Subject: : Gear Talk
Topic: : Good Small Stream Rod
Re: Good Small Stream Rod
Author: : pcray1231
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URL:

This is total preference. But I prefer stout rods, more like 4 or 5 wts, and often load 6 wt line on them. I find it more effective, as the fish usually aren't drag shy nor do they scare easily from line splashes. The name of the game is (relative) distance and accuracy in tight places, as they do spook from a human form. And a very tight loop with virtually no backcast is very helpful, especially when you have brush or overhanging limbs to get under.

That said, a lot of people find lighter rods more enjoyable, even if its not more effective. And if that's your angle, by all means, have at it. For me, the light, delicate rods will remain as a tool for throwing tiny dry flies on more open streams, where they have some merit in the effectiveness category.

As for length. Most of my brookie work is done with a 7'6" rod, but there have been times when I wish I had a shorter rod. Use as long a rod as you can get away with, but not longer. The thickest of the thick places sometimes demand shorter rods. Not so much for the casting, as being really thick relegates you to a lot of bow and arrow, where longer rods are superior. But just being able to walk with the thing, yeah, short is often necessary.