

## FLY OF THE MONTH • BRAIDED BUTT DAMSEL • Size 10

A common invertebrate family found on lakes and backwaters from sea level to above 10,000 feet, the bright blues and greens of the adult damselfly should catch the attention of feeding trout, panfish, or bass in your favorite fall fishing hole.

**Dry/Wet:** Dry

**Fly Category:** True-Fly Pattern

**Family:** Edible Others | **Species:** Damsel & Dragon Flies | **Life Stage:** Adult



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## Fly of the Month • September 2019

## Wambolt & Associates

*A desire to fish...  
A desire to achieve your goals...*

Just as a desire to fly fish draws us to the river, a desire to achieve our financial goals - everything from a lifestyle to a legacy - draws us to invest. With investing, we put our assets to work in ways we hope will grow and protect what we've earned and help us reach bigger goals, such as buying a home or starting a business.

Defining the end goal and the path to get there underlies each customized investment strategy we create at Wambolt & Associates. We review the goals, current investment positions, retirement income projections, insurance, liabilities and other financial matters to each client and their family in designing a "living" plan, one that moves and adjusts as conditions change, guiding you through the headwaters and byways in life and the financial markets. Asset allocations and individual securities and bonds are carefully monitored and proactively managed to avoid expensive products and unnecessary fees.

Learn more about our customized investment strategies or book a free consultation at [www.WamboltWealth.com](http://www.WamboltWealth.com).

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Your reel screams as fluorescent fly line unspools down river behind the largest dorsal fin you've ever seen. This is a common scene when you hook into cutbow. Equal parts pitbull, feral pig, and mutant trout, cutbows are a single-minded alpha predator that are all about packing on the pounds, and aren't picky about what they eat. Cutbows are a hybrid trout species created when the eggs of female cutthroat trout are fertilized by male rainbow trout. While naturally occurring in water inhabited by both rainbow and cutthroat trout, in the late 1980's cutbows became a mainstay of hatcheries across the Rocky Mountain west due to their hardness and resistance to contracting whirling disease.

*Continue reading inside...*



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# Trout Smart Series: An Insider's Guide to Catching Cutbow Trout On The Fly

Peter Stitcher - Ascent Fly Fishing

In this installment of our Trout Smart series, we will be breaking down how to fish for *Oncorhynchus clarkii x mykiss*, aka the Cutbow trout.

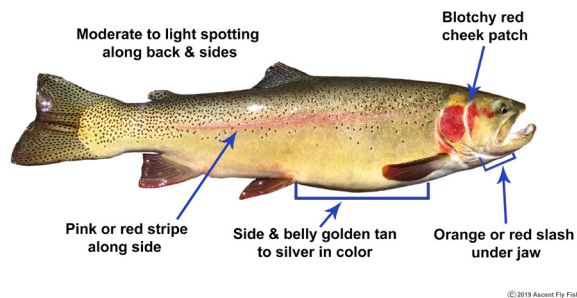
## Identifying Characteristics:

Cutbows are without a doubt the most misidentified trout species. Sharing characteristics of both the rainbow and cutthroat trout, and these traits exhibiting themselves to varying degrees depending on population, the fly fisher needs an acute eye to properly identify this fish. The key characteristics that define a cutbow trout are:

- 1 - Moderate to light spotting along the back and sides.
- 2 - A pink to red stripe running along the sides (lateral line) of the fish.
- 3 - Their sides and belly are a golden-tan to silver color void of spots.
- 4 - A blotchy red, birthmark-like red patch on their cheek.
- 5 - An orange or red slash of color under their jaw.

## Cutbow Trout

*Oncorhynchus clarkii* X *Oncorhynchus mykiss*



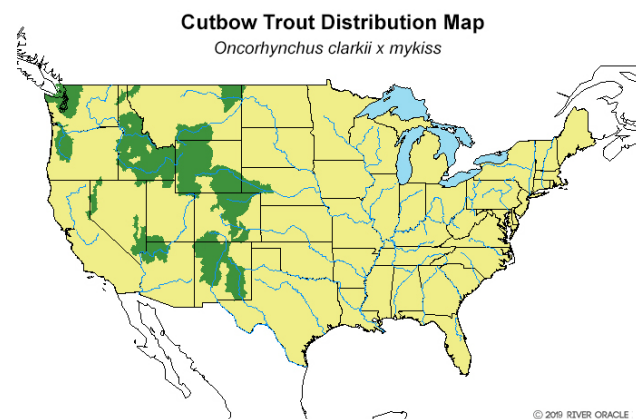
## Range & Habitat:

While only naturally reproducing in small numbers in the wild, both state and private hatcheries in New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon hatch and release tens of millions of cutbow trout each year. Equally at home lakes and rivers, cutbows are a fast-growing, resilient breed that can survive in water temperatures up to the mid-70's (Fahrenheit). Less cautious than Brown and Brook trout, cutbows will often be found in the shallow riffles and faster flows cohabitating with their paternal relatives, the rainbow trout.

Unlike hybrids such as the Splake (Brook Trout / Lake Trout Cross) and Tiger Trout (Brook Trout / Brown Trout Cross) cutbows are sexually viable and spawn in the spring through summer in water temperatures between 40–50°F.

## Feeding Behavior & Foods:

Like the defensive line of a professional football team, cutbows are bred to be big and are not known for their smarts. Feeding primarily on macroinvertebrates such as mayflies, caddis flies, stoneflies, and midges, cutbows are easy prey to any angler who is halfway decent at matching the hatch. As cutbows reach 3 to 4 years of age or top 15–16 inches in length, larger prey species such as crayfish, minnow, leeches, young trout, and large terrestrial insects become staples in their diet and they really start to pack on the muscle!



## Vulnerabilities:

**1 - Small Brains & Big Mouths** – Cutbows are competitors and the name of the game is “Eat More Food Than the Trout Next to You!” This type of snap-judgement feeding can get the cutbow into trouble and into your landing net. So long as you match the hatch and present your flies with a drag free drift, the cutbows will rise and feed.

**2 - Over Confident & Over Powered** – Call it over confidence or the result of a breeding experiment gone wrong, but cutbows make themselves vulnerable to the fly fisher by holding in shallow to mid-depth waters far from cover. When hooked, cutbows pull out all of the tricks from the rainbow trout's playbook – jumping and pulling in fast drives until they exhaust themselves. Let the drag on your reel do the work of wearing the fish down and as soon they are out of gas, they should come meekly to hand.