

Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : 10 and 11ft rod question

Re: 10 and 11ft rod question

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Date: : 2013/4/12 9:43:59

URL:

IMHO, it is easier to control the drift with a longer rod. More line is off the water and it is easier to mend. I also like longer rods for "high sticking" dries - can keep more line off the water in pockets/conflicting currents and get a longer drift with a dry as well. Not as accurate casters - but OK when you get used to it. Also, not the right tool if you need to rocket a cast. Not great for streamer fishing either. All rods have good and bad characteristics and pick what you like to use. For example, on the Brodheads at the ball fields I can hit the eddies on the far bank with a 10' rod and get a good drift. It seems the best fish are 6" from the bank up there so the 10' rod works for me there. If I have too much line on the water up there the currents pull the fly out of the eddy in a heartbeat. Down on some of the big pools in the gorge I can't accurately reach the fish with my long rods and need a faster, better casting rod. Of course more lines on the water, but that doesn't matter as much on a big pool.

A better case for long rods is made in Leonard Wright's Fly Fishing Heresies.

Back to the weighting. The modern 10' rods are pretty light and I just generally use an older heavier reel, like a older JW Young reel, and it balances acceptably.