

WIGGY'S FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCE

Over the years that I have used the Lamilite for all forms of insulated products: sleeping bags, outerwear, footwear, hand-wear, headwear, and dog coats (to name a few), incorporating the Lamilite improves the performance of any insulated product. Lamilite has shown some very interesting capabilities that I did not know of when I first started using it, such as its ability to maintain its heat trapping capability even though it was wet. I then noted from a multitude of customers whose bags were wet that a person's body heat was sufficient to actually drive the moisture out of a sleeping bag over an 8-hour time frame while they were sleeping, and caused the bag to dry. This action is the most important performance characteristic a sleeping bag can have. One of my customers wrote to me that he put his wet down bag inside of his Wiggy's over bag and in the morning his down bag was basically dry. Until his account, if I were asked about using a down bag inside of a Wiggy bag, I would never have said "sure, and it will keep the down bag dry." To say I was surprised by this is an understatement! The end result is if you are in a survival situation—even if the Wiggy bag gets wet—it will save your life.

I personally had an experience that demonstrated to me how efficient the Lamilite is when it gets wet. I hunted for a few years in the Fossil Ridge Wilderness, which is located (basically) between Gunnison and Crested Butte, Colorado at an elevation of about 12,500 feet. One year, due to a lack of snow, it caused the animals to move. We went out really looking for them. As a result, I was in somewhat unfamiliar territory



and got lost. I was out for three days—during which a big snowstorm showed up; the mountains make their own weather. I wandered for almost all three days until my guide and friend Rudy Rudibaugh found me. In my wandering I had to cross a number of streams. That was good because I would drink as much water as possible. Now to cross the streams represented a problem as I could not jump them and I did not want to wander looking for a narrower section so I walked right through them. I was wearing the Joe Redington Muk Luks. The snow I was trudging through was as much as 3 to 4 feet deep and the air temperature below zero (not taking into consideration wind chill). When Rudy found me we were at about 11,000 feet and had to climb to 12,500 feet before descending to base camp at 12,000 feet. We had one horse, Rudy's, and I was on his back while Rudy led the way. During the climb the temperatures must have gotten down to -30 with wind chill. We had to get into the trees at least six times to get out of the wind. After seven hours we finally arrived at base camp. We finally were met by the cook with a second horse. When I finally got off of the horse and went into the cook's tent I took off my parka: the first Fossil Ridge Parka I made and my Muk Luks. As you can see in the photo my parka is covered with frost and I was

bone dry because I was wearing my fishnet long underwear. All of the moisture my body was generating migrated through all of the materials that were covering my body. Inside of the Muk Luks was water in a liquid state, not ice! I really did not know what to expect. My boots were saturated with water. I thought, now that I am safe and alive, that I had an incredible experience and an incredible way to find out how well the products I make work! Even though my boots, which were foam lined, were soaked and my socks were wet, my feet were not cold!

Another benefit of having warm feet was a warm head. You have heard the expression “wear a hat to keep your feet warm.” Wearing a hat will keep your head warm and not your feet if you do not have warm footwear on your feet. During my venture I lost my hood. My head was never cold in spite of frozen hair and I attribute that to two factors: 1) heat coming out of my neckline and 2) the fact that my feet were never cold during the entire venture. The blood flow to the head is about 15 percent of the blood in the human body. My research showed that at any given time that is the percentage of blood in the brain. Our thigh muscles are the largest muscles in our body and therefore require the largest flow of blood. From the thighs the blood flow is to our feet. If our legs are well insulated as mine were, I was wearing my leg jackets, the blood heated by our thigh muscles is 98.6 degrees and that is what reaches our feet. If our feet are well insulated the blood flowing back to our heart will not have cooled down very much if at all. The end result is that the blood flow to our head is very constant with that of the rest of our body. It takes approximately one minute for the blood to make one circulation in the body in a rested state. Also when we are active the flow of blood through our body is more rapid than when we are at rest so it gets very little chance to cool if we are well insulated, as I was. The leg jackets that I was wearing gave me the added leg protection. The same would be true if you are wearing mittens versus gloves, keeping your hands warm again means the blood flow returning to the heart will be much warmer. The steps that you take to keep your extremities warm means that the rest of your body stays warmer and your body works less to keep itself warm.