

ANOTHER FERNIE BULL TROUT EPISODE

The August newsletter detailed a fantasy day had by Josh Luftglidden which involved releasing over 15 monster bull trout on a tributary of the Elk River in B.C. Now Pat Patterson checks in with another Elk River Bull Trout episode that Pat termed “the most exciting experience of my fly fishing career” and he didn’t even land a fish! Pat was having a wonderful day with several (he had lost count by the end of the day) fat and feisty native West Slope Cutthroat from 15 to 21 inches taken on dry flies when a fish he had hooked began frenzied activity. The smallish fish took off on a run up, around, and across the pool and the guide shouted “bull trout – it’s being chased by a bull trout!” Indeed, as the fish neared the drift boat, they could see the cutthroat wedged cross-ways in the jaws of a fish that Pat said “would have exceeded the 24 pound, 35” sea run brown I caught in Terra del Fuego.” The guide instructed Pat to give the fish line with the hope that he’d swallow the cutthroat. The rest of the story from Pat – “I did give him line and the bull trout moseyed away from the boat over to the shallows, about 12 inches of water, and proceeded to thrash around like a crocodile, as he tried to maneuver the cutthroat into position to swallow. We finally thought he had done so as the commotion stopped, and I slowly reeled in the fish. Only the cutty was left and he was the saddest looking sad sack I ever saw.” They were able to revive and release the fish, but he was “one unhappy fish.”

TRIP REPORT

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