



<b>Date</b>	October 2006	<b>Time</b>	All day
<b>Location</b>	South Fork Boise River	<b>Weather</b>	Clear skies & calm by midday
<b>Fish Species</b>	Rainbow Trout, Kokanee	<b>Size Range</b>	12"-17" Rainbows
<b>Fish Caught</b>	Landed a couple Rainbows in the 12" range and one that was 17". I caught one Kokanee but it got off.		
<b>Flies Used</b>	Size 18 bead head Pheasant Tail		
<b>Techniques</b>	Wet fly swing with enough split shot to tick the bottom		
<b>Comments</b>	Nothing but challenges on this fishing trip!		

This fishing trip pretty much typified my fishing season this year. I didn't get the fly in the water much. An acquaintance told me of a spot to fish on the lower river where the water starts backing up from Lucky Peak. He said it was a good hike down into the Canyon but worth it. I decided I would give it a try. I drove to the location and looked down into the canyon but didn't like what I saw. The area was more like fishing a lake. I wanted moving water so I didn't try it. Instead I headed up the road a little farther and did a short hike down to the river. I have never fished the lower stretch before.



I tried what I thought were some nice spots but didn't have any luck. I got back in the car and I didn't get far when I realized I had a flat tire. I noticed the screw that caused the damage as I was fixing the tire. I put on the spare and headed to Prairie. There was a guy at a convenient store that was willing to fix it for me. He drove off with my tire on his four-wheeler. After a short time he returned and told me that it couldn't be fixed because the screw also went through the sidewall. Great!

I now had a choice to drive to the upper river below Anderson Ranch damn on my spare or head back to Boise. As I mentioned, I hadn't been fishing much this year so I decided to chance it and go fishing.

All the locations that I normally fished were taken except for one so that is where I went. I didn't realize there would be that many people on the river on a weekday in October. I must have chosen a good day last year when I had a lot of success and fewer people.



After fishing for a couple of hours I caught a few small Rainbows around 12". I could see plenty of big fish but none were rising to the surface so I just fished nymphs.

I drove around to a few more spots without any luck and then stopped at a spot where I had a lot of success last year. There were fishermen there so I decided just to walk up river above them to see what the river was like around the bend. It didn't pan out so I walked back to the car to try a different location.

I turned the key and the car wouldn't start. I fumbled around for a while and had a hunch that it wasn't getting fuel but I'm no mechanic. A few people stopped and looked at it but they weren't mechanics either. After about an hour a mechanic actually stopped. After looking at it he said it was the fuel pump.

That meant I wasn't going home in this car. I talked to a few more people that said they would stop by on their way back to Boise later that evening. By now the other fisherman had left the hole so I decided to give it a whirl.

My first cast and I landed a nice fat 17" Rainbow. I guess that was suppose to cheer me up but it didn't. I knew my car was going to be expensive to tow and fix and I still hoped somebody would stop and pick me up. The next cast and I had another big fish on. I fought it for about a minute but it got off. OK so maybe I was starting to feel a little better.

I fished for a while longer and hooked another big fish. I could see the streak of red flash through the water and knew that it was a Kokanee Salmon. They are landlocked Sockeye Salmon. They live in a few of the reservoirs and spawn in the stream come fall. I was quite surprised but happy because I had never caught a Kokanee before. I fought it for a good five minutes and could tell that it had been snagged. I almost had it to the bank and it flipped off. I was upset because I wanted a picture before I released it.

Oh well, it was a blast to catch and it took my mind off the car for a little bit. That fish swam all over down the river, then up the river and back. It was in its bright red spawning colors, green head and hooked jaw. It was something a little different and I enjoyed it.

I soon headed back to the car to wait for a ride. I got a ride back with a couple of guys that I had talked to earlier. I ended coming back up the following evening with my father-in-law to get the car with his truck. Renting a dolly from U-Haul and doing it that way was a lot cheaper than calling a tow truck to get a car out of that canyon. It ended up being an expensive fishing trip.