

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : From the minnow chaser thread - An ethics lesson

Re: From the minnow chaser thread - An ethics lesson

Author: : pcray1231

Date: : 2013/1/20 16:27:33

URL:

I don't fish these kind of streams because you can catch a bunch of fish. I do it because I enjoy the places themselves. I enjoy getting way back in there, where you could fish a whole season and be unlikely to encounter another angler. I enjoy finding such places. I enjoy finding out which trickles support trout and which don't, and why. I enjoy learning an entire drainage, not just the main stem. I enjoy the fact that trout can survive in such places, even "underground" in the smallest of trickles. I've caught fish that were literally 3", and been giddy about it, because I did not expect to find trout in that little ditch. I enjoy casting in tight quarters. I enjoy all of the beauty the day entails, and being miles from a vehicle, with no real trails. Fish are just a bonus.

Call it hiking with a side interest. It's exploring. Fishing really isn't the point, it's just what you do when you get there. Getting there was the point.

Often you just cannot do that in places where legal sized fish are the norm. That's not to say you don't catch a legal one reasonably often, but it's not necessarily the expectation, nor the goal. For me, anyway, "legal" size loses all meaning once you commit to C&R.

I too would like to know Tim's rationale behind calling it unethical. You're not endangering any populations. You're not breaking any laws. You are learning more than most about what makes a stream tick, and what dangers they face.

Tim, it doesn't have to be your cup of tea. I understand that, and there's lots of types of fishing that aren't my cup of tea, but I don't go around calling them unethical. You need to explain your rationale on WHY it's unethical.