

The Fishing Line by David Curphey

Well folks, it's time to get your tackle box out and clean out the dried worms and restock it with tackle. Trout season opens on April 28th for the mountain streams and upper lakes such as Howard Prairie, Diamond Lake and Lemolo. Be sure to read the fishing regulations on the area you intend to fish, as there may have been some changes.

Two local lakes were stocked with Trout in March, Lost Creek and Willow. Medco Pond will be stocked in April in time for opening day. Throughout spring and summer the lakes are stocked regularly with rainbows. I find these fish bite best on rainbow colored power bait, using a size 16 treble hook or on the bottom using nightcrawlers with a miniature marshmallow. If you don't catch any fish, you can eat the bait!

Dave M. and I have been fishing the Rogue for steal head from just above Rainey Falls below Grants Pass to the markers below Cole Rivers Fish Hatchery. The upper river is still slow due to very low water, but we have been hooking a few fish. The lower river has more fish as we found out several weeks ago. Dave M. and I hooked three steal head but only landed one. After losing a big steal head, I decided to go with heavier line. The fish in that part of the river are real fighters so I would suggest using 12 pound mainline and 10 pound leader. We've been using night-crawlers and corkys mostly with fair success.

I called Tony Kronemeyer of SportHaven Marina at Harbor to ask how the fishing has been. Nothing but good news! The bottom fishing off the coast has been real good with most charters limiting out and some nice ling cod being caught. Although, the Chetco River is closed now, it opens May 26th for Chinook salmon and adipose fin or clipped steal head. At this time of writing, March 20th, there were chinook starting to run up the Chetco and some nice ones being caught.

The spring run Chinook salmon should be headed up the lower Rogue now, but it will be early May before they reach the upper river.

While out on my fishing trips, I have had the pleasure of meeting some very nice and helpful people at various bait and tackle shops. One can find out a lot of helpful information on fishing by stopping at bait and tackle shops in the area you are fishing. One such place is Pat's Hand Tied Flies. John and Susan have always been helpful with knowing what's in the river or lake, what bait to use and the proper tackle.

I hope you all have good luck fishing this opening day of Trout season. If you plan on camping out, remember to be very careful with your campfire, it's very dry out there.

P.S. Hey Dave M., think we should bring a net next time?



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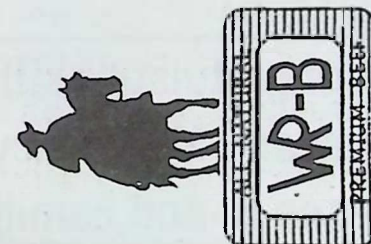
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