

East Fork Lewis River Outing
February 22, 2020
Fishmaster: Mike Hoover

Outing: East Fork of the Lewis River Outing

Date: Saturday, February 22nd, 9:00 AM

Location: Daybreak Park, at 82nd Avenue and NE 264th Street

Traveling North or South on I-5 take Battle Ground Exit to 219th St. Follow east to 72nd Ave. at Dollars Corner. Turn left on 72nd Ave north and follow to Daybreak Bridge, approximately 2.5 - 3 miles. Enter the park to the east side of 82nd Ave.

Organization: I will provide coffee, donuts and mapping of the river that will be fished that day. At the meeting we will focus on safety, fishing opportunities, gear, and wade or float access. I will also be looking for volunteers that know the river and have fished the river to group up with fisherman that are new to the river.

Wade/Float: This river can be floated or waded. If floating it will be your responsibility to shuttle. However, some of our group would probably be willing to shuttle. Outing attendees will be responsible for coordinating their own shuttles/transportation.

Fishery: The East Fork of the Lewis is our local water and one of only fourteen wild steelhead gene banks in the state. All steelhead/salmon captured must be released. Hooks must be barbless and live bait or scents are prohibited. Sport Opportunity: Fish usually start showing in the river in December with overlapping summer fish. Returns are small but mostly wild winter run. Wild winter abundance peaks in February and fishing opportunities continue up to and on the backside of March through the middle of April.

Methods: Productive methods include dead-drifts or swinging flies and both methods benefit from supplemental weight or sink tips to achieve deep presentations. No matter the method stout leaders should be used. Tactics: Weather conditions and fishing pressure can induce fish to be selective in this fishery. Some ideas to consider at these times are: 1) staying persistently optimistic, and 2) carefully fishing one section at a time, slowing down on the best sections if alone or repeatedly cycling back to the top if you're sharing with others. It's not uncommon for the East Fork to reward you on your third pass down the same section.

Gear: Nymphing and swinging with 6-7 weight single hand rigs is common. Swinging with 7-8 weight two handed rods (11-13.5) is also common.

Dress: Dress for warmth and have a post-immersion plan: ponder stashing a pack with dry clothes on the bank or boat. It's always prudent to wear a PFD, both wading and in a boat.

Regulations: Check current regulations at this time July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020 before fishing any water. Sport Fishing regulations allow for Steelhead: Release all wild steelhead. Fin clipped daily limit is 2 over 20" min. sized. Trout: Sept.16 - Mar. 15 Statewide min. size/daily limit, except release CUTTHROAT TROUT and wild RAINBOW TROUT. Salmon: Min. size 12" Daily limit 6 Up to 2 may be adults. Only hatchery CHI-NOOK OR COHO.