

I attended a GIS Conference in Sun Valley the last week of September and took a couple of hours on two different evenings to fish the Big Wood River and Penny Lake. I would have loved fishing Silver Creek but it was too far away for this trip.

I fished the Big Wood River at the south end of Ketchum right near the hospital where the bridge crosses the river. I'm sure these fish saw a lot of artificial flies but I didn't know where else to go with the time I had available. The Cottonwoods that lined the river were a beautiful red, orange and yellow and the dead fall randomly placed in the river made this a beautiful location to fish. I can see why Ernest Hemingway loved fishing this area. I fished nymphs because I was seeing no action on top. I got a few bites and finally ended up landing a healthy 10" rainbow. I'd love to be on this river during a hatch. The fish that I spotted in the water all seemed to be between 10" and 12".

Penny Lake was a fun little place where I could fish dry flies and catch a few Brook trout. I ended up catching a half dozen small 8" to 10" Rainbow and Brook trout. This would be a good location to take kids. If I had to take a vote, I'd say Brook trout are the most beautiful trout. The colors and patterns make them very unique. It's unfortunate that they don't grow as big as the other trout.