

ROARING FORK RIVER REPORT

November 3, 2014

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UPPER ROARING FORK- ASPEN DOWNSTREAM TO BASALT

FLOW: 191 cfs below Maroon Creek (Woody Creek Canyon)

WATER CLARITY: Clear and low, perfect fall conditions

OVERALL RATING: 9 out of 10

THE SHORT AND SWEET: It's time to be on the upper Roaring Fork, folks! Rainbows have the feed bag on, browns are in full spawn mode on the upper river. Streamers, nymphs, it's all on the menu except for dry fly fishing. Be aware of spawning fish and let them be.

FOOD SOURCES PRESENT: BWOs, Caddis, Midges

IN DEPTH REVIEW: Look for some amazing fishing opportunities in the upper Roaring Fork Valley in the coming weeks. From Basalt all the way up to (and past) Aspen, the fishing is terrific. Above Aspen, brook trout and smaller browns await you. This is the one area of the upper Fork that still has a little dry fly fishing on the menu. Don't overthink it, your favorite attractor dries and small beaded droppers should get the job done.

Hot spots to check out over the coming weeks are Jaffe Park, above Difficult Campground, the Dart Access (sign in at Taylor Creek the day you want to fish it), Leaning Tree, and upper and lower Woody Creek. Streamers are quite effective at the moment, most of us run tandem rigs with two streamers of opposing colors (black and white, olive and rust, etc). Streamer fishing this smaller section of river can be quite fun, it's not like you are casting 80 feet all day. Just run your streamers on the end of your floating line with three or four feet of heavy leader, or if you have a sink tip at your disposal, even better. Vary retrieves and flies until you find the magic combination the fish want to see.

Nymphing is the deadliest way to approach this section, utilizing egg patterns, caddis larvae, and small baetis emergers. With the prolific spawning beds dotting the river, please exercise caution and do all you can to let these fish procreate in peace. Most brown trout are more concerned with spawning than eating any way, but the rainbows and cutts are on point, to put it mildly.

APPROPRIATE PATTERNS:

DRIES: Stimulator 14-18, Outrigger Caddis 16-18, Lawson's EZ Caddis 16-18, Perfect Baetis 20-22, Sparkledun BWO 20-22, CDC Transitional Midge 22-24, Bill's Midge Emerger 22-24

NYMPHS: Caddis Candy 16-18, Prince (beaded and plain) 16-18, Flashtail Egg 14-18, Sparklewing RS2 20-22, Sands' STD 18-20, Biot Baetis Emerger 18-22, Beerhead Baetis 20-22, Tungsten Hoover Baetis 20-22, Zebra Midge 18-22, Cap'n Hook 20-22, Flash Bang Midge 22-24

STREAMERS: Slumbuster 6-8, Sculpzilla 6-10, Salmonid Purple Bugger 8, Stingin' Sculpin 8

HINTS: Find those soft seams and places trout like to take a break from the current

MIDDLE ROARING FORK- BASALT DOWNSTREAM TO CARBONDALE

FLOW: 435 cfs in Basalt

WATER CONDITIONS: In general, the river is perfect. There is still some stream restoration going on here in Basalt

at the old Pan and Fork Park, so there can be a bit of color on weekdays, depending on the construction. Feel free, as always, to give us a jingle (970 927 4374) and we'll let you know what's happening today.

OVERALL RATING: 8 out of 10

FOOD SOURCES PRESENT: BWOs, Caddis, Midges

THE SHORT AND SWEET: We love the way the Roaring Fork is fishing here in Basalt! Raft floats (the river is too skinny now for dories in the middle section) are cleaning up out there, primarily with streamers and nymphs.

THE IN DEPTH REVIEW: Whether you are wade fishing or going for a float, the middle section of the Roaring Fork River is very solid right now. This section lends itself to better boat fishing, as public wading access is harder to come by than the upper and lower river. Wade spots to check out are the Tree Nursery, the Upper and Lower Bypasses, Catherine's, Gianetti (upstream of Carbondale boat ramp) and the confluence with the Crystal River.

Tandem streamer rigs are the ticket, running opposing colors and sizes on sink tip lines. Be sure to strip and twitch your streamers all the way from the bank to the boat, as many fish right now are following streamers from the bank all the way to the middle of the river before attacking. Try running a large, articulated streamer chasing a smaller one.

Nymphing is strong when the streamer bite isn't, with plenty of fish hammering various egg patterns, small stonefly nymphs, caddis larvae, and baetis nymphs and emergers. Nymph along all seams, current tongues, deep pits and soft riffles to find those fish. If those areas don't offer up a few bites, run deep and down the center line.

APPROPRIATE PATTERNS

NYMPHS: Tungsten Bead Baetis 18-20, BLM's 18-20, Thread Body Baetis 18-20, Freestone Emerger 20, Cat Poop Stone 8-12, Lawson's Caddis Emerger 16, Prince nymph 14-18, BLM 18-20, STD 18-20, Swissy 18, Sunken Spinner 16-18

DRIES: X2 Caddis 14-16, Variant Caddis 14-16, Renegades 14-16, Stimi's 12-16, PMX Royal 12-16, Ants 16-18, ParaNobyl 8, Fat Alberts 6, Daves Hopper 10

STREAMERS: Autumn Splendors 4-8, Galloup's Sex Dungeon 4, Stingin' Sculpins 8, Zivi's 8, Slumpies 6, Bow River Bugger White 6, TC Sacrileges

HINTS: The Roaring Fork is a bountiful river, cover all the water you can and stay mobile!

LOWER ROARING FORK- CARBONDALE TO GLENWOOD

FLOW: 832 cfs in Glenwood Springs.

WATER CONDITIONS: Clear with lower water conditions.

OVERALL RATING: 6 out of 10 nymphing with **7 out of 10** streamer and high-low fishing.

FOOD SOURCES PRESENT: Caddis, Blue Winged Olives, Midges

THE SHORT AND SWEET: Perfect conditions and darn nice weather has improved the fishing scene here in and around Carbondale and Glenwood Springs

THE IN DEPTH REVIEW: We are floating and wading the lower river with plenty of success as of late. The middle and upper Fork are a little stronger, but don't overlook the lower section, which truly is our bread and butter. The float from Carbondale to Westbank fishes all year, and is the "easiest" section of the river to row.

Wade spots worth checking out are Veltus Park, Sutank Bridge, the Burry Lease, and above the Lafarge Treatment Plant. Running deep nymphs along seams and softer edges should produce for you. Streamers are fishing well from bank to bank. As with the middle Roaring Fork, tandem streamers are turning tons of fish. When you are getting plenty of follows but no eats, vary your size, colors and stripping techniques until you dial it in. Again, strip those streamers all the way back to you or the boat right now.

Hatches trend towards caddis on bright days, baetis on cloudy ones. The caddis are starting to fade away, but there should still be some decent hatches for the next week or two, depending on the weather. Baetis should keep going strong for the foreseeable future, and are the strongest hatch as of late. Dry fly opportunities are few and far between, but be ready for them.

APPROPRIATE PATTERNS: The same bugs apply as the middle Roaring Fork, with larger concentrations of BWOs being seen down low on the Fork.

NYMPHS: Same as the middle Roaring Fork

DRIES: Same as the middle Roaring Fork

STREAMERS: Same as the middle Roaring Fork

HINTS: Stay out as late as you can!

[Link to the USGS Real Time Flow Chart for the Fork @ Aspen](#)

[Link to the USGS Real Time Flow Chart for the Fork @ Basalt \(Emma\)](#)

[Link to the USGS Real Time Flow Chart for the Fork @ Glenwood](#)