Introduction to Fly Fishing

Rich Holten and Columbia Basin Fly Casters

Columbia Basin Fly Casters

https://columbiabasinflycasters.org/

- Tri Cities area only fly-fishing organization
- Over 80 families
- Activities:
  - Monthly meetings except July and August; meetings include social time, dinner, and a speaker
  - Club outings
  - Instruction: Fly casting, fly tying, rod building plus occasional special classes for club members
  - Volunteer projects
- More information and membership application on club website

Columbia Basin Fly Casters Web Site

Columbia Basin Fly Casters

HOME ABOUT US MEETINGS NEWSLETTER RESOURCES VOLUNTEER

Files on resources page include:

- Fly Fishing Around the Tri-Cities
- Northwest Trout Prey: Identification, Lifecycle, Tactics, and Flies to Match
- Fly Patterns for Northwest Trout Fishing

Class Objectives

- For the students who are curious about fly-fishing but not certain they will try it:
  - *Provide a glimpse into the possibilities of new adventures*
- For the students who plan to try fly fishing but aren't certain about committing to the sport:
  - *Basic information and training to prepare you for your first few trips on the water*
- For the students who are ready to embrace the sport and "dive-in":
  - *Basic information and training to prepare you for your first few trips on the water plus guide you to the next steps*

Fly Fishing

Class Agenda - Six Keys for Early Success

1. Equipment
2. Flies, and Presenting the Fly
3. Location - Where to go
4. Rigging-Up/Knots
5. Casting

1. Equipment

"$16,000 on fishing equipment this year. It's time I took your credit card away from you."

Key Points

- List of basic equipment to get started
- Equipment needed to fish lakes and rivers

Basic Equipment – What to buy/borrow

- If you are uncertain about pursuing fly-fishing, go with a friend and borrow equipment and flies.
- Basic equipment for **where floating devices and waders not required**
  - Fly rod
  - Fly reel
  - Fly line
  - Backing/leader/tippet
  - A few flies (covered later)

Basic Equipment – Fly Rod

- Rod Weight
  - Fly Rods categorized by a weight designation to match rods and lines
  - Higher numbers for larger fish; e.g.
    - 10 and above: salmon, saltwater
    - 8/9: steelhead
    - 6/7: bass, trout
    - 1-5: trout and panfish
  - Weight designation printed on rod:

5 wt, 9 foot rod

4 wt, 8 foot rod

Basic Equipment – Fly Rod

- Materials:
  - Graphite: reasonably priced to high price, excellent for casting, fast/medium/slow action
  - Fiberglass: inexpensive rod, tough, difficult to cast – action generally very slow; may be difficult for beginners; very few offered
  - Others (bamboo, boron, titanium, etc.): Much higher price and offers very little improvement for beginning casters
- Price
    - Can vary from $30 to $1000+
    - For beginners - recommend lower price 8.5 to 9', 5wt, graphite rod in the price range of $50 to $250 included in a combo kit of rod, reel, and line

Basic Equipment-Fly Reel

- Fly reel (if bought separately)
  - 5/6 Weight most common
  - Look for disk drag – needed for handling larger fish
  - Recommend reels which have extra spools available
  - Price
    - Can vary from $45 to over $500+
    - Examples

Okuma SLV-B Series Fly Fishing Reel
$65.99

Cabela's RLS II Fly Reel
$99.99

Basic Equipment – Fly Line

- Fly Lines (If bought separately)
  - Categorized by Weight, Taper, and Use
  - Weight:
    - Match weight to fly rod
    - 5 and 6 weight most common
  - Taper (shape of the line and where the line is thickest): Weight forward – line thicker toward the fly. Double taper – line thickest in the middle. Weight forward is easiest to cast.
  - Use:
    - Floating: floats (most of time)
    - Sink Tip: tip of line sinks, medium depth fishing, good for nymphs
    - Full Sink: entire line sinks, deep water fishing such as lakes
    - Intermediate: entire line sinks slowly; medium depth fishing generally for lake

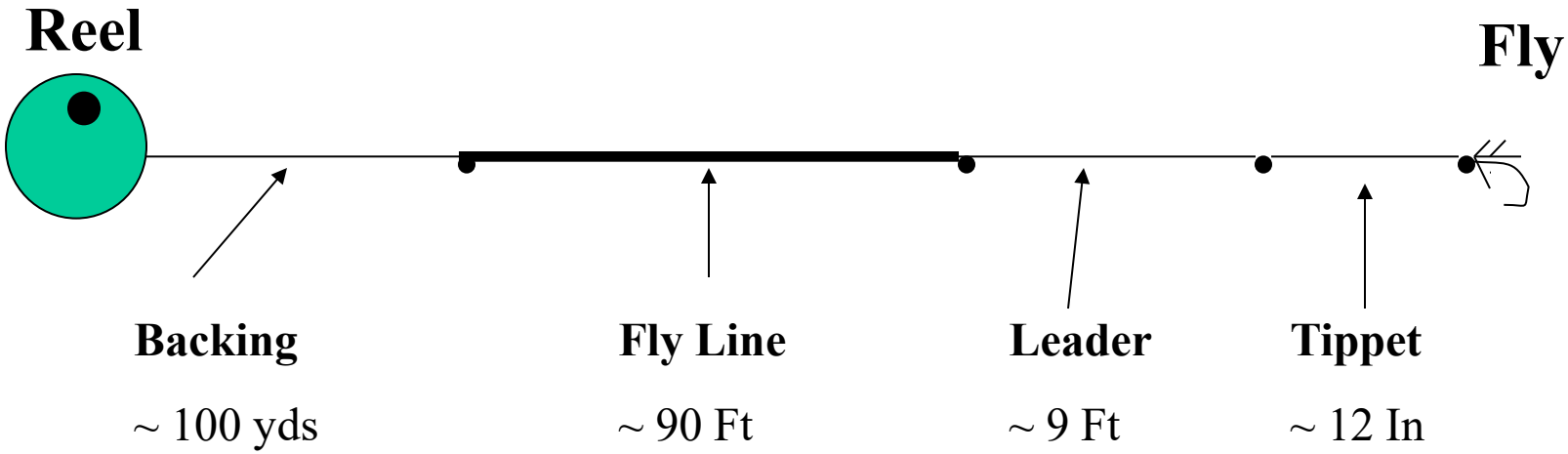
Basic Equipment – Fly Line

WF5F

WF	Weight Forward
5	5 Weight
F	Floating Line

- Many colors, but recommend light green/sage or other less visible line –no bright colors.
- Recommend weight forward, 5wt, floating line paired with a 5wt rod
- Price: Good lines can be purchased for $50-60

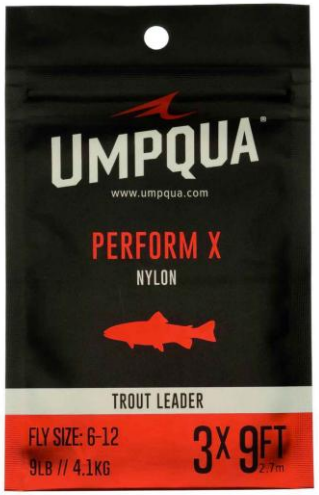
Basic Equipment
Backing, Leader, Tippet



- **Backing**
  - Attaches fly line to reel
  - Extra line for fighting larger fish
- **Leader**
  - Tapered, allows fly to “turn over” properly and reduces line size so hook can be attached
  - Transparent to prevent frightening fish
- **Tippet**
  - Additional taper for turning over fly and masking fly line
  - Allows several flies to be tied and cut off without losing leader length

Basic Equipment
Backing and Leader

- **Backing**
  - Dacron 20 or 30#, 100 yards
- **Leader**
  - Mono or fluorocarbon – fluorocarbon more expensive and not necessary for most fishing
  - Length:
    - Typical lengths are 7.5’ or 9’
  - Rating
    - 0X (15 lb test) through 8X (1.8 lb test)
    - Recommend starting with 3X



Umpqua Perform X Trout Leader - 7.5ft

$5.99 @ Sportsman’s Warehouse

Basic Equipment - Tippet

- **Tippet**
  - Sold in small spools of 20 to 30 yards
  - Mono/Nylon or Fluorocarbon
    - Mono floats better, less expensive ($4 - $8 per spool)
    - Fluorocarbon sinks, much less visible in water, more expensive ($12 - $13 per spool)
  - Rating/thickness: 0 to 8X, with 8X the thinnest
  - Tippet should have same X rating as leader or 1 number higher
  - Recommendation: For first spool - 3x Mono/Nylon
  - Example:

Umpqua Perform X Nylon
Trout Tippet - Clear 30yds

$5.99 @ Sportsman's Warehouse

Note: you will need small (e.g. 4x) tippet to be able to tie on small flies (18-20).

Equipment – Next Steps

- Vest: Look for lots of pockets, 4 larger pockets in front, about $30 - $60
- Waders:
  - Lightweight breathable – recommended – can work in cold water with proper liner – about $100
  - Neoprene – hot in summer
  - Waders with boots attached ok for lakes but not rocky rivers
- Wading Boots
  - Felt soles - $50 - $100
  - Studded soles (slightly more expensive)
  - Try on boots with waders to ensure fit
- Polarized Sunglasses with “Croakie” and wide brimmed hat
- Fly boxes
- Pliers, clippers, headlamp
- Landing net (Recommend the “Measure Net”)
- Strike Indicators

Equipment – Next Steps for Fishing the Lakes

- Waders and fins required
- Float Tube ($75 -$500)
  - Round or V shaped – V shaped is clearly superior with D rings on bottom
  - Also, buy carrying straps for walk-in lakes.
- Float Tube with Oars ($400 - $1000+)
  - Oars good for longer distance travel on water
  - Heavier and more expensive than oar-less float tubes
- Pontoon Boat ($400 - $1000)
  - Also has oars but can't be strapped to back and does not fit in most vehicles unless disassembled.
  - Wheels required for walk-in lakes
- Recommended Accessories
  - Anchor, and rod holder

Next Steps: Lake Fishing Equipment – My Float Tube

W.W. Grigg Float Tube – Two general shapes, round and pointed. Prefer this type; easier to get in an out. Safer - has two air-filled inserts.

Carrying Straps attach to bottom. Usually purchased separately

Next Steps: Other Float Tubes

Creek Company 420 Ultralight $149.95 @ Creekcompany.com.

White River Fly Shop Lost Lake Round Float Tube - Gray/Orange

$89.98 @ Cabela's

Next Steps: Float Tubes with Oars

Lost Creek X-Streamer, $421.97 (2022 pricing)

Sportsman's Warehouse - Needs storage bags and carrying straps.

My Dave Scadden float tube with oars, fully outfitted with storage bags, stripping basket, and carrying straps – about $1000

Next Steps: Pontoon Boat

More comfortable, but needs wheels and does not fit in most cars.

Wheels on bottom

Rod Storage (PVC strapped to frame)

2. Trout Food, Flies, and Presenting the Fly

Key Points

- What trout eat
- Three flies to start with and how to use them

What Trout Eat

- Freshly planted fish may eat insects, worms, snails, mice, leeches, minnows, daphne, scuds (freshwater shrimp), items that look like food pellets from the hatcheries, marshmallows, corn, power bait, and more
- Trout living in a body of water for weeks or more will be more selective and start to focus on natural food items

- Trout living in insect-rich waters may become very selective – feeding only on a specific food item for a period of time

What Trout Eat-Natural Food Items

- Mayflies

- Caddisflies

What Trout Eat

- Stoneflies

- Damselflies/Dragonflies

What Trout Eat

- Chironomids

Pupae

Adult

- Grasshoppers/Beetles

What Trout Eat

- Freshwater shrimp - Scuds

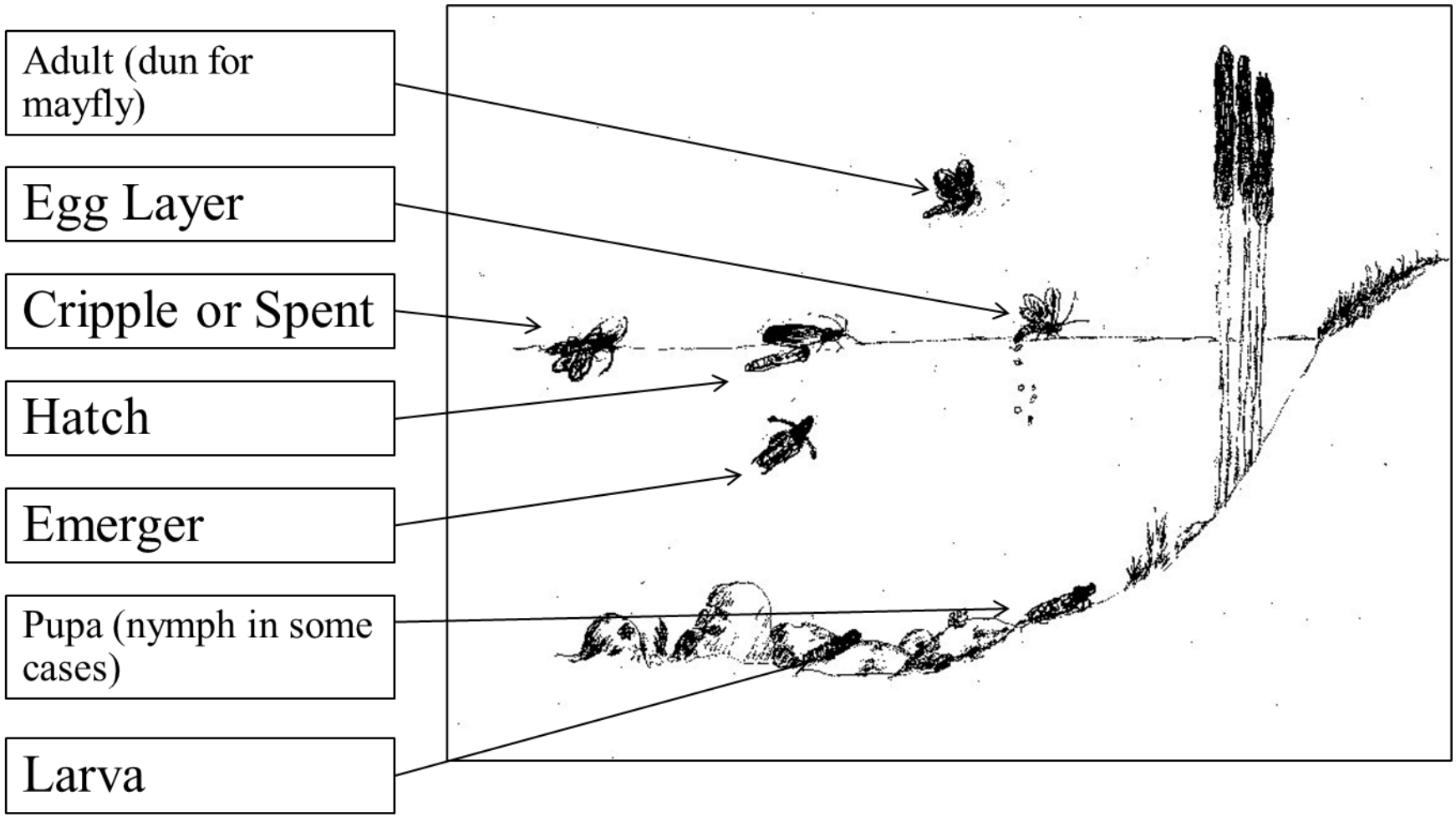
- Snails

What Trout Eat

- Leeches

- Baitfish

Trout May Focus on a Specific Life Stage of an Insect



Life-Stage Example - Mayflies

Mayfly Nymph

Mayfly Adult (Dun)

Mayfly Spinner – spent adult

Flies for Beginners

- There are literally thousands of flies available to purchase or tie
- I typically carry 600 to 1000 flies in my vest, some of which are duplicate/spares
- Easy to become overwhelmed and talked into unnecessary flies by friends and fly shops
- Start with a list of proven flies that cover many of the different food types and stages of the food types

Fishing With Flies – Types of Flies

- Dry fly – floats of surface of water
- Wet fly – drifts below surface
- Emerger – floats in surface film or just below
- Streamer – drifts below surface, larger wet fly that imitates minnows

Three Good Flies for Beginners

- Pheasant Tail (wet fly) – an imitator of nymphs

- Parachute Adams (dry fly) – an imitator of adult insects

Three Good Flies for Beginners

- Leech (wet fly/streamer) – an attractor, but somewhat resembling a leech or minnow

Methods for Fishing Flies

- Dry fly on stillwaters – cast and leave
- Dry fly on moving water – cast and mend
- Wet fly on stillwater – troll or cast and strip (or fish some wet flies below and indicator)
- Wet fly on moving water – easiest to fish under an indicator
- Streamer on moving water – cast and swing

How do I Choose the Right Fly

Some General Rules of Thumb

- **Lakes**
  - Option 1. Troll with a Leech pattern
  - Option 2. Observe the water
    - Fish rising:
      - Parachute Adams dry fly fishing
    - No fish rising:
      - Cast and retrieve Leech or Pheasant Tail
- **Streams/Rivers**
  - Fish rising:
    - Dry fly – Drift/mend Parachute Adams
  - No fish rising:
    - Drift flies under an indicator - Pheasant Tail
    - Swing a Leech

Next Steps – More Flies

Starting Fly Box For Local Lakes and Streams

Stream Flies	**Size**
Elk Hair Caddis (Dry fly)	14, 16
Parachute Adams (Dry fly)	14, 18
Pheasant Tail (Wet fly)	14, 18
Hare's Ear (Wet fly)	14, 16
Stimulator (Dry fly)	12
Ant (Dry fly)	14
Lake Flies	**Size**
Damsel Nymph (Wet fly)	12
Chironomid (Red, Green) (Wet fly)	14, 16, 18
Wooly Bugger (Olive, Black) (Wet fly)	10
Olive Leech (Wet fly)	8
Parachute Adams (Dry fly)	14, 18

Sources for Purchasing Flies: Sportsman's Warehouse, The Fly Shop (Redding, CA), Big Y Fly Shop (Hood River), Orvis, Fly Shack

Stream Flies

Hares Ear

Pheasant Tail

Ant

Parachute Adams

Stimulator

Elk Hair Caddis

Lake Flies

Bugger/Wooly Bugger/ Krystal Bugger

Chironomid

Olive Leech/Bunny Leech

Damsel Nymph

Why am I not catching fish…

when others around me are catching fish?

- Location – need to fish where there are fish
- Presentation
  - Depth – are you in the feeding zone?
  - Motion – no motion, rising fly, dead drift
  - Splashy cast or noisy wading –scaring the fish
- Right fly
  - Consider size, shape, shade
  - Sometimes need to be precise in matching what fish are feeding on
  - Ask others around you (humbly)
- Leader/tippet – may need longer leader and lighter tippet to avoid frightening fish

Next Steps: Should I Tie My Own Flies?

- No – if you are just getting started.
  - Takes some investment in equipment and materials
  - May not know what flies to tie
- Yes – if you wish to become a devoted fly fisher
  - Doesn't save money, but you can tie flies that you are unable to buy
  - Satisfaction in catching fish on fly you tied
  - Note: CBFC teaches a 5-week fly-tying class each February

Next Steps: Fly Selection/Entomology Further Study

Books

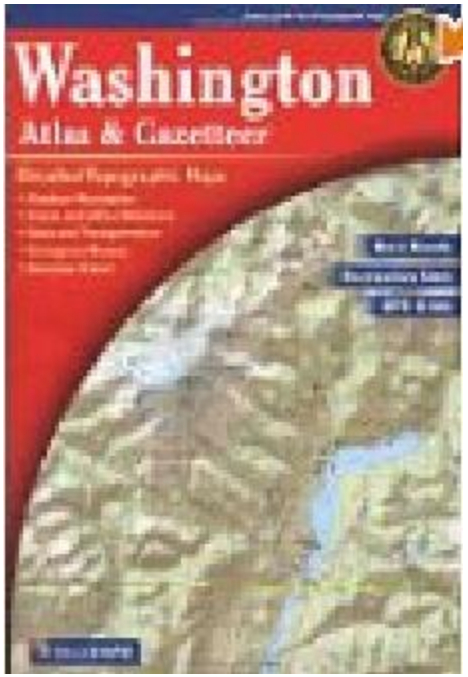
1. Trout Food, Ralph Cutter, Stackpole Books (Excellent introductory book)
2. Survival Guide for Beginning Fly Anglers, Skip Morris (An all-around excellent book for new fly fishers)
3. Western Mayfly Hatches, Rick Haefle and Dave Hughes, Amato Books (Excellent for understanding Mayfly Hatches and matching flies to mayfly insects)
4. Bugwater, Arlen Thompson, Stackpole Books (Excellent photographs and insight into insect behavior; also matches flies to trout food)

All books available from Amazon.com

Some Web Sites

- Troutnut.com - Excellent photos and discussion about fly fishing insects
- Flyfishingentomology.com/ - Introductory information and lots of detailed information
- Bcadventure.com/adventure/angling/bugs/index.phtml - Excellent introductory information and fly-tying recipes
- http://www.riseformflyfishing.com/ - Brian Chan website devoted to fishing still waters
- Columbia Basin Fly Caster web site

3. Where To Go; lakes and a few streams



Key Points

- Check fishing regulations before you go
- Tucannon Lakes near Dayton are excellent for beginners
- There is a wealth of fly-fishing opportunity in the Northwest

NOTE:

- Carry a copy of fishing regulations and **check regulations for each body of water**. Washington State Fishing Regulations are complex and can vary widely from one body of water to another.

- Check Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife website updates before fishing any water. WDFW does change regulations frequently for migratory fish such as salmon and steelhead.

Trout Planting Reports

- Check WDFW website for weekly trout plant reports:
  - Go to http://wdfw.wa.gov/
  - Click on Fishing/Shell-fishing on left hand side
  - After new screen appears, go little more than half way down page to “Fish Plants & Stocking Reports” and under this category select “Catchable Trout Plant Weekly Report”
  - On new screen, go to Region 1, Columbia County and look for recent planting in Rainbow or Watson lakes or Walla Walla County for Hood Park Ponds
  - Check on Friday before going; new data posted every Tuesday and Thursday from March 1 – May 31; otherwise every Thursday.
  - Try to go to lake planted that week; lakes have tendency to be depleted quickly

Beginners: Float Tube, Waders Not Required

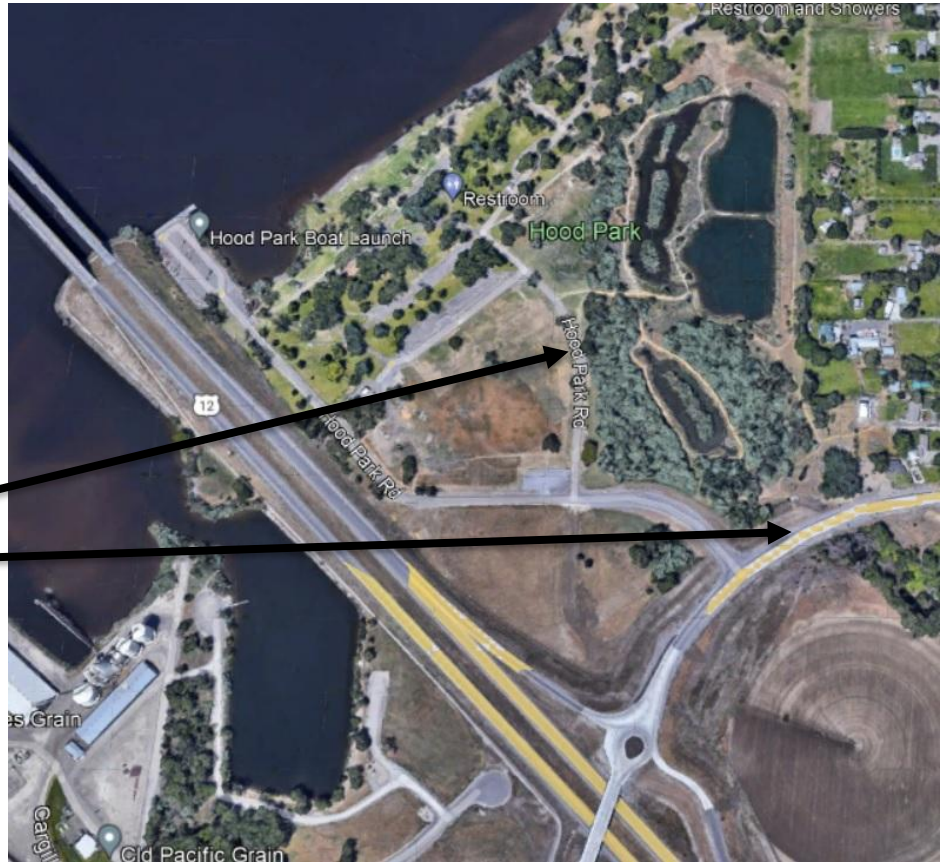
- Kid's Fishing Pond, Kennewick (70 years and above)
- Hood Park Pond in Burbank
- Tucannon Lakes, Rainbow Lake and Watson Lake
- Yakima River near Tri Cities for smallmouth
- Rocky Ford
- Touchet River – wet wading
- Tucannon River – wet wading

Float Tube Not Required

Hood Park

To reach Hood Park Ponds

1. Cross Snake River Bridge going south.
2. Take exit to Highway 124
3. Travel about 100 yards to Hood Park entrance.
4. Either park in Hood Park or Park off of Hwy 124 – see map



Float Tube Not Required

Rainbow Lake

Float Tube Not Required

Watson Lake

Float Tube Not Required

Yakima River

- Upriver from Yakima – fishable for trout at several locations in fall when irrigation stops
- Downriver from Yakima and around Tri-Cities – fishable for bass at bridge crossings and around Horn Rapids dam

Float Tube Not Required

Rocky Ford

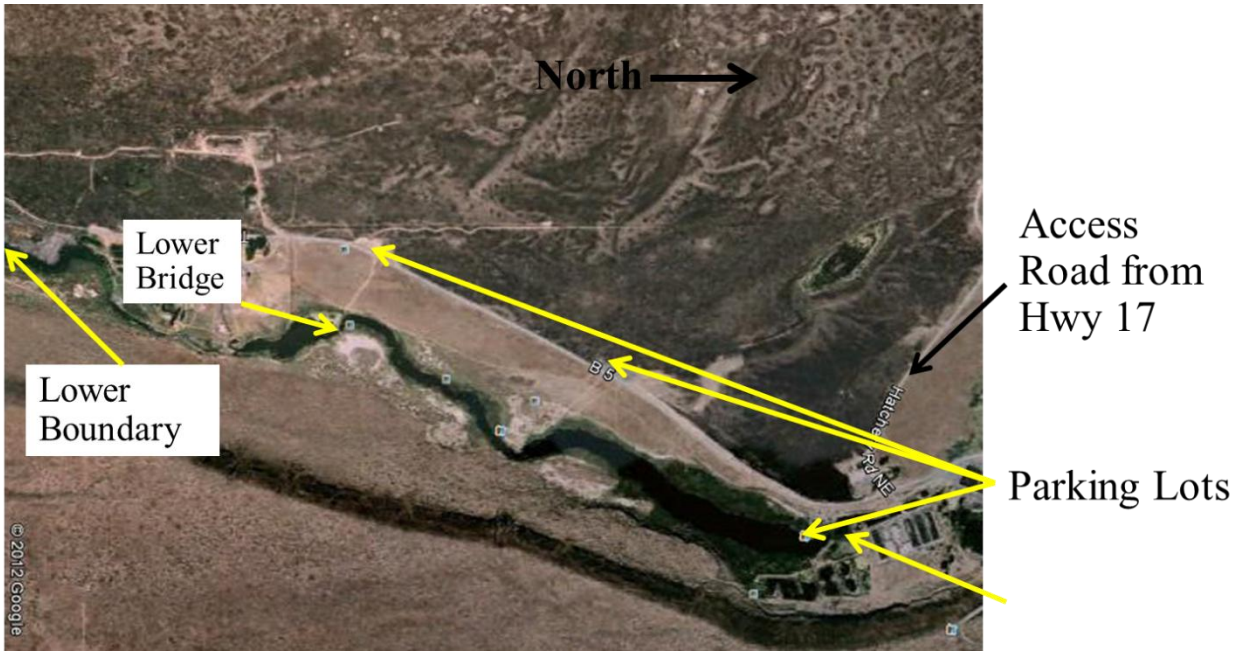
- Can be difficult for beginners, but very enjoyable area to fish
- Fly fishing only, barbless hooks, catch and release, fish from shore only, and no wading
- Located north of Moses Lake, about 1 mile south of Soap Lake on the property of the Trout Lodge Hatchery
- Fish from December through April before water grass becomes a problem

Float Tube Not Required

Rocky Ford

Float Tube Not Required

Rocky Ford



Google Earth Photo

Float Tube Not Required

- Touchet River
  - Could fish without waders, a bit cold
  - Fish starting at bridges from Waitsburg on upstream in early summer. Water levels can be very low in late summer
- Tucannon River
  - Could fish without waders, colder than Touchet
  - Much of land along Tucannon River Road above King's grade is open to public on Feel Free to Hunt Program land
  - In National Forest Section, lots of logs in river

Next Steps: Floating Device and Waders Required

- **See CBFC website: Columbiabasinflycasters.org**
  - Select "References"
  - Go to: "Fly Fishing Around the Tri-Cities" and click on the highlighted word "here"
  - Over 30 good destinations for fly-fishing
- **Some of our favorites**
  - **Lenice and Nunally Lakes**
    - Walk-in lakes located off of Crab Creek Road
    - Selective Gear, open March 1 to end of Nov.
  - **Quail Lake**
    - Walk-in lake located northeast of Othello in the Potholes Lakes area
    - Fly-fishing only, open year-around
  - **Several Potholes Lakes**
    - Some accessible at parking lot, located northeast of Othello
    - See fishing regulations for seasons
  - **Lake Lenore and Sun Lakes, north of Soap Lake**

Next Steps: Floating Device and Waders Required

Other Lakes

- Dalton Lake, east of Pasco off Snake River
- Spokane area lakes including fly-fishing only Amber Lake
- Lake Lenore and Sun Lakes, north of Soap Lake
- Leech Lake and Dog Lake near White Pass
- Anthony Lake in Oregon near Anthony Lakes Ski Area
- Several Lakes around Mount Hood and around Bend Oregon
- Several lakes around Omak, WA

Next Steps: More Challenging Streams and Rivers

- Naches – recent reports of decent fishing in late summer; Most public access near confluence with Tieton River
- Spokane River (Upstream of City of Spokane)
- North Fork of Coeur D'Alene River in Idaho
- St. Joe River, Idaho
- Lochsa River, Idaho
- Owyhee River, Oregon
- Deschutes River, Oregon
- Henry's Fork, Idaho
- Silver Creek, Idaho
- Yellowstone Park – awesome!

Yellowstone Park, The Firehole

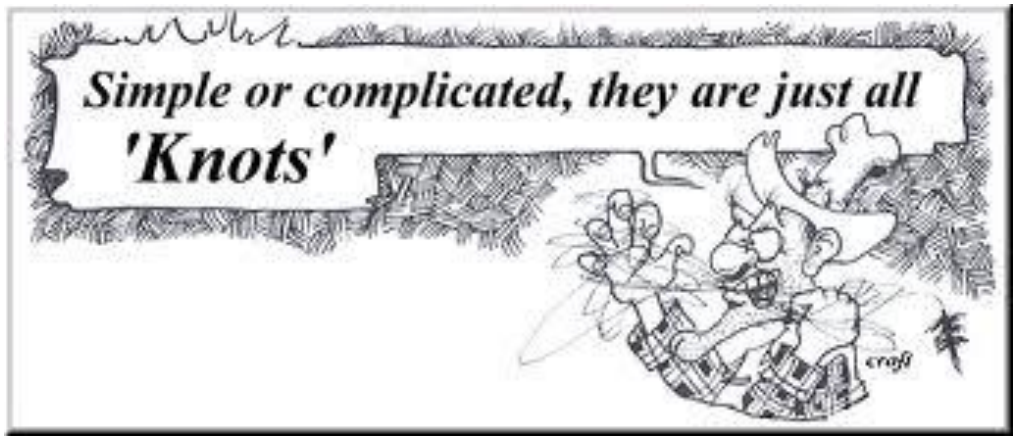
One of the most beautiful trout streams in the world – and the trout are there as well.

Catching Fish – its worth the travel

Lake in Yellowstone Park – Group of 6 fisherman caught and released over 50 cutthroat this size and larger.

Good cutthroat from Yellowstone Park – Lamar River

4. Rigging-up/ Knots



Key Points

- As a minimum, install backing, fly line, and leader on reel at home before leaving on trip
- Master the triple surgeon knot and improved clinch knot before getting out on the water

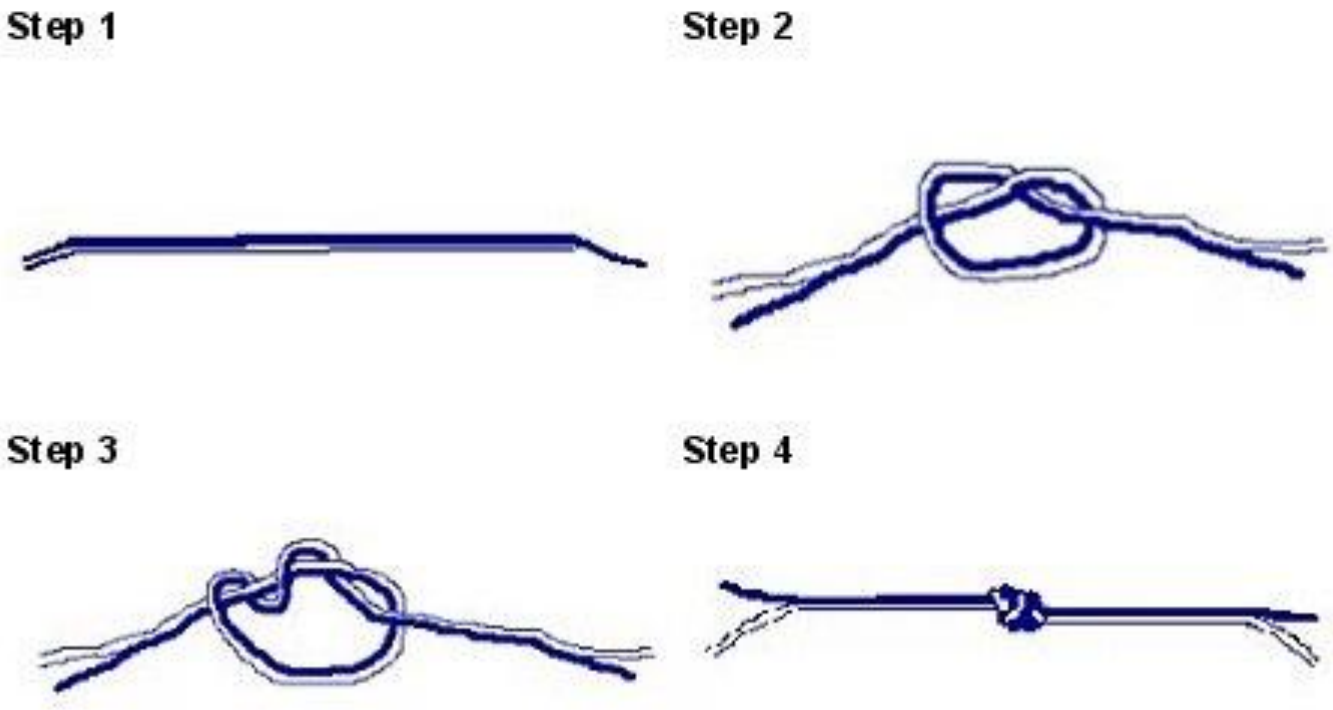
Five Necessary Knots

Backing	Fly Line	Leader	Tippet
~ 100 yds	~ 90 Ft	~ 9 Ft	~ 8 In

1. Backing to Reel: Arbor Knot (See YouTube)
2. Fly Line to Backing: Albright Knot or Nail Knot (See YouTube)
3. Leader to Fly Line: Nail Knot (or use loop connector) (See YouTube)
4. Tippet to Fly Line: Blood Knot or Double Surgeon's Knot
5. Fly to Tippet: Improved Clinch Knot

Double Surgeon Knot

- Excellent for connecting tippet to leader or connecting smaller diameter sections of leader
- Recommend adding third pass to make triple surgeon knot



Improved Clinch Knot

- Excellent for connecting fly to tippet

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Step 4

5. Casting

Key Points

- Must master basic forward cast of 40 to 60 feet
- Learn steps to forward cast and diagnose major problems

Casting - Preliminaries

Safety:

- For practicing – don't use a fly with a pointed hook
- Avoid windy days – casting in wind really complicates casting for beginners and may be hazard to you and others
- Wear eye protection – high probability of hooking yourself!

Equipment:

- Ensure you have the right equipment, Poor quality/mismatched equipment - fly rods/lines/etc. - can ruin your experience.

Casting - Preliminaries

Location

- Need relatively open area behind – for 40-foot cast, should have 40 feet behind with no obstructions above 4-6 feet, especially free of trees.

Preparing the line:

- Pull out of the fly reel the length of line you expect to fish with
- Straighten the fly line and leader

Best Grip:

- Thumb on top of fly rod away 180 degrees from reel
- Rod held mostly with thumb and forefinger

Stance: (right hand caster)

- Left foot forward (not critical but helpful
- Right arm slightly away from side, upper arm slight angle from vertical
- Left hand holding line at about stomach height

Casting – Forward Cast

5 Steps in Forward Cast

1. **Lift:** Point rod tip at line in the water and begin moving line with left hand
2. **Accelerate Backward:** accelerate (i.e., increasing speed) rod backward to about 1:00
3. **Hesitate:** Short hesitation to let the line roll out behind you
4. **Accelerate Forward:** accelerate rod forward in direction of target
5. **Snap/Stop:** Stop rod abruptly at about 11:00, snap wrist slightly down and lower rod to 9:00

Casting – Forward Cast

Acceleration

- One of the keys to a good cast
- As rod moves backward – start smoothly and speed up rod motion to the end point at 1:00.
- Most force applied between 12:00 and 1:00
- Must apply enough force to keep line above your rod tip
- Much like a hammer stroke; slower at first, speed up, stop fast

Wrist Movement

- Wrist should not bend during the cast
- Wrist movement drives the line into the ground on the backcast

Casting – Forward Cast

Basic Principles

1. Forward cast is really two casts – a backward stroke and a forward stroke
2. Apply enough – but not excessive - force to both forward and backward cast to move the line
3. Start slow, finish fast on both backward and forward stroke from 11 to 1 on clock face
4. Move the rod in one plane
5. Timing – hesitate at end of backward cast to let the line unroll

Casting – Forward Cast

1. **Lift: Point rod tip at line in the water and lift line off water to about 9:00**

Casting – Forward Cast

2. Accelerate Back: accelerate rod backward to about 1:00

- Raise rod to about 10 O'clock (horizontal) position lifting line off of water and then **accelerate** (continually increasing speed) backward. Acceleration needed to lift line off of water, overcome water and air drag, and move line behind you. During acceleration, forearm and shoulder move the rod.
- Continue **accelerating** rod backward until rod is at about 1:00 and stop **abruptly.** The line continues to move backwards.

Casting – Forward Cast

3. Hesitate: Short hesitation to let the line roll out behind you

After abruptly stopping the rod, hesitate (about 1 second for thirty feet of line) until line almost straightens out. Amount of hesitation depends on how much line being cast and stiffness of rod. Note – rod will flex backward somewhat

Casting – Forward Cast

4. **Accelerate Forward: accelerate rod forward in direction of target**

Begin forward movement and continue to 11 O'clock position. As the rod tip approaches 11 O'clock, apply additional force to the rod by snapping the wrist forward

Casting – Forward Cast

5. **Snap/Stop: Stop rod abruptly at about 10:00 with a slight wrist snap and lower rod to 9:00**

Abruptly stop **acceleration** just before the 10 O'clock position and the line/loop continues moves forward due to force from your acceleration and rod **unloading** (straightening out). The line should straighten out above the water and while the rod is lowered. Start fishing!

Casting – What did I do wrong?
Diagnosing your cast.

1. Not applying enough energy on backcast – line drops below tip of rod and becomes difficult to move forward without hitting you or your rod. The fly line must move above the rod tip.

2. Moving rod beyond 1:00 and/or bending wrist excessively at end of back cast – line again goes below tip of rod and may catch on ground/bushes

3. Beginning forward cast too quickly; i.e. no hesitation– line snaps in air and fly may snap off

4. Beginning forward cast too late – line drops toward ground and becomes difficult to elevate and move forward

5. Not accelerating on forward cast – line ends up in heap in front of you due to lack of speed at end or tangles if too much speed applied at beginning.

Bending wrist, rod back too far. Note where line is.

Bent wrist, rod back too far affect on cast: Done with forward cast – fly should be above head and moving forward. Cast will not be successful.

Casting – Shooting Line

- Uses
  - Assists in making longer casts
  - Allows for shorter backcast which can be necessary if trees and bushes close behind
  - Helpful in performing roll cast.
- Procedure
  - Create loop of desired length of fly line between reel and first guide on the rod
  - Hold loop in left hand (for right-handed caster)
  - During forward cast, when the rod is in front of you (just before 9 O'clock/horizontal position, release the loop of line
  - If there is sufficient energy in the cast, the momentum of the fly line outside of the rod tip will carry the loop into the cast.

Casting – False Casting

- Uses
  - Assists in making longer casts
  - Dries fly
- Procedure
  - Go through steps 1-4 and instead of snapping wrist down just before 9:00/horizontal position, hesitate and let line almost roll out in front of you, then immediately perform the backcast, forward stroke, and line layout.

Wrap up

- **Learn to cast 40-50 feet to really enjoy fly-fishing**
- **Diagnose casting faults using 6 points presented in class**
- **Best to practice casting before, not during a fishing outing**

Fish caught with 40-foot cast)

Fly Fishing – not just about catching – its also about family and friends!

Henry's Fork 2014 – group photo

Erica Holten with whitefish from Crooked River in Oregon

Next Steps: How to Learn More

- Lessons on learning – be discriminating when:
  - Reading – understand the context
  - Talking to other fishermen – lots of variables involved in imitating their success
  - Taking advice from fly shops – not always accurate
- Above all, go fishing even if you go alone
- Columbia Basin Fly Casters
  - Club trips/Presentations/Classes
  - Discussion with members
- Hire a guide (about $600+ per two people)
- Friends
- Web Sites – lot of information, but scattered
- YouTube – It's probably there if you look hard enough
- Books/magazines/fishing reports –understand the context (what type of water/what US region/what season/etc.) of the information

Web Sites

- Columbia Basin Fly Casters https://columbiabasinflycasters.org/
- For Beginners
  - https://www.takemefishing.org/fly-fishing/fly-fishing-basics/
  - YouTube videos – many available
- https://www.fishing.org/knots Good site for knots
- Wdfw.wa.gov/ Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – access areas, rules, where fish have been planted
- Entomology Web Sites:
  - Troutnut.com - Excellent photos and discussion about fly fishing insects
  - Flyfishingentomology.com/ - Introductory information and lots of detailed information
  - Bcadventure.com/adventure/angling/bugs/index.phtml - Excellent introductory information and fly-tying recipes
  - http://www.riseformflyfishing.com/ - Brian Chan website devoted to fishing stillwaters

Books/Videos

- Casting
  - Video: “The Essence of Fly Casting” by Mel Krieger or book of same title by Mel Krieger
  - Book: “The Cast” by Ed Jaworkski
- Fishing Lakes
  - “Fly-Fishing Stillwaters for Trophy Trout” by Denny Rickard (Also has two videos on same subject) – Does not address fishing chironomids
  - Video: “Fly Fishing Still Waters, Chironomid Techniques” by Brian Chan and Don Freschi
  - “Morris & Chan on Fly Fishing Trout Lakes” by Skip Morris & Brian Chan
- Fishing Rivers
  - Video: “Advanced Strategies for Selective Trout” by Doug Swisher
  - “Fly Fishing Strategy” by Doug Swisher and Carl Richards
  - “Spring Creeks” by Mike Lawson

Books/Videos

- For new fly fishers
  - "Survival Guide for Beginning Fly Anglers" by Skip Morris. Highly recommended book for beginners. Book plus 2 CDs.
- Entomology
  - "Western Mayfly Hatches" by Rick Haefle and Dave Hughes
  - "Dave Whitlock's Guide to Aquatic Trout Foods" by Dave Whitlock
- Where To Fish
  - "Flyfisher's Guide to ….." (Books cover all Western States)
- Steelhead
  - "Advanced Fly Fishing For Steelhead" by Deke Meyer

Books/Videos

- Entomology
  - "Western Mayfly Hatches" by Rick Haefle and Dave Hughes
  - "Dave Whitlock's Guide to Aquatic Trout Foods" by Dave Whitlock
  - Trout Food, Ralph Cutter, Stackpole Books (Excellent introductory book)
  - Western Mayfly Hatches, Rick Haefle and Dave Hughes, Amato Books (Excellent for understanding Mayfly Hatches and matching flies to mayfly insects)
  - Bugwater, Arlen Thompson, Stackpole Books (Excellent photographs and insight into insect behavior; also matches flies to trout food)

- Where To Fish
  - "Flyfisher's Guide to ….." (Books cover all Western States)
- Steelhead
  - "Advanced Fly Fishing For Steelhead" by Deke Meyer