FILMMAKER PAYLOAD CHECKLIST

Field-Tested Master Loadout & Backcountry Production Protocol

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40/60
WEIGHT SPLIT

Strict Load Allocation: Allocate a maximum of **40% of total pack weight** to production gear (Camera, Glass, Power, Audio, Data) and **60% to survival systems** (Shelter, Sleep, Water, Food, Safety). Standard target: 14 lbs production / 21 lbs survival on a 35 lb total loadout.

1. PRODUCTION PAYLOAD (40% WEIGHT LIMIT ~14 LBS MAX)

Camera & Optics — Primary Rig

- [ ] **Camera Body:** Mirrorless body + cage / L-bracket
- [ ] **Primary Lens:** 24–70mm f/2.8 or versatile zoom
- [ ] **Vintage / Compact Prime:** Optional 50mm (e.g., Helios 44-2)
- [ ] **Variable ND Filter:** Front element protection + exposure control
- [ ] **Sensor Cleaning:** Rocket blower + microfiber cloths

Power & Off-Grid Data — Redundancy

- [ ] **Camera Batteries (6x):** Fully charged prior to trailhead
- [ ] **Power Bank:** 20,000–25,600 mAh (USB-C PD output)
- [ ] **Rugged SSDs (2x):** Samsung T7 Shield or SanDisk Extreme
- [ ] **Card Reader & Cables:** USB-C to C high-speed cable
- [ ] **SD / CFexpress Cards:** Kept in waterproof hard case

Audio & Monitoring — Clean Sound

- [ ] **Shotgun Mic:** Directional mic (e.g., Rode VideoMic NTG)
- [ ] **Deadcat Windscreen:** Mandatory on trail (non-optional)
- [ ] **Wireless Mic Set:** Rode Wireless GO II / DJI Mic + lavs
- [ ] **3.5mm TRS Cable:** Spare audio cable to camera body

Pack & Quick Access — Fit & Rigging

- [ ] **Camera Pack:** Shimoda Action X50 V2 or Lowepro Flipside
- [ ] **Internal Camera Unit (ICU):** Fitted to torso & glass
- [ ] **Capture Clip:** Peak Design clip on shoulder strap
- [ ] **Rain Cover:** Waterproof pack fly sized for ICU load

2. SURVIVAL & LIFE SUPPORT BASELINE (60% WEIGHT ~21 LBS)

Shelter & Sleep System

- [ ] Freestanding tent (< 2.5 lbs) + Tyvek footprint
- [ ] Sleeping pad (R-value 4.0+ for cold ground)
- [ ] Sleeping bag / quilt (rated to expected low)

Water, Nutrition & Safety

- [ ] Sawyer Squeeze filter + 4L total water capacity
- [ ] No-cook meals & 1-handed shooting snacks
- [ ] First aid, headlamp (red light), GPS / map

3. FIELD PROTOCOLS & PRE-TRIP REQUIREMENTS

COLD-WEATHER POWER
At 3°C / 37°F, voltage drops fast. Keep spare camera batteries in an **inner jacket pocket** by day and **inside sleeping bag** at night.

DATA BACKUP PROTOCOL
Transfer cards to rugged SSD daily. Verify total file count & byte size before reformatting. Keep original cards in separate dry bag.

PRE-TRIP FLOOR PHOTO
Lay out all gear on floor before loading. Take an overhead photo showing serial numbers for insurance evidence & load verification.

4. PRE-FLIGHT WEIGH-IN LOG

CATEGORY	TARGET LIMIT	ACTUAL SCALE WEIGHT	PASS / ADJUST
Production Payload	Max 40% (~14 lbs / 6.3 kg)		
Survival Base	Min 60% (~21 lbs / 9.5 kg)		
Total Pack Load	100% (≤ 35 lbs / 15.8 kg)		