

## **East Fork of the Lewis River**

### **Saturday, February 20th, 2021, 9:00AM Fishmaster—Mike Hoover**

Location: Daybreak Park, East Park, at 82nd Ave. and NE 264th St.

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 on 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 find shuttle service. However, some of our group would probably be willing to shuttle. Outing attendees will be responsible for coordination their own shuttle/transportation.

Fishery: The East Fork of the Lewis is our local water and one of the only fourteen wild steelhead gene banks in the state. All steelhead/salmon captured must be release. Hooks must be barbless and live bait or scents are prohibited. Sport Opportunity: Fish usually start showing 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-drifting 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 fisher. Some ideas to consider at these times are: 1) staying persistently optimistic, and 2) carefully fishing on section at a time. Slowing down on the best sections if alone or repeatedly cycling back to the top of a run 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 5-7 weight single hand is common or Swinging 6-7 weight two handed rods (10-13.5') is also common.

Dress: Dress in layers for warmth and have a post-immersion plan: ponder stashing a pack with dry clothes. It's always prudent to wear a PDF, both wading and on watercraft.

Regulations: Check the current 2020-2021 regulations 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. -Mar. statewide min. size/daily limit, except CUTTROAT TROUT and wild RAINBOW TROUT. Salmon: Min. size 12" Daily limit 6 Up to 2 may be adults. Only hatchery CHI- NOOK OR COHO.

Please email me ([mokypu@yahoo.com](mailto:mokypu@yahoo.com)) for more information.