

Subject: : Tips and Tricks

Topic: : How do you explore new waters?

Re: How do you explore new waters?

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URL:

Agreed, leg work. I mean, if it's public land, you can usually just pull off the road somewhere. A little trickier on private land, I know.

I read topo maps. Google terrain view is actually very good. Then you decide on 2 or 3 streams, call them plan A, B, and C. You study the map of each, print one off, identify a few access possibilities. Then you go there and drive to them. If it involves asking a landowner, you do it. Kind of nervous to do this, but the worst thing that can happen is they say "no." If an entire stream strikes out, move on to plan B.

It is indeed possible to waste a day just messing around. But it has to be done. Accept it, and do it. With time, you'll get better at identifying better possibilities. This exploring is half the fun. The hard part is when things get tough, avoiding the urge to go somewhere "safe". Cause, well, you've struck out on plans A-C. You could try plan D, but you know what? There's this other stream close that worked out last year. I'll just go there, I know I can have a successful few hours there. Avoid that urge, or you'll fall into a rut of going to the same streams all the time. Keep trying new ones.

Along the way, you'll pick up notes too. Maybe this one's not on your list for today, but it is on your long term list. Take a short detour and have a look around. A few months down the road, when you're looking at the map and trying to get there, now you have a mental picture. Things look differently on a map vs. in person.