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Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : 7'6 Rod

Re: 7'6 Rod

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URL:

Stagger, I don't remember what I carried that day, actually. Most commonly on Valley I carry an 8 ft 5 wt, with 5 wt line. Bought that rod from k-bob. I sometimes also take a 9 ft 5 wt. Not sure which I had that day.

Valley really isn't a small stream, I'd call it "medium sized", certainly a tweener. For the mountain streams I'd want something a bit shorter. Again, 7'6" is a good length. There will be times when you wish you were carrying something shorter, and times when you wish you were carrying something longer, but for a jack of all trades small stream rod, 7'6" is my recommendation.

Fast vs. slow is the speed of the action. With a slower rod, the rod bends further down the handle, the pause between backcast and forecast has to be longer, and they generally throw more open loops with a softer lay down. A lot of beginners like slower rods because you can feel the rod load better, and thus time the forward cast better. A faster rod gives you better line speed, more distance, more accuracy, and throws tighter loops. You can simply put more power into it.

In general terms you can think of it as the stiffness of the rod, a ultra slow rod is like a wet noodle, an ultra fast rod like a broomstick (exaggerations of course). For small streams I recommend faster rods, tight loops are important in brush, and you frequently have to put a lot of power into a very short casting stroke. There are differing opinions, especially those into the fight, as you feel the fish more with a slower rod.

Light line weights are generally slower. They don't have to be but that's the rule of thumb. That's all fine and good when throwing size 28 midges and 26 tricos, but it's a disadvantage when trying to power a size 12 attractor through a rhododendron tunnel to fish that don't care about drag.