

## Special Fly Fishing Adventures Report

### COLORADO EXPLORATORY TRIP



#### THREE FORKS RANCH: The Outdoor Sportsperson's Fantasy Playground

On the land made famous in the frontier days as the home of Jeremiah Johnson, the famous mountain man, and the hideaway for Butch Cassidy's Hole In The Wall Gang, this 250,000 acre ranch straddles the border of both southern Wyoming and northern Colorado. It simply is the finest fly fishing lodge operation in the lower 48, bar none. It starts with the quality of the fishing which includes, to quote a well traveled client of ours, "more 20+ inch fish than I've ever caught anywhere." Over 16 miles of private access, easily waded, insect-rich, streams are available, including the South, Middle, and North Forks of the Little Snake River. These are waters that have undergone the most extensive stream restoration program anywhere creating a picture-book string of riffles and pools. For the most part, these streams are 25-50 feet wide and provide challenges for every skill level of fly fisher, from beginner to the most experienced.

The guides match the quality of the fishing – outstanding and qualified teachers for the newcomer. The staff, accommodations, and Rocky Mountain cuisine, from breakfast through dinner, is on a scale with a five star property. Lem Cragholm, who did a father-son trip in September, stated "it met the lofty expectations I had." Similar comments have been registered from 100% of our clients who have visited in the last two years.



My trip was a chance to verify that all I'd heard was true. And verify I did! I only fished and photographed one day in mid-October. Conditions were tough as a recent storm had left the water a little off-color and cold. However, these freestone streams clear quickly and we were able to fish dry flies most of

the day to rising fish, even in mid-October. We must have had 50 fish respond to our fly and released about 25, including one monster rainbow of 7+ pounds (photo below, no scale with us, but having weighed and released numbers of 6 – 8# fish in New Zealand and Labrador, I can eyeball the weight reasonably well).



With the completion of the new spa and lodge last year (photo above), the property will be available for fly fishers through October (previously, the property was reserved just for hunters in the fall – now, fly fishers will be accommodated in the new spa/lodge complex, completely separate from the hunting crowd). The 6,000 square foot spa is a welcome addition for non-fishing spouses.....as well as fishing spouses.....and further set this operation apart as one of the truly special experiences in the world of fly fishing.

Price: expensive as would befit the finest operation of its kind.

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