

A scenic landscape photograph of a mountain range reflected in a pond. The mountains are rugged and rocky, with some snow patches. The foreground is a grassy field with a small pond that perfectly reflects the mountains and the sky. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

Fall 2022

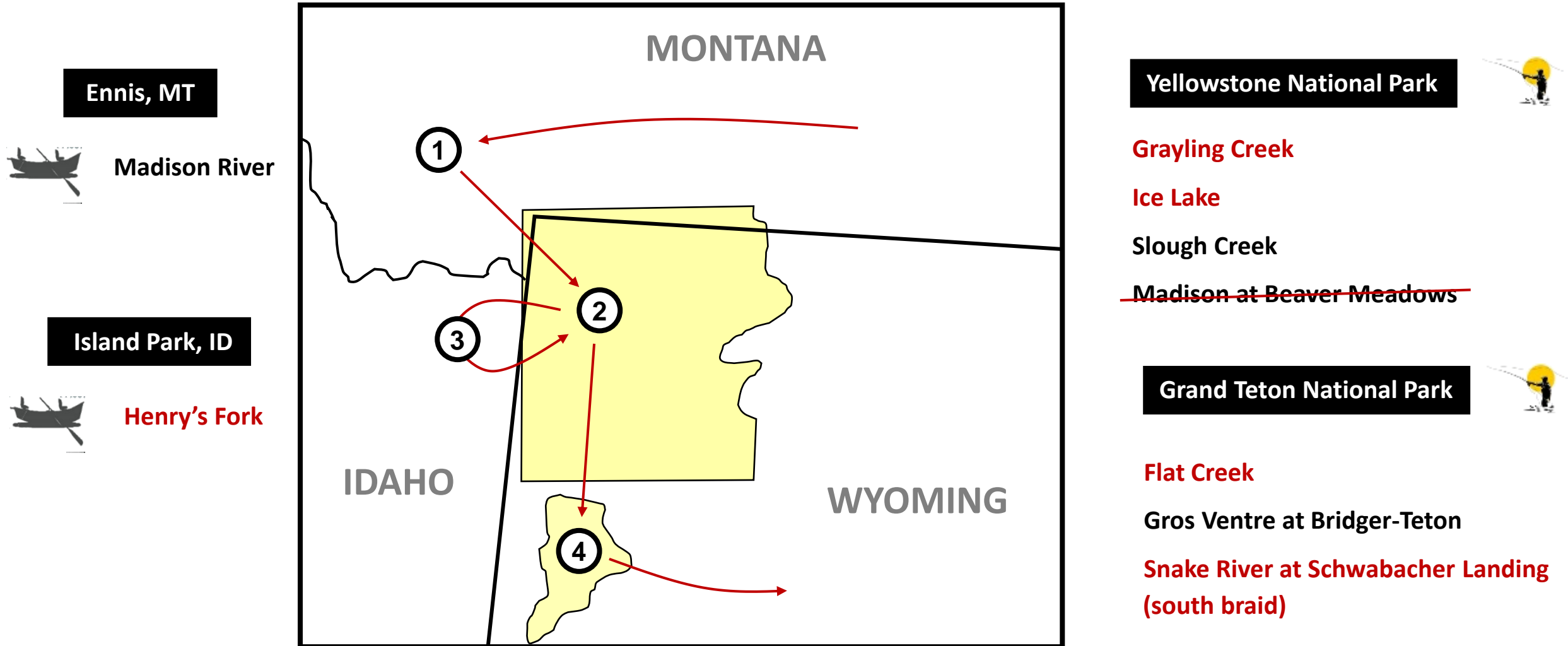
Rocky Mountain Fly Fishing Road Trip

TRIP & FISHING REPORT

18-24 September 2022

Fall 2022 Rocky Mountain Fly Fishing Road Trip

A Scouting Trip



* First Time / New Area

Madison River

18 September

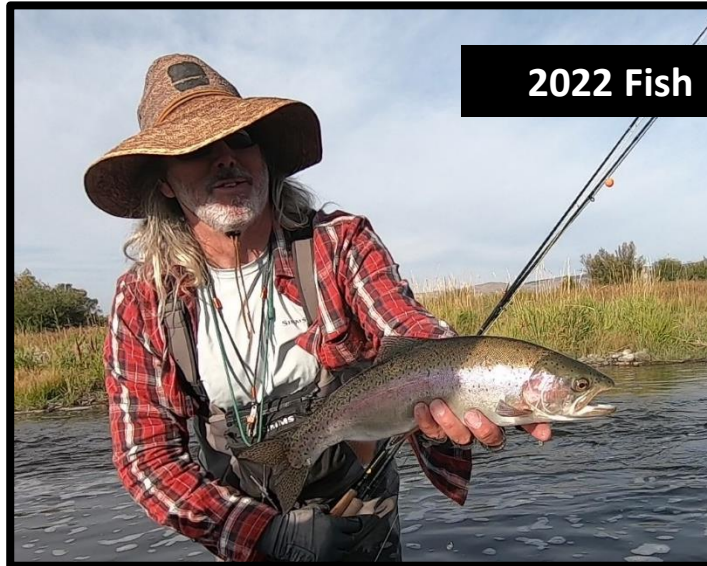


- Recent concern with the Madison
- Has not fished well this year
 - High Temps, Run-off, Flood Events, Dam malfunction, Over-fishing ?

2021 Fish



2022 Fish



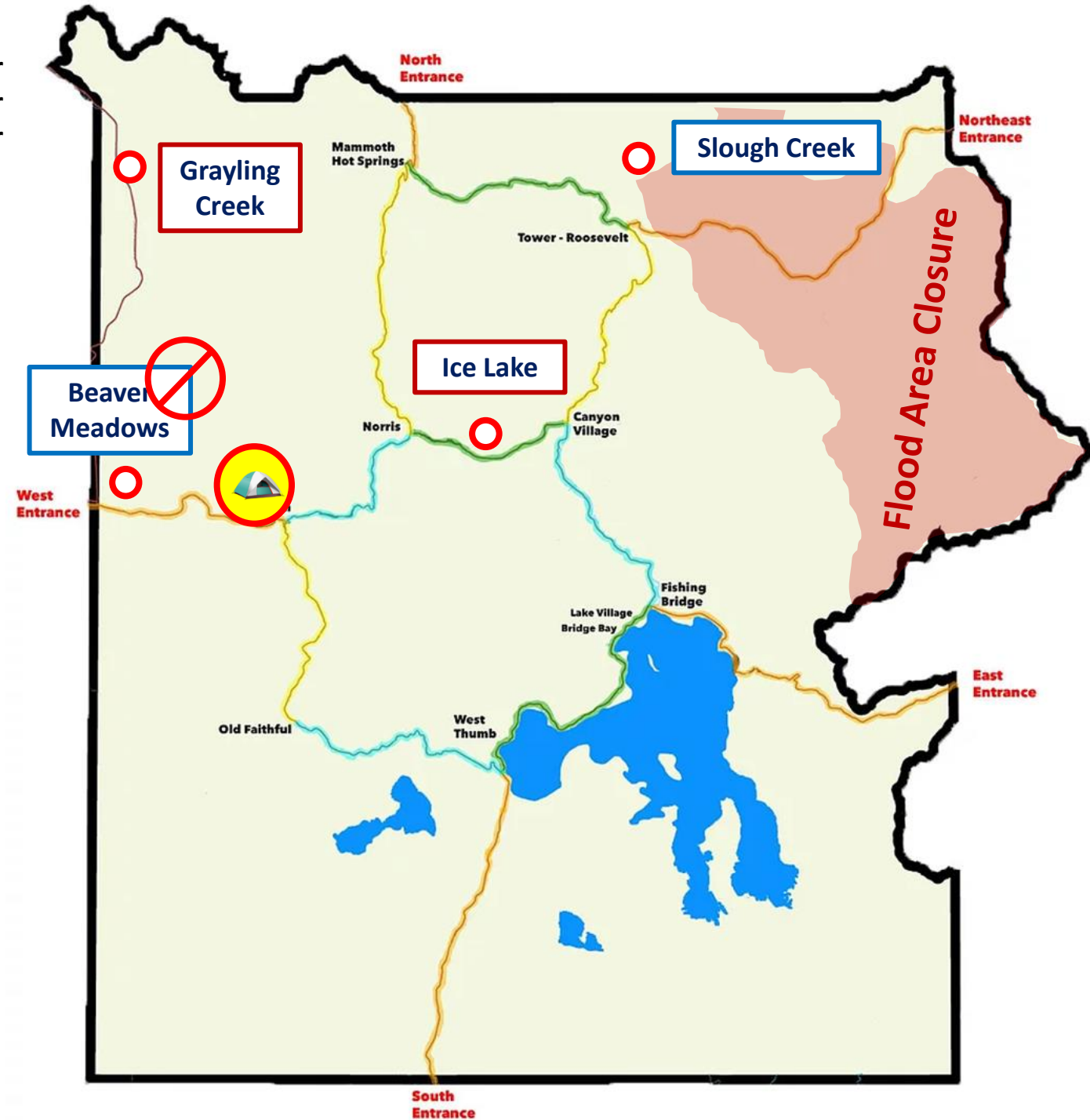
- Better than July
 - Decent numbers
 - But not much size

Yellowstone



19 September
21 September
22 September

- Late September = Start of Runners
 - But decided not to fish Beaver Meadows
- New & Familiar Sites
 - Grayling Creek & Ice Lake
 - - Native fish reintroduction program
 - Slough Creek & ~~Beaver Meadows~~



Grayling Creek

19 September



Rainbow



Brown



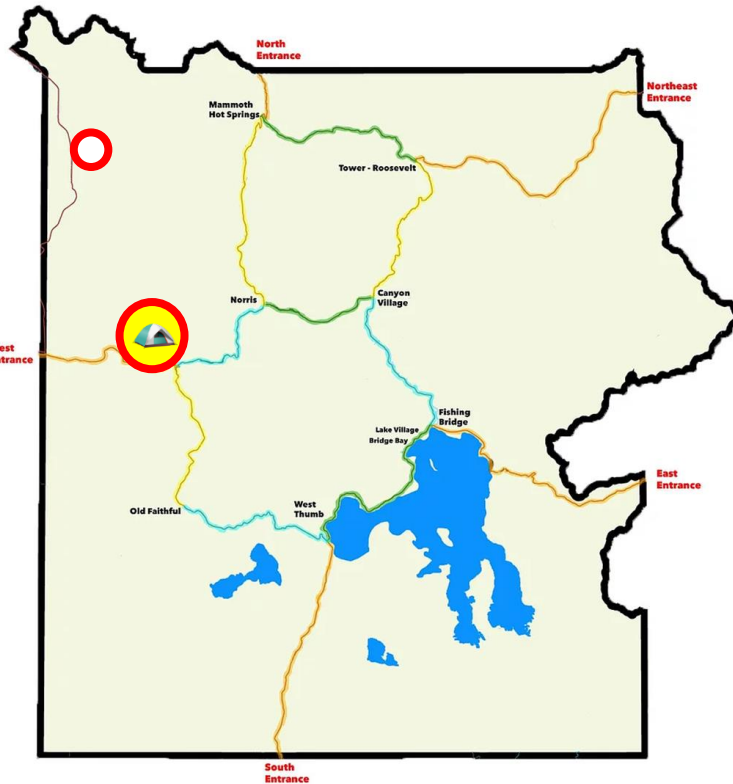
Grayling



Westslope Cuts

Native Fish Reintroduction Program

2012 Barrier Completed / 2013-14 Remove non-native fish / 2015-18 Reintroduce native fish



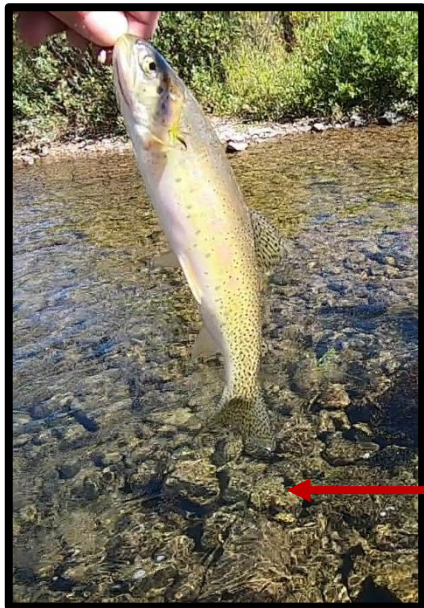
Overview

- Free Stone with sandy parts
- Easy Access: Park next to road at turn-outs
- Easy wading, but tough walking

Comments

- Books say to fish between mile marker 11 to 17
- My Experience:
 - - > MM 16: Shallow runs with beaver ponds, but no fish
 - - ~ MM 15: Deep pockets above & below culvert bridge good
 - - < MM 14: Didn't fish there
- Some small cutties, but didn't see any grayling

Grayling Creek



Small (8-12") Cutties

On top (ants, adams)

Aggressive strikes, fought hard

**Notice bottom composition
- - mid-size rocks; hard on the feet**

Note vegetation down to stream bank

If bear adverse, fish with a friend

Ice Lake

19 September



Grayling

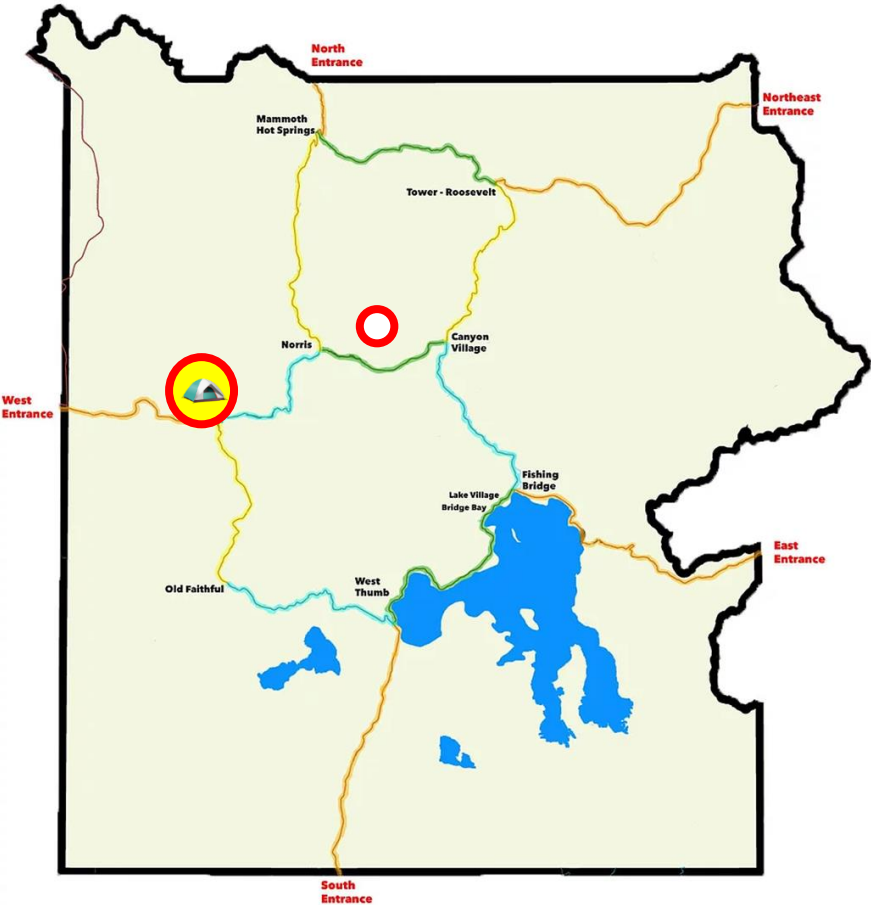
Native Fish Reintroduction Program

2017

Lake treated

2018

Grayling reintroduced



Overview

- West of Cascade – Grebe – Wolf Lakes
- ¼ mile hike* on well maintained trail
- Bank fishing with some back-cast space

Hot Flies

- Don't know

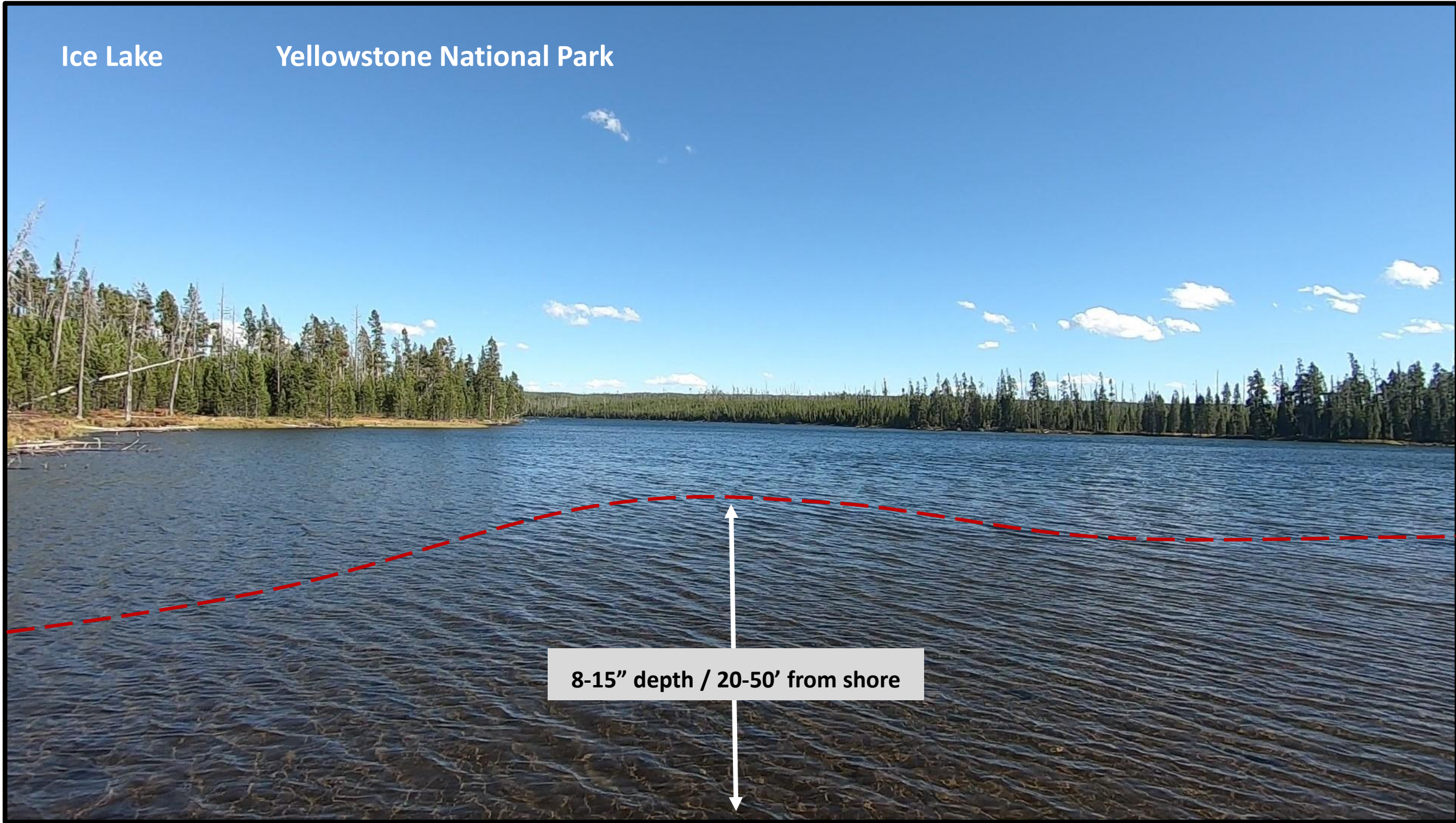
Comments

- Not feasible from bank (too shallow)
- - Some anglers had waded out (boot prints)

* ¼ mile x 3 to get lake side

Ice Lake

Yellowstone National Park



8-15" depth / 20-50' from shore

Ice Lake

Yellowstone National Park



Potential casting areas = shallow, sandy water

- No fish in Fall, maybe early Summer



Forest management extends into water

- Potential habitat structure?

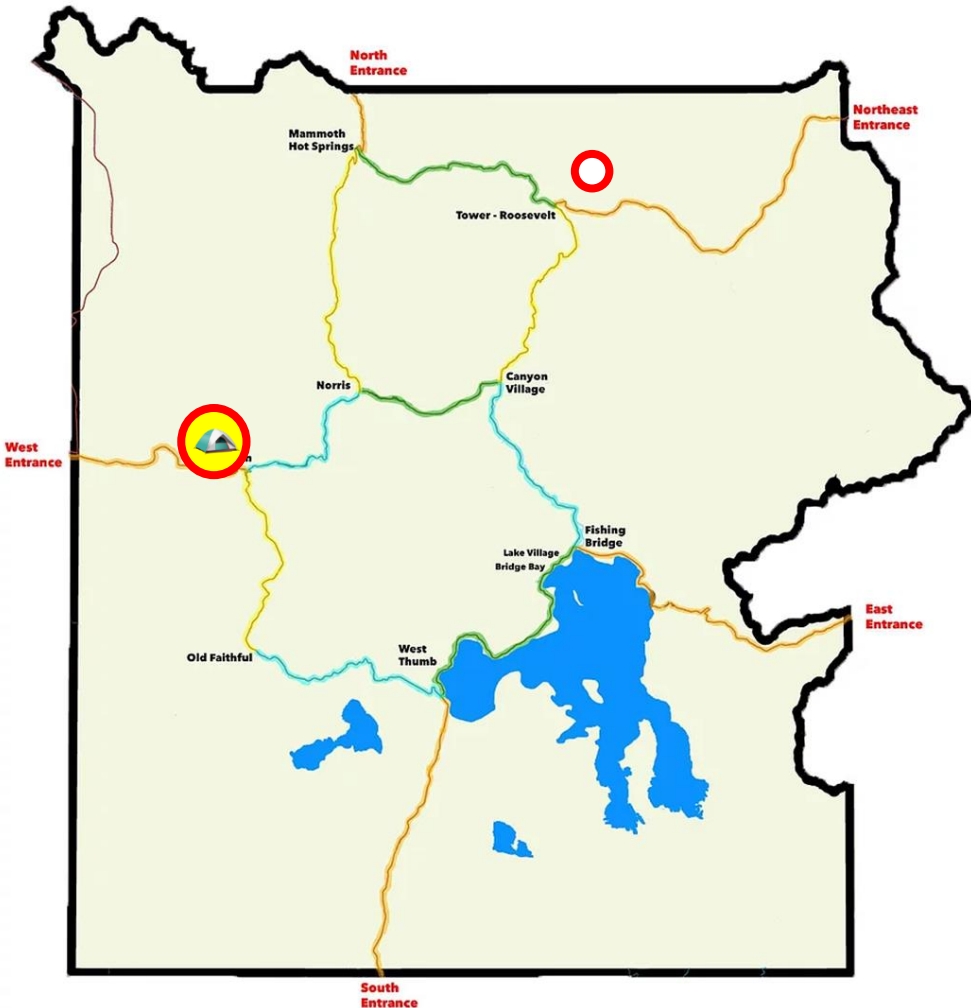
Slough Creek (1st Meadow)

Yellowstone

21 September



Yellowstone Cuts



Overview

- 2 Hour drive from Madison Campground
- 1.5 mile hike to first meadow
- Better known as a summer fishery

Hot Flies

- Hoppers, tan / mahogany mayflies

Comments

- Only 3 anglers there (briefly crossed paths)
- PhD level fishing
 - - all sight fishing to skittish fish
 - - stalk, match hatch, long leaders
 - - “no spook” casts

1 fish to net, 4 rodeos, 6 missed strikes, 3 dozen refusals = Great Fishing Day

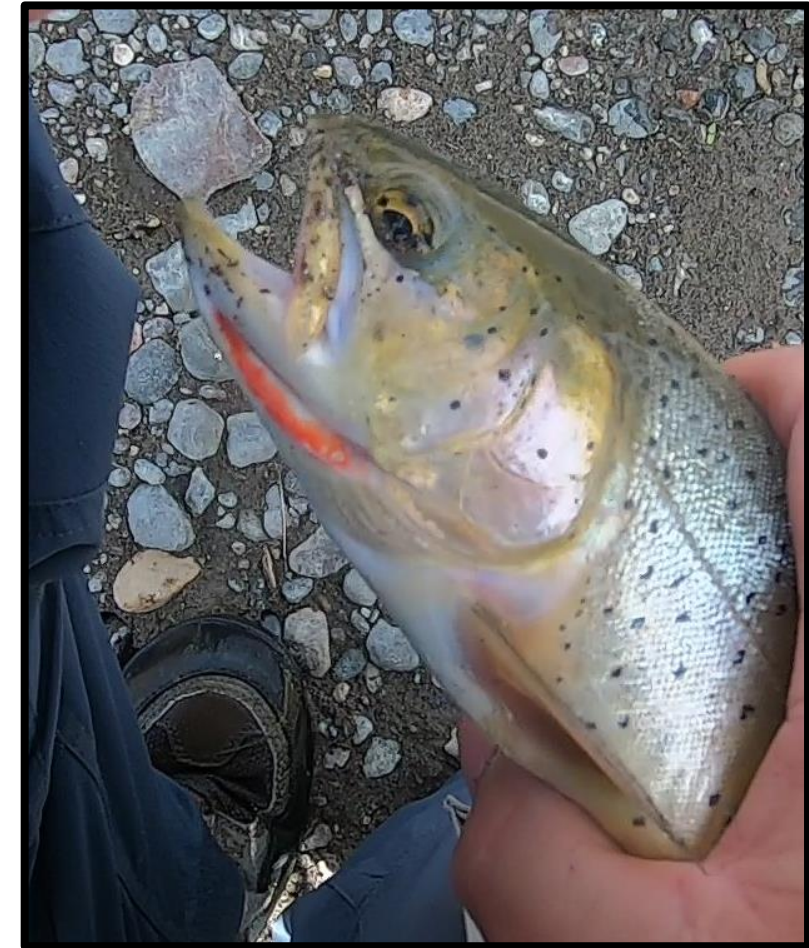
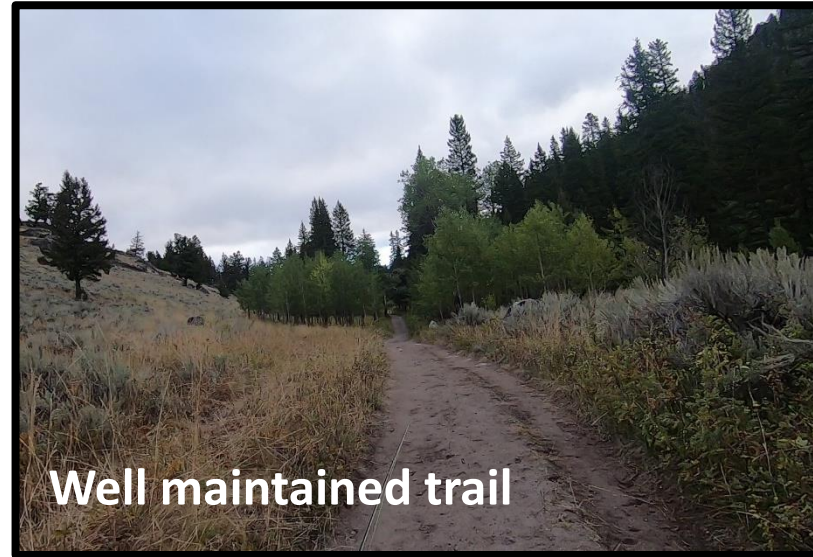
Slough Creek

Yellowstone National Park



It's bear territory

**Carry bear spray
Make noise
Hike in groups**



**12-14" cutties
Fish mostly from the banks
Wet wade (cross stream)**

Henry's Fork (Snake River)

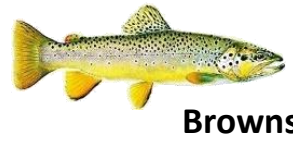
20 September



Cuts



Rainbows



Browns



- **Tributary of the Snake River**
 - 127 miles long
 - aka The North Fork of the Snake
- **One-day side trip from Yellowstone**
 - Henry's Fork Anglers / Island Park (ID)
 - 1 Hour drive from campsite

Henry's Fork (Snake River)

20 September



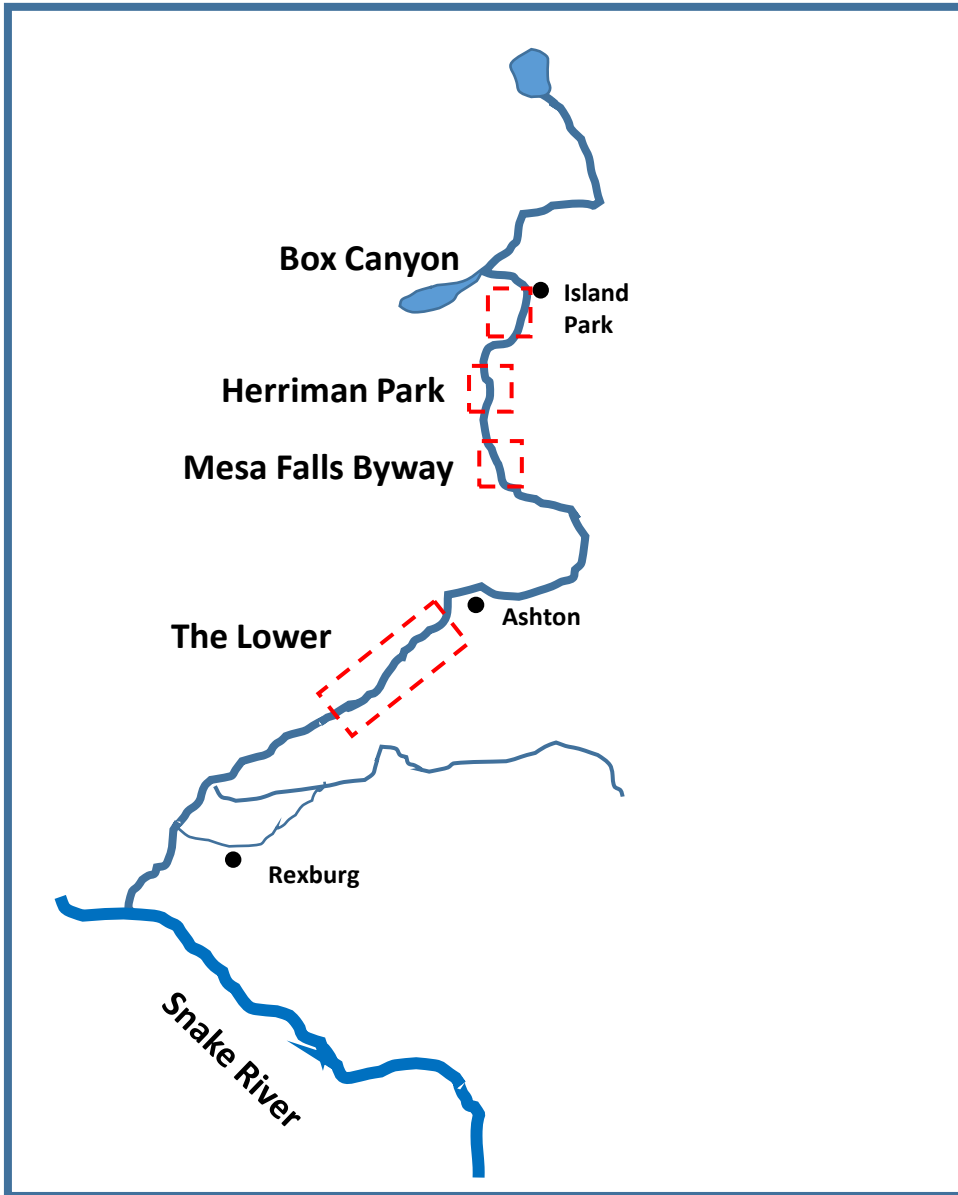
Cuts



Rainbows



Browns



Overview

Numerous named sections

Combination float & wade

Floated the Lower Section

Hot Flies

Hopper – Dropper combos

- Fly Formerly Known as Prince

Comments

Caught fish, but just an average day

Winds 10-15 mph

Henry's Fork



The guide walked / pulled the boat 1 mile up-river to get to the best fishing spots



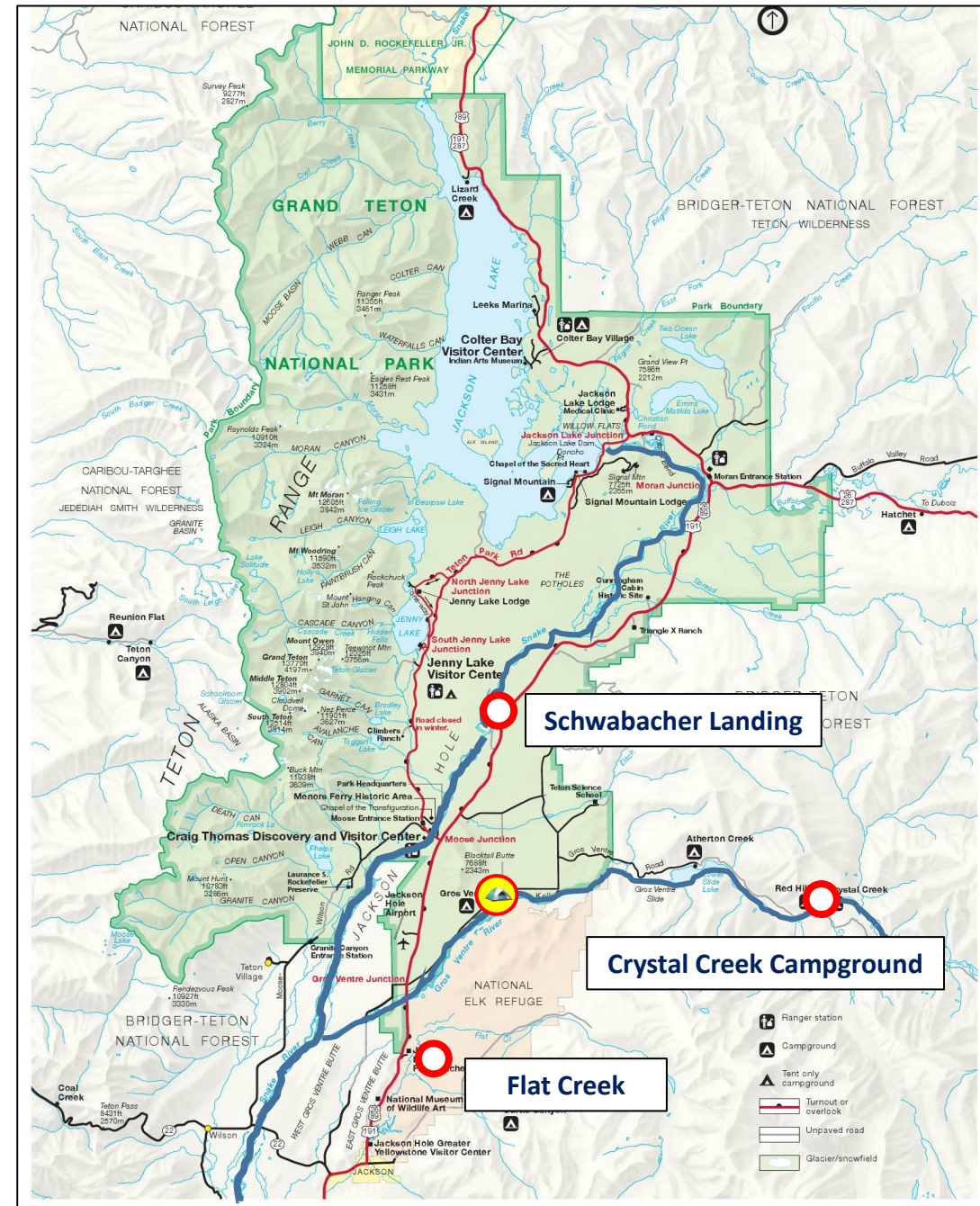
Some nice rainbows, but no big browns

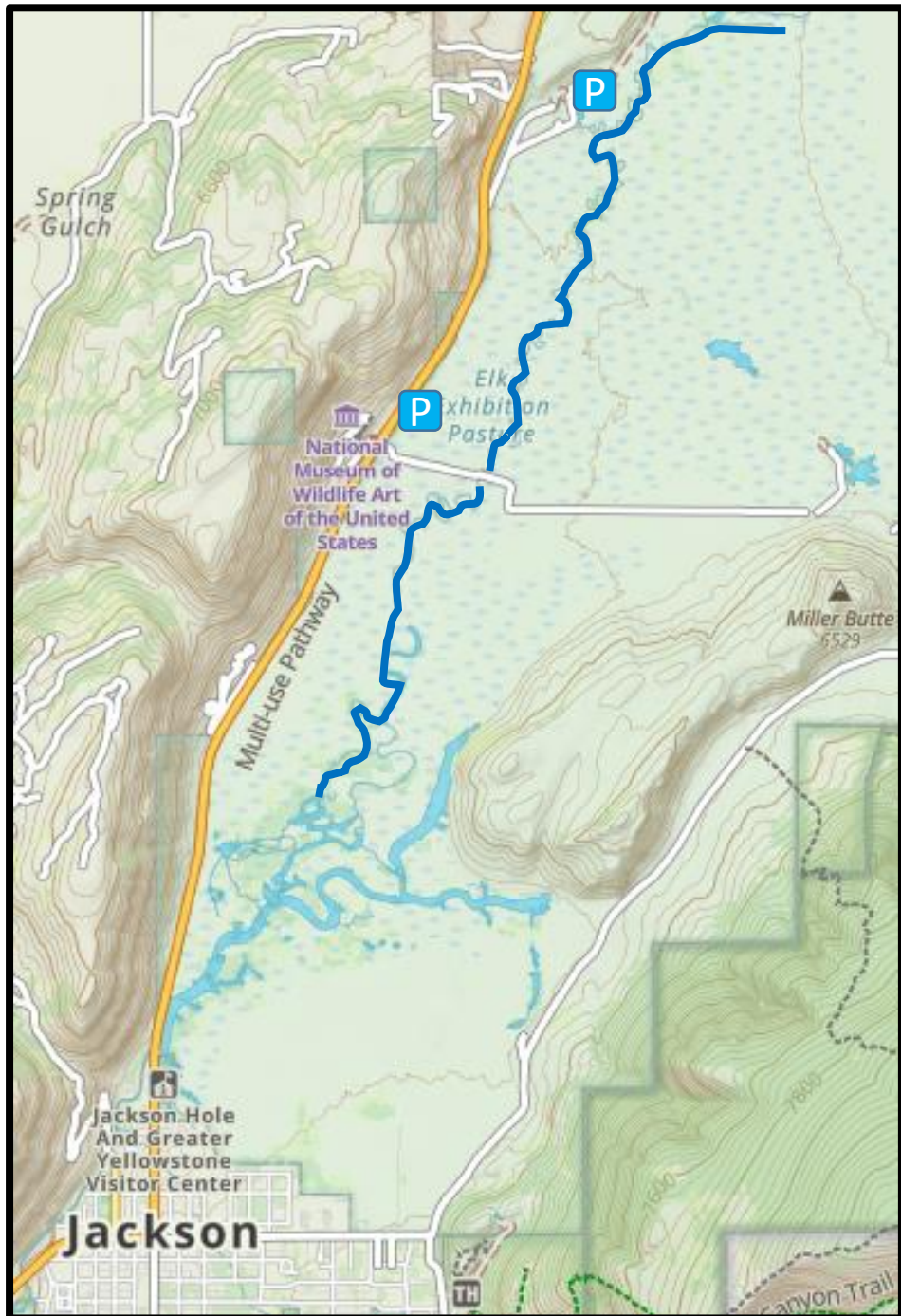
Jackson Hole / GTNP Area



Fine Spotted Cuts

- Flat Creek (Elk Reserve)
- Gros Ventre at Crystal Creek Campground
- Snake River at Schwabacher Landing
- - south parking area access





Flat Creek

23 September

Overview

- Meadow stream in Elk Refuge
- Road side access, short walk to water
- 3 month season (Aug – Oct)
- Bank fishing, deep undercuts

Hot Flies: Hoppers, Mahogany Duns, Purple Haze (?)

Comments

- Fly Shop Advice
 - - Find rising or holding fish
 - - Stay 5-6' off water, limit rod over water
 - - 12' leaders
- Too windy to fish (15-25 mph)

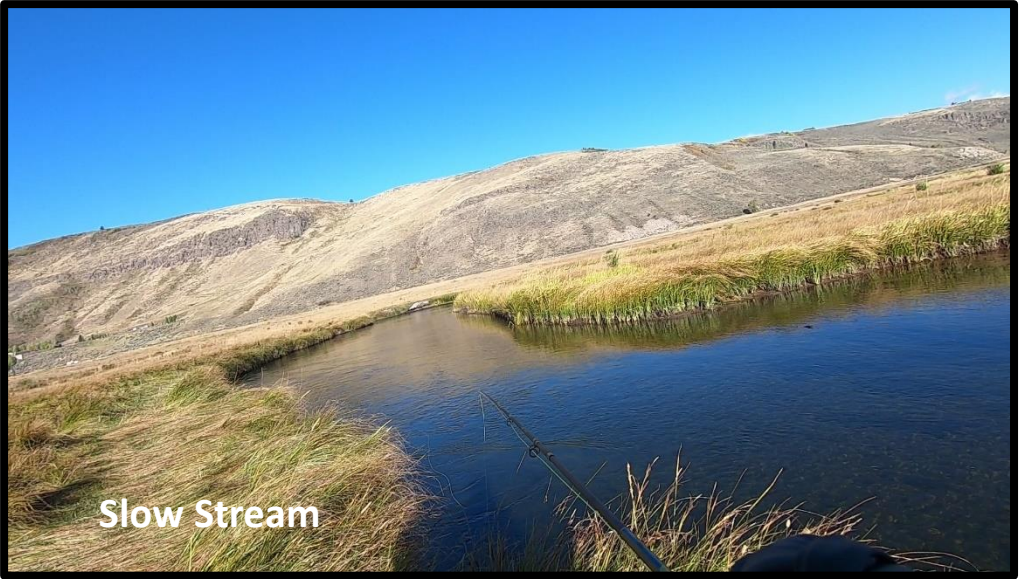
Flat Creek



Well marked turn-out parking areas



Walk to the water



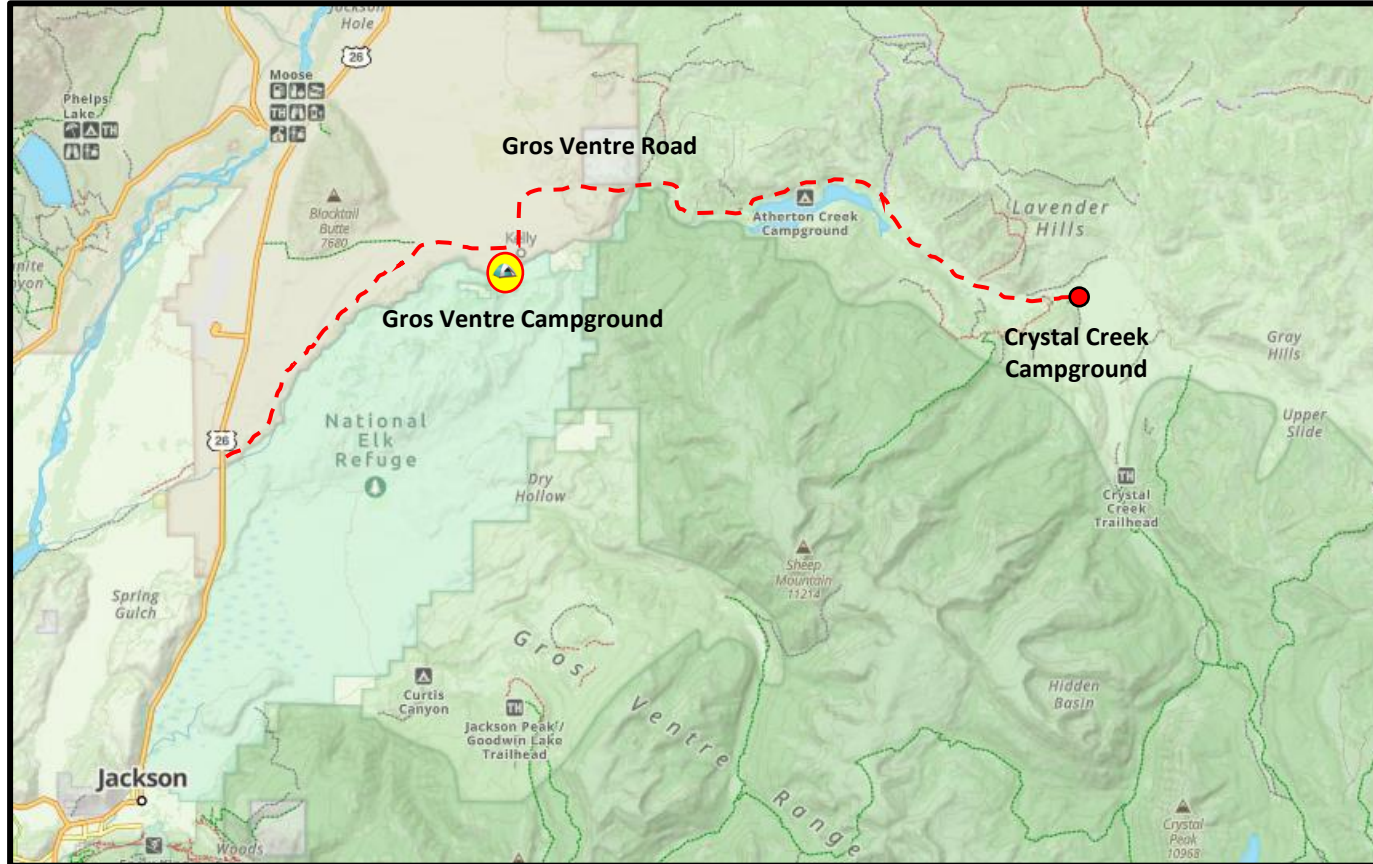
Slow Stream



Undercut Banks

Shallow Water

Deep Hole (6' +)



Overview

- 45 minute drive from Gros Ventre Camp
- Scenic drive over Forest Service roads
- Park at turn-outs or camping areas
- Nice trout water (riffles, runs, pools)

Hot Flies

- Hoppers

Gros Ventre at Crystal Creek Campground



Comments

- Parked at RV area (right side of road)
- Storm damage at tent campground
 - - Hindered access to farthest runs
- Limited pressure
 - - A 'get-away from the crowds' spot
- Be aware of private land



Gros Ventre Road – Paved Portion

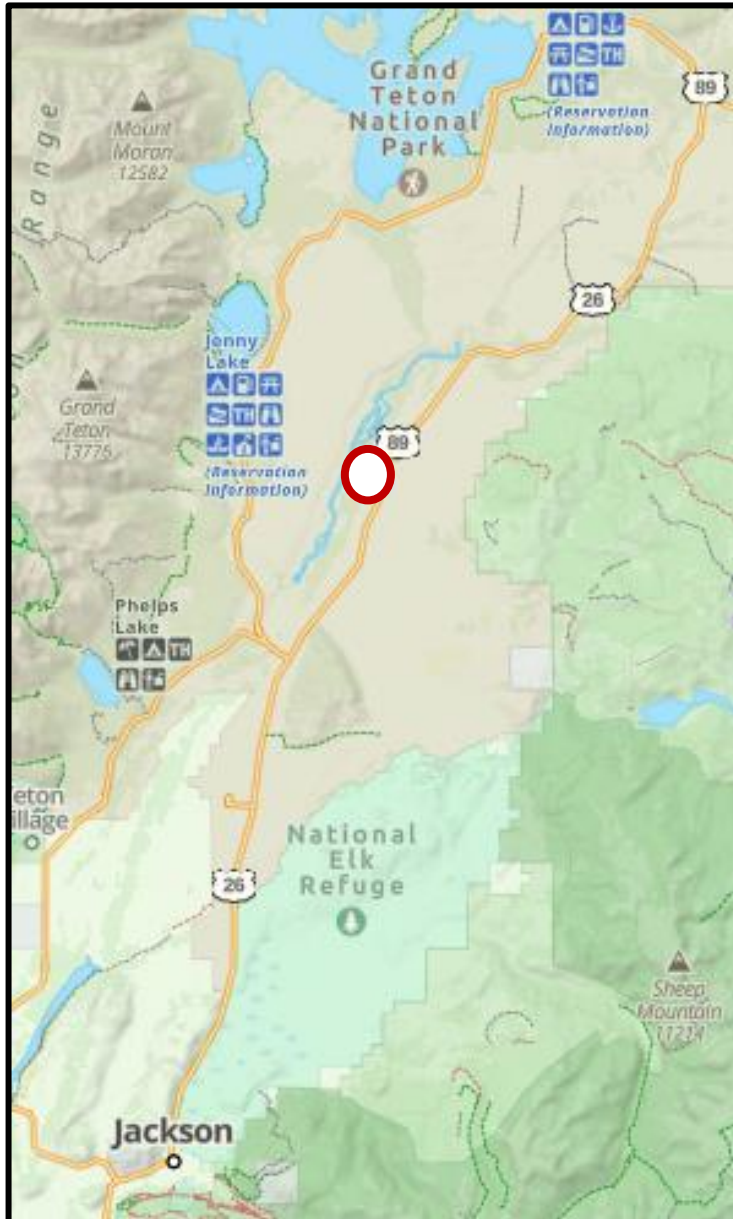


Gros Ventre Road – Unpaved Portion



**From deep pool next to far tent site
Refused Moorish Hopper on first two casts
Destroyed tan Thunder Thighs on third cast**

Schwabacher Landing (Snake River)



Grand Teton National Park

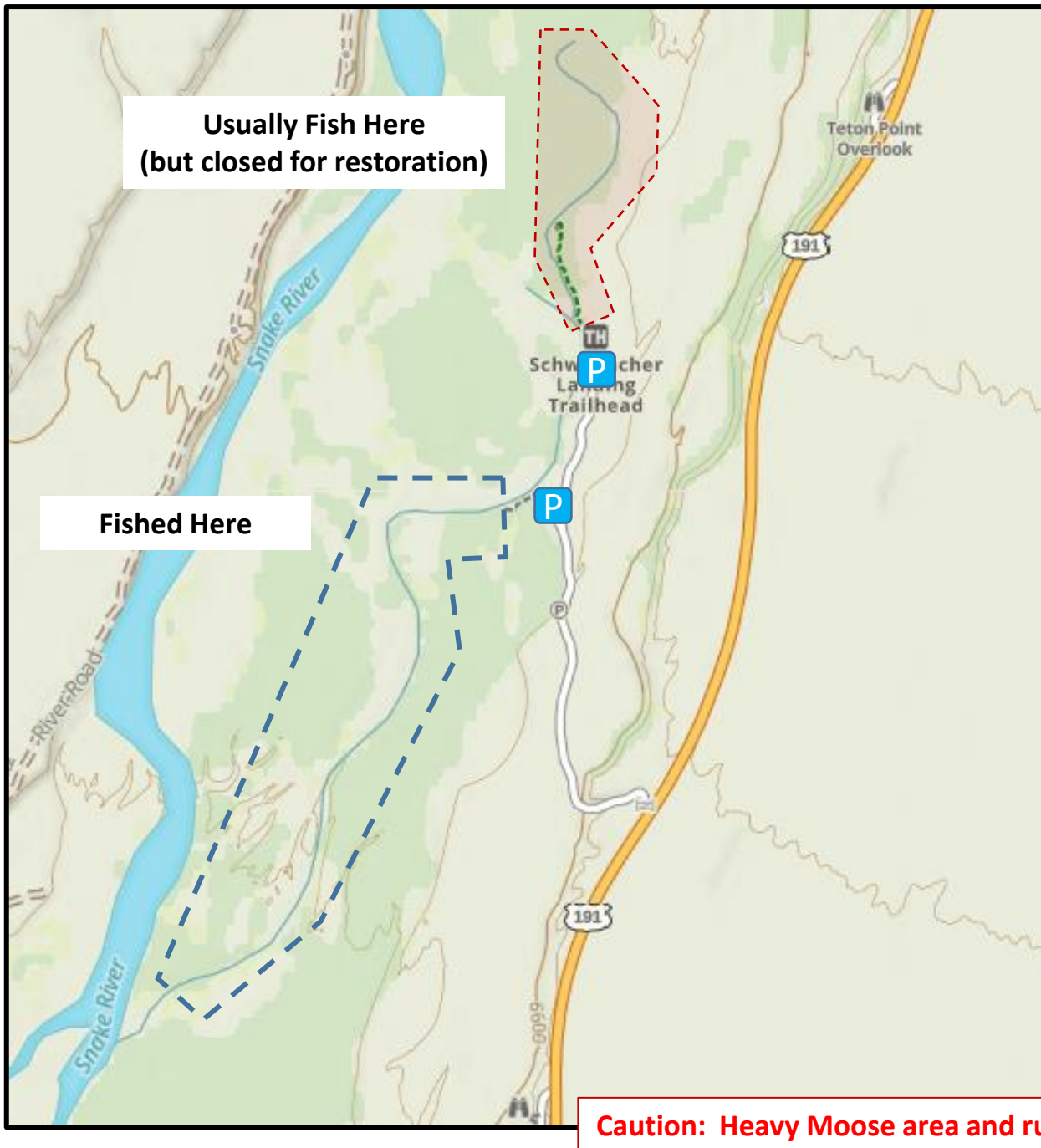
24 September

Overview

- Half-way between Jackson and Moran Junction
- Access road from Highway to the Landing
- Two parking areas
- 'The' Grand Teton photo area
- Nice trout water (riffles, runs, pools, beaver dams)
 - - Snake River braids
 - - Challenging water and skittish fish

Hot Flies

- Depends on section and time of year



Comments

- First 150 yards popular hiking / fishing spot
 - - Nobody afterwards
- Challenging, technical water
 - - Clear water but difficult to see fish (initially)
 - - Easily spooked (40' away, rod pass, line over)
 - - But once located, great stalking opportunities
 - - - Fish would return or reposition
 - - - Could work a single fish for an hour
- Challenging, enjoyable fly fishing

Schwabacher Landing (Snake River)

At parking lot



View from the water



Near Snake River



It stopped being about the number and size of the fish a long time ago. Now it's about the experience.

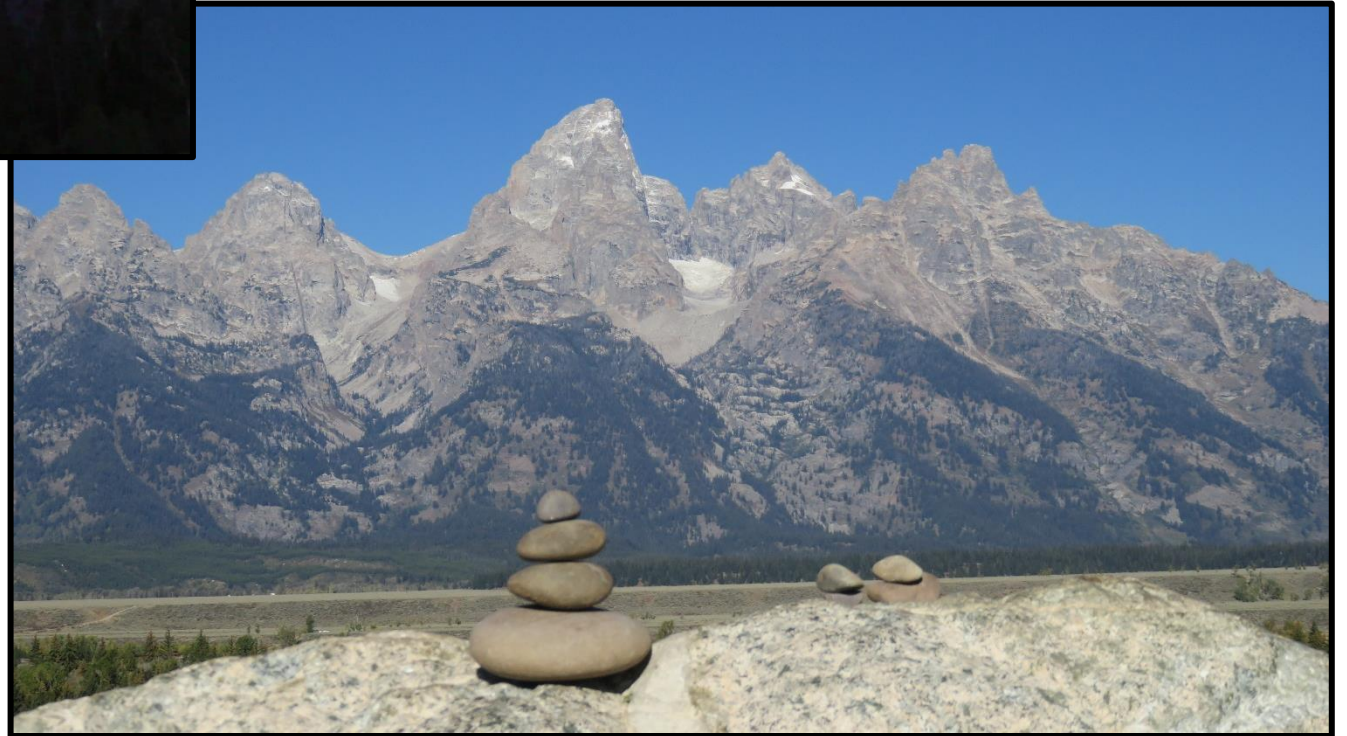
If you just want to catch fish, put a chicken liver on a hook and throw into some muddy water.

If you want an experience that could stay with you for a life time, head for the Rockies with a fly rod.



. . . seen it rain and fire in the sky.

Grand Teton and friends



Still the undisputed fishing champ



Waiting for the bear to finish



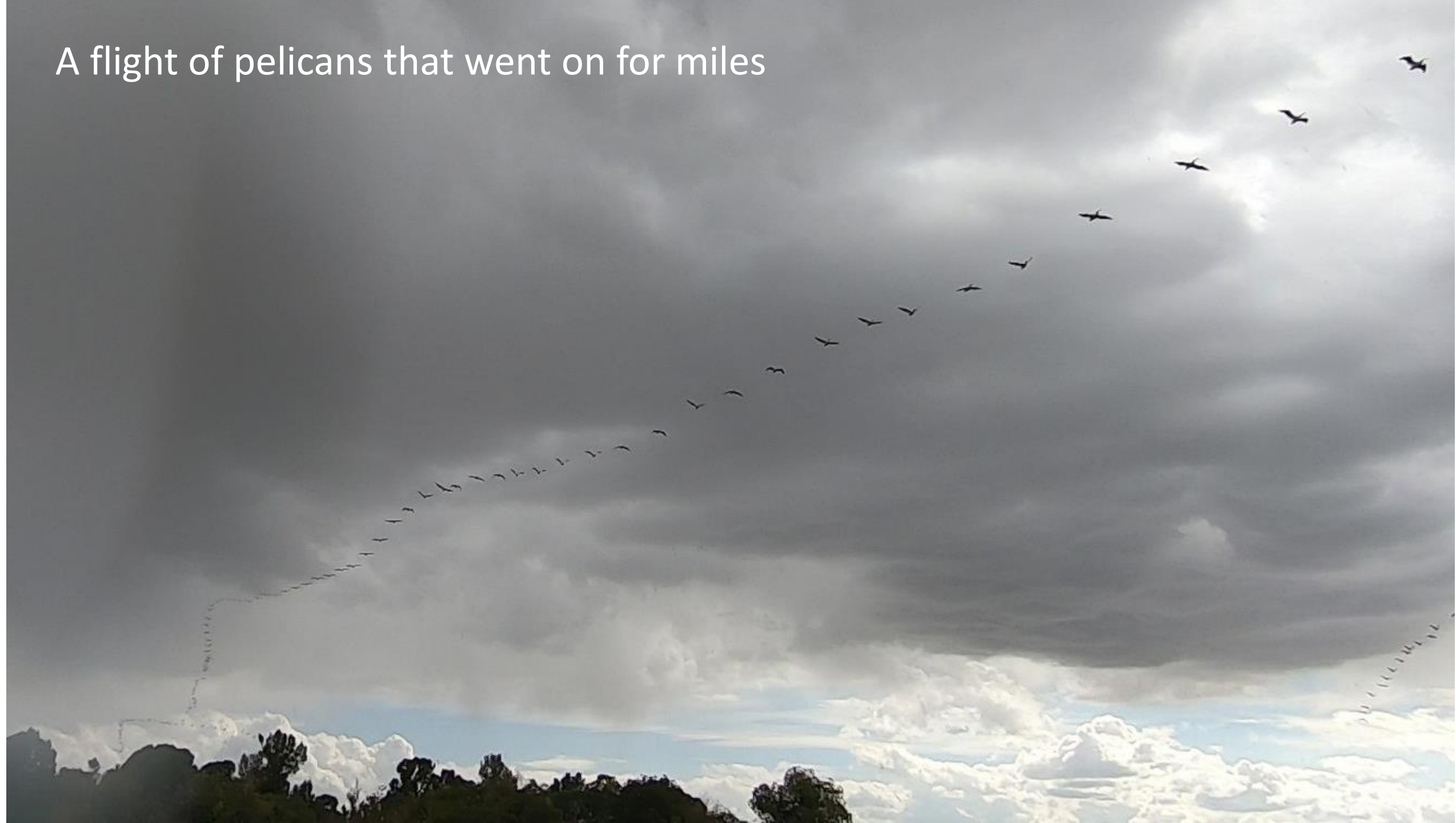
On the way to Crystal Campground



Just outside the
Gros Ventre
Campground



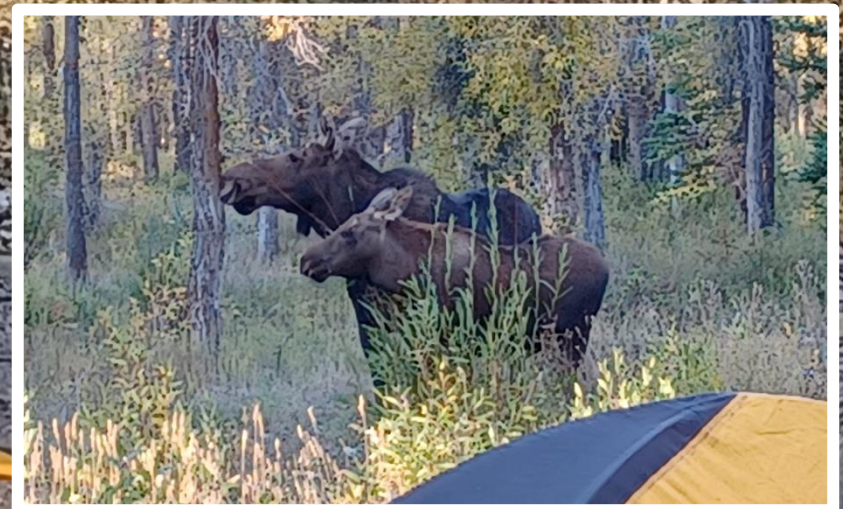
A flight of pelicans that went on for miles



Hanging out at the Post Office



Don't mind us . . . Just passing through.



NEXT ROAD TRIP: SUMMER 2023 – EXPEDITION FISHING ?

(with at least a half-day sight seeing in Tetons & Yellowstone)

