

Upland Idaho

Date	Sept. 9, 2005	Time	Early afternoon
Location	Boulder Lake (6973'); Boulder Meadow Reservoir (6270')	Weather	Partly cloudy before a big storm
Fish Species	Cutthroat; Rainbow & Brook Trout	Size Range	10"-14"
Fish Caught	Many		
Flies Used	Royal Wulff		
Techniques	Float dry flies		
Comments	The trailhead is a short drive from downtown McCall to a nice fishing lake.		

I took my wife Coleen and 3 month old girl Hailey on a two mile hike to Boulder Lake. It is a moderate 2 mile hike with a 700' climb on a non-motorized trail. It starts out flat as you get past the reservoir and then it climbs the 700' in just over a mile making it somewhat strenuous if you haven't hiked much. The trail is easy to follow but is rocky in places. There is one stream crossing but there is a bridge.

You get to Boulder Mountain Reservoir by driving east on Elo Road off Highway 55 just south of McCall about a mile I'd guess. You will then turn onto Boulder Lake road after 3 miles and then continue on Boulder Lake road for 4 miles until you reach the reservoir. The trailhead to Boulder Lake starts on the north side of the dam. A trailhead to Louie Lake begins on the west end of the campground. I fished Louie Lake, which is a trophy lake, last October and caught very many large Cutbow (Rainbow/Cutthroat mix). It is a moderate 1.5 mile hike with an 800' elevation gain. (See article for Louie Lake – Oct. 2004).

I fished **Boulder Meadow Reservoir** and caught a few small Rainbow and also a few Brook trout in the creek below the dam where there is a campground. I didn't spend much time because I figured Boulder Lake would be a better place to spend my time fishing.

The purpose of this trip was to get my wife away from the kids for a night and teach her to fly fish. I figured there would be a few willing trout in **Boulder Lake**. We got to the lake and I told my wife that I would fish for a minute to see what they were biting on. I put on a Blue Dun and caught a 10" Cutthroat but there were too many trout rising not to get more consistent bites. I switched over to old mister reliable and sure enough it worked just like it does in most places. The Royal Wulff got me into consistently catching Cutthroat in the 10"-14" range off the dam. She likes the sound of ZZzzzzzzzzzz as well.

I told my wife it was her turn. She hadn't fly fished before. I would cast out and then hand her the pole. After she landed a few fish I gave her some lessons. I made comments like "remember 11 and 1", "let the fly extend all the way back before you come forward",

“pretend like you’re painting the ceiling, you’re loops are too wide” as her frustration continued to build. I told her not to worry, that it just takes practice and that it would become easier. She didn’t seem convinced.

The clouds were darkening as they drifted overhead. I looked out to the southwest and did not like what I saw. I told my wife we didn’t have much time and that we needed to get the baby off the mountain before the storm arrived. I told her that I wanted to take a few quick pictures before we departed. I didn’t get far when I heard a scream. I turned around as she again screamed excitedly, “It’s still on”. I rushed over to take a picture. Coleen landed her first trout on a fly rod!



Coleen fishing off the dam for her first Cutthroat