

BIRDING THE DUNGENESS WILDLIFE REFUGE

N O R T H W E S T  
PARKS & WILDLIFE

BRITISH  
COLUMBIA'S  
*Butterfly Worlds*

*The Beautiful  
Waterfalls of  
Washington's  
Lewis River*

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# NORTHWEST PARKS & WILDLIFE

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You can see butterflies galore in British Columbia's two Butterfly Worlds.

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—Photo by Bob Hahn

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# Steelhead Fishing

## With a Quinault Indian Guide

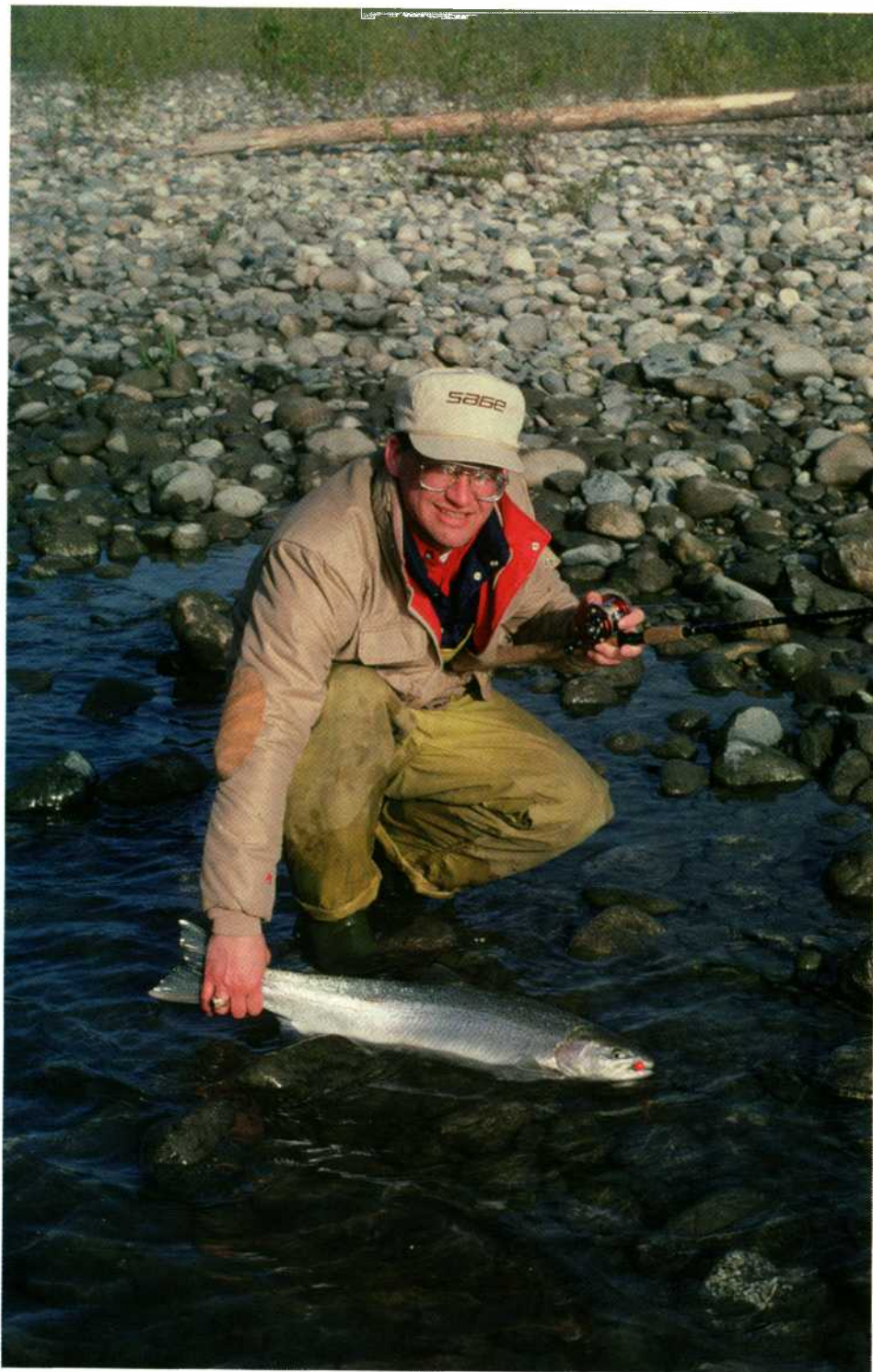
Story and Photos  
by Jack W. Berryman



**T**he elusive steelhead, prized catch of Northwest anglers and the subject of books, articles, clinics, clubs, talk shows, and much lore, can be caught by experts and novices alike in Washington's Lower Quinault River. The river can be fished only with an Indian guide since it flows in its entirety within the 220,000-acre Quinault Indian Reservation in southwest Washington.

From December through April, steelhead aficionados and crass neophytes converge on the Quinault because of the likelihood of experiencing the thrill of a lifetime. Not only can you expect to catch one or more steelhead, you can also count on seeing one of the most beautiful places on the West Coast. Flowing out of Lake Quinault at Amanda Park, the Lower Quinault travels the next 30 miles through lush stands of fir, spruce, cedar, and alder before entering the Pacific at Taholah. Elk, deer, coyotes, bears, cougars, hawks, river otters, and plenty of eagles can be seen as you drift downstream through gorgeous pools, fast runs, and sections of moderate rapids.

Your guide will navigate the river and position the boat for the best fishing spots as he reads the water. Most guides and clients prefer the drift boat because of its fishability, maneuverability, and



*Author beaches a beautiful steelhead.*





*The splendor of the Lower Quinault River in late February.*

quietness, but some guides use motor-powered craft. With these boats, you sacrifice quiet for the opportunity to run up and down the river to fish choice spots. Two people are the normal limit for each guide, but three can go provided arrangements are made in advance.

The drift boat trips begin at Amanda Park and end at one of two take-out spots about 10 to 12 miles downstream. The jet boat trips begin near the mouth of Cook Creek, home of the large Bureau of Indian Affairs' National Fish Hatchery. Many of the returning steelhead congregate here or at the outlet of Lake Quinault where they were raised in net pens, while the significant native population might head to one of several smaller tributary streams or to the Upper Quinault, which flows out of Olympic National Park before entering the lake.

**I**n a typical year, the Quinault Fisheries Division releases several hundred thousand steelhead smolts with the hope they will return in two to four years as healthy mature adults. The typical size of Quinault River fish is eight to 13 pounds, but many reach the mid to upper teens. However, the Quinault has gained a reputation among avid steelheaders because of its larger-than-average native steelhead

## WHERE TO STAY

Because you depart in the early morning, staying nearby the night before is recommended. Both the Rain Forest Resort Village and the historic Lake Quinault Lodge are within 3 miles of Amanda Park along South Shore Road. Both have spectacular views of Lake Quinault.

Rain Forest Resort Village offers fireplace cabins or rooms in its Village Inn as well as full RV facilities (31 sites, \$12 to \$15 plus tax). Rates for rooms go from \$55 to \$110 per night depending on the size of the room and extras such as a kitchen or whirlpool bath.

Lake Quinault Lodge, one of the great old National Park hotels, was built in 1926 and features a main lodge and top-rated dining room as well as a group of 36 new lakeside rooms and an annex. Prices here range from \$55 for an annex room and \$75 for a room in the main lodge to \$85 for one of the new lakeside rooms.

Rain Forest Resort Village also offers its Rain Forest Restaurant and Lounge for full-service dining and cocktails. Lake Quinault Lodge has an indoor

pool, sauna, and game room. Both facilities offer mid-week rates (Sunday through Thursday) from November through April, except holidays, so be sure to ask about reduced prices for your winter steelheading adventure.

Contact Lake Quinault Lodge at PO Box 7, Quinault, WA 98575; (206) 288-2571 or 1-800-562-6672 (Washington only).

Contact Rain Forest Resort Village at 516 South Shore Road, Quinault, WA 98575; (206) 288-2535 or 1-800-255-6936.

The following guides will pick you up at either of the lodges (all area codes are 206):

Larry Bradley, 276-4328; Clay Butler, 962-2191; Jim Bryson, 533-8087; John Bryson, 276-4740; Inky Charlie, 276-4790; Tandy Charlie, 276-4113; Phil Martin, 276-4226; Phil Martin Jr., 276-4539; Guy McMinds, 276-4335; Richard Obi, 276-4583; Frank Pickernell, 532-4525; Earl Ralston, 276-8361; Clark Reed, 288-2552; Robin Rhoades, call the tribal office at 276-8211. □

