

Dave Graybill

The Fishin' Magician

Nickel Ads

Steelhead remains a main attraction for anglers here in Central Washington. For good reason, too, as the bite has definitely turned on. While I was getting good reports on fishing for steelhead, Eric Granstrom and I traveled to Rufus Woods Reservoir to see what anglers may expect for triploid fishing up there.

The cooler temperatures really have made a difference in what I considered a very lack luster early steelhead season. Once again the Methow River was good in the early season, but the main stem Columbia and other tributaries just didn't produce good catches. We had some very high water to contend with on the Wenatchee and then the really cold weather stalled the fishing on the Methow, Entiat and the Wenatchee.

Last week I got reports that indicated that the fishing in the Pateros area continues to be good. My brother Rick Graybill, who you can find at the reel counter at Hooked on Toys in Wenatchee, had a good day. His boat got five fish, including two keepers. I sent a text to Shane Magnuson asking him how things were in the same area, and he told me that the day before his clients had hooked sixteen steelhead and landed ten. Now this is the kind of steelhead fishing I am used to hearing about on the upper Columbia.

I have heard that the triploid rainbow fishing at Rufus Woods had really picked up. What I was hearing was that there were very good numbers of fish being caught, but most were small. There was a sprinkling of



bigger fish mixed in with the catches, though, and I thought it would be a good idea to try the shore fishing up there myself and let people know what to expect after my personal experience.

Eric Granstrom joined me and brought the video gear along, so we could do an episode for the How To TV Show. We were overdue in posting a segment on how to rig up for bobber and jig fishing for steelhead. We went to Brandts Landing, which is about six miles above the launch above Chief Joseph Dam. After setting up our rods and casting our baits out from the shore here, we laid out some gear and started shooting the How To video.

We hadn't gotten very far along when Granstrom's rod started bouncing and we stopped camera while he ran down and landed a nice fish. This turned out to be one of the triploids from the release made by the Colville Tribe in late October. It probably weighed

a pound or so. I also got a bite while we were here, but the fish threw the hook after jumping to let me know it was there. We got our How To segment done, which will be posted on the How To and What's New Fishing TV Page on my web site (FishingMagician.com) soon, and after talking to the tribal fish checker decided to try a different spot at Brandts.

We set up our gear on the shore again and started eating our lunches, which usually means a fish will bite, and one did. Granstrom's rod went off again and this time he reeled in another triploid that was a little bigger than his first one. Well, we were fishing with a gob of Power Bait to float our jarred shrimp off the bottom so he was done. Not long after I landed a fish about the size of his, and promised I wouldn't make him wait too long before we left.

About that time one of the park rangers stopped by and while we were visiting my rod bounced again. This time I could tell it was a better fish. It would come to the surface and roll and it wasn't easy to bring to the shore. When I slid it onto the bank I was thrilled. This was a dandy Rufus Woods triploid. Although it was obviously one of the Colville plants, as it had a clipped adipose fin, this fish was over 21 inches and weighed 2.5 pounds when Granstrom weighed it when he got home.

So, there you have it. That's what you should

expect from a trip to Rufus Woods right now. We fished from about 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., so the action wasn't exactly fast and furious. When we talked to the tribal fish checker he mentioned that there are a bunch of anglers that fish in the morning from first light until about 7 a.m. when they go to work and they are getting limits fairly regularly at that time. They are fishing from the shore at the new access just above the dam and at the base of the power line tower just above there.

I am also hearing about other kinds of fishing in the region. Apparently the walleye are still biting at Potholes. Not only are good catches of walleye being made very large perch continue to be caught here. Also, the rainbow fishing on Lake Roosevelt is very good. Anglers can expect to get limits of rainbow on Roosevelt in just a few hours. The rainbow range in size from 15 inches to over 20 inches. Some large kokanee are also being caught on Lake Roosevelt now. Both the rainbow and kokanee are being caught by trollers, and fish have moved to the top of the water column.

I am eager to try some of the trout fishing that is available in the region in the winter months, but I have a couple more steelhead trips to make before I branch out to other things. I'll let you know how I do!

Reach Dave at:
www.FishingMagician.com
or Fishboy@nwi.net

WAITING FOR WINTER?



BUY A NEW 2015 ARCTIC CAT SNOWMOBILE AND GET:
6.9% FINANCING FOR 60 MONTHS + UP TO 3-YEAR CAT CARE ENGINE COVERAGE + \$300 CAT CASH

884-3558 www.bobfeil.com
The Place To Buy A Boat!

Bob Feil
BOATS & MOTORS, INC.

See Dealer For All Details

BE READY FOR WINTER



BUY A NEW 2015 ARCTIC CAT UTV AND GET:
5.9% FINANCING FOR 60 MONTHS + 2-YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY*

2131 Sunset Hwy. East Wenatchee
Monday-Fri - 8:30-5:30 • Sat - 9-4

CUSTOM
DIESEL

Wenatchee's
"ONLY"
Diesel Specialist

509-663-6308

3777 N. Clemons Suite A • East Wenatchee

For Huntin, Hikin, or Fishin

Radical 453

Danner Danner

With Gortex 1 Year
Waterproof Guarantee

Buy 5 Pairs of Socks
Get 1 FREE!



NEAL'S
FAMILY SHOES & REPAIR

662-8472
811. S. Wenatchee Ave
Open : Sat. 8-4 • Tues.-Fri 8-6

D&L ARMY
SURPLUS

COME CHECK OUT OUR

BLACK FRIDAY

& SMALL BUSINESS

SATURDAY SPECIALS

NOVEMBER 28TH & 29TH

New Items Arriving Weekly!

801 BENTON WAY • WENATCHEE

509.667.2769 like us on facebook

WWW.DLARMYSURPLUS.COM



Book your
Fishing Trip Now!

509-860-6497

www.moonsguideservice.com



North Flight
Waterfowl

Book your
Hunting Trip Now!

509-860-6497

www.northflightwaterfowl.com