Subject: : Gear Talk
Topic: : Winston BIII LS vs. Sage One
Re: Winston BIII LS vs. Sage One
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URL:

These three rods are each totally different feeling rods. You need to cast them to see which one best suits your need and feel preference. My summary is as follows:

Sage ONE - Very nice rod, casts well at all ranges and is the stiffest rod of the three (fast action by Sage's designation) yet still gets very good feel. It is a completely different feel than a Winston - not better, not worse just completely different. This rod will cast the farthest of the three but will have the least amount of "rod bend" feel at close ranges. At close ranges the rod loads at the tip and the rod simply transmits that feeling down the blank.

Winston Biii LS - Winston's replacement for the Bii T. The LS rod (medium-fast by Winston's designation) is a much softer rod than the Sage ONE and excels at close ranges. Don't expect to be throwing sixty foot casts, as this rod is designed for short range work. At close ranges the blank flexes close to the mid-point so there is a lot of feel in the bending of the blank. It is a totally different feeling than the Sage ONE. I do not consider the Biii LS to be a good choice for an "all around" rod. It is an excellent short range dry fly rod.

Winston Biii X - This rod is fast action by Winston yet is still soft compared to a Sage or Loomis fast action. In my opinion, this rod is the best dry fly rod of the three at normal casting ranges. Excellent feeling at close ranges with just the right amount of rod flex. It will cast farther than the Biii LS but not as far as the ONE. In my opinion this is the best dry fly rod on the market.

You can't go wrong with any of them but each has its strengths and weaknesses and the feel between a Winston and a Sage is totally different - you need to decide what feel you like. If you really are looking for a rod that can do light streamer duty but mostly cast dries, to me that is the Biii X (not Biii LS) or Sage ONE.