

## Fly Fishing the Famous “Miracle Mile” of the North Platte River”

by Steve Hofmann

Finally, in July of 2017 my wife and I fly fished the famous ‘**Miracle Mile**’ section of the North Platte river in Wyoming (just Southwest of Casper). The Locals just call it “The Mile”. On 3 previous occasions we tried to fish this famous section of the river but were denied either because of weather or failure to obtain guides who wanted to take us there (it’s a long way out there). On those 3 occasions we ended up fishing the “Grey Reef” section with great success. However, in 2017 we really wanted to fish the “Mile” and were finally successful in booking a trip through the “Reef Fly Shop”. We stayed on the North Platte river in a cabin in the small town of Alcova. Most of the fly fishing on the North Platte is done on the “Grey Reef” section, which is closer to the town of Casper. The Miracle Mile a section of North Platte river is located between Pathfinder and Seminoe reservoirs. “The Mile” is famous for big- monster trout” that come out of Pathfinder reservoir. These fish can be either Browns or Rainbows. What sets the Miracle Mile apart from most other fishing destinations is the “tug” when one of these monster trout takes the hook and heads downstream (or upstream). These trout are big, strong river trout and will put up the fight of a lifetime. Landing a Miracle Mile 20+ inch trout is something that a serious angler should absolutely experience in his or her life. It is not easy. In addition, there are supposed to be over 4000 fish per mile.

My wife, Ellen, and I set out on July 17th with guide Greg Smith from **The Reef Fly Shop** right next to our cabin. After following our guide on a long, dusty 45-minute trip from the fly shop, we made it to the ‘put-in’ on the river below Pathfinder dam. I knew that we were in for a good day when our guide Greg, gave us a 10 minute lecture on hooking and landing big fish. The method of fishing on this day was drifting an indicator rig from a drift boat. Sometimes the Stone fly and Mayfly hatch is terrific on “the mile”, but on our July day it was indicator fishing with 3 flies: an RS2 for bottom fly, a light colored Barr’s Emerger next, then a San Juan worm for the top fly. Within 2 riffles we each had hooked 2 monster fish each **without** landing any. Finally, after landing some 17 to 19 inchers we got the hang of it. At the end of the day we each had landed two ~ 23+ incher football shaped rainbows. See pics below.

If anyone it the club is going to fish the “Mile”, we would recommend staying on the river near the Reef Fly Shop where there are clean cabins w/kitchen or the stay in the RV park. The fly shop also operates a lodge that is located couple miles down- river from the fly shop. There other guides and outfitters near Casper, but they are reluctant to take you to the “Mile” because of the distance and shuttle services. Other things to do in Casper are: Golfing (great Municipal and Simi-private private clubs, visit museums, and hiking historical trails.)

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