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Gear Review

Featuring: Talon 18/Tempest 16

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## GEAR REVIEW: OSPREY TALON 18/TEMPEST 16 DAYPACK

I've used enough daypacks over the years to notice the little differences between the many models out there—and to be very picky about them. Not only do I favor lighter, simpler daypacks for everything from **dayhikes with my family** to **ultra-dayhikes**, but I expect comfort, good access, and versatility, and I know what I like in features. With those requirements in mind, I took Osprey's Talon 18 out on several dayhikes of varying lengths—including a 27-mile, 12-hour day—during a six-day rafting trip down **Idaho's Middle Fork of the Salmon River** in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

The day before the float trip started, I carried the Talon 18 with up to about 15 pounds inside it on a dayhike of roughly 27 miles, with 3,200 feet of uphill and downhill, on the upper stretch of the Middle Fork Salmon River Trail from Boundary Creek to Indian Creek (where I met up with the rest of my party). I also carried it with 10 to 12 pounds inside on a 10-mile dayhike with a couple of hill climbs and descents on the Middle Fork Salmon River Trail; and a steep, 2.4-mile, 1,200-foot hike to Johnson Point above the Middle Fork. All of the hikes were in warm, dry July conditions, with highs in the 80s Fahrenheit, although I got rained on for about an hour during a thunderstorm on the 27-miler and for 30 minutes on the 10-miler. My wife also carried it with about 10 pounds inside on a 13-mile, 4,200-foot, partly off-trail dayhike of **Thompson Peak in Idaho's Sawtooth Mountains**.

If, like me, you prefer a lightweight, multi-use pack for dayhiking, adventure racing, or scrambling peaks, with simple but smart organization, the men's Talon 18 and women's Tempest 16 are good choices. **Osprey's Talon series** includes several models from 6L to 44L. The **women's Tempest series**, with a gender-specific harness, is available in models from 6L to 40L.

**JAM COLLECTIVE**