

Subject: : Print, Video, Audio Discussions

Topic: : Tell all books: good or bad?

Re: Tell all books: good or bad?

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URL:

Both.

When I was outdoor editor for the Potter Enterprise, I did a comprehensive on the three watersheds and received quite a bit of flack from certain people about certain streams.

My motive for doing it was to help the paper's business and the business of the advertisers, and to help visitors expand their visits beyond the very well known.

But streams change, land ownership changes, fish populations change and visitors change. In truth, the longevity of the information in tell-alls is not long.

On the other hand, I've guided off and on since I was very young, and experienced some terrible results - those I showed specific places and techniques came back on their own and showed others the same places and techniques and pretty soon those places lost their magic and/or were trashed.

For me, it was shooting myself in the foot, and I won't show my personal favorites any more, because I don't have time to let them recover to enjoy them again. The same is true with grouse and deer hunting spots. Find them on your own and when I see you, all is well.

Commonly, in addition to personal financial gain, and reputation building, there is the ego-stimulation of showing someone great things, but it frequently can come back to destroy the thing.

I once told a new newspaper manager specifics about where to take his boy to hunt wild pheasants. The guy was a jerk and horrified me later when he said he and the boy ended up walking through an orchard shooting apples. I felt terrible about it, for not screening this guy better.

If you're going to tell some things, you must own some responsibility for what happens to it and the behavior of those you send on their way; especially if you tell them to tell the landowner you sent them.