Subject: : Tips and Tricks
Topic: : Fishing small wild trout runs
Re: Fishing small wild trout runs
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Tangles and snagging brush is normal. Losing flies isn't. If you snag a tree, wade out and get it! Sure, you spook the hole, but there's another just upstream. I often fish a full day without losing a fly, except maybe if it unravels after catching a bunch of fish. But I rarely go more than 5 or 10 minutes without hooking something I wasn't intending to hook.

If you fish a small stream for a full day, you should cover miles. Even on the holes you don't think you screwed up, you should give them no more than a few casts before moving on. If a brookie hasn't hit by then, he's already spooked.

There's no question that casting in such places takes skill. And of course, some streams are easier than others. And practice is the only way to get it. Some think that this kind of fishing is easy because the fish are aggressive, dumb, and numerous. That's all true, but it presents it's own challenges for sure. It's just hard in a different sort of way.

1. I echo Swattie's comments on equipment. Especially leaders. Using a properly constructed 5 or 6 foot leader is a HUGE advantage over using 9 foot leaders designed for bigger places.

2. Not all places let you do this all the time, but generally, your casting and backcasting lane is the stream itself.

2. Learn to cast sidearm. Learn to roll cast, or "snap" cast with no backcast. Learn to water haul. Learn the bow and arrow cast. Don't be afraid to invent new casts!

As an example, if you cast sidearm, your backcast will go no higher than your rod tip. So with that branch behind you, kneel in the water, look back, set up your cast so that your rod tip stays below the branch. Your line and fly will also stay below that branch!

3. Stay low.

4. Probably should be #1. Find someone experienced at this type of fishing and go with them. You'll learn a TON. Then, go on your own, as you'll be more likely to experiment and work on that stuff on your own.