

Trip Supplement

Tomahawk SWA Day Trip

Friday, July 8, 2016

8:00 a.m. Gather at Brown Burro Cafe, 706 Main Street, Fairplay, Colorado

Driving Instructions:

Take US Route 285 into South Park. Just beyond Fairplay take CO Route 9 south towards Hartsell. At approximately 8 1/2 miles take the northern entrance to the the Tomahawk State Wildlife Area. Proceed up the river to the last parking lot (remember to close the gate when you go through it).

Return:

This is a day trip to the Tomahawk, if you would like to fish on Saturday, you can find a hotel room in Fairplay and stay overnight. The Historic Fairplay Valiton Hotel, on Main Street, Fairplay (719-836-4699) and The Western Inn Motel & RV Park on US Route 285 (719-836-2026). There is a new hotel in Fairplay called Riverside Inn on US Route 285, just past Fairplay (719-836-0600)

The Tomahawk State Wilderness Area:

The Tomahawk State Wilderness Area is between Fairplay and Hartsell, CO. along Colorado Route 9. From the entrance there is fishable water going south along the road. There are several parking lots. The first is just beyond the first cattle guard. The last is at the end of the road (the south end of the road) past the gate (close the gate when you go through). This section of the Middle Fork is between 12 to 15 feet wide in most places. It is largely a dry fly fishery (is there any other kind ;o). The river meanders through meadows and has wide sections, deep pools and gravel bars. "Long precise casting and a stealthy approach are mandatory if you plan to hook these astute and discriminating fish" (Dorsey, 2005, p. 103).

Most of the fish here are wild brown trout between 7" and 11". There are native browns between 14" and 18" in here, so good luck. There are some wild rainbows in the river, and you may catch one 11"+.

During the summer, you may expect to see hatches of caddis, blue wing olives, pale morning duns, green drakes, and tricos.

Effective nymphs (if you must ;o) are #16 Mercury Caddis, #16 LaFontaine Sparkle Pupa, #16-#18 Bead Head Breadcrust, #16 bright green dubbed Caddis Larva, #12 Yellow Sally nymph, #18 Mercury Pale Morning Dun, #10-#12 Stalcup's Green Drake nymph, #16-#18 Flashback Pheasant-tail, and #18 Sparkle Wing Rs3II.

Dry Flies #16 - #18 Elk Wing Caddis, #12 Yellow Stimulators, #16 Pale Morning Dun, #16 Sparkle Dun (PMD), #12 Green Drakes, #22 Stalcup's CDC Trico Comparadun, and #20 Parachute Adams. Beginning in July terrestrials abound, so bring hoppers and beetles #14-#18 Pilatzkwe's Colorado Cruystal Beattle, #10-#12 Madam X, #8 Chernobyl Ant, and #10-#12 Dave's Hoppers
Fly and Dropper Any of the terrestrials above of an Elk Wing Caddis dropped with a #16-#18 Copper John or #18 Bead Head Flashback Pheasant Tail.

Fishing restrictions: You may use artificial flies and lures, and all fish between 12" and 20" must be returned to the water immediately. You may keep two fish , only one may be longer than 20". Please consider catch and release.