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Outdoor Gear

Featuring: The Kode 22

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I know the summer heat is upon us and backcountry skiing is probably only on Crystal Wrights' agenda, but the Osprey Kode 22 pack is a stout hybrid that should be on your gear-dar (gear radar)

When you lay down \$120 for a pack you expect it to handle more than one task. The one feature that really makes this a great summer pack is the insulated shoulder strap for hydration. In the winter it keeps the water from freezing, in the summer it keeps the water from boiling point. I took a break from hydration packs for a while and re-joined the masses with the Mantra and the Kode packs. I forgot how often you have to blow water back into the bladder. I found with the insulated shoulder strap on the Kode you don't have to as much.



The other summer feature on the Kode is the back panel. It has ridges that keeps air moving and a lot of support for a heavier load. The 22 L would be too small for an overnighter but I really think a minimalist could pull off a backpacking jaunt with the Kode 38. The 22 has been ideal for my field work and day hikes.

The Osprey Kode 22 Bottom Line: The shoulder strap and back panel are beefy, in a vegan kind of way. Slim but secure. The Manta 25 is obviously a lot lighter and would never set foot on the winter snow. If you are looking for a do-it-all duo season pack, I would definitely go with the Kode 22 or 38. The 38 does have the top pouch to distribute the increased volume. Happy hiking and remember, it's always snowing somewhere. Tweet Osprey at @ospreypacks to confirm my findings or jib jab about their amazing packs.

