Subject: : Gear Talk
Topic: : Which mid level waders?
Re: Which mid level waders?
Author: : pcray1231
Date: : 2013/6/3 8:10:37
URL:

You have a lot of options in the $200 range, if that includes waders but not boots. If $200 is combined, it's a little tougher but not impossible.

For the waders, I had 3 pairs of the Orvis Silver Labels. Each lasted 2+ years to first leak, and about 3 years before the flood became too much. To be clear, I am tough on waders with the type of fishing I do, and based on waders I'd had before these, I do not consider this to be a bad lifetime for breathable waders. I loved how easily they converted to waste highs, were comfortable, pockets in all the right places, etc.

I now have the Bean Rapid Rivers. Bout a year, no leaks yet. There is a seam separating on the gravel guard. Where it's at, is not a leak, but it could spread to become a real bad leak. I like the articulated knees. Comfortable enough.

Before Orvis, I had a few pairs of Hodgeman WadeLites. Liked them too, and priced at about $100. They lasted about exactly a year, material just became non-waterproof over time.

Cabelas stuff is hit and miss. Some of it is really nice, other stuff is cheap.

Keep in mind cheap is ok, it's plenty comfortable and does it's job, it just doesn't last quite as long. Same for boots. For instance, the Cabela's ultralights you can get for $50-$70. They have good grip, support, and are among the most comfortable wading boots I've ever worn. But, as would be expected, they don't last very long. For me, the sides blow out in little over a year. Better boots last 3 times as long. But are 3 times the price. That doesn't make them a better buy, just depends what you're looking for. If buying cheap and replacing often is ok, then the cheap route is very viable for both waders and boots.