



## **EAST FORK OF THE SOUTH FORK SALMON RIVER, ID**

I went and stayed in my brother-in-laws cabin in Yellow Pine over Memorial Day weekend. On the way to Yellow Pine I stopped at the South Fork Salmon River Campground near Warm Lake and watched Chinook Salmon Spawn. There were still a couple dozen late spawners left but there was definitely a stench from those that had died. They were sure beat up and skinny from their long journey.

Yellow Pine is a unique community with an unusual golf course. You'll have to go see it sometime. There are two rivers to fish in the vicinity as well as several lakes. There is Johnson Creek as well as the East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River. I chose to fish the East Fork. I spent a couple of hours fishing one evening and caught a half dozen small Rainbow on Nymphs and a Caddis fly. I hear that there are some nice size Bull Trout but I didn't see any. It's supposedly a good fishery but I didn't have much luck. The water is crystal clear and certain sections of the river have great pocket water that I'm sure holds some big trout.

The drive from Yellow Pine to McCall is very scenic and is one of my favorite drives in Idaho. The cliffs and rugged peaks are very impressive. We saw a bear coming over Lick Creek Summit, which really added to the trip. It crossed the road in front of us and went down the hill. We got out and watched it as it stood on its hind legs and ate the berries.

Just before we got into McCall, I stopped at Rowland Pond. It is a family fishing pond. I no later got the poles in the water when I heard a little boy shout, "snake"! Well, my girls took off running to go see it and I didn't think much of it. I then decided I better get over there. It ended up being a harmless snake but it was the plants that I should have been aware of. Kalyn said, "Dad, my legs itch" and Cami said, "mine too". My two oldest girls walked through some Poison Oak and instantly blistered in a few locations on their lower legs. I grabbed the poles and we headed to McCall to get some cream. They were miserable for a day but got over it.

We headed toward home and ended up stopping in Cascade at Fischer Pond, another family fishing pond. We had caught several 10" to 12" Rainbows with worms here on free fishing day. We also took home several free fishing poles and fishing gear from the activities that were held. We once again caught several fish on worms and my daughters and wife had a blast. It's a great place to take kids for a sure catch.