

A scenic view of the Crooked River flowing through a forested area. The river is dark and turbulent, with white water rapids. The banks are rocky and covered with tall, dry grasses. In the background, a dense forest of tall evergreen trees covers a hillside.

Fly Fishing the Crooked River

Lower Crooked River
(Chimney Rock to Castle Rock)

I'll address the following topics:

- Character of the River
- Fishery Biology
- Aquatic macroinvertebrates (bugs) and other fish food
- Reading the Water
- Flies for Fall, Winter, and Spring
- Techniques
- Questions and discussion



Character of the River

- 12-mile Wild & Scenic River Section below Bowman Dam and Prineville Reservoir
- Tailwater River
- Water comes from snow & rain (50:50)
- Irrigation & Flood Control (Fisheries?)
- “Flashy” Seasonal Flows
- Know the flows before you go!

Fishery Biology Basics

- Redband Rainbows, Mountain Whitefish, Steelhead, and Chinook Salmon
 - A mix of wild/native/hatchery stocks
 - Habitat preferences
 - Food preferences
 - Seasonal spawning activity
 - Steelhead and Chinook salmon introductions
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- A taxidermy specimen of a brown trout is mounted on a wooden base. The fish has a yellowish-gold belly with dark spots and a dark back. A yellow lure is attached to its mouth. The base is a wooden platform with a curved edge, and it sits on a grassy field. The background is a grassy field with a blurred horizon.

Crooked River

Aquatic Macroinvertebrates and Other Fish Food (Fall, Winter, & Spring)

- Midge
 - Mayflies – Blue Winged Olives (*Baetis* spp.)
 - Caddis Flies – Cased Caddis (*Brachycentrus* spp.)
 - Sow Bugs/Scuds
 - Whitefish Eggs
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Reading the Water

- Pool & Riffles
- Understanding the influence of:
 - Flows and turbidity,
 - Sunlight vs. cloudy conditions,
 - Aquatic macroinvertebrate availability, and
 - Fishery biology

Reading the Water

Integrating what we've learned



Crooked River Flies (Fall-Winter-Spring)

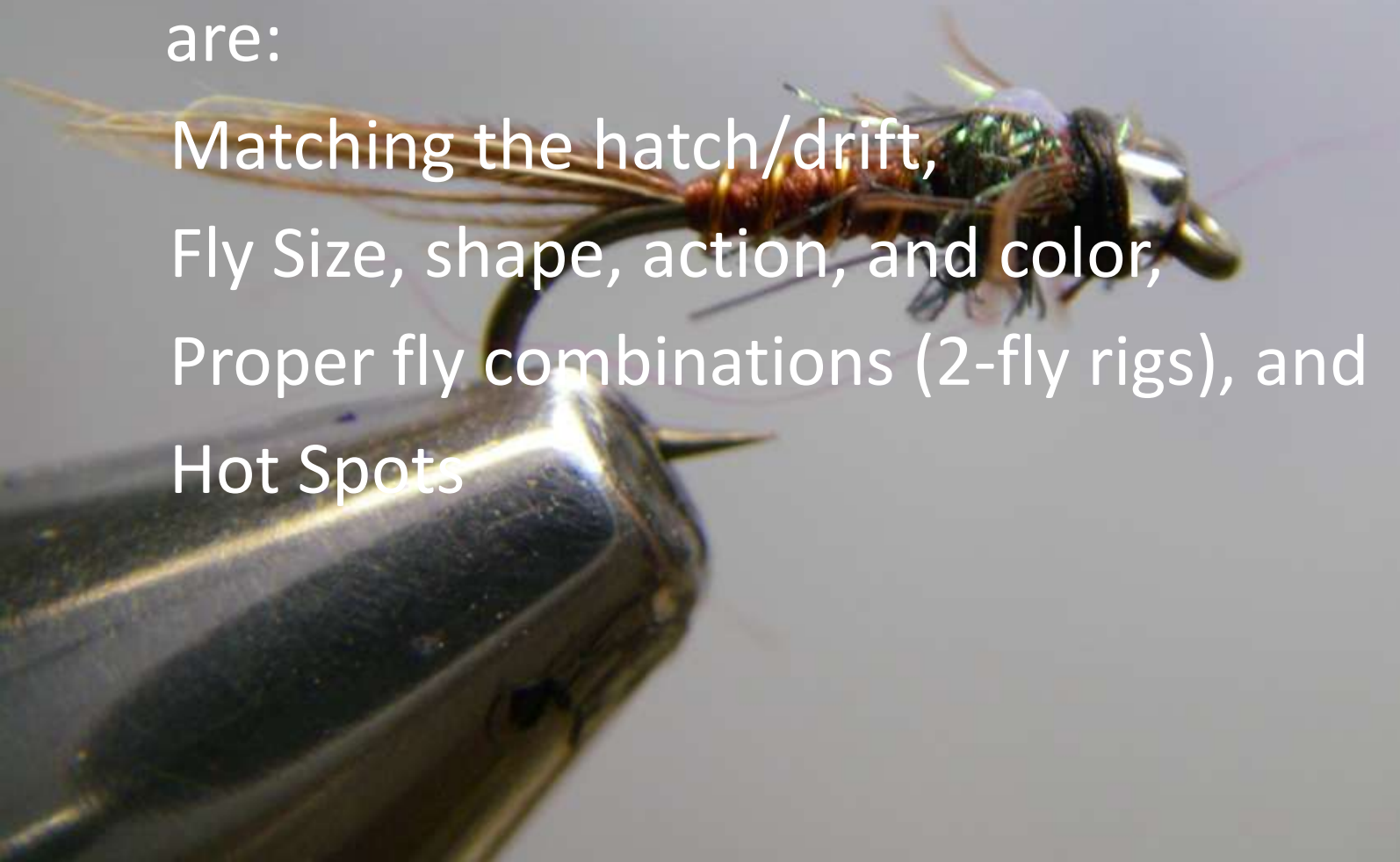
- The most important factors in fly selection are:

Matching the hatch/drift,

Fly Size, shape, action, and color,

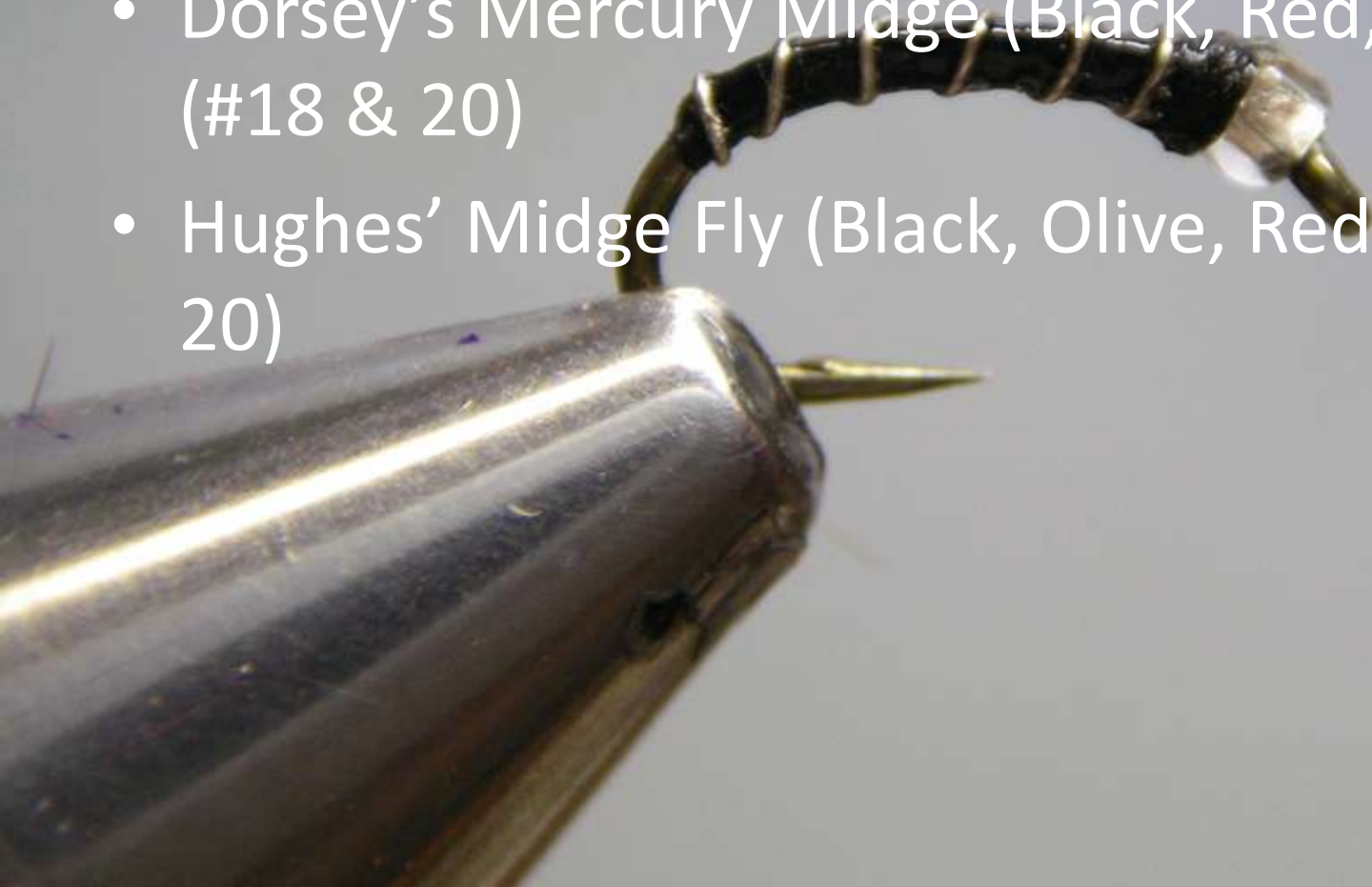
Proper fly combinations (2-fly rigs), and

Hot Spots



Crooked River Midge Favorites (Fall, Winter, & Spring)

- Dorsey's Mercury Beauty (#18 & 20)
- Dorsey's Mercury Midge (Black, Red, and Blue) (#18 & 20)
- Hughes' Midge Fly (Black, Olive, Red) (#18 & 20)



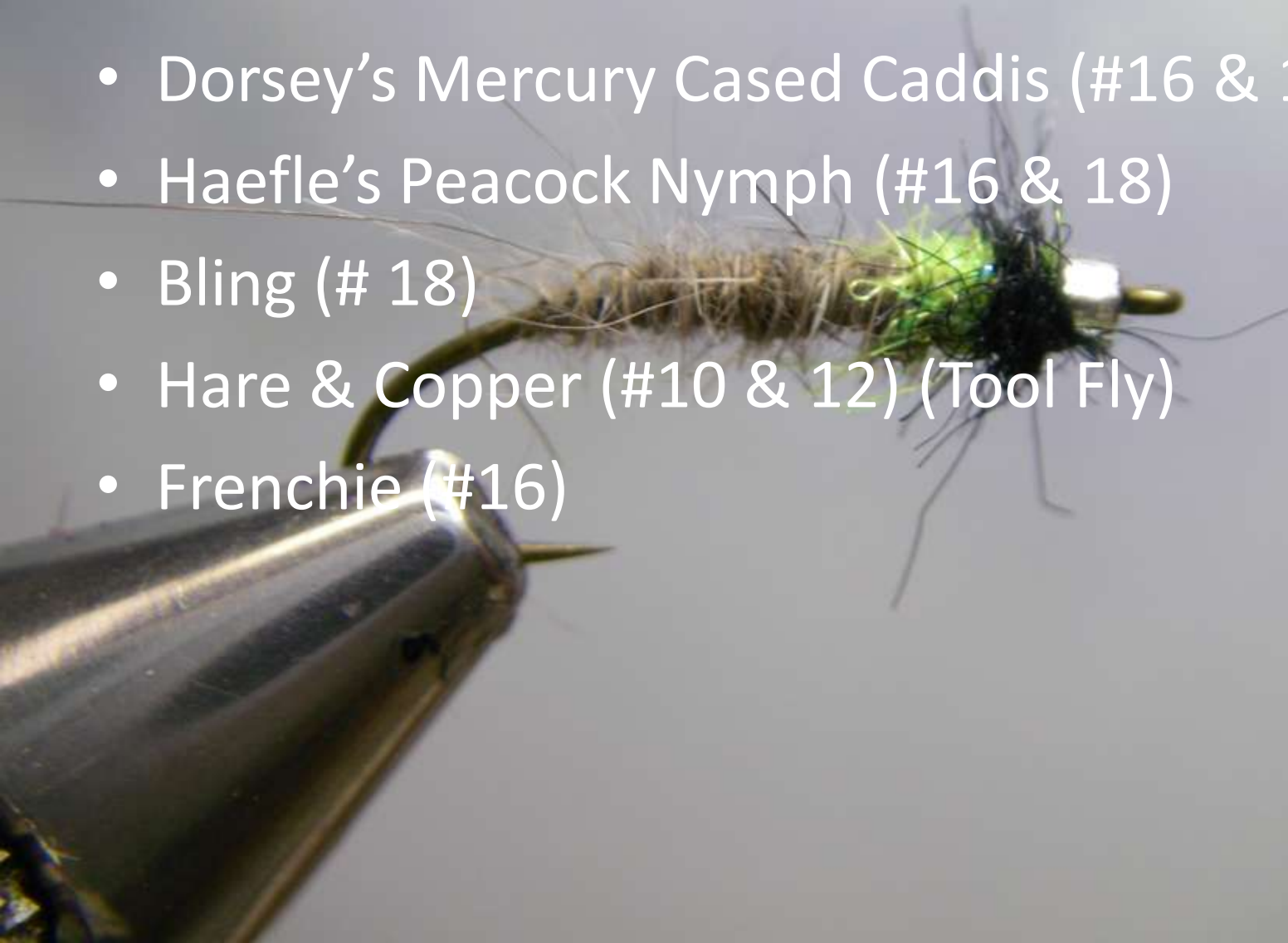
Crooked River Mayfly Favorites (Fall, Winter, & Spring)

- Haefle's Krystal Flash Baetis (#18 & 20)
- Haefle's Peacock Nymph (#18 & 20)
- Egan's Rainbow Warrior (#18 & 20)
- Dorsey's Mercury Flashback Pheasant Tail (#18 & 20)
- Black A.P. (#18 & 20)



Crooked River Caddis Favorites (Fall, Winter, & Spring)

- Dorsey's Mercury Cased Caddis (#16 & 18)
- Haefle's Peacock Nymph (#16 & 18)
- Bling (# 18)
- Hare & Copper (#10 & 12) (Tool Fly)
- Frenchie (#16)



Crooked River Sow Bug Favorites (Fall, Winter, & Spring)

- Bob's Fly (#16 & 18)
- Hughes' Midge Fly (Olive, Gray, and Pink) (#16 & 18)



Crooked River Whitefish Egg Favorites (Late Nov. through Early Feb.)

- Nuclear Egg (#14 & 16)
- Beads (orange, yellowish orange (4 & 5 mm
- Frenchie (#16)

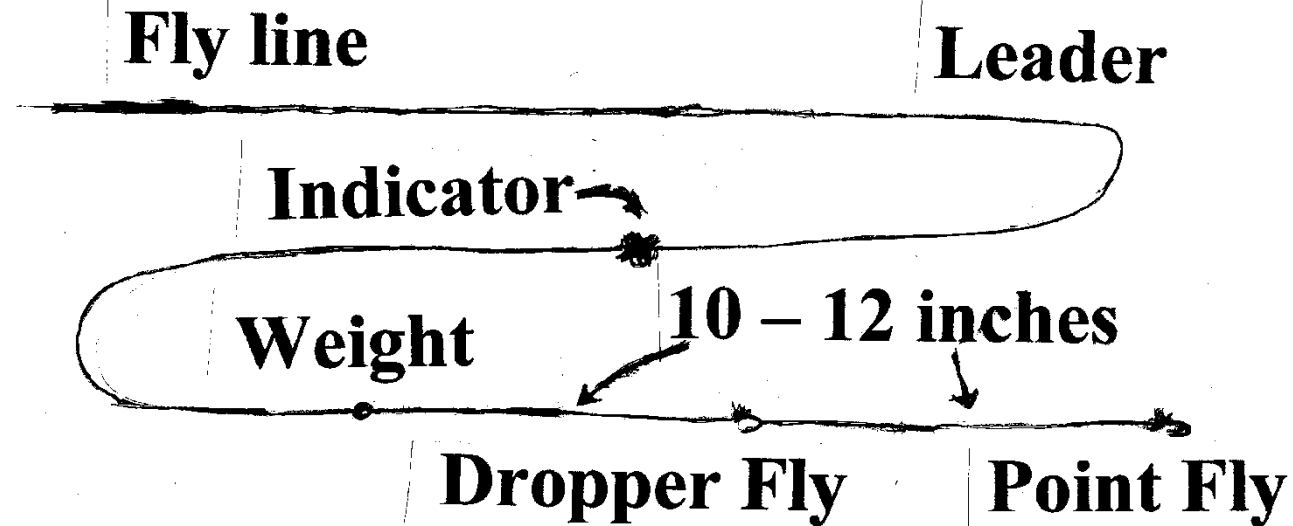


Crooked River Fly Fishing Techniques

- Nymphing:
 - Indicator (Traditional and Bounce Method)
 - Czech/Tight-line Method
 - Wet fly Swing
- Dry and Dry/Dropper

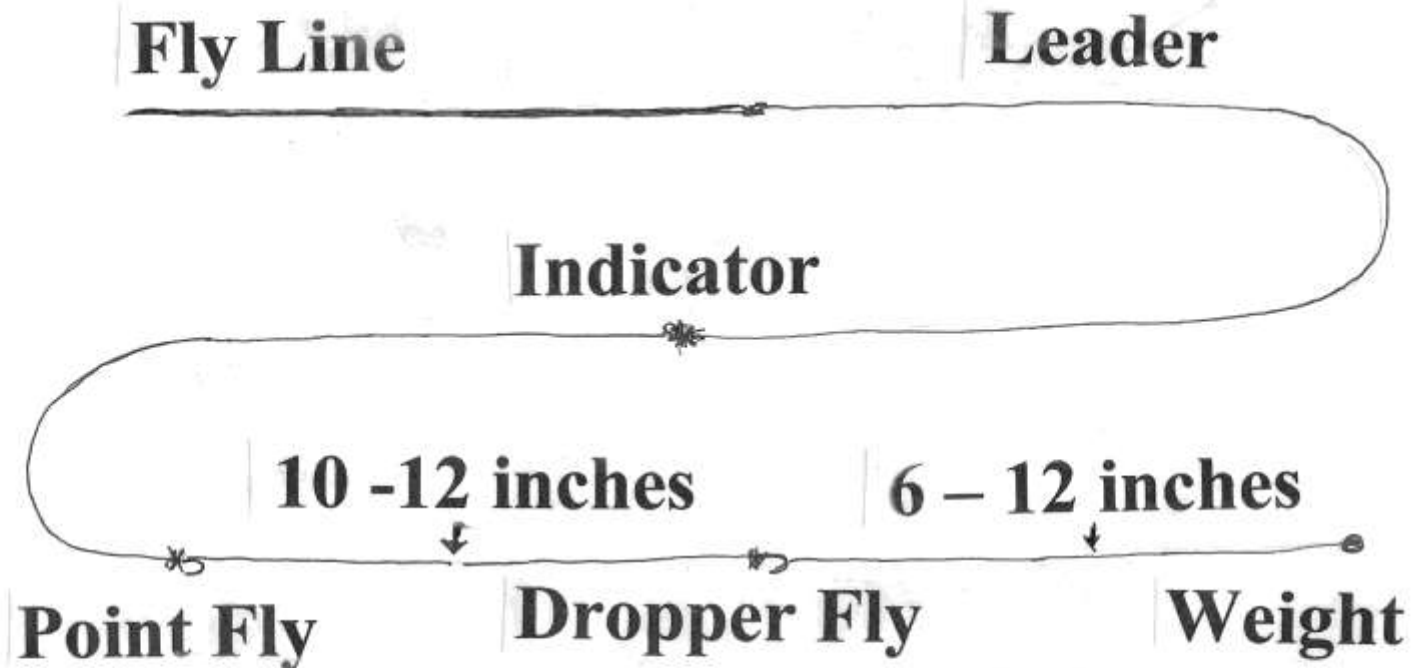


Indicator/Traditional Nymphing Rig



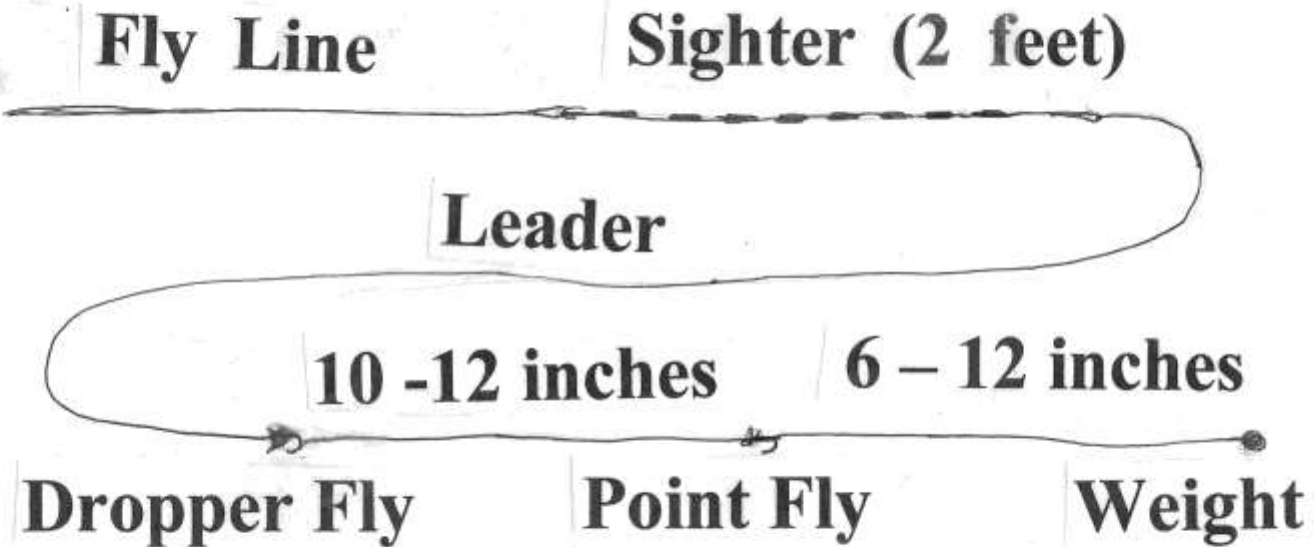
**Rule: Distance between
weight and Indicator = 1 to
1 ½X water depth**

Indicator/Bounce Nymphing Rig



**Rule: Distance between
weight and Indicator = $2\frac{1}{2}$
to 3X water depth**

Czech/Tightline Nymphing Rig



**Leader length = 6 – 7 feet
from Sighter to Dropper
Fly**



Fly Fishing the Crooked River

QUESTIONS?

Dorsey's Mercuy Beauty (size 18 & 20)



Dorsey's Mercury Midge (size 18 & 20)



Haefle's Krystal Flash Baetis (size 18 & 20)



Eagan's Rainbow Warrior (size 18 & 20)



Pheasant Tail (size 18 & 20)



Black A.P. (size 18 & 20)



Dorsey's Mercury Cased Caddis (size 16 & 18)



Haefle's Peacock Nymph (size 16 & 18)



Bling (size 16 & 18)



Hare & Copper (size 10 & 12)



Frenchie (size 16)



Bob's Fly (size 16 & 18)



Hughes' Midge Fly
(size 16 & 18)
(olive, gray, orange)



Nuclear Egg (size 14)



Beads (orange, yellow) (4 & 5 mm)



Frenchie (size 16)

