

ROCKY MOUNTAIN



The Flypaper

March 2021

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From the President



I hope this Newsletter finds everyone doing well and staying healthy. I have heard that some of our chapter members are getting the Covid vaccine, so that is good news. I've also heard that many people are struggling to get a vaccine appointment. Hopefully that situation will get better soon.

As you know, our February Fly Tying Expo was one of our main fundraising events of the year. Our annual Expo has always been a big hit with our members. Holding the event virtually via Zoom this year definitely presented challenges. I mean, how do you get people excited about sitting in front of their computer for another two hour Zoom session? Considering all the factors, I feel the Expo was a big success! We raised over \$6,000, from a combination of entry tickets, the on-line auction, and donations. Thank you so much to all of you who participated, supported the auction, and gave donations. Your Board of Directors works hard to ensure your hard-earned dollars will be well spent. And

special thanks to Colin and Jeannie, who did the lion's share of the work to make this event happen. And last, but not least, a huge Thank You to our guest demonstration tiers, who made the night special by donating their time and talent: Grant Houx, Dick Shinton, Marty Staab, Chris Krueger, and Eric Pettine. If anyone ties and uses their patterns this spring and summer, I'd love to hear about it, and I'd love to see some of your photos on our Facebook page!

As part of our on-going effort to introduce you to our board members, this month's edition

introduces Zach Jory. We are so lucky to have Zach as our Communications Chair. He brings extraordinary talent to our chapter in the area of communications, computers (he is our in-house Zoom expert), and social media. He enjoys hiking and fishing the high lakes in RMNP (yes, I hope to find out all the details about his favorite lakes). So, many thanks to Zach for stepping up to be an important part of our leadership team!

With the arrival of March will come warmer weather (or so I'm told), so I hope you're all getting your flies and gear ready to hit the streams. If you take some fishy photos, please send them to either myself (president@rockymtnflycasters.org) or to Zach (comms@rockymtnflycasters.org) and we will get them posted on our FB page.

What else is happening with our chapter you ask? Well, we recently submitted an application for a GOMO Grant for a fencing project to protect riparian habitat along Lone Pine Creek, a naturally reproducing brown trout fishery on the Lone Pine Unit of Cherokee State Wildlife Area, which is on the North Fork of the Poudre. If approved, this will help our chapter with funding for fencing materials in support of the USFS, to help keep cattle away from a half mile stretch of stream where the streambanks are in rough shape.

You might be wondering what is new with the Poudre Headwaters Project (PHP). At this time, we are waiting on information from the agencies involved. Sometime this spring, after they have done their planning and scheduling, we will have detailed information to share with you. I know I am excited to get involved in any and all PHP work this summer. I hope you are also.

In closing, I'd like to issue you all a challenge of sorts: take a friend fishing with you this summer and introduce them to this sport we all love and cherish. Talk to them about conservation, and the great work our chapter does to enhance our coldwater fisheries in northern Colorado. This simple action can be life-changing. I know it was life-changing for me!

Have a good month, and please stay safe. And get that fishing gear ready – spring fishing is just around the corner!

Mark Miller
President



Member Profile



Meet Zach Jory
RMF Communications Chair

I am a Colorado native who moved back to the state almost 15 years ago after growing up all over the West. I began fishing almost 25 years ago on the Fryingpan River with my uncle. While angling has long been a part of my life, I did not really begin in earnest until six years ago when my son was born. As he and my daughter grow older, the rivers and lakes of Northern Colorado have become a centerpiece of our lives, places to unwind, connect and stay grounded. Time on the river with family is what prompted me to join the Rocky Mountain Flycasters chapter of Trout Unlimited two years ago - it's important to me that my kids continue to have excellent outdoor opportunities in years to come and the conservation and education efforts of Trout Unlimited make me confident that they will.

Professionally, I lead marketing for the Enterprise Division of Axon. Axon also has a great mission that I believe in and am glad to be a part of. Previously, I have spent my career leading marketing programs in software companies such as IBM and F5. I hope to leverage my

experience in marketing and communications to help RMFTU more broadly and effectively share the impact of our conservation work.

About a year ago, past president Mickey McGuire asked me to help the chapter build a new website and I have been becoming more involved in serving the chapter ever since. It has been a pleasure working with the talented and committed leadership council and I was honored to be appointed as the Communications Chair in January. My goal this year is to leverage communications to spread the message of Trout Unlimited's mission and work more broadly beyond the angling community. Communications will be focused on three primary objectives this year:

- Spreading awareness and increasing the volunteer base for our signature project, the Poudre Headwaters Project
- Increasing youth and diversity in the chapter
- Continuing to improve the chapter's volunteer base and funding (largely focused on the tremendous grants work being led by our Vice President, Dave Beede)

Outside of family, work and volunteering, much of my time is spent chasing trout in the high country. I spend most of my time in the Summer months hiking as far as I can into the mountains to catch Cutthroat. I especially like fishing alpine lakes and my favorite days are spent in Rocky Mountain National Park throwing dries to cruising Greenbacks with a 2-weight glass rod.

I look forward to serving Chapter President, Mark Miller, who has some great ideas for the chapter, and alongside a talented leadership team that will continue advancing the important work of Trout Unlimited. If you have any suggestions for communications or would like to help out in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at comms@rockymtnflycasters.org



Webmaster

Webmaster

Rocky Mountain Flycasters is seeking a Webmaster to manage our new website, www.rmftu.org, and ensure the site continues to be easy to use, attractive, interesting and secure.

This position is part of the Communications Committee which is focused on developing enhanced communications practices to aid our membership and increase general public awareness and participation. With oversight of the Communications Chairperson, Zach Jory, the Webmaster will regularly confer with chapter leadership, especially the Conservation, Youth Education, and Membership Committees to understand and present subject content that will engage and grow activities and volunteer participation in our RMF Chapter.

This is a codeless webmaster position. We leverage Squarespace as our Content Management System and GoDaddy to host our site in an effort to make web development low lift. While no previous webmaster experience is required, a general familiarity with online applications is critical. Although not required, familiarity with DNS and web security best practices will be helpful in this role.

Responsibilities include:

- Regularly update website content
- Optimize SEO
- Optimize site navigability and flow
- Maintain site security
- Debug pages and fix broken links or images
- Monitor and analyze site performance with Google Analytics
- Manage Google Ads

[Register interest for the position](#)

Volunteer Management System Coordinator

Volunteer Management System Coordinator

Rocky Mountain Flycasters is seeking a Volunteer Management System Coordinator to manage our new ivolunteer Volunteer Management System (VMS). The VMS is an important new resource for managing volunteers across numerous conservation projects expected this coming spring and summer.

RMF uses our VMS to register, schedule, track and manage volunteers. The VMS Coordinator holds a critical role in the chapter as we are a volunteer-driven non-profit that relies on our members and community volunteers to complete conservation and education projects, and also for other year-round chapter activities.

No prior VMS management experience is required, although general familiarity with online applications will be needed. Volunteers sign up themselves on the VMS, and the system manages the data. The current VMS Coordinator will train you on administering the tool, and will also provide transition overlap.

[Register interest for the position](#)



Conservation News

Lone Pine Project

The Conservation Committee is pleased to announce an early opportunity for Volunteers to get out and work on a project directed toward protecting riparian habitat in the Poudre River watershed. The project is a collaboration between RMF and Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and we hope to receive partial funding through a grant from Colorado Trout Unlimited.

This project will build approximately one-half mile of wildlife-friendly fencing to protect riparian habitat along Lone Pine Creek, a naturally reproducing brown trout fishery on the Lone Pine Unit of Cherokee State Wildlife Area, located approximately 30 miles NW of Fort Collins. The goal is to reverse the negative impacts of cattle grazing by isolating cattle from specific reaches of the creek, including beaver ponds.

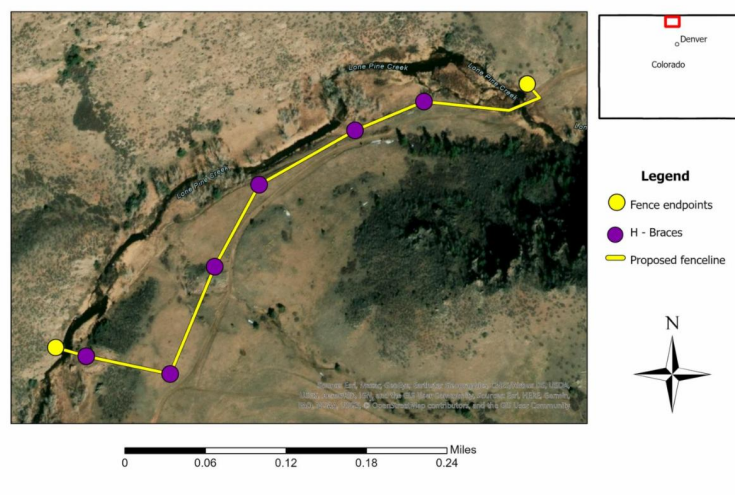
The fence will consist of four strands of wire; the top and bottom strands will be smooth, and the two middle strands will be barbed. Metal T-posts will be used, and H-braces will be constructed at the ends and at regular intervals of the fencing. Two stiles will be built for angler access to the creek.

It is estimated that the two-day project will require 8-10 volunteers working each day. Tentative dates are April 29-30 or May 15-16. Start thinking about volunteering for the project and signing up on the volunteer page of RMF.

Trout Unlimited and Colorado Parks and Wildlife are firmly committed to following Covid-19 safety protocols for all projects. Details will be shared with volunteers prior to the event.

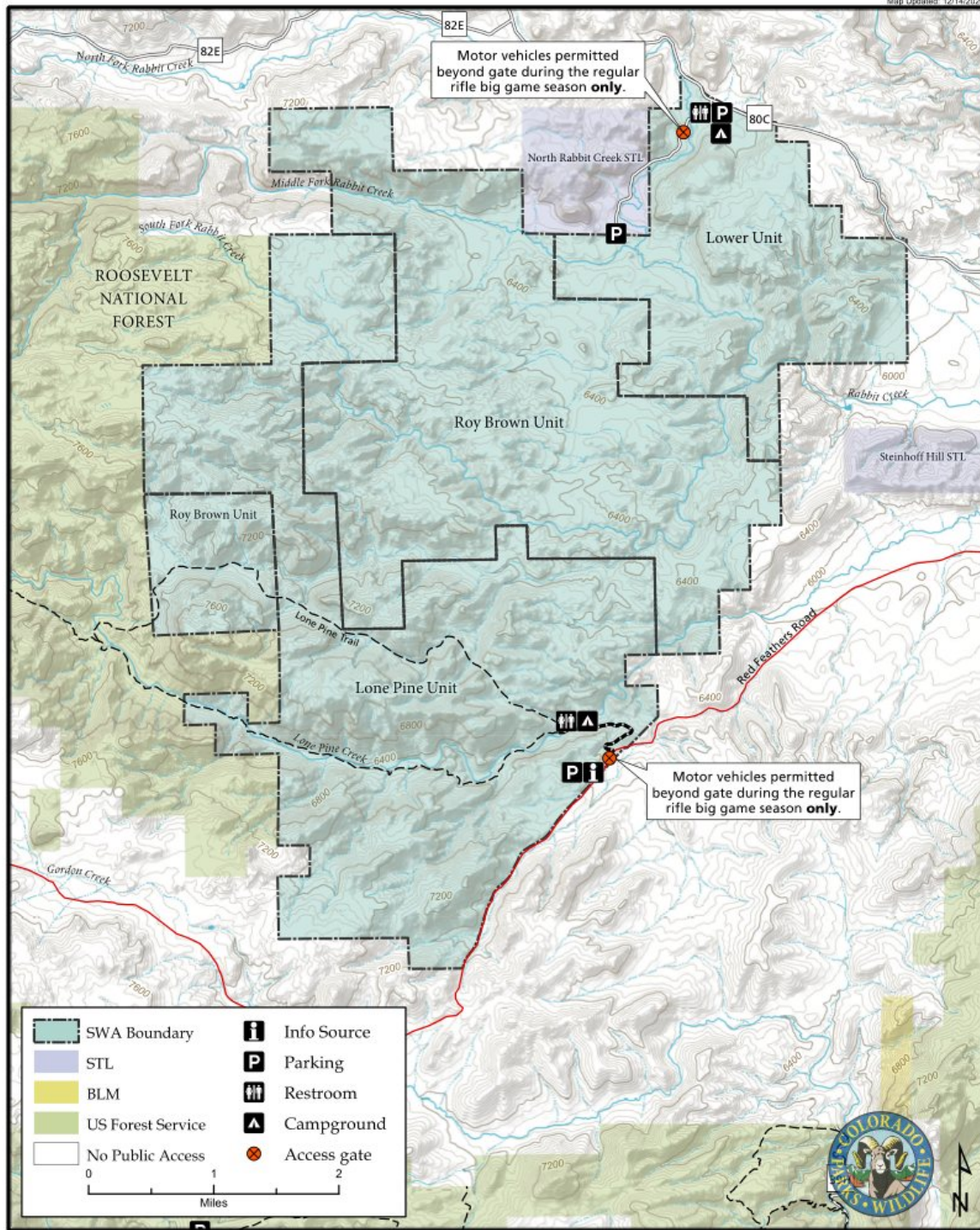
Scott Baily/Tony Popp

Lone Pine Creek - Cattle Exclusion Fencing Project
Spring 2021



Cherokee State Wildlife Area - Lower Units

Map Updated: 12/14/2020



Upcoming Events

**March 10
Board Meeting**

The Rocky Mountain Flycasters Leadership Meeting is open to the public and will be via Zoom on **Wednesday, March 10 at 6:00 PM**. If you would like to attend please contact the board secretary Jeannie Weaver at jweaver1917@icloud.com.

**March 17
General Membership Meeting**

Join the General Meeting via Zoom on **Wednesday, March 17 at 7 PM**.

<https://zoom.us/j/98041306130?pwd=ZGFlekvMz09uSENil1U2a3M0MkIjVUT09>

Meeting ID: 980 4130 6130
Passcode: 238296

RMF Calendar

One tap mobile
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+16699009128,,98041306130#,,,,*238296#

New to Zoom? Click [HERE](#) for Zoom Help Center



Fly Fishing Film Tour

The **2021 F3T** is NOW ON SALE. Tune in between March 10th - April 4 for unforgettable storytelling, camaraderie, tons of free giveaways, and more. Check out the film selection that will inspire, feed your fishing addiction and build awareness for conservation efforts around the world. Join us in celebrating 15 years of the @flyfishingfilmtour. Visit their [website](#) for more information.



Let's Go Fishing

Finally, March is finally here! Ice will soon be melting off the lakes, ponds, and from the stream shorelines, giving us another chance to plod along the waterways and sharpening our angling skills.

Thus far, we have several trips planned for 2021, COVID protocols dependent of course. Day trips to Rocky Mountain National Park, Red Feather Lakes, and Long Draw Reservoir are currently on the books, and there are multi-day trips to South Park and Yellowstone National Park in the works. Plus, there will be short notice trips to support our efforts in the Poudre Headwaters Project (PHP).

INTERESTED IN HOSTING A TRIP

Hosting doesn't require much and can be an awesome way to meet chapter members and show them places and spaces that you are passionate about. As a host, all you have to do is set the time and place for a small group to gather, then head off to your magical waters. You set the number of guests, suggest the gear they may need, and point them in the right direction when you get to your spot.

As trip coordinator, I'll help you with the communication details and assist with logistics where needed. All you need is an idea. I'll be your advocate and try to round up folks to share in your secret shame ...

And for those of you who aren't quite ready to commit to being a host, let me know if there is a stretch of water you'd be interested in learning how and where to fish. I'll try my best to "hook" you up with someone who knows the knots.

Stay tuned!

Thanks. Stay safe, stay well.

Paul Bunker
RMF Trip Coordinator

- July 10 - RMNP, Colorado Headwaters; Dennis Cook, Host
- July TBD - Long Draw Reservoir; Dave Morse, Host
- July 23-26 - South Park; Dennis Cook, Host
- Aug 22-28 - Yellowstone National Park; Paul Bunker, Host
- Sept 16 - Rocky Mountain National Park; Art Campfield/Bill Gillett, Hosts
- TBD - Red Feather Lakes; Bob Green, Host
- TBD - Poudre Headwaters Project opportunities



Vince Herrera's St. Peter's Fly Fishing Report for March



It's about that time of year that we pull out our waders, dust off our rod tubes, and start planning our fishing adventures for the year of 2021. I sure missed it, I know everyone else missed it and now it's time to make it happen! We are finally out of the very cold month of February where we saw some negative temperatures, lots of snow, and multiple days inside on the tying bench. Now we all have some new bugs to try out on various fisheries that are about to open.

Not only does the month of March mean big changes to our favorite waters but also the big changes that take place within the shop as we gear up towards the new season. We are getting all our on the water classes, Intro classes and Schools back up on the calendar. This is very exciting considering the several new anglers we have seen fly fishing. For anyone looking to get started with the art of fly fishing, on Sunday, March 28th our first Intro to Fly Fishing Class will take place. This is a 4 hour course for \$125 in the classroom at our South Store. Our Intro to Fly Fishing class teaches the foundation of what you will NEED to fly fish alone but without the confusing and conflicting info you will find on the internet and in books. If you would like a bit more hands on learning, our signature Fly Fishing School will be held the week prior on Saturday, March 20th from 9-5pm. This is an 8 hour session including 4 hours out on the water where you will learn the techniques needed to progress further into the craft. Despite these two classes happening almost every other weekend, we will still have our Intro to Tying classes and Entomology classes available. These will continue for the next couple of weeks before they start to get phased out by On the Water Euro Nymphing, On the Water Streamer Fishing, and On the Water Entomology. These are excellent classes with little room, and they fill up quick so it is best to sign up sooner than later.

SPRING RUNOFF is almost here and this is the time I start to plan weekends for. Flows rise, fish spread out, and the big bugs start working their magic. It is a bit pre-mature, but it will be here before we know it, so I wanted to get some gears turning on the realm of Spey Fishing. This is a technique used to make long casts on big water without the room for a back cast and in most places during run off a back cast is impossible. This is when a two handed spey rod comes into play. Disclaimer: When I tried it, I was 400 bucks in the hole. I liked it so much that I bought a setup the following week. It's very fun, addicting, and satisfying. It just so happens to also be an incredible technique to work the Poudre River with. I highly encourage you to watch Grant Houx perform these casts at our Free Spey Demo on March 18th. If it is something that pulls you in (which it probably will) then you are welcome to sign up for Spey School. Here is where you will learn the technique from Grant Houx himself. If you haven't had the opportunity, a class taught by Grant is learning from a professional in the most straight forward, relaxed manor and I can't speak highly enough.

Regardless, Spring has sprung. We can look forward to warmer days, more sunlight, and fish! This year will be different as we will see how the Cameron Peak Fire really affected our river but like previous years, The Poudre river has recovered and bounced back. This won't last long, and we will all be in the same boat looking for some new, uncharted waters. I hope you guys are excited as we are at the shop. We look forward to seeing everyone come in asking questions and telling stories about their days on the water. Don't be a stranger, we are just a phone call away. Lastly, A HUGE thank you from the St. Peter's Staff. 2020 was a scary time for us and with out the support from this community we probably would no longer be here. You kept our lights on and the flies coming in so thank you. There are lots of great things to come out of 2021 and we are excited to share them with everyone!



Video of the Month: Cicada Fly Pattern



Marty Staab recorded an updated video of his Cicada pattern tied at last month's Virtual Expo. Rocky Mountain Flycasters receive a special sneak peak here!



Following up on Marty's Cicada Pattern from the Virtual Expo, here is some fishing footage of a Cicada hatch on the Green River

Videos posted here are available for free on the internet and for your enjoyment. RMFTU receives no compensation and implies no endorsement for products or services.



From the Editor

In this months issue, I have included a Members' Corner and a Photographers' Corner. It is the hope that we can stay connected through this virtual world. To get started, I asked my fishing buddy to write an article about his introduction to Colorado fly fishing.

The photographs are from the newsletter archives
Can you name the people or places?

There are some great fishing stories to be told within our membership. Will **YOU** share one? In addition, I have seen some wonderful photographs taken by our members that rival the professionals. Photos can be posted with or without captions or photo credits. Let's keep this rolling by submitting your stories and photos. Submission deadlines will be the 25th of each month.

Please submit articles and photographs to:
[Members Articles/Photos](#)



Members' Corner

Divining

Mark Carter

Forty-eight degrees ambient with lightly falling sleet. This was quite a remove from the previous night's promise of sixty-one. Shore was a long way to trudge on numb feet through moving waist-deep ice water. Skunked.

I met my first Colorado fishing mentor in a sports bar parking lot. We found common ground between downs and beers, and walked out 3 hours later with a plan to introduce me to the river gorge that was currently humbling me. I sensed that he'd seen me coming.

My fly fishing years began 20 seasons earlier in the Sierra Nevada. Life didn't allow much field time, but I backpacked onto the Kern Plateau for two weeks each August. Days were warm and quiet, people non-existent. The season at this waypoint is short and the trout are damned glad to see you.

Colorado fly fishing began to capture my attention around this time. The armchair literature promised days of solitude under perpetually blue skies. 4X4s were the ticket to the Promised Land and access to endless possibility. I decided I would ultimately live there in Merrells and khakis and it became the header on my retirement plan.

The headwaters of the Kern River are home to the endangered California Golden Trout, their bright colors and muted size dictated by altitude and limited feeding seasons. I pursued them through the high meadows, eventually reaching the Grail, the rare Volcano Creek Golden Trout, which is thought to be one of the original pure strain species. They took any dry fly that would float on those languid waters. The fishing was frenetic and it fostered a comfortable sense of prowess around the campfire.

I now found myself occupying a lonely outpost on the flatlands at the far left of the learning curve. Dry flies sometimes worked on these Colorado rivers, but more often than not, nymph variants and subsurface streamers produced more consistently. Catches were lean, but slowly improved as the weeks progressed.

New challenges began as the seasons shifted. I started to see growing numbers of people, so we migrated up the river canyon and eventually onto the alpine lakes. Distractions intruded. Wildlife showed up at inopportune times, during a back cast or the inbound trip, sometimes involving encounters with Moose and the occasional Mountain Lion. I'd never seen Mountain Lion on this side of a fence before. It brings clarity to the moment.

If you truly want to understand something, try to change it. Colorado reintroduced me to the books, and ultimately the bench. Expertise, like all the best things, is most appreciated by its

absence.

Several years have passed since the entrance gate spanked me on the way into Colorado. Nymph patterns dominate my box, days are judged by successful tactics, as opposed to metrics. I am starting to run into people I know during my travels, so it appears that my Permanent Resident Visa is official. For now, my patterns grace the brush along various waterways throughout Colorado and Wyoming. I have arrived.



Dave demonstrates wildlife hazard management while landing a 17" Rainbow Trout. (Long Draw Reservoir)

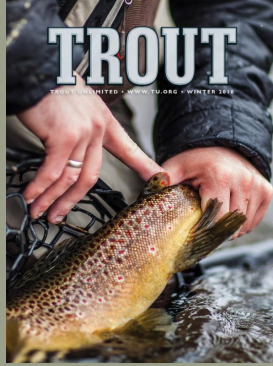


Spring Moose. I have no pictures of the Mountain Lion. We were both in a hurry at the time. (Long Draw Reservoir)



Photographers' Corner





MONTANA
FLY FISHING MAGAZINE

Hatch Magazine



Dun Magazine



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2021-03-01



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