

Upland Idaho

Date	Early May, 2005	Time	7:00 - 9:00 PM
Location	S.F. Snake River – Heise, ID	Weather	Windy, drizzly & cold
Fish Species	Brown Trout	Size Range	Mostly 9"-12"; 1 - 2lb 19" Brown
Fish Caught	5 Brown Trout		
Flies Used	Wooly Buzzer with deer hair head and wing (Brown & Olive) (size 4)		
Techniques	Wet Fly Swing		
Comments	The 2 lb + Brown took me into my backing twice!		

I headed up river about 5 miles east on the dirt road from Heise Hot Springs and parked under some big Cottonwoods where the canyon begins. I waded out on the inside stretch of the swollen river where the river makes a big bow. I began casting out into the fast water allowing my fly to swing back into the slack water below me. I got most of my hits as the fly swung from the fast current into the slow current and when the fly stopped swinging which was almost directly below me. The cold wind was relentless so I threw big heavy Wooly Buzzer patterns to more easily penetrate the wind.

The fishing was slow but I didn't get skunked. I was hoping for a Yellowstone Cutthroat but you can't complain when you catch a Brown. I assumed the Cutthroat were higher up river spawning in the tributaries but didn't know. After catching a few small Browns, I had a hit that about knocked the rod out of my hand, followed by a snap of my line. I knew there were record-breaking Browns in the river so I should have been paying better attention. I was fishing one of America's Blue Ribbon Trout Streams known for its river lined Cottonwoods, fast growing Yellowstone Cutthroat and its record Browns, which currently holds the state record. I still wonder how big that trout was!

I tied on a similar fly and on my first cast my reel began screaming. This wasn't one of those same small Browns I had been catching. This fish flew down the river taking all my line with it. As my line changed from yellow to orange, with no sign of stopping, I knew I was in trouble. This is the first fish that I had ever had into my backing. Thankfully, I had plenty of room to follow it down river. The fish finally stopped and as I was making some headway getting line back on my reel, it ran again going into my backing a second time. I was amazed at its power. I was truly having fun. I finally did land the colorful Brown and it measured 19" and just over two pounds. I thought that I had on a bigger fish but I wasn't complaining. I was grateful for catching such a nice fish out of such a famous river. That was definitely one of the more entertaining trout that I have landed on a fly rod.