairing that fly that's falling apart and much more. CCFS sells Zap-A-Gap products.

- Multi Tool** -Like a Leatherman, Gerber, etc. You will find you'll be using this a lot on a river trip.

- Bear Spray** -Smart to have in camp.

- Comprehensive First Aid Kit** -You need one I each boat. Don't skimp out and bring some dinky kit with just bandaids and aspirin. Bring one that has what you might need. A good one will run \$50 to \$150. **PUT IT IN A DRY BAG!** CCFS sells good First Aid Kits for river trips.

- Safety Whistles** -A whistle attached to each PFD is a good idea. They are much more effective than trying to yell to get someones attention in an emergency. CCFS sells Fox Safety Whistles.

- Rescue Rope/Throw Bag!** -In each boat! These can mean the difference between life & death on a river. Aside from your brain and a PFD, this is the most important safety item to have on a river. CCFS sells NRS Rescue Ropes.

- PFD (aka - “Life Jacket”)** -**EVERYONE MUST HAVE ONE BY LAW** and kids under the age of 12 **MUST WEAR THEM** at all times they are in the boat. Type I, II or III. It's a good idea to bring a spare in case someone forgets to secure it in the boat at lunch or camp and the wind takes it to Ulm! CCFS includes a Type III PFD for each person in our Rental Boats and also rents and sells PFDs. FYI- The make for an amazing insulating layer if the weather turn cold! Put on a PFD and your rain jacket over it and you'll be toasty warm -great if someone is getting hypothermic on the trip! If your using a Kick-Boat, Inflatable Kayak or Canoe, it would be very smart to wear your PFD even if you're over 12! Strainer safely rescued 2 people who flipped in their IK at “Tippy Canoe” and they were physically fine only because they were wearing their PFDs! (They did loose their hats, sunglasses and a good chunk of pride -but they were alive and we got their IKs back!)

- Comprehensive Raft Repair Kit!** -In each boat! It should have everything you need to do almost any repair on your raft or frame. **CHECK YOUR GLUE** every year -some only have a 12-15 month shelf life! (CCFS sells fresh glue for all types of boats). Also have Tear Aid, spare Oar Lock, frame parts (nuts, bolts, etc.), valve repair parts and instructions on various repairs. CCFS includes the best repair kits on all our rental rafts!

- Hand Pump** -Bring a bomber one!! CCFS includes K-Pumps with every raft rental. CCFS also sells K-Pumps and NRS Hand and Electric Pumps. (Can't use an electric pump on the river!) We **HIGHLY** recommend the K-Pump.

- Spare Oar Lock** -One in each boat. These things are tough but I've seen people bend, break and loose them on the river. (CCFS includes a spare oar lock in the repair kits for their rental rafts.)

50'-75' of 3/8"-1/2" "Bow Line" or Anchor Rope

-In each boat to tie off the boat at camp or when you pull over during the day. Each boat **MUST** be tied off securely to something solid on shore (boat camp posts, big tree or big boulder). It's not much fun to get out of the tent on a beautiful morning and have it ruined by looking down at the river to see an empty shore line! (CCFS includes both Bow Lines and 30# Anchors and 50' of Anchor Rope with our rental rafts. We also sell Bow Lines, Anchors and Anchor Ropes.)



Bucket -2 to 5 gal. Those rubber feed buckets are perfect. For boat bailing, fire squelching and trash. Required to have when camping on National Forest Land.



A Bomber, Waterproof-Breathable Rain Jacket!!

-Bring a legit rain jacket! CCFS sells superb rain gear (Orvis PRO or Ultralight Wading Jackets)



Rain Pants -Waterproof-breathable pants are great on warmer days when not wearing waders or when it rains and your at camp.



Fingerless or Flip-Finger Gloves or Flip-Mitts -Windproof is best. CCFS sells several styles from Orvis and NRS.



Full Finger Gloves for Rowing -Can use waterproof gloves when the precip is falling or a non-waterproof glove for blister protection and/or warmth.



Sungloves -Nice to fish with when not in the rowers seat.



Ball Cap -A CCFS hat will catch you more fish!



Warm Hat / Beanie -Nice in colder weather -or to sleep in on cold nights.



Bufs -UV for sun & bug protection, a Wool or Polar Buff for cold weather trips. CCFS sells lots of Bufs.



Bandanas -Bunches of uses for these colorful squares of cloths. Runny nooses to first aid slings.



Synthetic or Wool Underwear -FYI- Cotton underwear just doesn't dry out quickly and will have you feeling funky &/or cold where you don't want it to!! CCFS sells ExOfficio Underwear.



Light-Weight Synthetic or Wool Base Layers Bottoms -2 or 3 pairs should do it.



Medium-Weight Synthetic, Fleece or Wool Base Layers Bottoms -for cooler weather and/or under your waders. CCFS sells the Orvis PRO LT Underwater Pants -which are excellent!



Heavy-Weight Synthetic, Fleece or Wool Base Layers Bottoms

-for cold weather and/or under your waders. CCFS sells the Orvis PRO HD Underwater Pants -which are super comfy warm!



Quick Dry Pants -Like the Orvis Jackson Quick-Dry Pant (which CCFS happens to sell). These are the perfect river pant (ALL our Guides wear these!). A bit of stretch for comfort sitting, hopping in and out of the boat or having that extra piece of dutch over cobbler! They dry lickety-split so wet wading in these is great.



Quick Dry Shorts -Same dealeo as above but for those peeps that like showing off their legs.



Light-Weight Synthetic or Wool Base Layers Tops -Short-Sleeve &/or Long-Sleeve.



Medium-Weight Synthetic or Wool Base Layers Tops -Long-Sleeve for cool/cold days or those cool mornings even in the summer.



Technical Long-Sleeve Shirts -Like a Sun Hoodie. FYI- Proven fact: You catch more fish if your Sun Hoodie has a CCFS logo on it! CCFS does sell excellent performance SPF shirts like the Orvis PRO Sun Hoody, Free Fly, DriCast, RepYourWater and more. Also some classy button up collard tech shirts that look good out on the water or out to dinner!



Smith River T-Shirt -Super popular and practical! It's got the Smith River Map screened on the back of the shirt. Make your font angler where one of these shirts and it's like having a heads up display of where you are going! The analog version of Google Maps on the water!



Warm Vest -Like an Orvis PRO Insulated Vest or Drift Vest. Perfect as an added layer piece when cold or wear by itself when you just need to keep you core warm on a cool afternoon or when the sun sets.



Warm Jacket -The Orvis PRO Insulated Hoodie Jacket is perfect! With Primaloft Gold insulation, it will keep you warm even if it gets wet and packs down small when you need to stow it. I think every one of our Guides own this puffy jacket.



Light-Weight Wool Socks -To wear with your camp shoes or at night in your sleeping bag.



Medium to Heavy Weight Wool Socks -To wear with your waders or under your neoprene booties if you are wet wading in wader boots.



Camp Shoes -Nice in wet &/or cool weather to have at camp. CCFS sells Orvis PRO Deck Boots - which are perfect for the boat deck -or boat camp!



- Sandals or River Shoes** -Great during warm weather trips. CCFS sells sandals & river shoes from Korkers and Astral

- Hiking Shoes/Boots** -If you plan on doing some hiking on the public land along the river (i.e. hiking to the Pictograph Cave past Parker Flats), you'll want to bring a pair of good shoes/boots for that. Deck Boots or flip-flops wont make it to the cave!

- Swim Suit** -Nice to have on hot weather trips or for taking the "river bath." (Please leave the thongs in Saint-Tropez!)

Tips on staying safe and comfortable on a multi-day Smith Trip:

During Cool/Cold Weather, avoid cotton clothing as it will get wet and stay wet for the whole trip. There is a saying in the outdoor business - "Cotton Kills" because wet equals cold! Note: Cotton does NOT allow breathable waders/jackets/pants to breathe. Remember, you will not be going back to your car or going inside a warm house at the end of each day. When you are cold during the day, unless you quickly make changes to warm you back up [drink warm beverages, add more layers, put on a warm hat, etc.] you will remain cold and it will be very difficult to warm up when you get to camp in the evening as the air temps are dropping! The danger about being outdoors the entire time is that when you get cold, you tend to stay cold. The trick is not to get cold in the first place. Mild hypothermia can quickly lead to severe hypothermia which is the third leading cause of river deaths each year! (Read Stan Bradshaw's *River Safety book*.)

- On the other end of the scale -in Hot, Dry Weather** – be mindful of Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke! It can be just as deadly as Hypothermia! It's easy to become over-heated on the river. Drink plenty of non-alcoholic, non-caffeinated fluids all throughout the day! [This can be especially troublesome for some women. They don't want to drink that much because then they will have to go to the bathroom. They either find it embarrassing or inconvenient to answer nature's call while out in nature. The men in the group must understand this and respect the women's privacy! There is plenty of thick vegetation and big boulders along this river to allow for excellent privacy. Don't be embarrassed to say, "pull-over now!"] Taking a dip in the river on a hot day is a great way to cool off and is most pleasant after a couple days without a shower!

- Waterproof-Breathable Waders** -We live in our waders all day long on cooler &/or wet weather trips. CCFS sells and rents Waders.

- Rubber or Felt Sole Wader Boots -NO STUDED BOOTS** in the inflatable boats!!! To wear with your stockingfoot waders or to wear with neoprene booties (and wool socks) when wet wading. This is a nice option if you will be doing a good bit of wet wading in warmer weather and you are hopping in and out of the boat often. Your feet will be well protected and you'll have better grip on the wet rocks!

FISHING GEAR:

- Montana Fishing Licenses!** -CCFS sells fishing, hunting and conservations licenses. (FYI- Everyone needs at least a CONSERVATION License to launch at Camp Baker -even if if they are not going to fish.)

- 8' to 9' Four, Five and/or Size Weight Rods** -Bring at least 2 rods!! Poop happens in rafts and you will want at least a 1 backup rod. We mostly fish 5 and 6 weight rods. Here's a good way to think about rods: 4-wt for smaller dries or any dry in calm condition. 5-wt for bigger dries and nymphing. 6-wt for the big, big dries (Salmonflies, Cicadas, etc.) or windy conditions and excellent for streamers. Of course CCFS sells and rents rods! (Might be kinda nice to rent a Helios to fish on your Smith trip!)

- Reels** -Have a good reel for each rod.

- Floating Fly Line** -We mostly use floating fly line for everything. Dries of course but also all our nymphing and almost all our streamer fishing (when paired with sinking leaders or just heavy flies). We love SA's Infinity Taper or MPX or RIO's Gold for dries or all around. SA's Anadro is the best nymphing line we've used. SA's Titan Long is superb for throwing streamers and will have anyone looking like Lefty in no time!

- Sink-Tip Fly Line** -If you have one, bring it for streamers. However, we mainly use RIO Versileaders and SA Sonar Leaders on floating fly line for our streamer fishing. It's more customizable as far as sink rate, and it's quick, easy and inexpensive to make a sink-tip fly line. But, we will sell you a great SA Sonar Fly Line if you need one.

Leaders: 7.5': 0X, 1X & 2X nylon are great base leaders for dries -especially when fishing a dry-dropper. They are also good for streamers on sink-tips. 9': 1X, 2X, 3X nylon are good for most dry fly fishing. (For Nymph fishing we use our Nymph Rigs -see note below). FYI- it's easy to trash a leader on the rocks/wood so bring a couple packs of leaders.

-

CCFS Nymph Rig: -We sell LOTS of these systems. They are super simple, very effective, economical and last for many trips. They allow you to fish any tippet size, and any depth and you can change that depth in just a couple of seconds. We package them with an instructional graphic -and a free CCFS sticker! Check them out on our website or in our stores.

-

Tippet: -0X, 1X, 2X, 3X and maybe 4X. Smith fish are not tippet shy so bump up a size and save a fly! Nylon is just fine but some people like fluoro for it's abrasion resistance as stealth is not an issue. We mainly use 0X on streamers, 1X, 2X & 3X on nymphs and most of our dries and sometimes 4X on smaller dries, like PMDs and Caddis.

-

Jet Fuel Floatant -The best floatant ever! Works great on everything from tiny CDC flies to Salmonfly Chubbies. Made exclusively by the crazy chemists at CrossCurrents Fly Shop! We sell hundreds a year by dry fly enthusiast who love this stuff. FYI- Keep your bottle and we refill it for just \$5 at either of our shops!

-

Gel-type Floatant -Aquel, Gink, etc. We sometime use this on our flies (we prefer Jet Fuel Floatant) but we often use this on the butt section of our leaders and the first couple feet of the fly line to keep all that floating high to make for easier mending, casting and setting the hook. TIP- If your oar lock is squeaky and driving you nuts, squirt a little gel floatant down the oar lock shaft. Works better than WD-40 and you already have this with you!

Strike Indicators -aka, Bobbers! We mainly use Oros and Centerlocks in the Medium (3/4") size. But if we are fishing the bigger rubberlegs and stonefly nymphs or we are in higher water, the Large (1") can work better. (FYI- This is incorporated on our CCFS Nymph Rigs.)

-

Split Shot -We bring sizes AB, BB, B and 1 but mainly use B and BB.

-

Nipper & Zinger -I would bring a back up pair just in case.

-

Forceps/Pliers -I would also bring a back up pair of these as well.

-

Hook Release Tool -The No-Touch Release Tool is excellent! Easiest way to remove the hook without having to touch the fish or ruin your flies with forceps. CCFS sells this sweet gadgets.

-

Hook Sharpener -Not many people think to bring this item but we use one 10 to 20 times a day sometimes -especially when nymphing or streamer fishing. The rocks really beat up the hooks on the Smith. Also, when you are fishing the heavier tippet, you tend to get your flies back after they snag the bottom. However, they are usually a little bend and a lot dull. Using your pliers to get your hook bend back and the sharpener to make it all good again will save you flies and catch you more fish!

-

Net -Long handle net is best to reach over the tubes in the raft.

-

Kit Bag or Pack System -Something to keep all your fly boxes and fishing gear organized and handy. Great for when you get out of the boat to wade fish. CCFS sells Orvis, Fishpond and Yeti boat bags, sling packs, chest packs and more.

-

Lanyard -We often just use a Lanyard to hold our basic tools (Nipper and Pliers and Tippet). Keeps things simple and handy. CCFS sells Fly Vines and other lanyards systems.

-

Small but Strong Magnets -Optional -Coin size neodymium magnets attached to your pack system or rain jacket or even your shirt make for a super handy fly patch or tool dock.

-

Polarized Sunglasses -Already listed but important enough to mention again as you don't want to fly fish without sunglasses for safety! Everyone in the boat should be wearing glasses if someone is fly fishing! An eye injury on the Smith would be terrible!

-

2-Way Radios -Optional -Nice to have if your party is in multiple boats. Nice to coordinate lunch stops but also for emergencies.

-

Garmin InReach -Optional -Nice to have for emergencies. There is no cell coverage anywhere near the Smith.

-

-

-

-

-

-

> FYI- > CrossCurrents Fly Shop sells all the flies on this list and put together a custom selection for your trip! <

> **FLIES:** (Plan on losing 10 to 20 flies every day to the Smith River's rocky bottom, and brushy shoreline! I would fish all barbless hooks not only to make it easier on the fish but also to make it easier on your jacket, ear, finger, net, etc., you get my point - hopefully you don't get the fly's! Stop by our Helena or Craig shop for help selecting your flies or give us a call. We can put together a Custom Fly Assortment specific to your launch date. Order online or in our shops.

Dries: In early to mid May you usually only get a couple of hours of dry fly fishing in the warmer afternoon if the water has about 2' of visibility. Peak run-off usually hits sometime in mid to late May to early June and dry fly fishing can be tough or non-existent. In June & July you can expect to fish dry flies most of the day starting around 10:00am on cool days and very early on hot days. We use 1X and 2X on bigger dries and 3X on smaller. We rarely need to use 4X.

- Chubby Chernobles, #6, #8, #10, #12, #14, #16 (Purple, Royal, Pteronarcys, Olive, Tan, Black, etc.)
- Parachute Adams, #12, #14, #16, #18
- Corn-Fed Caddis, #14, #16
- Elk Hair Caddis, #14, #16 (Tan, Olive, Brown)
- PMD, #14, #16 (Emergers, Parachutes, Spinners)
- Purple Haze, #14, #16, #18
- Salmonfly Patterns, #4, #6, #8 (Salmonflies come out in late May through early June -very hard to hit this hatch)
- Golden Stone Patterns, #4, #6, #8 (Golden Stones come out in mid June through early July)
- Cicada Patterns, #4, #6 (Not every year is a cicada year, but when it is, it's super fun!)
- Hoppers, #8, #10, #12 (Tan, Yellow, Green, Purple, etc.)
- Other Attractors Dries, #8, #10, #12, #14 (Stimulators, Humpies, Royal Wulffs, etc.)
-

Nymphs: You can fish nymph patterns anytime of year and catch fish on them, however, you usually go through more flies when fishing subsurface. There are conditions when nymphs are the best way to catch fish -sorry about that DFOs!

- San Juan Worms, ##8, 10 (Red, Pink, Wine, Purple; with beads and/or without beads) -THE fish catcher!
- Rubber Leg Nymphs (aka: "Pat's Rubber Legs" or "Turds"), #6, #8, #10, #12 (Brown, Black, mixed)
- Zirdbles, #6, #8 (Olive, Orange, Natural)
- Bead Head Woolly Buggers, #6, #8, #10 (Black, Olive, Thin Mint. They aren't just a streamer!)
- Prince Nymphs, #10, #12, #14 (Classic or Fly Formerly Known As)
- Bead-Head Hare's Ear, #10, #12, #14
- Lightning Bugs, #14, #16 (Silver, Gold) (CCFS Fly Pattern)
- Mirage Nymph, #14, #16 (CCFS Fly Pattern)
- Jig Nymphs, #14, #16 (Variety of Mayfly and Caddis patterns. Very popular as droppers.)
- Copper John, #12, #14, #16
-
-

- Streamers:** *If you want to catch the bigger fish on the Smith or if the water is off color use big streamers! (It's super helpful to use a RIO Versileader or SA Sonar Leader with your streamers. FYI- 0X Tippet is as thin as you need to use with streamers.)*

- Sparkle Minnow, #4, #6, #8 (Sculpin, JJ, Pearl, Black)
- Kreelex Minnow, #6 (Copper-Gold, Gold-Silver, Purple-Silver, etc.)
- Bead Head Woolley Bugger #4, #6, #8 (Black, Olive, Brown, JJ)
- Bead Head Girdle Bugger (rubber legged) #4, #6, #8 (Black, Olive, Brown, JJ)
- Flash Fry Zonker, #6 (White, Yellow-Brown, Black-Olive)
- Urchin Bugger, #4, #6 (Purple, JJ, White, Olive)
- Bow River Bugger, #4, #6 (Black, Brown)
- Kiwi Muddler, #4, #6
-
-

- KNOW how to ROW a boat!!**

How to Row a Drift Boat or River Raft: https://youtu.be/wn_LZ7DZBbU?si=vpoGqZlsmoHXZxuO

Raft Rowing Techniques -how to do the crab stroke for fly fishing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oeJe8vaizfo>

- Learn how to REPAIR a raft!!**

Inflatable Boats: Field Repair (AIRE 2020 -including sewing repair): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNsPeezsyQc>

Raft Repair: On The River: https://youtu.be/atzjNkiX_4A?si=glldkOS08-zQqeMg

How To: Patch a Hypalong Boat (NRS): <https://youtu.be/OncFphHZ6oM?si=G8YNHLRnCL9rkvfd>

How To: PVC and Urethane Boat Repair (AIRE): <https://youtu.be/v6YmWa7ScOc?si=q6A4E8cKwR75Bj1g>

Glue Repair (AIRE): <https://youtu.be/yI5uAgV4aHM?si=CtCeDXPbL6FSPa07>

How To: Inflatable Repair Adhesives Guide: <https://youtu.be/fxSbOhlk56A?si=X5y2DrFwCgFpy3tu>

How to Adjust Raft Oars and Oar Mounts: https://youtu.be/Eio7IPHa_UA?si=tyTYjTaMXLI10W1K

- The new, FWP Regulation to PACK-OUT-YOUR-POOP!!**

Approved toilets for the Smith River -how to use within the SCAT machine: https://youtu.be/laZAKjgYjks?si=ER0ffx_aHGBA0to

Portable Toilet Regulations on the Smith River (how to use and clean): https://youtu.be/5BnyeF12mRQ?si=Yyj_VLBSUae2xnoy

- Learn & Practice your CASTING:**

Orvis Casting Videos: <https://howtoflyfish.orvis.com/video-lessons/fly-casting>

Probably the Best Casting Video Ever Made -Simon Gawesworth: <https://youtu.be/00Acb90Lq7c?si=7IFLdhMNis2vopJ>

NOTES about this Smith River Trip:

Permit Holder: _____

DATES of Trip: Launch: _____ Nights on River: _____ - _____ Return: _____

Who's Going: *(Name, Phone, Email, DOB-ALS, State of residence) [15 is max group size but 6 to 8 is an easier size to manage logistically]*

- 1- _____
- 2- _____
- 3- _____
- 4- _____
- 5- _____
- 6- _____
- 7- _____
- 8- _____
- 9- _____
- 10- _____
- 11- _____
- 12- _____
- 13- _____
- 14- _____
- 15- _____

Who's Driving?: *(What vehicles & who's going in each vehicle and who's towing which trailer)*

Who's Doing the Shuttle(s)?: *(What shuttle company are we using? Do we have our shuttle CONFIRMED?)*

RAFTS & TRAILERS: *(What Rafts [or other boats], who is going in each boat, what trailer(s) are we using?)*

BOAT CAMPS: *(FWP will call 2 days prior to launch and you have to pick your campsites. Be ready with a plan for when they call!)*

Night 1: _____

Night 2: _____

Night 3: _____

Night 4: _____

DINNERS: *(Who is cooking what and on which night)*

Night 1: _____

Night 2: _____

Night 3: _____

Night 4: _____

Lunches: *(What are we doing about lunches?)*

Breakfasts: *(What are we doing about breakfasts?)*

PHOTO & VIDEO Checklist *(What do you want to make sure you have pictures/videos of on this trip):*

i.e.- -Closeup of the fly I tied in the trout's mouth or -Group photo in front of a boat camp sign , etc.

- _____

- _____

- _____

- _____

REMEMBER for Fish Photos- *Try not to hold the fish out of the water more than 5 or so seconds. Some of the best photos are when the fish is in the water or partially in the water. Please practice careful catch & release to keep those wild fish healthy! #KeepFishWet.*

Some Important Numbers/Links:

MT FWP Smith River Hotline in Great Falls: 406-454-5861 | Camp Baker: 406-547-3893

CrossCurrents Fly Shop in Craig: 406-235-3433 ; crosscurrentsflyshop@gmail.com

Streamflow Gauge for the Smith River blw Eagle Creek nr Ft. Logan:

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/06077200/?agency_cd=USGS#dataTypeId=continuous-00060-0&period=P7D&showMedian=true

311 Bridge Street
Craig, Montana 59648
 406-235-3433
 crosscurrentsflyshop@gmail.com



326 N. Jackson Street
Helena, Montana 59601
 406-449-2292
 www.crosscurrents.com

RENTAL Boats & Equipment Rates - 2025

BOATS:	Shop Haul:*	Customer Haul:**
- Drift Boat (15' Hyde MT Skiff Drift Boat for 2-3 people)	\$250 / day	\$150 / day
- Raft (13', 14', 15'+ AIRE or NRS Self-Bailing Raft w/ Custom NRS Frame for 2-10 people)	\$300 / day	\$180 / day
- Kick-Boat or IK or SUP (1 Person Outcast Kickboat, 1 & 2 person Kayaks or SUP)	\$130 / day	\$65 / day
- Flatbed Raft Trailer (perfect for hauling raft(s) to the Smith, Blackfoot or MO)		\$30 / day

Fishing & Camping Equipment:

- Rod & Reel (Helios, Recon or Clearwater - Trout or Big Game; Spey or Switch; with Reel/Line) [Free for our Guide Clients]	\$25 / day
- Rod Only (Also applies to Demos -We will subtract the Rental Price from the Purchase Price if customer buys a rod)	\$20 / day
- Reel & Line Only (Large-Arbor or Mid-Arbor Reel. Left-Hand or Right-Hand Retrieve)	\$10 / day
- Orvis Breathable Waders (Bootfoot Waders or Stockingfoot Waders & Boots [Free for our Guide Clients])	\$15 / day
- Wader Boots Only	\$8 / day
- Orvis Rain Jacket (If you forgot yours.)	\$25 / day
- Bear-Resistant Super Cooler (52, 65, 75, 85, 110 quart YETI or Orion or RTIC -REQUIRED for the Smith)	\$10 / day
- Portable Electric Bear Fence (UDAP or Counter Assault Food Storage Fence- REQUIRED for the Smith)	\$10 / day
- NRS River Wing (190 sq ft of awesome rain & sun shelter that packs down compactly -Perfect for the Smith)	\$8 / day
- Dry Bags (Heavy Duty, Waterproof roll-top Packs: 3.8cf (110L) & 5.0cf (140L) -Perfect for the Smith)	\$3 / day
- Roll-A-Table (What our Guides use - Perfect for the Smith)	\$5 / day
- Roll-A-Cot (What we use on our Smith River Guided Trips -Perfect for your Smith)	\$6 / day
- Folding Camp Chair (Perfect for the Smith)	\$4 / day
- Down River Hand Wash Station w/ Yeti Buckets (Works super well! -Perfect for the Smith)	\$5 / day
- PFD ("Life Jacket") (up to 6 PFDs included with our Boat Rentals -If you need more, we have them to rent)	\$5 / day
- Set of Oars or Paddles or Fins (oars &/or paddles &/or fins already included w/ our Boat Rentals)	\$10 / day
- Anchor &/or Anchor Rope (anchor & rope already included w/ our Boat Rentals)	\$10 / day
- Landing Net (Landing Nets are already included w/ our Drift Boat Rentals - but NOT w/ Raft Rentals)	\$5 / day
- Smith River Approved Toilet Systems -WE SELL THEM (we do NOT rent them) [Sealed Buckets or ECO-Safe Toilet System]	\$80 - \$300

The Details:

* **SHOP Haul** option (Missouri River only): CrossCurrents launches and picks up the boat between the Dam and Craig (\$20 extra for Stickney, Spite, Dearborn or Mid-Canon ; \$35 extra for Mtn P or Prewett; \$55 extra for Pelican; \$90 extra for Cascade). Customer will also receive a **50% Discount on the shuttle of Customer's vehicle.**

**** CUSTOMER Haul option:** If the customer has their own tow vehicle and can haul, launch, load and return the boat(s) on their own -they will receive a **50% Discount on their Missouri River shuttle.** (*FYI- Raft Trailers are \$30/day extra and are on a first come, first served basis and should be reserved w/ the Raft.*)

>> **SMITH RIVER RAFT RENTAL SPECIAL:**

-Smith River Raft Packages for 2025 include a Dry Box as, or behind the rower's seat & a 10' Rod Holder.

-We offer a special discount for Smith River Raft Rentals of: **\$135/day/raft.**

-To pick up your boat the day before your launch date, it is **\$50 for that day**

(i.e. \$675 for the 5 days floating the Smith + \$50 to pick up the day before launch = \$725 total for the 6 days.)

* **For Smith River Rentals:** Customer must pay a \$300/Raft Security/Damage Deposit. This deposit will be returned in full if all the equipment is returned and not damaged. Any damaged or missing equipment will be deducted from the deposit and the balance returned to the Customer within 5 days of returning the equipment.

** **For Smith River Rentals:** Raft and Equipment must be reassembled and reasonably cleaned upon return. CCFS has all the cleaning supplies, hoses, buckets, brushes, etc. for quick, easy cleaning at our Craig Store. *OR*, the Customer can pay CCFS a \$15/raft fee to do the reassembly and cleaning for them. (This can be deducted from the Security/Damage Deposit.

Other Important Rental Info:

*All boats & equipment must be back to the Craig store before our closing time on the last day of rental -unless other arrangements are made and paid for at the time of the rental. (*Customer Haul Boats can be back at dusk.*)

**For Shop Haul Boats there is a \$50 Late Return Fee for all ramps other than Craig. (It's just \$20 for Craig.)*

*All rental boats & equipment (except some waders & rods) are kept in Craig. There is a **\$300 Shuttle Fee** for CrossCurrents to deliver boat(s) from Craig to Helena or to bring boats back to Craig that are dropped off in Helena. We cannot guarantee an exact shuttle time to deliver boats to Helena as we have limited vehicles & personnel to make a special trip to Helena. We highly recommend you pick up the boat(s) & equipment from our Craig store. We can then help renters with boat/equipment set up, packing, repair instructions, etc.

*All renters must fill out and sign a Rental Agreement Form and secure the equipment with a valid credit card.

*All persons renting assume full responsibility for their own safety and the safety of their party.

*All persons renting assume responsibility for damage to boats and equipment and will be charged the full repair price or replacement price if the product is lost, damaged or destroyed.

* **Studded Wading Boots are NOT PERMITTED on our inflatable boats!!** You are responsible for all damage!

* **10% Discount for Drift Boats, Rods or Wader rentals of 6 or more consecutive days.**

***Demo Program.** If you decide to purchase a new one of the products you are renting within two weeks of your rental date, we will deduct the rental price (up to 5 days worth of rentals) off the purchase price.

BOAT & EQUIPMENT RENTAL Reservation/Deposit/Cancellation/Refund Policies:

Boat and Equipment Rentals require a 50% deposit that is collected and applied on a per rental day basis. If cancellations are made more than 30 days before your reservation, a refund of your deposit, less a 15% of deposit service fee will be returned to you. Cancellations made 15 to 30 days before reservation, your deposit, less a 15% service fee, will be applied to a future rental later that year or the following season or for purchases of anything in our stores or website. Cancellations made within 14 days of your reservation the entire deposit will be forfeited.

We operate in all safe weather and water conditions, therefore inclement weather or water or non-desirable fishing conditions are not reasons to cancel and receive a refund. **Often times "bad weather" is the best fishing weather!** **Please keep this in mind.** All reservations and rentals are secured with a valid credit card. We require a Credit Card, Account Verification/Pre-Authorization and Identification at the time of rental. Your credit card will be charged the replacement price for any equipment not returned or destroyed.

If we are unable to provide boat or equipment rental service due to unforeseen events, your entire deposit will be refunded. We understand that unforeseen situations can lead to cancellations and we reserve the right to make refund decisions on a case-by-case basis.

See our website at www.crosscurrents.com/about-us/policies for full details of policies.