

BUD LILLY'S SPRING FISHING REPORT
The TROUT SHOP--West Yellowstone, Montana

Montana's General Fishing season opens Sunday, May 22. Yellowstone National Park opens Monday May 30, for most streams. Yellowstone lake, June 15; Yellowstone River above the upper falls, July 15.

Opening day here, May 22, will be a big day on Hebgen Lake. Shore casting should be great with the trout close to shore. The Madison River usually runs low with spring snow run off being stored in Hebgen Lake. Clear water is hard to find at this time and the Madison upstream from Hutchins Bridge should be clear.

The Firehole River opening day, May 30, in the Park will be high, however if the river performs as it has in past seasons, dry flies, nymphs and streamers will be the order. Fish nymphs and streamers deep.

The winter snow pack is reported about 60% of last years big snows and 80% of a normal year. Provided spring snow and rain is normal, all streams will be earlier this season. The headwater streams, Gibbon and Firehole, of the Madison will be dropping and clearing in early June. The Madison in the park by mid-June and the lower reaches around June 25. Plan for the Madison Salmon Fly about July 1st and allow a few days either way. Don't miss the Salmon Fly Hatch for big trout!

The North Fork of the Snake River in Idaho has its Salmon Fly Hatch beginning in early June. A Rainbow weighing 8 1/2 9 oz. was taken on a dry fly during this period last season with plenty 2-3 1/2 fish also being taken.

The Trout Shop will be running float trips on the North Fork and the Madison. Make reservations early.

West Gallatin River and all mountain lakes should be clear by mid-July and fine fishing. Lake Lake was a dream for all fisherman last June. Trolling and bait casting good. Beautiful fly hatches for the fisherman about June 20.

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In addition, we will outfit you with footwear from Bass, Russell, Sperry. Raingear and woolens from McGregor, Duofold, Duxbac, Filson etc. Western outdoor wear from H-C.

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Bud Lilly's River Float Trips for Scenic Pleasure.

Drifting on placid meadow like rivers or through rocky swift canyon waters in fabulous mountain scenery with experienced river guides.

Trips arranged to your desires. Half day or full day floats. Lunch provided

1/2 day float	10.00 per person
Full day	15.00 " "

BUD LILLY FLY FISHING SCHOOLS

Three day school for novice fisherman.

Fly casting instruction

Basic tackle

Fly fishing knots

Fishing technique.

One half of each day fishing instruction and one half fishing with a guide. Fly casting instruction by the best in the country. Lefty Ireh and Jim Green. Bud Lilly and his guides will provide fishing instruction.

Three day advanced school for Anglers.

Casting instruction for improvement of casting and casting techniques.

Tackle refinements and leaders

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Specialized instruction on Nymph, streamer and dry fly fishing.

School instructors Lefty Ireh and Jim Green. Bud Lilly and guides for supervised fishing.

Schools will be held in June and September. Three day session in June and September for Novice. Three day school held after Novice session for advanced Angler in June and Sept.

Each 3 day session will be concluded with a streamside supper and presentation of student diplomas. All license and tackle provided. \$90.00 per fisherman

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Three days of instruction for backpacking to fishing.

Preparation for trip

Basic equipment

Backpacking tips/techniques

When and where to backpack for backcountry fishing in Yellowstone area.

On the trail trip with supervised instruction.

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December 26, 1969

Red Davis
Sleepy Hollow
West Yellowstone, Mont.

Dear Red;

Since closing Nov. 1, I've been doing some work on my 1970 catalog. I want to again solicit members for our West Yellowstone Trouters in this years catalog as I did last year. Before I do though would it be possible to do two things?

First, write a report on fishing in our area this past year and a brief forecast for the coming season and second, write a letter to the Montana Fish and Game Dept. requesting that the rainbow trout formerly being planted in the Madison river between Earthquake Lake and Meadow Lake be stopped. That these trout be planted in Hebgen Lake and the Gallatin river.

The district fisheries biologist here in Bozeman report that the results of their electro-shocking fishing studies on the Madison river in the Varney Bridge section and two other 2 mile sections of the river upstream from here, show increased numbers of trout over the same studied areas the year before.

They conclude that these increases are due to more stable water flows maintained in early spring and fall by Montana Power Co. They do note however that some age groups of trout do not carry over as they should and suspect that the introduction of 8-12" hatchery rainbows into the Madison may cause a decrease in wild trout numbers. It is the feeling of the Montana F & G biologists that no stocking would greatly benefit the river in a year or two. These people have extensive data over a 4 year period to substantiate their conclusions.

In any event with continued release of less violent flows limits at Hebgen Dam, the Montana Fish and Game Dept. expects the Madison to show marked fishing improvement. This would be of interest to West Yellowstone Trouters. Also the introduction of the rainbow in to Hebgen Lake would help improve angler success here. Studies show lake stocking many times more successful than streams.

Also of interest to West Yellowstone Trouters will be proposed fishing regulation changes in Yellowstone Park again this year. The new regulations have not been adopted, but it has been suggested that trout under 16" be released. No grayling may be kept and only 3 cutthroat over 14" may be kept.

I would like to see some of this information included in an extensive report to our club members. These club members

could be solicited to write letters supporting this request of Montana Fish & Game to ask Federal Hatchery at Ennis to cease and desist in the stocking of rainbow in the Madison river above Meadow (Ennis) Lake.

In studying a section of the Madison river below Meadow Lake where flows are almost constant and no rainbow stocking is done, they have found wild trout population double to those upstream from Meadow Lake, The stream is essentially the same type in both areas.

If any of this B.S. sounds worth while, I would hope that a letter could be written to the F.& G. making this request and soliciting all the support for it we can from anyone.

I would also very much favor a report of some kind to members. Many who paid their dough would like to hear from us.

During January, I'll be in Calif. talking to fishing clubs. I intend to mention this to these groups and to ask for their support if you agree to the move.

From my information this would be a good time to make this request of the F. & G. They have stated through the papers their intentions to simplify fishing and hunting regulations. It would seem logical to stop planting and reduce the limit. Five trout is a good number.

Hope you and Marge are well and enjoying yourself.

I'll be back in Bozeman the last of January.

Sincerely;

Bud Lilly