

Sunday, August 10

AM is gray and overcast. Cool. Got up at 6 AM and took last shower. They have to recycle water here. Shower water is used in the toilet. Water is delivered twice weekly like heating oil. No underground service. No soil. It's solid rock up here. No trees over twenty feet. Had a great breakfast. Cereal, grain breads, fruits, cold meats and cheeses, etc. Flight to Fort Simpson was ok. Overcast and rainy, only saw things on take off and landing. Only about fourteen people on plane (turbo prop). Landing was smooth. Airport is really small, nothing but a large garage. Owner of Bannock Land picked us up. Dave came about one hour later. Bed and breakfast is really nice! Had meeting with Dave. He told us a little about the trip. Dave drove all of us to his operation's headquarters so we could get the rest of the required gear (paddles, PFDs, etc.). I will fly upriver with pilot, Devin, myself and one canoe. Plane was a single engine Cessna. Not very big, but we all fit in with a lot of gear. John, the pilot, did a great job on take off. First part of flight was over flat land with a lot of small lakes. Could see mountains in distance. I flew the plane for five minutes! Took about fifteen minutes to reach the mountains. Once we entered, wow! Huge treeless peaks with deep ravines. They kept getting larger and larger. Ragged range had new snow from a storm a couple of days ago. Hard to explain, but awesome! Saw glaciers. Landing on small Honeymoon Lake was smooth. John made me feel secure. Devin and I set up quick camp. Our food was forgotten! Granola bars for supper. I'll survive. Lake surrounded by massive peaks. Devin fished, but no luck. Still daylight at 12 PM. I'm tired, so I'm going to bed. I could write pages about today. Thank for another awesome day. God lives here.

God's Country





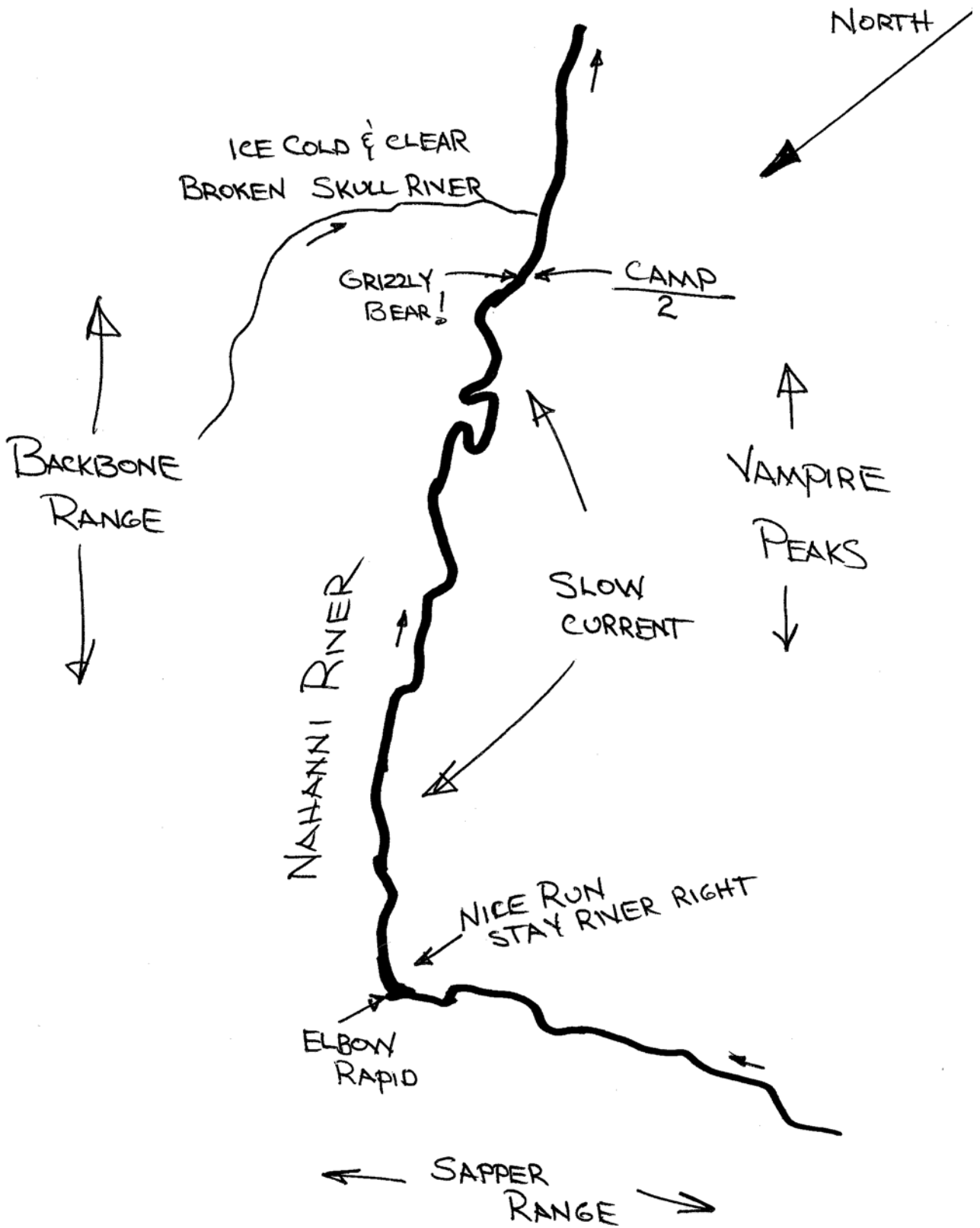
Ragged Range

The mountains rose from the river like teeth in a shark's jaw.



Convicts

These four rascals tried to make a run for it the next morning.





Global Warming

Experts say that most of the world's glaciers will be gone in the next twenty years.

Broken Skull River

*This ice cold tributary provided fresh water
and a chance to look for gold.*



Monday, August 11

Sunny. High clouds. 11:30 PM. Still light out. Very cold last night. Frost on the roof of tent. Didn't sleep well. No breakfast except apple and one granola bar. I'm not starving, but hungry. Nothing to do but tear down camp and wait for the rest of the group. They finally came around 2 PM on a twin otter float plane with two engines. They had more fun on their flight. Flew through the Cirque. Unloaded plane. They brought real food. After lunch and a meeting, we loaded four canoes with a ton of gear. It barely fit. David Hibbard is my partner. Paddled to inlet and David and Devin each caught two nice lake trout for dinner. One of Devin's was about six pounds. Very happy! Paddled down outlet to lake, crossing two beaver dams. The Nahanni at last! River is clear and fast here. Small rapids. Saw two ospreys feed their chicks. Landed on sandbar and made camp at a hot spring. Good place for a bath, but I'm too tired. Dave and Devin prepared supper. Salad, steak, fish, rice, vegetables, tea and macaroons. Meeting about bears and camp stuff. Hope I sleep tonight. This sunset thing is killing me. Saw northern lights last night! Long paddle tomorrow. Thank you for another day.



Enjoy the Color