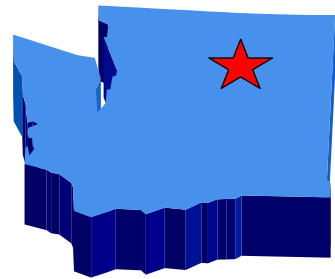




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Fishing Scenario ID #403

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RUFUS WOODS RAINBOWS

Many anglers would like to see their names in the record books. At Rufus Woods Reservoir, the possibility that might happen isn't far-fetched. Since 1998, the state record for rainbow trout has been broken here *four times!* The most recent monster, landed in 2002, weighed in at...*29.6 pounds.*

Records aside, if all you're seeking is to spend a day catching whopper rainbow, there's no better destination than Rufus Woods.

Anglers can approach this lake from shore or boat, by trolling or soaking bait. Boat trolling's more productive: After their fourth trip there (to learn it) three anglers should expect 12 to 24 hookups of fish from two to five pounds over eight hours, while a shore bound-angler's more likely to hit two to six hookups in the same period.

Boat or shore, at Rufus Woods, there's always the chance for 12 pounder, or--who knows?—**perhaps a new state record over 30.**

Dave Graybill, the *Fishin' Magician*





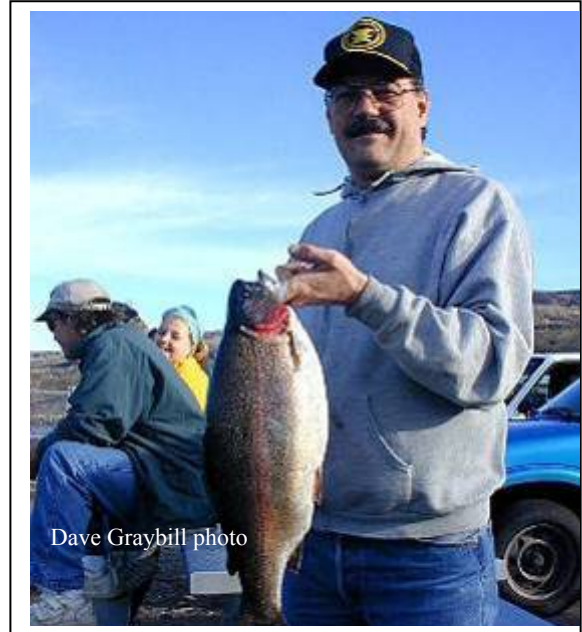
Rufus Woods Rainbows

Timing Details

- 1. **February 1st to February 15th**
- 2: Fish can bite from shore at any time.
Trollers will find the best bite is when there's a current moving in the lake, however subtle, which can begin as late as 10 a.m.

Don't go to Rufus Woods When:

- 4. Snow storms are predicted.
- 5. High winds are forecast.
- 6. Forecasts predict a drop in high air temperature of more 7 degrees from the previous day.



Special Regulations

As of 2006 Rufus Woods is open year-round, with a daily limit of two trout and two kokanee (silvers) per day, no minimum size limit for either species. **A Colville Indian Reservation Tribal Permit is required when fishing on boundary waters. This is important to note when fishing anywhere along the east shore from the bank, particularly at the popular net pens.**

- 1. Please check your WDFW handbook for 2007 limits wdfw.wa.gov/fish and any emergency changes in rules. [WDFW emergency rules](#) .
- 2. A Colville Tribal permit is required to fish. Costs: one day, \$7.50; three days, \$18.00; seven days \$25.00; one year pass, \$35.00. Permits can be purchased in Pateros, at Pateros Ace Hardware, just off Highway 97, (509) 923-2622; in Brewster at The Triangle Shell, (509) 689-3473; and at the Walmart store in Omak, (509) 826-6002. In Electric City, at the top end of Banks Lake, try Coulee Playland, 5096332-671
- 3. *No alcohol or firearms are allowed on the reservation.*
- 4. **Anglers fishing bait must keep all legal-sized fish they catch and quit at their limits.**

Trolling Option

Equipment/Tackle

- 1. A boat of 12 feet or more, with a gas-powered engine. This is the minimum on Rufus Woods—a large body of water where you may need to travel some distance to find fish. *Your craft must be able to carry you safely to dock against a stiff wind.*

- 2. An electronic fish finder.

- 3. An 8 ½ -foot spinning or bait casting outfit loaded with 10- to 12-pound test.

- 4. A spool of 10- to 12-pound fluorocarbon for leaders.

- 5. #12 black snap swivels

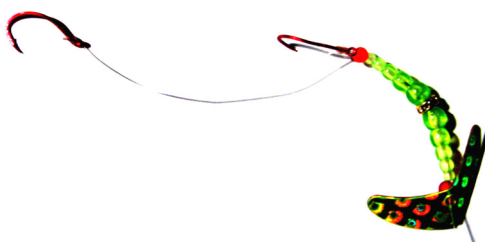
- 6. FOR THE LIGHT TROLL OPTION

- a. A selection of size 5 and 7 floating Rapala™ plugs
- b. 1/16th ounce RoosterTail™ spinners in "Caddis" finish (chartreuse body
 - i. with a caddis fly painted on it!) Also try brown, black
 - ii. and the "Fire Tiger" model.



- 7. FOR THE HEAVY ACTION TROLL:

- a. Gang troll, or Mack's Lure Flash Lites™, or Trout Dodger™.
- b. Size #6 hook bait-holder style spinners, like Wedding Rings.
- c. Selection of streamer flies, such as Wooly Buggers, Carey Specials. Nightcrawlers
- d. "Dough" baits, like Power Bait™ or Nitro™.



- 8. A large trout or steelhead net (be prepared for larger fish!)

- 9. Cooler with plenty of ice.

- 10. Needle-nose pliers. **We strongly urge you replace treble hooks with singles, and crimp the barbs.**

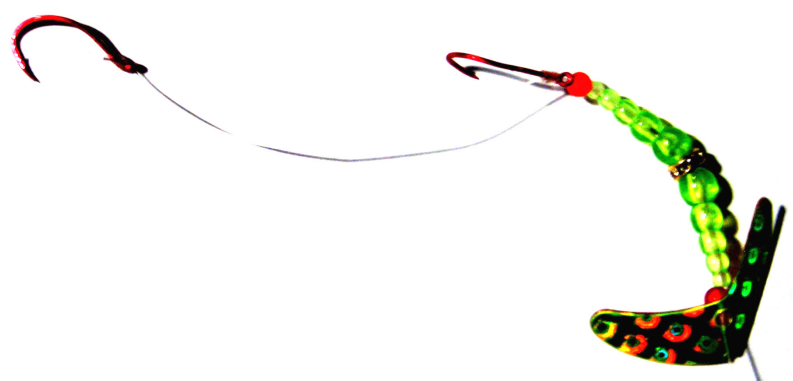


Rigging: *Light Troll Option*

- 1. When fishing Rapalas or Roostertail spinners, attach an 8- to 10-foot leader of 8- to 10-pound test fluorocarbon to your main line. (Again, we strongly urge you replace treple hooks with singles, and crimp all barbs.)
- 2. Add a size 12 black snap swivel to the end of that leader. (Note: some anglers prefer tying the Rapala directly to the line to achieve a different action.)

Rigging: *Heavy Troll Option*

- 1. Choose one of the following sinker *systems*. The actual *weight* of the sinker you use will be determined by the depth you wish to fish, so carry a selection from 1 oz to 4 oz.
 - a. Tie a kidney sinker to the end of your main line. *or*
 - b. Tie a drop-lead tube to the end of your main line, *or*
 - c. Slip a sliding sinker holder onto your main line.
- 2. Add 18-inches of leader, then attach a Trout Dodger™, Mack Flash Lites™, or Jack ‘O Diamonds™ flasher. (Note: It's handy to have several pre-made “links” of line on hand -- 18-inch to 24-inch lengths of 8- to 10-lb. test fluorocarbon leader with snap swivels tied to both ends.)
- 3. Attach a bait-holder style spinner. Some of these come pre-made with lengths of leader you may want to trim to 2½ feet long. It's also a good idea to add a chain swivel below your flasher rig, then tie on an 18" piece of flouro leader.
- 4. Put a small piece of nightcrawler on the hook, or add a bit of dough bait
- 5. Or...try one of the flies recommended, without bait.
- 6. Your favorite scent:

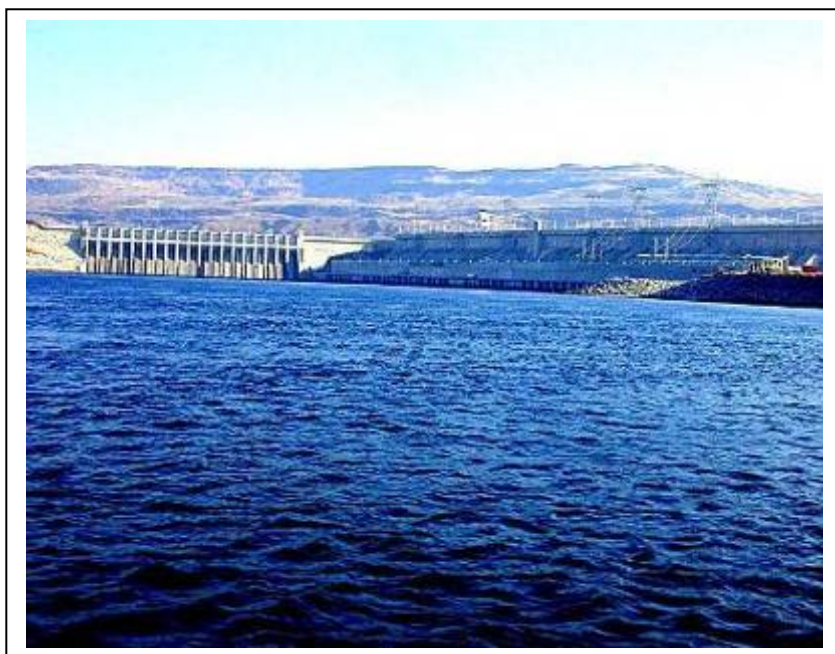




Rufus Wood Rainbows

Trolling Techniques

- 1. If Light Trolling a Rapala or Roostertail—or both at once, if you have more than one angler in the boat—have a variety of colors on hand.
- 2. Make sure to test your lure's action by pulling it alongside the boat. Different speeds produce different actions--experiment to see which produces most strikes! **Keep this in mind: the majority of Rufus rainbows are caught shallow, at depths of 10 or 15 feet or less.**
- 3. Drop lures back between 50 and 75 feet.
- 4. Watch the rod carefully, observing how the lure's action affects the tip-top. You want to see a steady vibration. If the rod action stops without a hit, check for weeds.
- 5. With the Heavy Troll system, be prepared to experiment with different sizes and color of flies and lures, and types of baits. Once again, watch the rod tip carefully.
- 6. Trolling with heavier weights and attracting blades will be most effective in deeper water, particularly as the day brightens, or when the weather is warmer and fish are looking for cooler water. It's also very productive the late October season.
- 7. EXPERIMENT! If you're not getting into fish in the numbers described, constantly change depths and trolling speed until you do.
- 8. Three Hour Rule: Even on great days, the "bite" is sometimes off for up to two hours. If you only fished during that period, you might mistakenly think the fishing is no good! So, fish for 3+ hours at least, and you're more likely to sample the day's great potential.
- 9. Each day at your destination, talk to (and learn from) four or more fishers, if possible.
- 10. Add scent to your offering (but not to flies.)

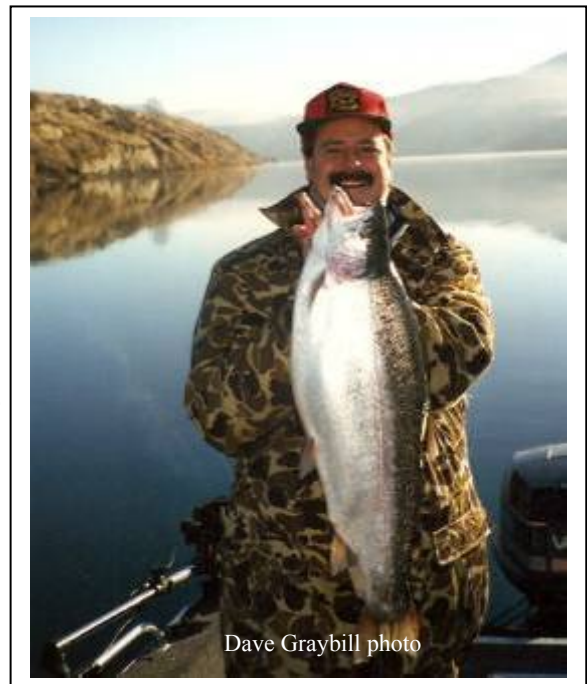




Rufus Wood Rainbows

Trolling Location Details

- 1. At the bottom of Rufus Woods, above the dam and not far from the launch, there is a safety barrier constructed of white barrels. This area can be fished even from a small boat. Trollers start at a point straight across from the launch and troll to the top end, then reverse direction and troll back. The water is very deep here, but remember, most fish are caught shallow. Start with no weight, and then experiment with increased depth.
- 2. Anglers should also try trolling about 100 feet from off the east shore. Watch the depth sounder carefully and try to keep the boat in 25 feet of water. Watch also for the occasional underwater point that comes up shallow.
- 3. Look for yellow pumps at intervals off the shore. From the bottom of the reservoir, try trolling near the first pump off the east shore.
- 4. Also while running up the reservoir from the dam, watch for a point where a catwalk extends to a pump on the east shore. Try trolling along this pump and above it, along the marker buoys. *But watch the depth sounder here!* There are shallows near the buoys.
- 5. From the top of the reservoir at the Seaton's Grove Boat Launch it is about an 8-mile run to the net pens. Anglers troll both above and below the pens along the west shore.
- 6. You may continue trolling all the way down to the bay at Nespelem Creek, using your depth sounder to locate fish,
- 7. Explore! While these fish often concentrate near the net pens, they are caught throughout the reservoir. Experiment! Try different plugs and trolling combinations until you find one that produces consistent results.





Rufus Wood Rainbows

Shore Fishing Option

Equipment/Tackle

- 1. A 7½- to 8½-foot medium-action spinning rod.
- 2. Medium-weight spinning reel loaded with 6- to 8-pound test line.
- 3. Size 12 to 14 snap swivels, (black).
- 4. Size 8 to 10 single bait-holder hooks.
- 5. Quarter-ounce to 3/8-ounce egg-style, slip sinkers.
- 6. Spools of 6- to 8-pound test leader material.
- 7. Variety of baits that could include: Pheromone "dough" pastes Power Bait™ or Nitro™. in a variety of colors and flavors; nightcrawlers; marshmallows, plain or flavored, salmon eggs, scent.
- 8. Cooler with lots of ice.
- 9. Rod holder, sand spike style.
- 10. Folding chair.
- 11. Needle nose pliers for removing hooks without damaging leader. **Remember, you must keep ALL legal sized fish landed on bait!**



Dave Graybill photo



Rufus Wood Rainbows Shore Fishing Rigging and Techniques

- 1. Build a slip-sinker rig:
 - a. Slide one or two egg-style sinkers onto your main line, depending on the distance you wish to cast;
 - b. Tie on a swivel.
 - c. To the opposite side of swivel tie at least three feet of leader, then your hook.

- 2. Bait the hook with floating paste bait (Powerbait or Nitro), or a with piece of nightcrawler and a marshmallow, or an egg-and-marshmallow combination. **The purpose of the floating paste or marshmallow is to lift the bait above the weeds so that fish can easily see and take it.** Test your offering in shallow water to make sure this is happening.



Dave Graybill photo

- 3. Begin casting a short distance from the bank. Rufus Woods rainbows will often cruise near the shore looking for a meal early and late in the day, before moving into deeper water as the day warms.
- 4. When your cast strikes the water, allow your bait to sink before you close the bail on your spinning reel. Carefully reel in the slack, but don't pull it tight to the sinker. Leave some slack line on the top of the water, or a bow in the line from the rod tip to the water.
- 5. Watch your line, not the rod tip. Strikes may appear as slight ticks, or as a slow tightening of the line. This means the fish is either tasting the bait or just beginning to swim away with it, meeting little resistance because your line's slipping through the holes in the sinker. Only if the line goes tight will the fish feel any resistance and drop the bait.
- 6. When the trout has pulled the slack line tight, set the hook.



Dave Graybill photo

- 7. If you get no strikes, cast further out in the lake, also to your right and left, without interfering with other anglers who may be close by.
- 8. Remember! You *must* keep all legal-sized fish caught on bait!
- 9. Keep your hook sharp! Check often—after every snag and fish. Dull hooks make for dull days.
- 10. Have a question? Please feel free to call us at (360) 733-3353, ext. 118, or email seth@fishingcoaches.org . And please contact us any time, to let us know how you did!



Rufus Wood Rainbows Shore Fishing Location Details

- 1. The Corps of Engineers has created great shore fishing locations above the dam, and there are picnic tables and fireboxes at intervals for anglers' use at two different areas below the boat ramp.
- 2. There is very limited shore fishing access right behind the dam.
- 3. There is also a road that follows the east shore to the north along the reservoir for a few miles, leading to bank fishing locations popular with anglers. This is called the Brandts Landing Road.
- 4. You will find access to the famed net pens by passing through the town of Grand Coulee and driving on to Nespelem. Take a left at the rodeo grounds in Nespelem. Follow the road down the hill to the shore of the reservoir, and continue to along the access road to the net pen facility.
- 5. Anglers can also continue on the road past the turn off to the net pens to reach the road to the bay at the end of Nespelem Creek. There is a very rough boat launch here and some shore fishing, too.



Rufus Wood Rainbows Location/Services



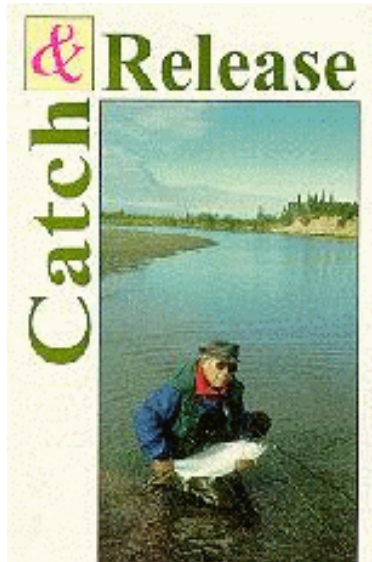
Dave Graybill photo

1. The nearest town that offers lodging for winter fishing at Rufus Woods is Brewster, which is about a 20-minute drive from the fishing grounds. To learn about hotels, restaurants and RV parks, log onto www.ci.brewster.wa.us and then click on RV Park from the displayed options. More information is available through www.brewsterchamber.org.
2. Colville Indian Reservation Tribal Fishing Permits are available at the Triangle Shell gas station in Brewster. Current information about the fishing at Rufus Woods can also be obtained by calling the Triangle Shell at 509-689-3473.
3. For those who will be fishing from shore or launching above Chief Joseph Dam: there is an excellent launch above the dam, and many anglers will launch here and run 40 miles to the net pens. Fishing is not allowed from the launch dock.



Responsible Catching

Choosing Your Tackle



- Use strong line to bring your catch in quickly.
- Fish caught with flies or lures survive at a higher rate than fish caught with bait.
- Use hooks appropriate to the size of the fish.
- Use pliers to pinch barbs on hooks down.

Landing Your Catch

- Land your fish as carefully and quickly as possible.
- Avoid removing the fish from the water.
- Do not let fish flop about in shallow water, on the ground, or in the bottom of your boat.
- Use landing nets made with soft or knotless mesh.

Handling Your Catch

- Keep your fish in the water.
- Cradle large fish gently with both hands: one under its belly, one at the tail.
- Keep your fingers out of and away from the gills and eyes.
- Use wet hands or wet cloth gloves to handle the fish.
- Never squeeze the fish.
- Support your fish in the water while your partner takes your picture. Fish can not remain healthy out of water for longer than you can hold your breath.

Removing Your Hook

- Use long nose pliers to back the hook out.
- Remove the hook quickly, keeping the fish underwater.
- When the fish is hooked deeply, cut the line to release the fish. If the fish is bleeding from the gills, it is likely to die and you should keep it as part of your bag limit.
- Use steel hooks that will rust out, avoid stainless steel hooks.

Reviving Your Catch

- Keep your catch in the water at all times. If you want to take a photograph, have the photographer get ready, then lift the fish barely out of the water and quickly return it to the water.
- Point your catch into a slow current, or gently move it back and forth until its gills are working properly and it maintains its balance. When the fish recovers and attempts to swim away, let it swim from your hands.
- Large fish may take some time to revive.

(Rules adapted from Alaska Department of Fish and Game, <http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/statewide/flyfish/candr.cfm>)



Hook Sharpening

The vast majority of all new hooks are relatively blunt and should be sharpened before being used for Big Game Fishing.

Newer chemically sharpened hooks are an exception where the attempts to sharpen them often result in damaging the hook instead.

Hooks can be sharpened with a vast variety of files and stones, but the correct way of using the file or stone does not vary much.

The method shown below is a simple and easy way to sharpen most hooks, with a good and satisfying result.

All file directions are from the barb towards the point of the hook.

1. File the knife edge on the inside surfaces.



2. File the flat side surface.



3. Touch up the outside edges of the point very lightly.



From www.thaifishingguide.com

