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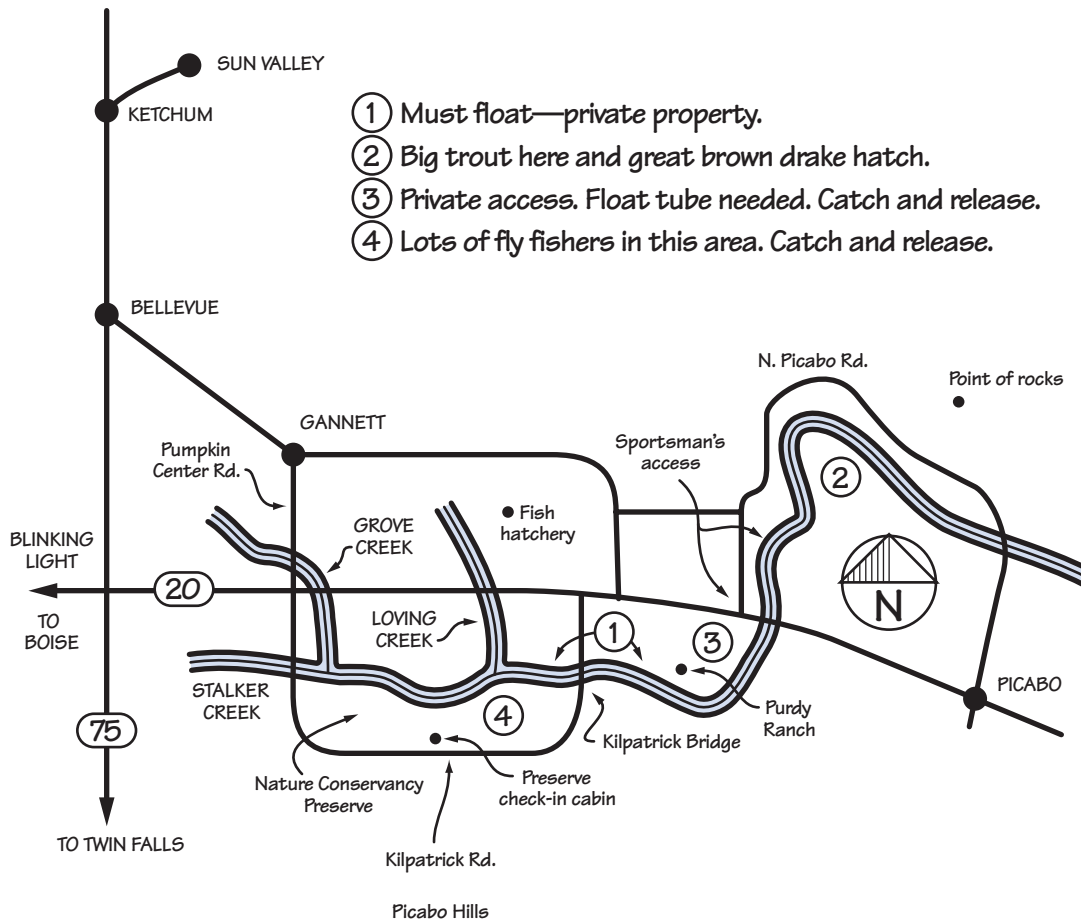
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SILVER CREEK

NOT TO SCALE

Note: Silver Creek is 35 miles from Sun Valley.



Silver Creek

Internationally famous, “The Creek,” as locals refer to it, is perhaps the finest piece of dry fly water you can find. It’s also one of the largest, purest spring-fed streams in this country. Silver Creek’s abundant food supply supports numerous large trout, to which the fly presentation must be near perfect. Moreover, fly imitations must be precise in size, color, and profile. Sound challenging? It is.

In the upper section of Silver Creek within the Nature Conservancy Preserve, trout and fly fishers are abundant. The Purdy Ranch section, downstream from the preserve, is private. Here the trout population is very strong, but a float tube is required to reach them. The Point of Rocks area has very big trout, though fewer in numbers than in the other sections. This is the brown drake hatch area. Bear in mind that I have tried to condense the basic information needed to fly fish all sections of this complicated water on a single page.

From Sun Valley/Ketchum take Highway 75, 35 miles south to Gannet, where signs direct you to the Nature Conservancy Preserve. Other sections of river are reached off of Highway 20. To reach them, turn east at the flashing signal light at the intersection of Highways 75 and 20.

Types of Fish

Rainbow, brown, and some brook trout.

Known Hatches

See Hatch Chart on page 14.

Equipment to Use

Rods: 3 to 5 weight, 8½' to 9'.

Reels: Mechanical or palm drag.

Lines: Floating.

Leaders: 5x to 7x with 8x for small mayflies.

Wading: Chest-high neoprene waders and felt-soled wading boots.

Flies to Use (See Hatch Chart page 14)

June 1 to 10: Imitate the brown drake hatch in the Point of Rocks area with Duns and Spinners at dusk.

Dry Patterns: Brown Drake, Paradrake, & Partridge Spinner #10; Pale Morning Dun #16–18.

Nymphs: Brown Drake #10.

June–August 15: Pale morning duns peak the first week of August. Duns emerge July–Aug. at dusk. To June 1–10 flies add Gray/Yellow No-Hackle, Parachute Pale Morning Dun, & Yellow Hen Spinner #6–18.

June–September: Late-morning hatch of light olive quill spinner. Mayfly hatch continuous. Peak hatch of speckled dun and spinner 8/25–9/20. To June–Aug. 15 flies add *Dry:* Little Olive Quill Spinner, Mason Loopwing Spinner, Red Quill Hen Spinner, Light Olive Parachute & Gray/Yellow No-Hackle #22; Gray Partridge Parachute, & Slate/Gray No-Hackle #22; Partridge Hen Spinner #18–20. *Nymphs:* Red Quill Emerger tied sparsely, Callibaetis #14–18.

July 20–August: Big morning trico spinner falls. To June–Sept., add Trico or White-Winged Black #22, White/Black CDC Spinner #22, White/Black Hen Spinner, Mason Loopwing Trico, & White/Black No-Hackle #22.

August 15–September 10: Late-morning and early

afternoon small pale morning dun hatch. To July 20–Aug. flies add Small PMD, PMD Parachute, & Gray/Yellow No-Hackle #20.

August 25–September 1: Sporadic afternoon *Baetis* hatch. To Aug. 15–Sept. 10 flies above, add Little Bright Olive Dun, Little Olive Parachute #22, Speckled Dun, & Spinner #16–20.

September 20–October: Afternoon blue-winged olive hatch. *Dry Patterns:* Blue-Winged Olive #20, Little Olive Parachute and Gray/Olive No-Hackle #20. *Nymphs:* Mason *Baetis* Nymph #18, Pheasant Tail #18.

October: Inconsistent but good slate mahogany dun or *Paraleptophlebia* hatch. To Sept. 20–Oct. flies add Slate Mahogany Dun Paralep, No-Hackle, & Brown Parachute, #16.

When to Fish

You can fish summer through winter, but the best fishing is midsummer into late fall. Hatches can be inconsistent in June.

Seasons & Limits

Consult the Idaho Fish & Game regulations. Nature Conservancy and Purdy Ranch areas are catch and release, barbless hooks, no bait, no boats. Below Highway 20 is a two-fish limit, none between 12" and 16".

Accommodations & Services

Some camping is available at the Fish & Game hatchery and the Point of Rocks sportsman’s access area. Find plenty of lodging and services 25–35 miles north on Highway 75 in the towns of Hailey, Ketchum, and Sun Valley or 60 miles south on Highway 75 in Twin Falls.

Rating

For classic dry fly fishing in a challenging situation, Silver Creek is a solid 10.

