

Oak Creek Management, Fishing, and More!

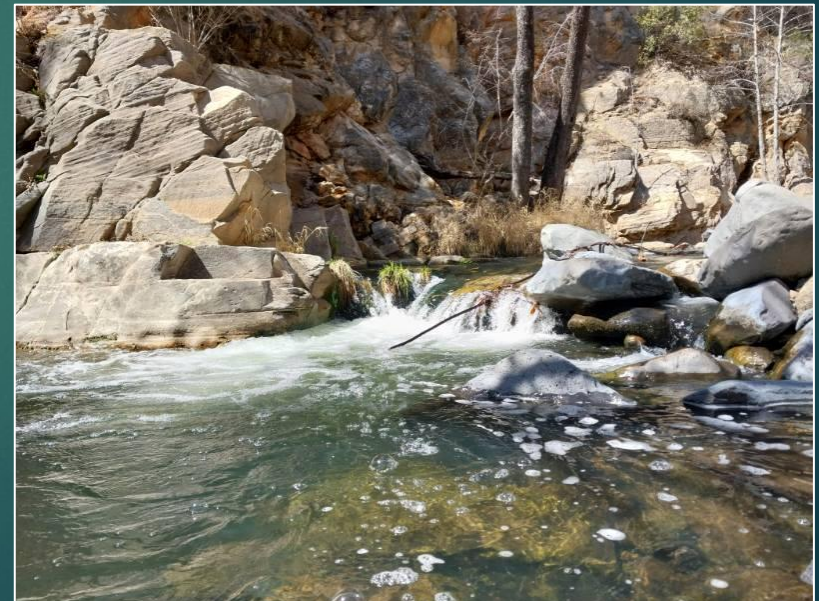


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Oak Creek, AZ

- Located ~ 30 minutes south of Flagstaff.
- Runs through Sedona and Cottonwood.
- Oak Creek is ~49 miles long.
- Tributary of the Verde River.



Oak Creek Management Strategy

- **Oak Creek Headwaters to Grasshopper Point:**
 - Primary management is for Rainbow and Gila Trout.
 - Secondary management is for Native Aquatic Conservation.



Catch and Release Section Expansion

- Sterling Springs Hatchery to Highway 89A bridge crossing at Slide Rock State Park
- Artificial Fly and Lure Only
- Barbless Hooks Only

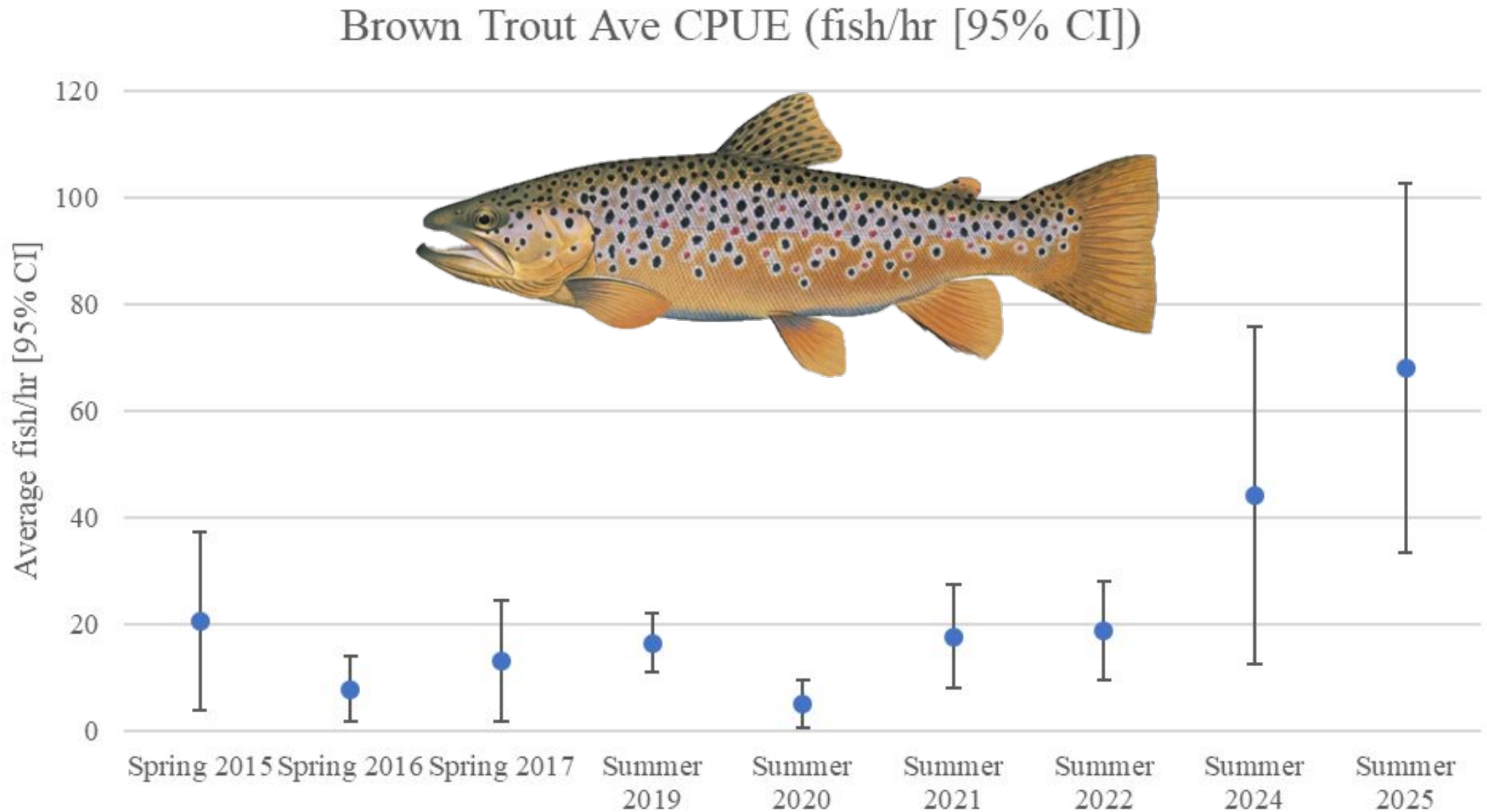


Gila Trout Stocking

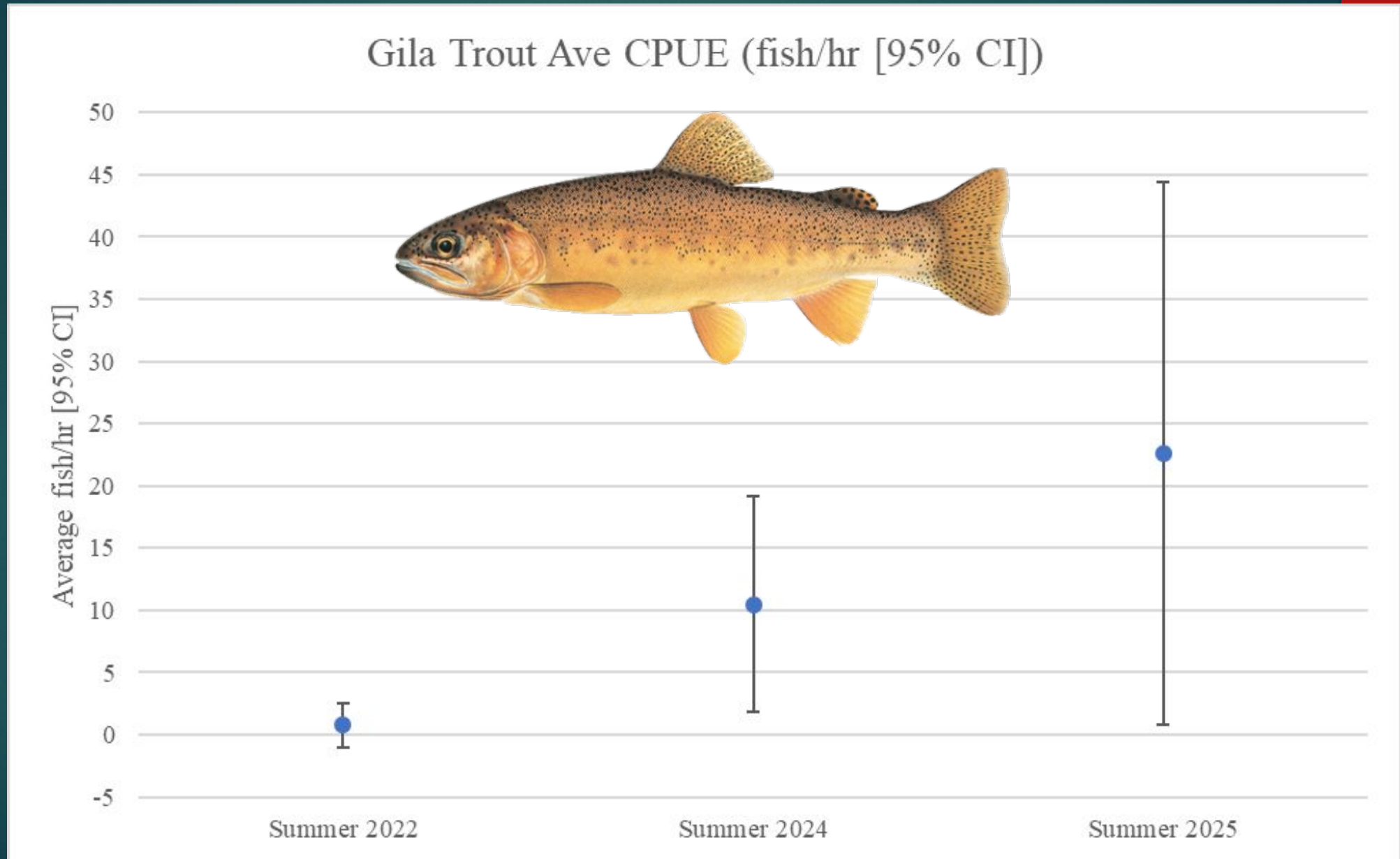
- WFOC 2015-2019 - Not Suitable.
- Began stocking in mainstem instead in 2020.
- Since then, more than 60,000 Gilas stocked in Upper Oak.



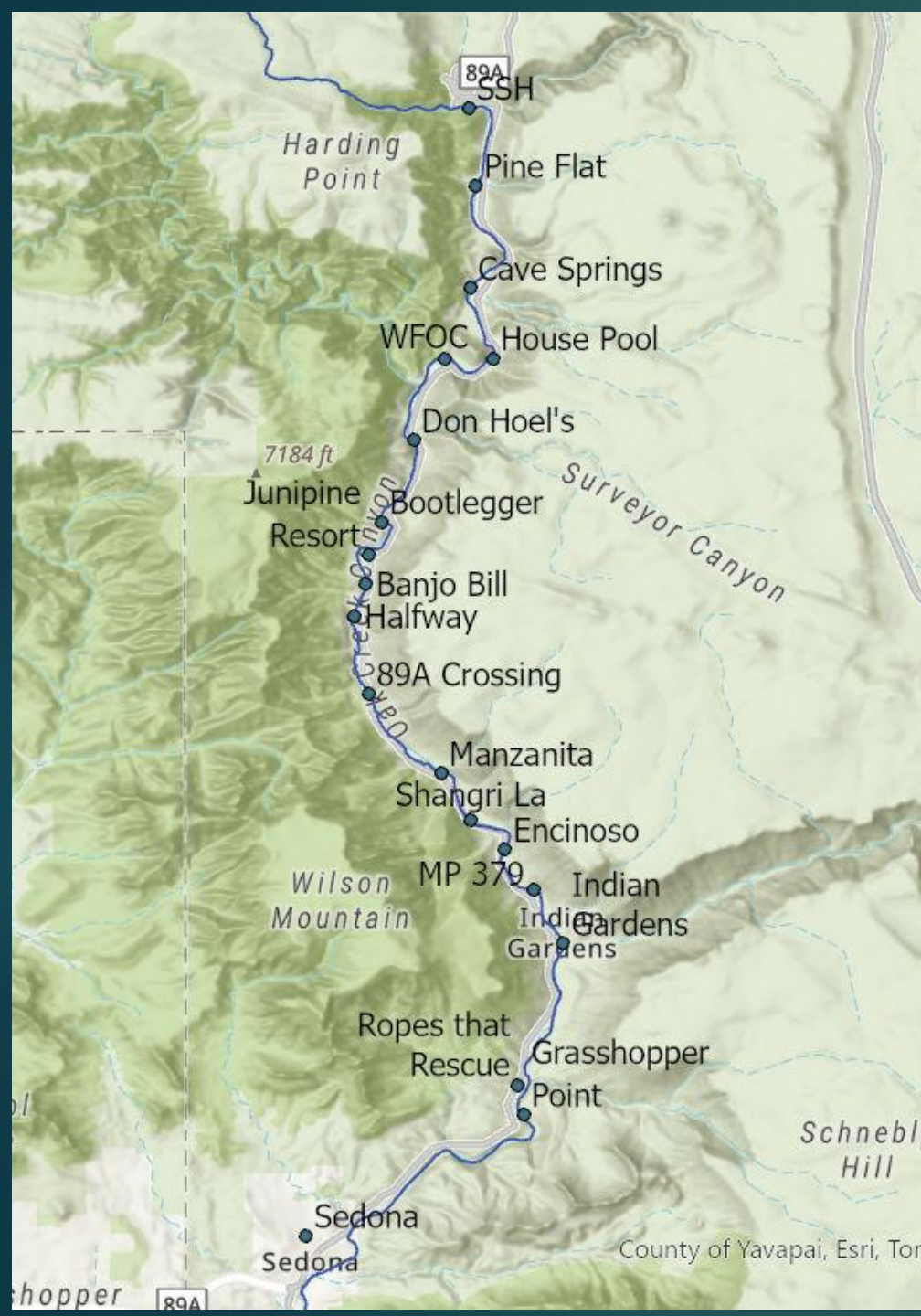
Backpack Electrofishing Survey Summary



Backpack Electrofishing Survey Summary



Stocking Locations SSH to Sedona



- ▶ Pine Flat.
- ▶ Cave Springs.
- ▶ House Pool above WFOC.
- ▶ WFOC(Call of the Canyon).
- ▶ Don Hoels Wash.
- ▶ Banjo Bill.
- ▶ Bootlegger.
- ▶ Halfway.
- ▶ Slide Rock State Park.
- ▶ Manzanita.
- ▶ Shangri La.
- ▶ Encinosa.
- ▶ Junipine Resort Crossing.
- ▶ Grasshopper Point.
- ▶ Milepost 379.
- ▶ Indian Gardens.
- ▶ Ropes that Rescue Sign.

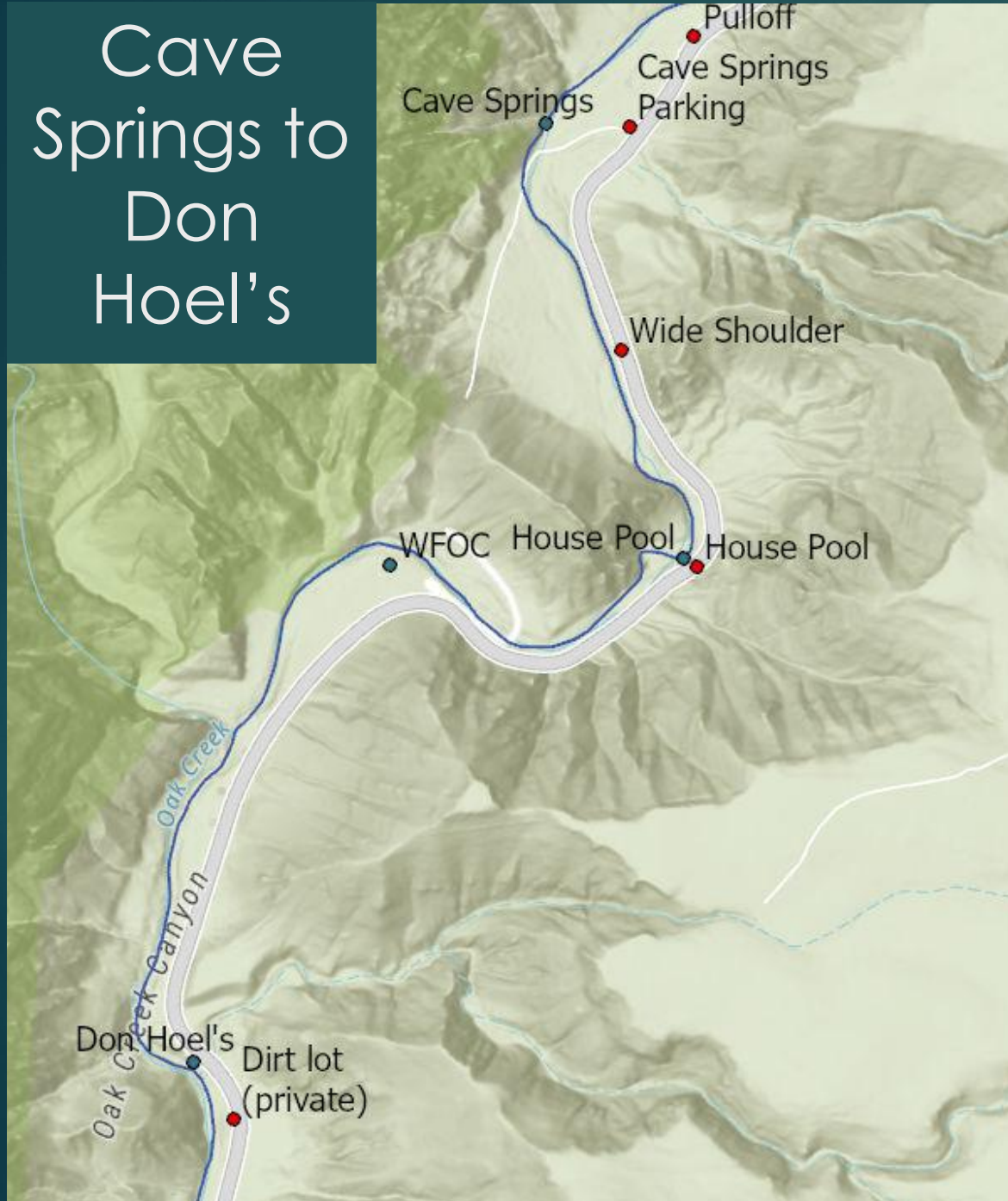


Pine Flat to Cave Springs

- Pine Flat Springs.
- West shoulder just south of Pine Flat.
- Pull off on west side just upstream of Cave Springs.
- Cave Springs Parking area.
- ~2 mile stretch.



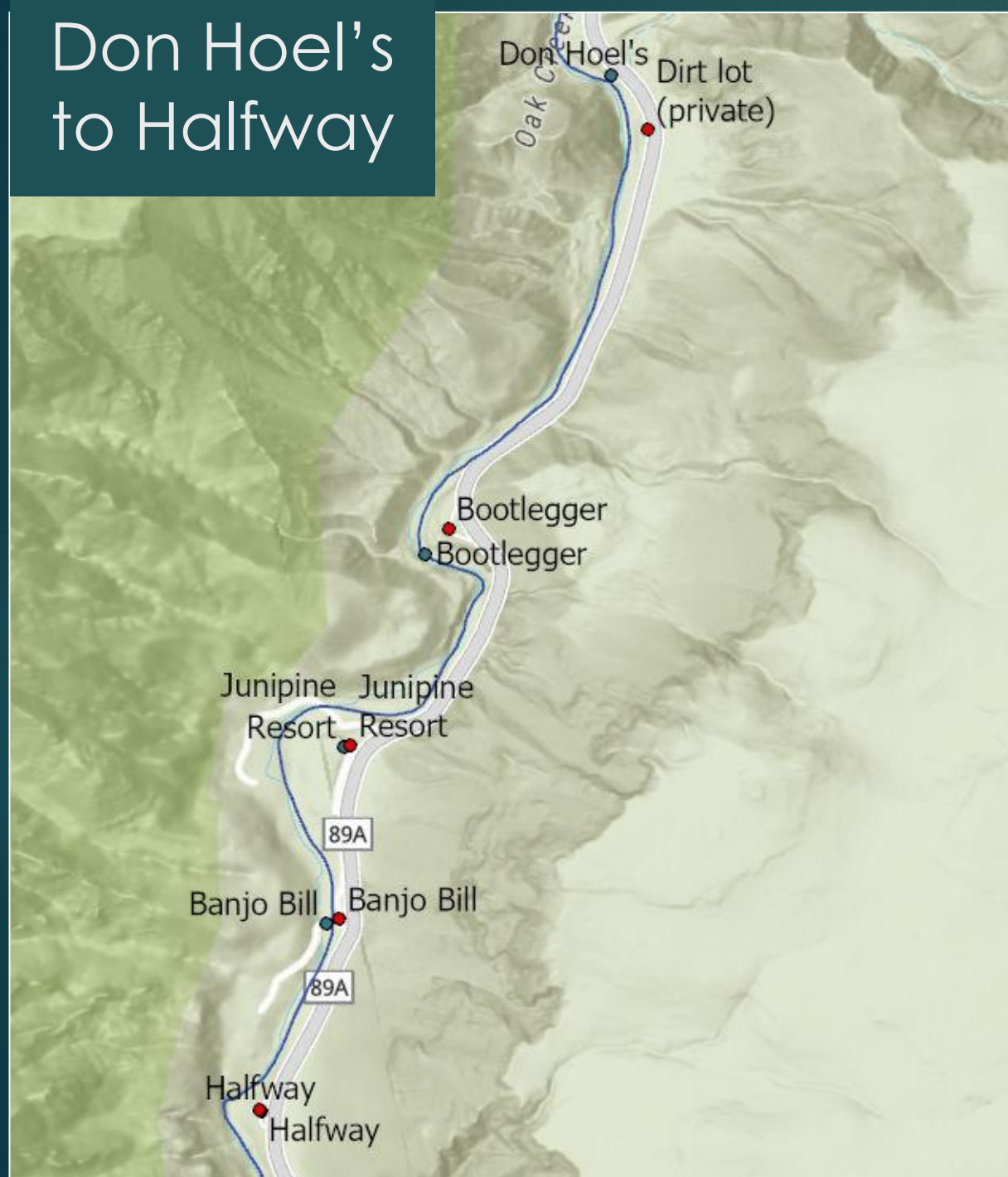
Cave Springs to Don Hoel's



- ▶ Cave Springs Parking.
- ▶ Wide Shoulder.
- ▶ House Pool.
- ▶ Call of the Canyon
- ▶ Dirt Lot across from The Butterfly Garden Inn (Private).
- ▶ ~2 mile stretch.



Don Hoel's to Halfway



- ▶ Private Lot across from The Butterfly Garden Inn.
- ▶ Bootlegger Day Use.
- ▶ Junipine Resort (Private).
- ▶ Banjo Bill Day Use.
- ▶ Halfway Day Use.
- ▶ ~2 mile stretch.



Halfway to Indian Gardens

- ▶ Halfway Day Use.
- ▶ Slide Rock State Park.
- ▶ Manzanita Campground.
- ▶ Pull off south of Manzanita CG.
- ▶ Pull off north of Encinoso.
- ▶ Encinoso Day Use Area.
- ▶ Pull off North of Indian Gardens.
- ▶ Pull off south of Old Indian rd.
- ▶ ~3.85 mile stretch.



Indian Gardens to Sedona



- Pull off south of old Indian road.
- Pull off on west side of road.
- Across from Casner Canyon.
- Ropes that rescue pull off.
- Wide shoulder east side of road.
- Grasshopper Point.
- Midgley Bridge.
- Wide spots Midgley to Sedona.
- ~3.85 mile stretch.



Pass Name	Valid Locations	Cost	Stipulations
America the Beautiful	• Can be used in lieu of Red Rock Pass at CNF sites. • Not valid at: Call of the Canyon, Crescent Moon, Grasshopper.	• Annual \$80. • Senior Annual \$20. • Senior Lifetime \$80. • Free - Military Annual/Lifetime/Access, and 4th Grader.	• Cardholder must be present. • Covers everyone in vehicle.
Red Rock	• Only valid on CNF sites. • Not valid at National Parks or AZ state parks. • Not valid at: Call of the Canyon, Crescent Moon, Grasshopper.	• Daily \$5. • Weekly \$15. • Annual \$20.	• Cardholder must be present. • Covers everyone in vehicle.
Coconino	• Only valid at the following concessionaire sites: Call of the Canyon, Crescent Moon, Grasshopper.	• Daily \$15. • Weekly \$25. • Annual \$50.	• Only Applies at 5 sites. • Covers up to 5 people per vehicle.
Arizona State Parks	• All AZ State Parks (RRSP, SRSP).	• Annual \$200. • Daily \$10 - Adult, \$5 - Youth, Child - Free. Walk-in \$5.	• Up to 4 people.

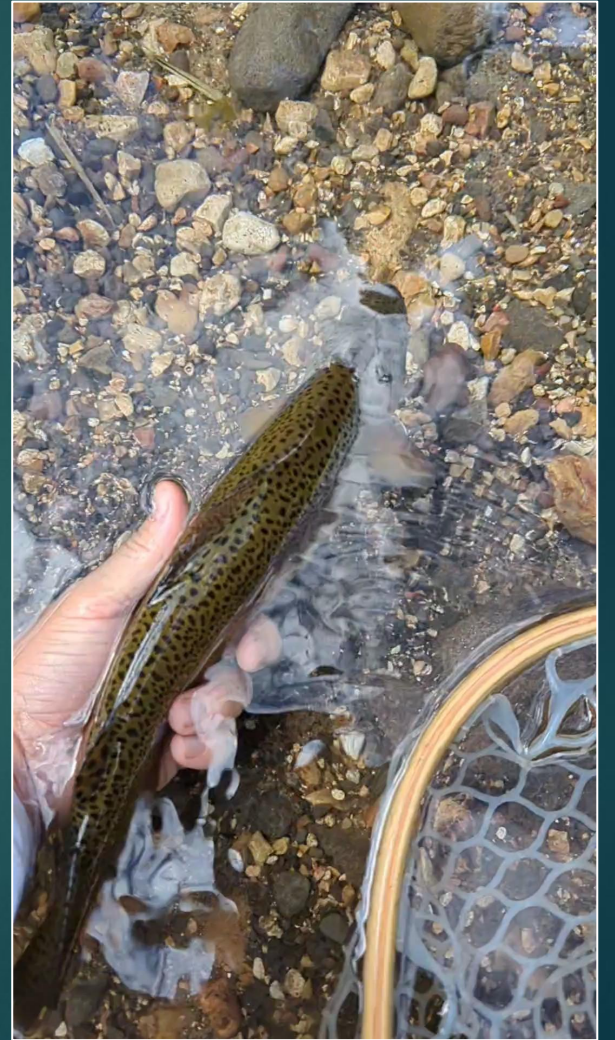
Wading/Non-navigable Water

Oak Creek is not considered a formally designated “navigable” waterway by the state of Arizona, which means the streambed is often privately owned, although the water itself is public. Public access is allowed for recreational “floating” (kayaking and tubing) but walking on the bank or stream bed through private property is considered trespassing.



Hazards

- Traffic.
- Wading, the rocks are particularly slippery. No felt soled wader boots.
- Rock slides.
- Trees.
- People.



Forage Base

- ▶ Mayflies (*Ephemeroptera*)
- ▶ Stoneflies (*Plecoptera*)
- ▶ Caddis (*Trichoptera*)
- ▶ midges (*Chironomidae*)
- ▶ Dobsonfly/Hellgrammite (*Corydalidae*)
- ▶ Damselflies (*Odonata*)
- ▶ DragonFlies (*Odonata*)
- ▶ Hoppers (*Acrididae*)
- ▶ Beetles (*Coleoptera*)
- ▶ True Bugs (*Hemiptera*)
- ▶ Mice
- ▶ Crayfish
- ▶ Native Fishes



Dry Flies

Blue Winged Olives (16-22), Parachute Adams (14-18), Elk Hair Caddis (14-18), Griffith's Gnat (18-22), Mouse patterns, Hoppers.



Blue Wing Olive



Parachute Adams



Elk Hair Caddis



Griffith's Gnat



Mouse



Hoppers

Nymphs

Prince Nymph (12-18), Pheasant Tail (14-18), Hare's Ear (14-18), Copper John (14-18), Zebra Midge (16-20), San Juan Worm, Stonefly, and mop flies.



Prince Nymph



Pheasant Tail



Hare's Ear



Copper John



Zebra Midge



Mop Fly



Stonefly



San Jaun Worm

Streamers



Wooly Bugger (4-12), Simi-seal Leech (6-12), Egg Sucking Leech, (6-12), Sculpzilla, Matuka, Egg patterns.



Wooly Bugger



Simi Seal Leech



Hot Head Leech



Sculpzilla



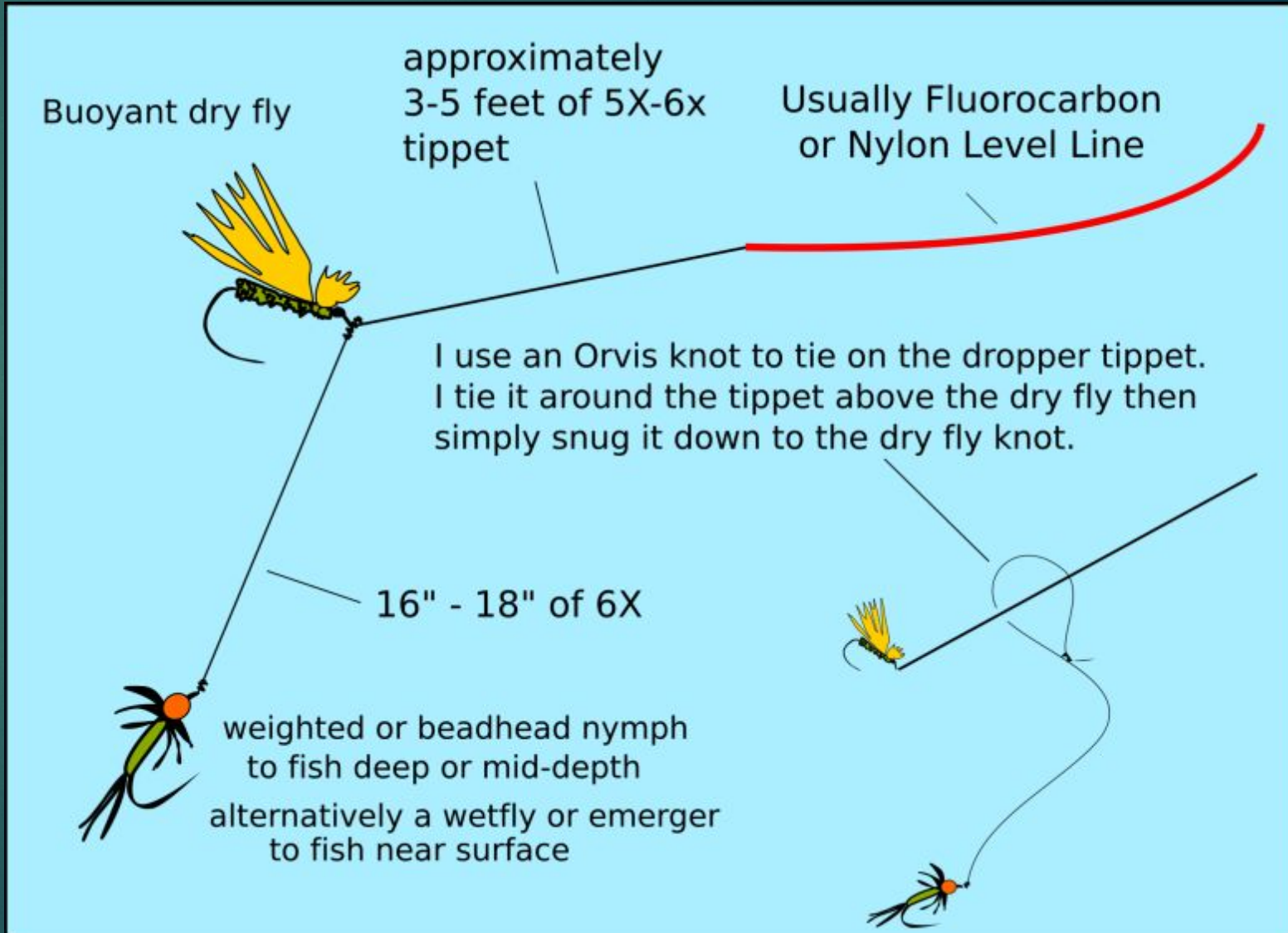
Egg



Matuka

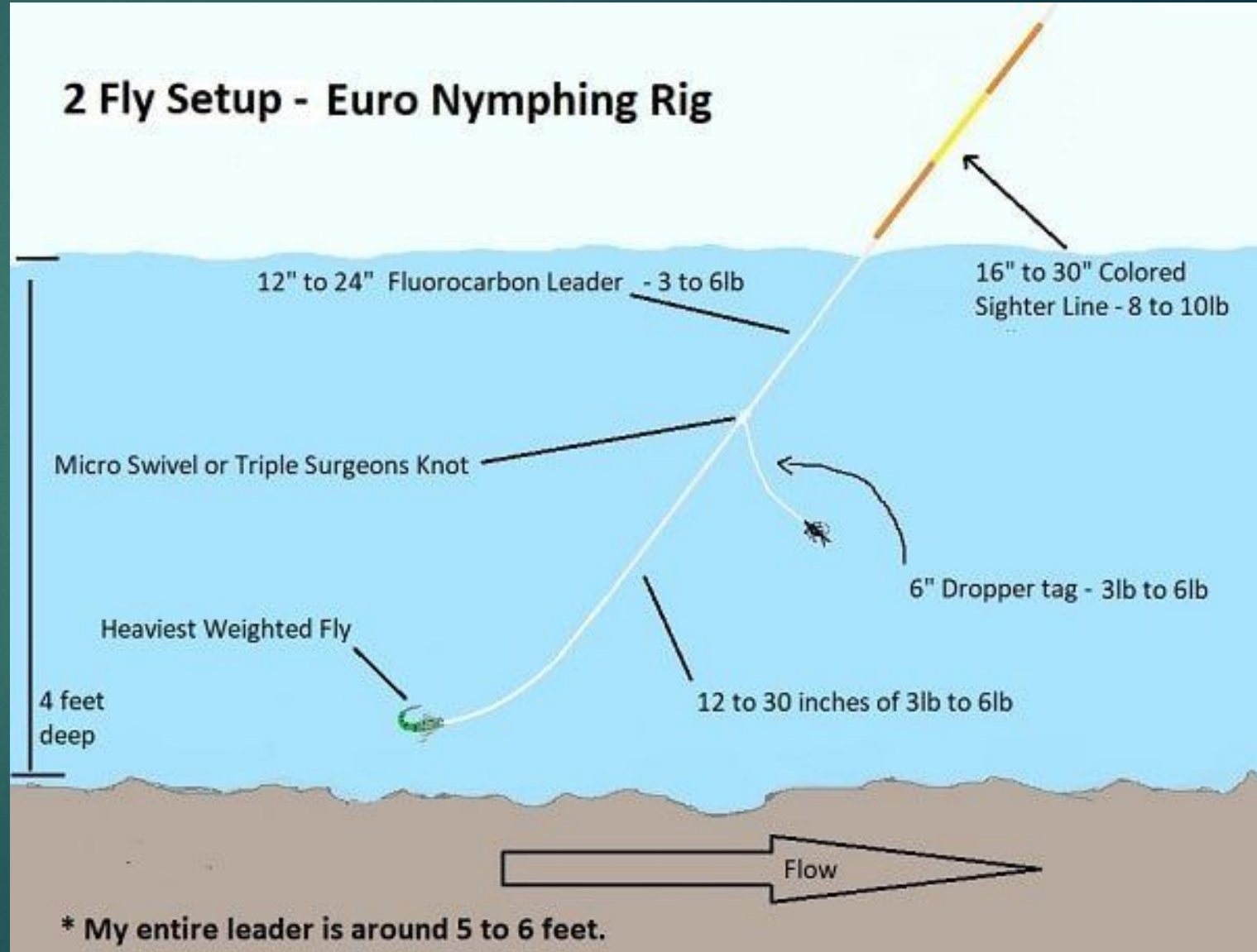
Fly Fishing Set Ups

Dry and Dropper: Consists of a buoyant dry fly (like a Chubby Chernobyl) attached to the leader, with a 12–24 inch dropper tippet tied to the hook bend, leading to a nymph (such as a bead head Copper John).



Fly Fishing Set Ups

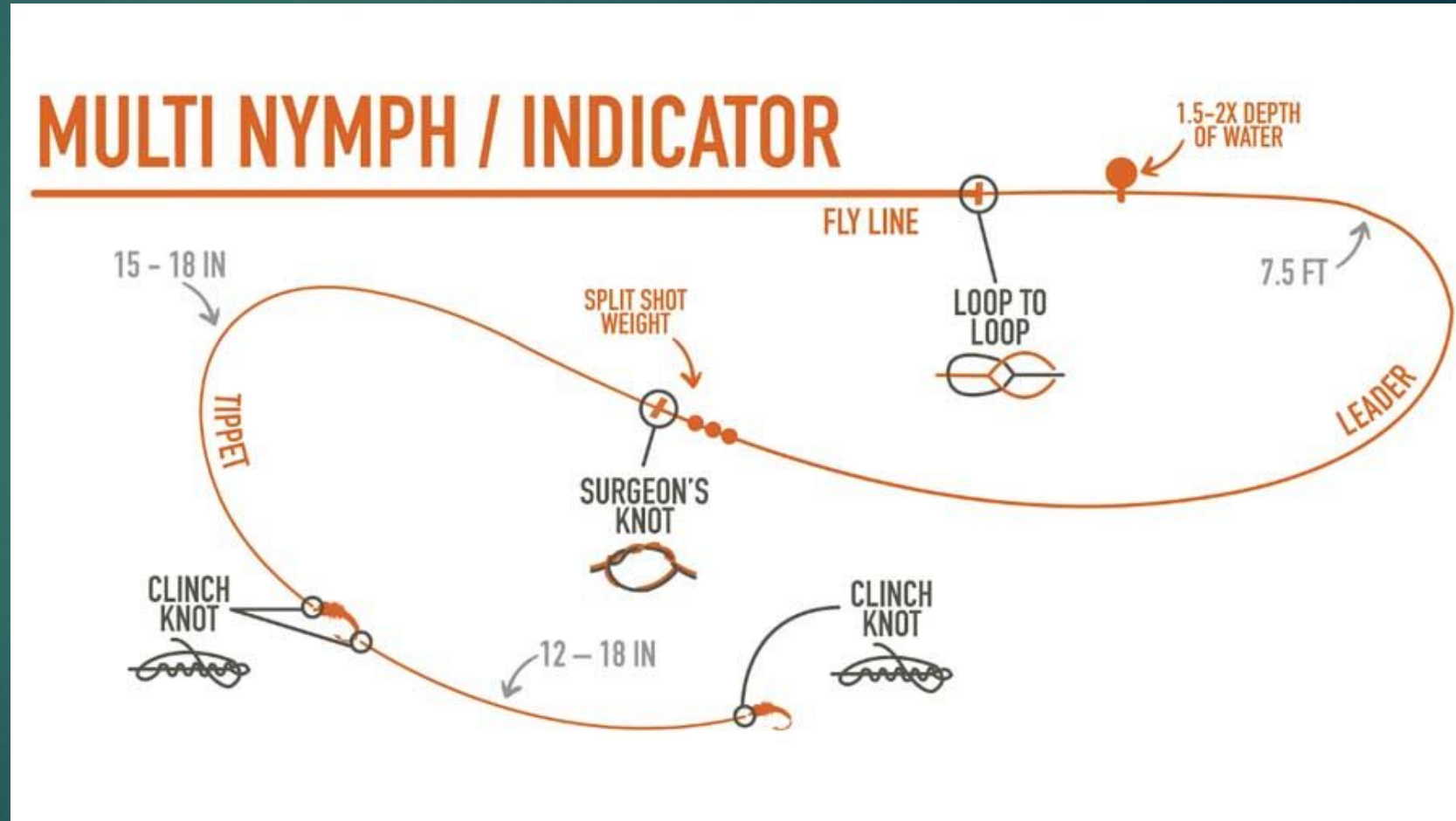
Euro-nymphing: Uses a long (10-11ft) 2-4 weight rod, a light reel with minimal memory line, and a long (15-22ft) tapered leader with a, bi-color, high-visibility sighter to detect subtle strikes without an indicator. The setup aims for direct contact with tungsten-weighted flies, typically using 4X-7X fluorocarbon tippet.



Fly Fishing Set Ups

Multi-Nymph / Indicator:

Nymphing involves creating a weighted rig (usually 7.5–9ft leader, 3x-5x) with a strike indicator for depth control. A common setup uses a 9-foot tapered leader, a split shot, and one or two nymphs (a heavy point fly, with a lighter dropper attached to the hook bend)

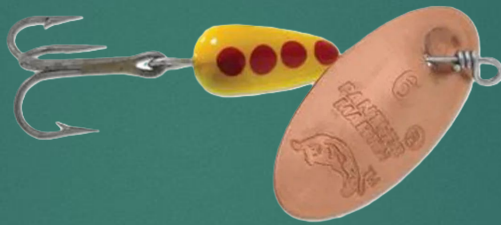


Inline Spinners

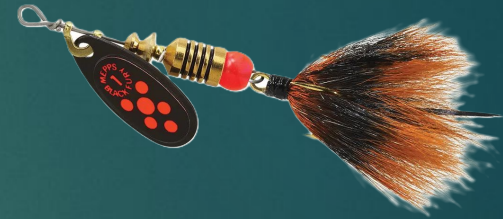
Joe's Flies, Panther Martins, Mepp's Spinners, Pistol Pete's, Rooster Tails.



Joe's Fly



Panther Martin



Mepps



Vibrax



Pistol Pete



Rooster Tail

Spoons and Crankbaits

Spoons: Kastmasters, Super-dupers, Daredevils.

Crankbaits: Teeny-craw, hoppers.



Daredevil



Kastmaster



Super Duper



Craw



Hopper

Lure and Fly Combination Setup

Lure and Fly Combination Setup:

Involves using a spinning rod fitted with 4-6 lb. test monofilament line, sometimes a fluorocarbon leader for line shy fish, a barrel swivel if using a fluorocarbon leader, a nymph or streamer fly and a lure of choice. The fly is tied ~12-18 inches above the lure, giving the illusion that the lure is a smaller fish chasing the fly. My personal favorite is an inline spinner with a larger fly like a Simi-seal leech.



Spring

- ▶ Early Spring: fish Later in the day, at base flow, or on a descending hydrograph.
- ▶ Mid-Late Spring: Fish all day, at base flow, or on a descending hydrograph.
- ▶ Fly Patterns.
 - ▶ Dry/Dropper:
 - ▶ Dries – Blue Winged Olives, Caddis fly, or Parachute Adams.
 - ▶ Dropper (nymphs); Pheasant Tail, Hare's Ear, Copper John, Zebra Midge, Prince Nymph, San Juan Worm, mop fly, egg patterns, or Stonefly Nymphs.
 - ▶ Streamers/Leeches: Woolly Bugger, Semi-Seal Leeches, Egg Sucking Leech, Hellgrammite Patterns.
- ▶ Lure Patterns:
 - ▶ Inline Spinners: Joe's Flies, Panther Martins, Mepps Spinners, Roostertails.
 - ▶ Spoons: Kastmaster, Super-Duper, Daredevil.
 - ▶ Crankbait: Rebel teeny-craw.

Summer

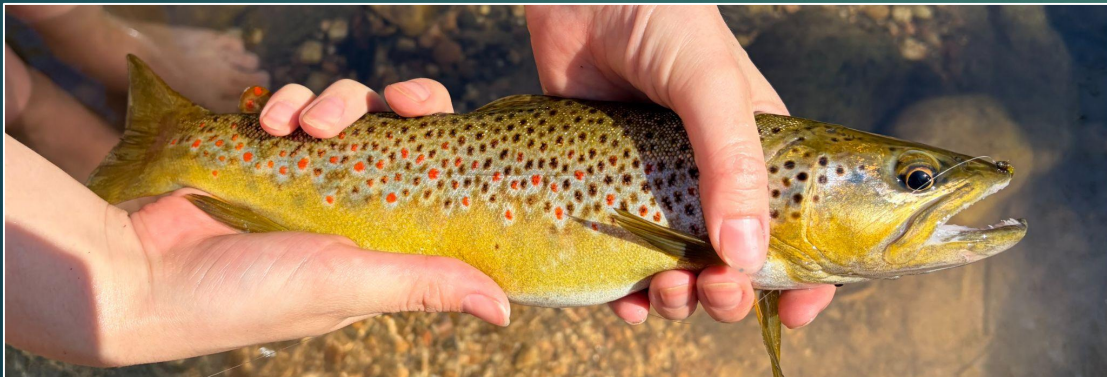
Fish Early! The crowds get pretty crazy, be done fishing by noon.

- ▶ Fly-Fishing:
 - ▶ Dry/Dropper.
 - ▶ Dry: Hoppers, Damselflies, Dragonflies, Stoneflies, Elk Hair Caddis, Griffiths Gnats.
 - ▶ Dropper: Pheasant Tail, Hare's Ear, Copper John, Zebra Midge, Prince Nymph, San Juan Worm, mop fly, Wooly Bugger, Semi-seal leech, or Stonefly Nymphs.
 - ▶ Streamers/Leeches: Wooly Bugger, Semi-Seal Leeches, Egg Sucking Leech, Hellgrammite Patterns.
- ▶ Lure Fishing:
 - ▶ Inline Spinners: Joe's Flies, Panther Martins, Mepps Spinners, Roostertails.
 - ▶ Spoons: Kastmaster, Super-Duper, Daredevil.
 - ▶ Crankbait: Rebel teeny-craw.



Fall

- ▶ Fish early or during the middle of the week.
- ▶ Avoid the leaf-peeper crowd, wait until the leaves are off the trees.
- ▶ Fly Fishing.
- ▶ Nymphs: Crayfish patterns, Woolly Bugger, hellgrammite, and Semi-seal leeches.
- ▶ Lure Fishing.



Winter

- ▶ Fish late in the day.
- ▶ Watch the stream gage (USGS) and storms.
 - ▶ Fish at base flow and on descending hydrographs.
- ▶ Spring and Fall techniques will work.
- ▶ Slow down fish are typically in cover most of the day.





Trout Challenge Submissions from Oak Creek

Year	Challenge Type	Brown Trout	Gila Trout
2023	AZ	10.34%	20.69%
2023	Wild	8.89%	NA
2024	AZ	12.12%	33.33%
2024	Wild	11.43%	NA
2025	AZ	16.67%	23.33%
2025	Wild	42.86%	NA



New Zealand Mudsnaill



Region 2 Weekly Fishing Report

Email Matt Rinker: mrinker@azgfd.gov



Questions

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