

I went fishing in Sept. 2004 on the Owyhee River in Oregon with Shane and his son Shane who are friends from my church ward. They are both experienced fly fisherman that have fished many rivers and lakes in the area.

We got out to the Owyhee River at the brake of dawn and Shane Sr. had on a nice Brown before I even got my float tube in the water. We were all fishing with large streamers (a gold bead black wooly bugger seemed to be the favorite) on 9lb –10lb test. It was my first time casting those heavy buggers and I found that I had to adjust my cast a little bit to get some distance and avoid nailing myself in the back of the head. It didn't take long and I was casting fine. I missed a couple fish while casting to the bank and stripping toward the middle of the river. Shane Jr. had caught a fish and by this time and I was thinking it was my turn.

I noticed a hatch just down river from me where some fish were rising. I floated over to a shallow spot where I could stand and cast into the circular ripples created by the rising fish. I switched my leader to 5 lb tippet and tied on a Mahogany Dun. I couldn't see myself putting a small dry fly on 9 lb tippet. I cast out and instantly had a fish take the fly. It gave a good fight and I ended up landing my first Brown trout on a fly rod. It was a nice 15" Brown. After releasing the fish, a few pictures, and a few more casts, I had another fish. I could tell this was going to be a bigger fish because of the pull and the *ZZZZZZZZZZ* of my reel. This was definitely the best fight I had had from a trout since I began fly-fishing two summers ago. I ended up landing my first 20" plus trout. It measured 20" even but didn't have the girth like some of the other fish I saw.



My first Brown Trout on a fly-rod



My 20" Brown Trout

The fish quit rising in the area and we decided to move up river. We ended up floating another stretch with Shane Jr. catching another fish and then it was lunchtime. Just after lunch we stopped along the river and got up on some large boulders and I could not believe the size and quantity of fish swimming near the bank. There were some 25" plus hogs and lots of other big fat fish. I tied on a Woolly Bugger and dropped it into a deep hole just below the rock I was standing on. I had just seen a Brown surface that Shane and I estimated to be a fat approximately 25" fish. After a few drifts with the Woolly Bugger, I got the hit. I was not expecting anything like the hit I got. It actually startled me it hit so hard. It bolted down stream and I had never seen my reel spin so fast. I remembered that I only had the 5 lb test on so I lowered my pole to decrease the tension while wondering when this fish was going to stop. Without any warning, the leader snapped. I'm assuming that the leader was cut by its teeth or got caught on a rock or log. To bad, it would have been the largest trout that I had ever landed.

I never ran into another hatch so I ended up fishing mostly streamers. We were fishing on a Saturday and by the end of the day there was a lot of moss floating down the river due to all the people that were fishing. There was a lot of fisherman. It got frustrating at times because of all the moss I'd drag in. The next time I go, I'm going to try going during the middle of the week and spend more time trying to find the hatches so that I can fish dry flies. I hope I can get that lucky!

We fished the rest of the afternoon and evening with Shane Jr. catching the rest of the fish. The prize was a 27" brown. I couldn't believe the size of head that it had. It was a treat being able to watch him land that trout. We ended up with a dozen fish for the day and half of them were 20" plus. They were all caught on Woolly Buggers except for the two that I caught on dry flies.



Shane's 27" Brown Trout (above)

One of Shane's other large Browns (below)

