



Jackson Region Fisheries Newsletter

Exploring the Greyback

Once again the Jackson Regional Angler Newsletter is featuring a geographical region within the headwaters of the Snake River drainage. This year, the Greys River and Hoback River (commonly known as the Greyback) is receiving the attention. In the past, the areas we have explored have been wilderness areas, the Greyback is not within wilderness and therefore, offers a variety of different recreational opportunities for anglers and adventurers. From ATV's to mountain bikes and horses to snowmachines, this area allows for a diversity of activities for everyone's interests.



West Dell Drainage

Get out there and explore the Greyback!

When the Skiing Gets Tough, the Tough Go Fishing

Winter fly fishing isn't for everyone. When your rod ices up and you have to wear gloves to keep your hands from doing the same, it takes a special person to say, "let's try the next hole". Late winter and early spring however, have produced some of the best dry fly fishing I have seen on the Snake River. Why? Because, from February through April, Winter Stoneflies (Family: Capniidae) begin to hatch in



Winter Stoneflies

large numbers. These small invertebrates spend most of their life cycle embedded in the substrate at the bottom of the river. Locally, the dry hatch peaks on the first calm days of the year when the air temperature exceeds 40 degrees. When this occurs, large numbers of adult stoneflies can be seen on the snow and in foamy backwaters. Snake River cut-throat trout key in on both emerging forms and adults laying eggs. To the human eye, they are easily confused with midges because of their small size (size 16-20). Because no commercial fly pattern mimics this hatch, store-bought flies can either be altered or simple patterns can be tied at home. The last key ingredient to successfully fishing this hatch is finding the trout. During the winter months, trout occupy deep slow moving water or areas where multiple channels converge; other aquatic diversity is also a plus. My last hint: once you find the fish, tell only your best fishing buddies.

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- Flat Creek
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- Take Me Fishing
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-Carlin Girard

Flat Creek on the National Elk Refuge

If you are like me, the more regulations that apply to a fishing or hunting area, the less appealing it becomes; with one exception, Flat Creek on The National Elk Refuge. Options for management on a wild trophy Snake River cutthroat trout fishery are limited, especially when it is a small spring creek with highly skilled anglers targeting its finest fish. For Flat Creek, strict regulations maintain the superb fishing. Managers and enthusiasts also look beyond these regulations and ask what else they can do to protect and improve one of our local "honey holes". This has been the case for decades. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department, National Elk Refuge, and Trout Unlimited stand out as key partners in this endeavor, providing years of knowledge and critical resources to identify important issues and work to mitigate them.



Snake River Cutthroat Trout from Flat Creek

In the late 1970's, factors including overgrazing and bank erosion caused by elk, increased sediment input from the south park supply ditch and a lack of riparian vegetation contributed to Flat Creek's degradation and reduced cutthroat trout populations. Two and a half miles of Flat Creek ending at the confluence of Nowlin Creek became the site for Flat Creek Phase 1. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department, National Elk Refuge, and Trout Unlimited worked together to implement a major habitat improvement project to reduce bank erosion, increase water depths, provide overhead cover, and expand cutthroat trout spawning habitat. Using the best available information, the group took on an ambitious multi-year venture.

That was then and this is now. If you are familiar with Flat Creek, it doesn't take a scientific understanding to see that some of the structures have lived out their life span. Submerged trees which provided a successful buffer to reduce bank erosion now sit mid channel and only provide an obstacle for wading and casting anglers. And from a fisheries manager's perspective, woody debris is now abundant in a system that otherwise would have very little. They now have to consider what other negative impacts such human derived structures might have. Man made undercut bank structures were also used to reduce bank erosion and act as overhead cover, however, the current condition of Flat Creek might benefit from their removal, letting the creek form natural banks. Assessment of the creek's stability and need for control structures is currently underway and a recent decrease in this section of Flat Creek's native cutthroat trout and a relative increase in non-native brook trout (see Table 1) have led managers to ask similar questions.

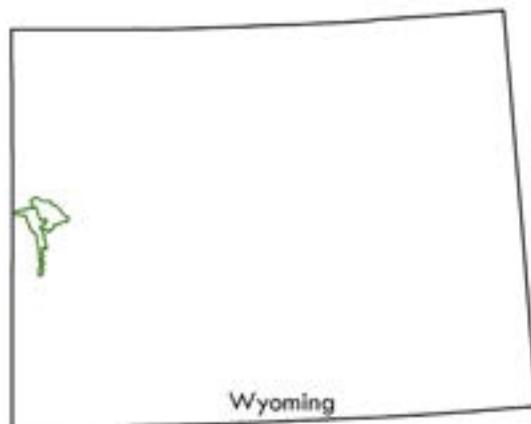
Table 1. Number of Snake River Cutthroat (SRC) and Brook Trout (BKT) per mile for the Hatchery Station from 1999-2009 of Flat Creek above the Jackson National Fish Hatchery outflow on the National Elk Refuge.

Species	Size Group (inches)	Trout per mile			
		1999	2002	2008	2009
SRC	≥6.0	409	210	42	43
BKT	≥6.0	42	21	95	42

The need for further research into the relationship between habitat characteristics and use by different trout species is highlighted in Table 1. Fluctuations in Flat Creek's trout populations are normal, however, a sustained lowered population of cutthroat trout deserves attention. That is why, once again, managers and public interest groups are teaming up to establish current concerns, assess the impact of the old structures on Flat Creek, and decide where to go from here.

Exploring the Greyback

Welcome to the Greys-Hoback area. Unlike our previously featured areas, the Greys-Hoback is outside of wilderness areas and offers a variety of different recreational opportunities. We will be delving into streams and lakes that drain into the Hoback River from the south, the Grey's River from the north and east, and the Snake River between Hoback Junction and Palisades Reservoir. Accessible by foot, horseback, vehicle, ATV, or snowmachine, no matter what your preferred method of transportation may be, this area has a stream or lake for you to explore.



Waters in the Hoback Drainage

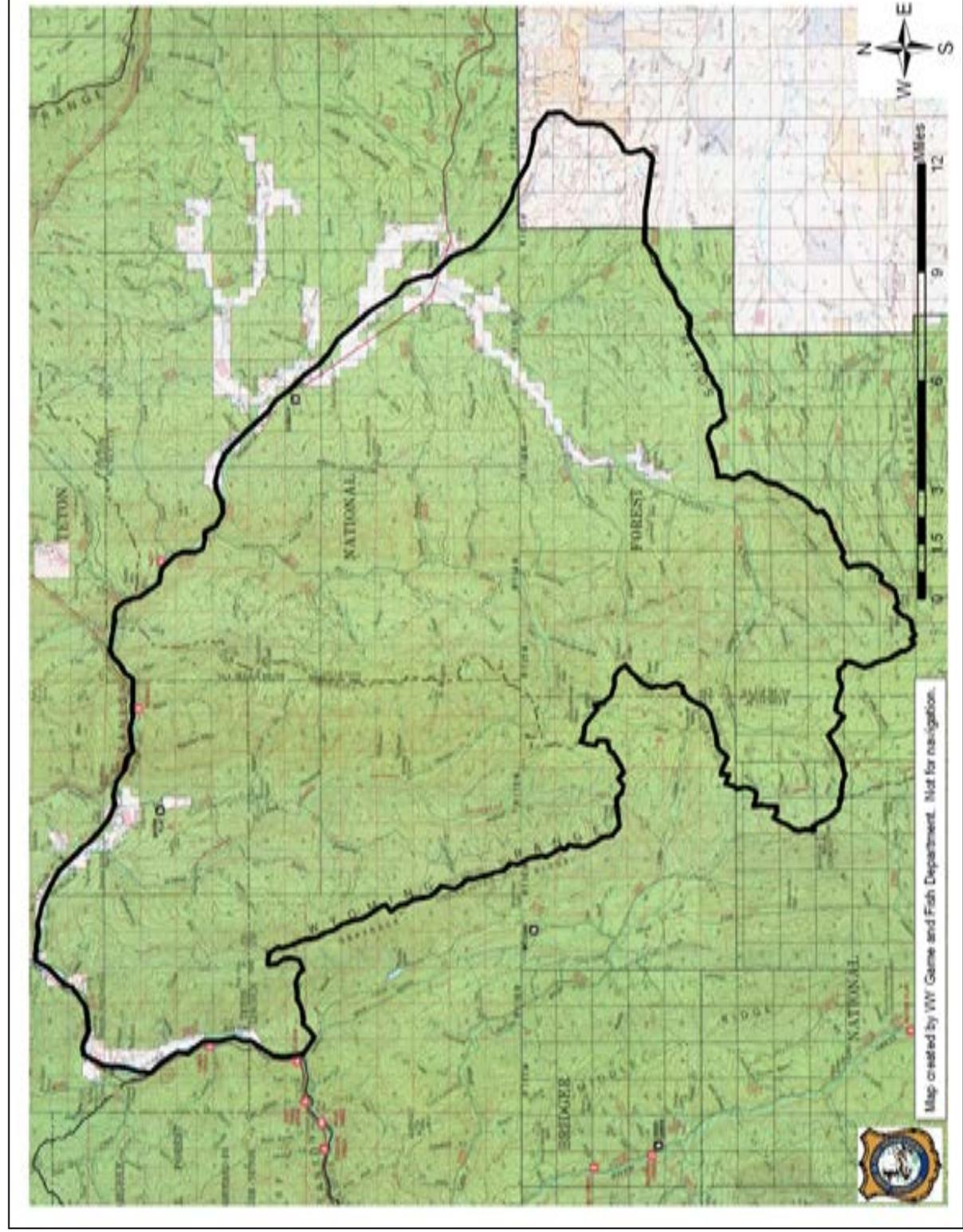
<u>Water</u>	<u>Species</u>
Adams Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Alder Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Bondurant Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Buck Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Clause Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Cliff Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout Mountain Whitefish
First Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Gibbs Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Hoback River, South Fork	Snake River Cutthroat Trout Mountain Whitefish
Hole in the Wall Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Hunter Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Jamb Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Kerr Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Kilgore Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Lick Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Lime Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Little Cliff Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Muddy Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout Brook Trout
Mumford Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Phosphate Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Snag Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Willow Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout Brook Trout

The streams that flow into the Hoback River from the south can be accessed by from a variety of trails, roads, and access point. HWY 89 follows the Hoback River for much of it's length and provides many pull-outs and trailheads that may be used as starting point. The Upper Hoback Road and Cliff Creek Road also provide access by vehicle or ATV to may of the waters listed here.



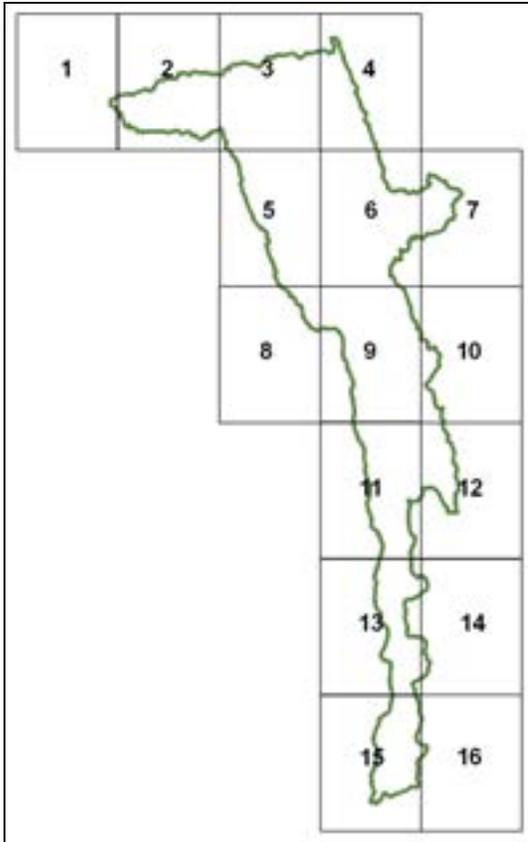
Cliff Creek

Hoback River and Snake River Drainage

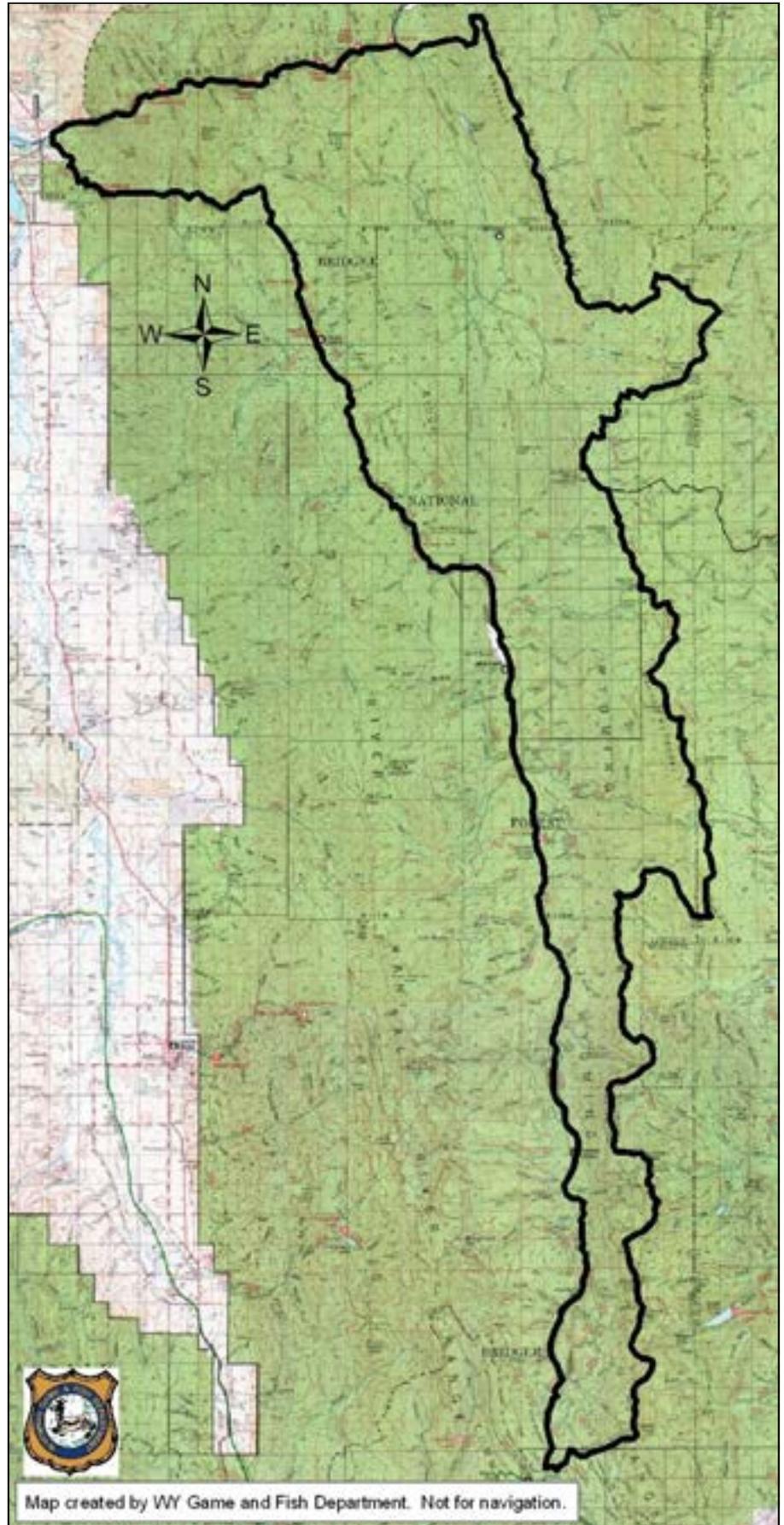


Greys River and Snake River Drainage

Topographic Maps



1. Alpine
2. Ferry Peak
3. Pine Creek
4. Bailey Lake
5. Deer Creek
6. Pickle Pass
7. Hoback Peak
8. Man Peak
9. Blind Bull Creek
10. Lookout Mountain
11. Park Creek
12. Triple Peak



Waters in the Grey's River Drainage

<u>Water</u>	<u>Species</u>
Black Canyon Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Blind Bull Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Blind Trail Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Boco Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Box Canyon Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Buck Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Cow Camp Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Dead Dog Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Deadman Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout Mountain Whitefish Brook Trout
Deadman Creek, North Fork	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Deer Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Fawn Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Fire Box Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Grey's River, East Fork	Snake River Cutthroat Trout Mountain Whitefish Brook Trout
Hot Foot Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Lake Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Little Blind Bull Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Little Elk Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Little Greys River	Snake River Cutthroat Trout Mountain Whitefish
Little Greys River, South Fork	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Lookout Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Lynx Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Marten Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
McCain Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Middle Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Moffat Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Moose Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Porcupine Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout Brook Trout
Red Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Ridge Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Shale Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Sheep Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout Mountain Whitefish Brook Trout
Sheep Creek, North Fork	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Skull Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Steer Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Stewart Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Stump Lake	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Trail Creek (Greys River)	Snake River Cutthroat Trout Brook Trout
Trail Creek (Little Greys River)	Snake River Cutthroat Trout Brook Trout
Twin Creek, North	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Whiskey Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout

Waters in the Snake River Drainage

<u>Water</u>	<u>Species</u>
Bailey Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout Brook Trout
Bailey Creek, West	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Bailey Lake	Snake River Cutthroat Trout Brook Trout
Pine Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Roos Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Martin Creek	Snake River Cutthroat Trout
Waterdog Lake	Snake River Cutthroat Trout

Greys River: The streams that flow into the Greys River from the north are accessed most easily from Forest Service Road 10138, also known as the Grey's River Road. This road follows the Greys River from its headwaters, to its confluence with the Snake River. Numerous other Forest Service roads spur off of this road and up other drainages, including the Little Greys River, Blind Bull Creek, and Sheep Creek.

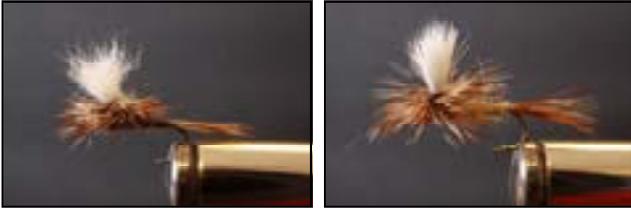
Snake River: The streams that flow into the Snake River from the east are a bit more difficult to get to. Forest Service road 10124, off of the Little Greys River road, and numerous trails from both the Hoback River and Greys River drainages access the area.



Bailey Lake

Essential Flies for the Snake River

We asked local fly shops and leading fly fishing guides what flies they couldn't live without on the Snake River. We were looking for good all around flies, not specialized flies. The response was great! Whether you are new to the sport or a seasoned angler, we hope you will find their collective knowledge useful.



Parachute Adams / Parachute Hares Ear

Size range: 10-18

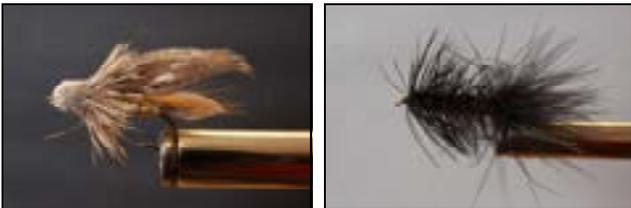
Most responses included either the Parachute Adams or the Parachute Hares Ear. The Parachute Hares Ear is a combination of the hares ear nymph and the Parachute Adams. These flies are most popular in September and October, but work well for many of the smaller hatches throughout the year. These flies can also be used as dry trailer flies.



Bead Head Prince Nymph

Size range: 10-18

The Bead Head Prince Nymph is a great year around fly since it has attributes of many different aquatic species. This fly can also be effectively fished as a dropper fly. Add split shot and you can fish deep slow holes.



Streamers:

Muddler Minnow / Woolly Bugger

Size range: 4-10

The Muddler Minnow and Woolly Bugger are versatile flies since they imitate a variety of aquatic and terrestrial food items. Fished wet, the Muddler imitates sculpins, shiners, stonefly nymphs, to name a few. Fished dry, the Muddler can be an effective hopper imitation. The Woolly Bugger, depending on the specific material used and how it is fished, can resemble large nymphs, baitfish, or drowning terrestrial insects.



Elk Hair Caddis

Size range: 12-18

The Elk Hair Caddis is an all purpose searching pattern. This tried and true classic and has been a standard in fly vests since 1957. This fly works well during afternoon hatches. Popular body colors are cinnamon and olive.



Turk's Tarantula

Size range: 8-12

Turk's Tarantula is a very popular attractor pattern. Although this fly was developed 20 years ago, it is the youngest on our list. It has a bulky, wide profile making it easy for fish to see. Its bulk moves lots of water, so fish often sense it even before they see it. It floats high, making it easy to see in fast water and under low-light conditions.

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21st Annual Kids Fishing Day

This year kids fishing day will be held on the **4th of June at the Jackson National Fish Hatchery**. Registration begins at 10:30am and all activities are concluded by 2:00pm. Jackson Jaycees will, once again, provide a free lunch. All kids, age 13 and under, are invited to participate and parents can listen in for a great learning experience. Activities include aquatic insects, fly tying, boating safety, and fish identification.

Bridger-Teton Nation Forest, Jackson Hole Jaycees, Jackson National Fish Hatchery, Teton Conservation District, Teton County EMS, Teton County Parks and Recreation Department, Trout Unlimited, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Geological Survey Jackson Field Station, and Wyoming Game and Fish Department are local sponsors of the event.

Thanks to this years newsletter contributors: Carlin Girard, Rob Gipson, Mark Gocke, Lara Sweeney-Gertsch, and Tracy Stephens.

Take Me Fishing

Where do you take your child fishing? If you live in Teton and Lincoln Counties, it may be difficult to find a close, easy fishing pond for your child. Next time you decide to take a kid fishing, consider these options:



Sleeping Indian Pond

Sleeping Indian Pond at the Jackson National Fish Hatchery. Located only a few miles north of Jackson, Sleeping Indian pond provides easy access and Snake River cutthroat trout. The pond is open for fishing from 8am to 4pm. A disability accessible observation/fishing deck is open for public use.



Swift Creek Reservoirs. Lower Swift Creek Reservoir is located only 1 mile east of Afton up Swift Creek on Forest Service road 10211. Due to recent construction activities, this reservoir has been deepened and access has been improved. Upper Swift Creek Reservoir is located another 2.1 miles up this road. Both reservoirs have Snake River cutthroat and brook trout.



Lower Swift Creek Reservoir