



August 14, 2022 Green River (below Fontenelle Dam) Dry Fly Fishing Report

Nate Brumley

71°/Cloudy with a little rain/Mild Wind mostly upriver

It was my final day on the Green River, and it came with a BIG surprise.

I launched the boat under the dam around 7 AM and moved to the first riffle below. This location has been prosperous during my stay; I've not passed here without landing a fish; and on most days, it was more than one. Using long corridor deliveries, I hook two fish in the run this morning. I lost a pretty big fish in the fight and landed a 17 incher on a #16 Olive Brown Meathead Caddis. It's always good to get that first fish in the net early.

From there I moved to a rock field and hunted the many currents weaving through the sunken and protruding boulders. Five minutes in, a big head appears in front of an underwater rock. I moved from the boat on a slow wade and posted up with the target 60 feet away and slightly below me. Three casts in, the same big head appears at the fly. After hookset the big dude did what I feared—wrapped my line on the rock just below him and busted off my hook.

I then moved to a long riffle and searcher fished the shallow seam toward the top of the run. I'd changed flies after the break-off to a #14 Black Get Her Done Caddis and several casts in, the fly change paid dividends. A 20½-inch cutty came calling and he ended up in the net. It's shocking how hard it is to pry these big fish out of current, but I hadn't seen anything yet.

From there I moved to a short seam on the east side of an island. I park the boat, view upward, and boom! A rise forms in shallow water inside the seam. I sneak to a post-up and second cast, he eats the Caddis on a suction rise. After hookset, a long power struggle ensued, but I net the bruiser. It's a fat 21-inch cutty with a bad attitude. I'm releasing the fish and mark an innocent-looking rise 50 feet away straight out. I make sure the fish is ready to swim away then address the new rise.

I move upriver slightly and drop two reach casts on the new target without a hookup. I move up a little higher to improve the drift and throw the money cast as a gigantic cutty appears at the hook. I get a good hookset in the side of its head and a long, ugly battle rages for the next 10 minutes. This fish was totally unmovable in the quick current, but inch by inch, I gain ground and finally net the fish. This is a giant; 25 inches long, heavy, and drop-dead gorgeous. It's the largest fish I've landed at Fontenelle this year.

I then moved across the side channel to another small seam coming around the head of the island. I get two fish to the Black Get Her Done Caddis searcher fishing. I netted another fat 20-inch cutty and lost another fish in the fight of similar size.

After leaving the run at the island, the wind intensified and blew stiff upriver. I've learned that when the wind freshens in Wyoming, expect it to get worse. So, I decided to fish one more run and call it quits for the day. I pull in at a riffle at the top of a side channel for my last effort. The fish in this run were all about the Get Her Done Caddis and I land three fish in a row in the 16 to 17-inch range.

The wind continued to click up a notch, so I oared straight through to Slate Creek and parked the boat under my campsite. So, that ended my 9-day stay here, and it was certainly worth my time.

I can't help thinking about the spectacularly big fish that live here. The river is a food factory that simply grows giant trout. But I also think about how great it would be if you couldn't use worms, or 6-inch rapalas, or double-hooked streamers. Half the fishermen here don't even own a fly rod; they fish with heavy spin gear with 10 lb. test line. If Wyoming were to change this river to fly fishing only, I wouldn't have to see the damage that spin gear and streamers do to these beautiful fish. Always remember that a barbless Size 16 or Size 14 dry fly hook never killed or maimed a fish on any river or lake anywhere. And damn it; those same tiny hooks will still catch the big, predatory fish that live in these streams. So, why disfigure a beautiful big fish if you didn't need to??? That's the reason why all fisheries should be restricted to fly fishing on a barbless hook....Amen!

Flies that Caught Fish:

[#14 Black Get Her Done Caddis](#)

[#16 Olive Brown Meathead Caddis](#)

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Green River (below Fontenelle Dam (Note: Photos here are thumbnails and will not enlarge like the blog photos do. This is a representation of what displays in our Fishing Report Blogs.)

