2021 Middle Fork Talk Summary

- Individuals should continue to:
  - Engage in physical distancing of at least six feet
  - Wear face coverings in public places
  - Stay home if sick
  - Practice good hand hygiene
  - Cover coughs and sneezes
  - Disinfect surfaces and objects regularly
  - Identify strategies for addressing illness
  - Follow recommendations from the: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (cdc.gov)

- Avoid congregating at launch and take-out areas; take turns and maintain social distance. Same at hot springs and other popular sites.
- Forest Service personnel will issue the permit and obtain signatures before the group can launch.
- The launch offices remain closed to public entrance. If you need assistance, please knock on the door, then step back and maintain 6-foot distance.
- For staffing updates, campground, water availability and SCAT machine status, check the notifications on Recreation.gov.
- The fish trap has been installed in Marsh Creek.

Required Equipment Checklist:

- Strainer – fine enough to filter coffee grounds
- Porta-potty – adequate capacity for your group
- Fire pan – minimum 144 sq. inches with 3” sides
- Ash container – metal or hard plastic, waterproof
- Shovel – does not need to be full-sized
- Bucket – anything that will move water
- Idaho AIS stickers for each watercraft (unless it’s an inflatable less than 10 feet long)

- Permit Holder is Responsible for Entire Group
- Fire Pan & Ash Container, Shovel & Bucket
  - Firewood: Dead and down only and smaller than your arm; don’t leave wood piles
  - Elevate fire pan; don’t let fire escape
  - Pack out ashes; reburn
  - Don’t burn toxic things (ie, plastics, metal)
- No Soap or Grease in Water
  - Strainer – fine enough to filter out coffee grounds – is required equipment; use to strain dishwater. Broadcast water above high-water mark. Food goes in garbage.
  - Burn or pack out grease, oily residues
  - Toothpaste, also above high-water mark
  - Liquids with no soap or grease can go into the current, not into the eddy
- Porta-potty – Required Equipment for managing Human Waste
  - Urinate in the river or wet sand
  - SCAT machine is free, but fragile

- Porta-potty for feces & TP only
- No wipes, tampons, sticks, etc.
- Separate bag for feminine hygiene items
- Add some water the last morning

- Leave No Trace
  - Pick up micro-trash after boats are loaded
  - Give plants a chance; camp on bare ground.
  - Naturalize camps; no rock art, wood piles or sand castles

- Etiquette
  - Camp assignments – may need to share with non-boaters; not exclusive!
  - Sweep boats – they can’t stop
  - Travel as a group, eddy out and create space when visiting popular sites and hot springs

- Water Quality
  - Treat/filter water from side streams and the river
  - Hot springs may have mites

- Burned Areas:
  - Hazard trees in some camps
  - Camp Set-up – Look up and around
  - Potential for debris flows with rain

- River conditions - constantly changing
  - Scout rapids; Notify FS of new hazards

- Wildlife – this is their home; we are visitors
  - Food attracts animals, insects & rodents
  - Bear proof your camp and boats
  - Put food and garbage in coolers and dry boxes at night.
  - Don’t feed or leave food for any animal!
  - A fed bear is a dead bear
  - Deer and other cute critters lose their fear and become problematic visitors
  - Yellowjackets - unfinished drinks go in river
  - Ticks (May and June)
  - Snakes

- Dogs – Keep under control @ BC, IC, CB and other high use areas
  - Clean up feces
  - Beware poison ivy
  - Chinook carcasses are hazardous to dogs

- Fishing – Idaho Fishing License required
  - Catch and release only; limit handling
  - Barbless hook; no bait

- Invasive Species – Noxious Weeds; Aquatics
  - Weed crews spray non-toxic blue dye
  - Learn to identify weeds and avoid travelling thru or camping on weed sites
  - Eliminate seed transport via gear, dogs
  - Clean, Drain & Dry: boats, trailers, rigs
  - Free undercarriage wash station in Salmon

- Archaeology-Please respect the human history
  - Don’t touch pictographs (they are very old)
  - Leave artifacts where the Tuka-Deka left them
● Maintain integrity of house depression-identify and avoid camping in depressions

☐ Weather – current forecast, associated hazards

☐ Chinook salmon are **ESA listed** and protected
  ● Salmon spawn in the MF and tributaries from mid-August to mid-September; emerge in spring
  ● **Wild run**, no hatchery supplementation.
  ● Begin jumping Dagger Falls late June early July
  ● Boating activities may spook spawning salmon off of their redds
  ● Mitigation measures to reduce impact
    ☐ Avoid redds and spawning gravels
    ☐ Group up; quiet passage
    ☐ Do not stand up or approach; spooks fish

☐ Cache Bar – highest congestion: 10-2pm
  ● Use only one lane, small vehicles to right
  ● Disembark as quickly as possible
  ● Be courteous and drive safely

☐ Newland Ranch, SCAT machine, dumpsters
  ● Your fee dollars at work
  ● Read SCAT machine instructions and be careful not to damage.
  ● Do not use SCAT machine if there are wipes, feminine hygiene products or other foreign matter in the potty. Wipes are especially notorious for jamming or breaking the machine, which may be disabled for days.
  ● Notify North Fork office if broke-down

☐ **Don’t bring COVID home. Self-Isolate if necessary after your trip!**