Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum
Topic: : The Elitist Fly Fisherman....Reality or Myth?
Re: The Elitist Fly Fisherman....Reality or Myth?
Author: : pcray1231
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URL:

It's a reality. That's not to say we're all elitist snobs. Very few of us fit the stereotype to the degree that many ascribe to us. But there are a few real a-holes among us, and among the rest, there's just enough truth there to reinforce a stereotype.

And the same is true vice versa. As Mike Richardson says, there's a reverse stereotype where fly fishermen see bait fishermen as:

Truck chasers
They sit on lawn chairs with their rod on a forked stick.
They deep hook every fish.
They are meat hunters rather than sportsmen.
The litter and leave bait containers laying around.
They cry foul at any attempt to improve a wild trout fishery.

and the list goes on. Very few bait fishermen actually fit that stereotype to the degree we ascribe it. But there's just enough truth in it to reinforce established stereotypes. If we see something that doesn't fit we pass it off as an anomaly. If we see something that fits we're that much more certain of our mental image. Nevermind that the stuff that doesn't fit occurs more often than the stuff that does. That's just human nature.

I think there's also a divide among fly fishermen. Those who started with spinning rods and bait are a little more worldly than those who started with fly rods. The same is probably true on the other side too. Familiarity leads to understanding, and separation to ignorance.