

## Pack Carefully as the Weather Turns Colder

Heading outdoors to hunt, camp or do other outdoor activities in the winter should involve some advance planning. After all, the weather this time of year can sometimes be unpredictable.

Tom Smith, one of the Southeast's top recreational land brokers, goes out in the woods all year long, and has some tips that can come in handy as you prepare for your next outdoor excursion.

“Even after checking the weather, surprises can happen with the weather changing,” says Tom, a member of the Potlatch Preferred Broker Network. “You never want to be caught unprepared.”



With this in mind, here are six tips from Tom as you pack for your next trip:

1. Consider taking a **heated jacket**, which can be adjusted to match the temperature. Some of them are rated to keep you warm even when the temperature drops below zero.
2. A **compass** can be a major help if you lose your bearings, and don't depend on using the compass on your cell phone. What if your phone runs out of power?
3. Most outdoors enthusiasts know that **wearing layers** gives you the ability to adjust to the weather, but also think about what will happen to your head if it rains. Bring a couple of extra head covers so you can bring out an extra if needed.
4. People often overpack their gear but don't pack enough food. Remember to **bring food that's high in protein**. One favorite snack of Tom's: quick-dried fruits in zip-lock bags.
5. **Fanny packs** might seem a bit dorky, but don't worry about it. They can come in very handy. As an example, 6-ounce bottles can easily fit in a pack and provide a good amount of water for your trip.
6. Make sure your **cell phone stays charged** by bringing two battery-charger travel packs.

As you get outside this winter, it's a good time to think about buying you own piece of recreational property as a base for your excursions. If you're in Mississippi, [Tom Smith Land and Homes](#) is a great resource, and in other states, another member of the [Potlatch Preferred Broker Network](#) can help. Give one of them a call today.