

Washington Outdoorsman

November 2010

Turkey Tricks

5 tips to bring in that
old tom

Top 10 Trout Fishing Destinations

Don't miss out on all
the action!

Don't Miss Next
Month's Issue!

Hunter's First Kill

Hear the amazing story

The Perfect Elk Rifle?



Table of Contents

November 2010 Vol. 23 No. 8

Turkey Tricks	2
Top Ten Trout Fishing Destinations	5
The Perfect Elk Rifle	8



Turkey Tricks

Having trouble bringing in that old tom? Don't feel so bad. Even some of the top turkey hunters struggle to call in an old gobbler if he doesn't want to come to you.

Take these five tips into the field and you might just get lucky. Stick with it and never give up!



5. Scouting

Knowing everything about the area and the turkeys you will be hunting in the spring might be the most important thing to learn before the start of the season. Scouting plays a major role in the success or failure of a spring turkey hunt. Start scouting no later than three weeks before the season starts. Look for any signs of recent turkey activity. This can include things like turkey tracks, droppings, feathers, and scrapings. Find the flocks and learn their habits. Knowing the daily patterns of the turkeys you are hunting dramatically shifts the odds of success in your favor.

4. Finding a Place to Sit

The most important thing to remember when setting up is to pick a spot that that offers the gobbler an easy route to your location. Make sure there isn't any creeks, fences, thick underbrush, or any other kind of obstacle between you and the turkey. If an old gobbler runs into one of these obstacles he will stop in his tracks. Pick an area that gives you a good view of your surroundings. Sit up next to a tree or something that hides your outline from the incoming tom. Keep your movement to a minimum; turkeys have excellent vision.



3. Experiment With Your Calling

A lot of times conventional calling won't convince that "hung-up" gobbler to come into gun range. Change it up. Try some light yelps, clucks, and purrs. If that doesn't work, be more aggressive. Call louder and more frequently. Don't be afraid to even throw a gobble in there to challenge him to come in that few extra yards. Try a variety of calls from box calls to diaphragm calls and find which one works to bring him in.

2. Get Out There Early

Getting up early and sitting at the roost in the dark is key when hunting a big tom. Don't wait until he heads off to feed to go after him. Catch him on the roost and make him fly down to you. When you locate him, try not to get any closer than 65-70 yards from the tree he's in. You don't want him to hear you walking or see you and fly off the roost early. Once the gobbler flies down, call aggressively. Make him come to you instead of follow the hens he was roosted with. You're not always going to win going up against a real hen but don't make it easy for her.

1. Use Decoys

Decoys are probably the best weapon a hunter can have to convince a tough tom to get in shotgun range. Have a variety of decoys such as hens, toms, and jakes at your disposal. Mature toms will sometimes come in to a jake decoy to show dominance. A lot of times a gobbler won't come in close enough if he doesn't see a hen. Setting out a hen decoy can push him over the edge.



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Top Ten Trout Fishing Destinations

Have you ever wanted to trout fish but not have any idea of where to go? Here are ten of the best places to catch those elusive trout in Washington.

10. Omak Lake

Omak lake is the lake to go to for record size cutthroats with a couple state record size trout being caught there in recent years.

9. Roosevelt Lake

Roosevelt lake is a good trout producer with excellent fishing in the spring as well as in the fall and into the winter. Trolling and fly are widely successful.

8. Goose Lake

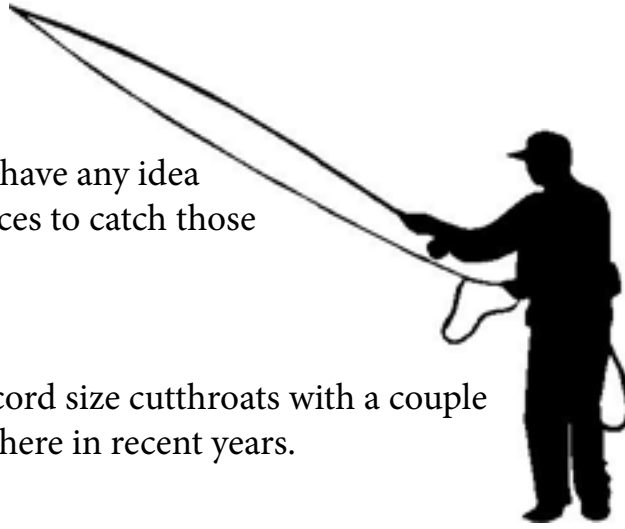
This lake located near Mt. Adams is often stocked with brown, rainbow, and cutthroat trout. Goose lake is a great place to fish and watch the local wildlife. You can fish from either the shore or troll in a boat.

7. Little White Salmon River

The Little White Salmon River is a spring-fed river that is always cold. It varies from calm moving to intense rapids to waterfalls. There are many good size trout here to be caught. There's no better fight than one with a native rainbow.

6. Lewis River

Another good river to fish for rainbows and cutthroats that's open all year. The deep holes and large boulders make an ideal trout habitat in these crystal clear waters. Trekking far enough up the river will put you into beautiful sights and wildlife including maybe even a herd of elk.



5. Lake Washington

Lake Washington offers an opportunity to catch big rainbow and cutthroat trout. Even though it's not always the most fast paced fishing action, this lake holds trout that average more than a pound and can get up to three to four pounds.

4. Puget Sound

If you like catching those big tough fighting trout, this is the place for you. The sound is a great place to fish for big sea-run cutthroats. From Olympia up to Tacoma, these hard fighting trout are a blast to catch.

3. Southwest Washington Lakes

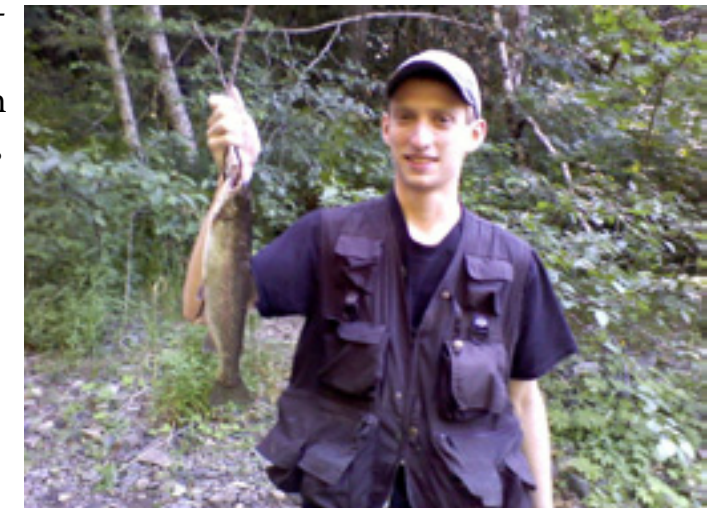
Southwest Washington is home to a wider range of lakes and ponds than any other location west of the Cascades. There are lakes like Lacamas Lake, Kline Line Pond, and Battle Ground Lake that are regularly stalked with trout and are great locations for the whole family. You also have places like Indian Heaven that has plenty of fishing opportunities with awesome scenery.

2. Yakima River

The Yakima River is the most popular trout fishing river for good reason. You can catch and release cutthroat and rainbow trout here 365 days a year. An oasis through the deserts of eastern Washington is a perfect breeding ground for insects which provide trout with plenty of food for fish to survive.

1. Cascade Range High Lakes

The Cascade Mountain Range provides the most beautiful fishing locations in the state. Here you will find an abundance of plump trout spread throughout the numerous lakes and potholes it has to offer. It's the ultimate place for experienced fisherman and outdoorsman. Many of the best lakes are only accessible by hiking through meadows and forests of cedar, fir, and hemlocks.



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The Perfect Elk Rifle



What is the most important factor when trying to take down that huge bull elk? Lightweight and easy to carry? Bolt action for a quick second shot if necessary? Enough power to take him down in a single shot? Accuracy for a guaranteed kill shot? These are questions every hunter must ask themselves when deciding which rifle to buy.

The truth is you want a combination of all of those things. You want to find a rifle that isn't too heavy, has a good amount of take down power, and enough accuracy to make that all important 300 yard shot.



The perfect elk rifle is really just a matter of opinion and what you personally are the most comfortable with. Here are two of the most popular:

7mm Remington Magnum Bolt-action



300 Winchester Magnum Bolt-action





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