

LOCHSA RIVER
IDAHO



BITTERROOT RIVER
MONTANA



SPOKANE RIVER
WASHINGTON



"POETS TALK ABOUT "SPOTS OF TIME", BUT IT IS REALLY THE FISHERMEN WHO EXPERIENCE ETERNITY COMPRESSED INTO A MOMENT.
NO ONE CAN TELL WHAT A SPOT OF TIME IS UNTIL SUDDENLY THE WHOLE WORLD IS A FISH AND THE FISH IS GONE."
-NORMAN MACLEAN

As I began to retrieve my line at the end of a drift, it straightened out and I was sure I had snagged the bottom of the river. I gave my rod a slight tug back to free the snag and suddenly something very large slammed my rod back forward and damn near jerked it out of my hand. I had a huge fish on and my adrenalin went into high gear. The fish jerked hard four or five more times then exploded out of the water. I watched the event take place in slow-motion... the huge German Brown twisting and rolling in a shower of water molecules that reflected the color of Montana's autumn. My reel began to sing as line raced through the guides and shot down river at an alarming rate. Again the beast blasted through the surface of the river as if it was launched from a nuclear submarine. I could plainly see the fish perform a vertical roll to the right and then flip inverted as the gravity storm took control of its destiny. Ribbons of water trailed the movements of this beautiful specimen like smoke from an aerobatic stunt plane. Even though the fish was a good 75 feet from where I was positioned in the river, I was sure the fish looked me directly in the eye and smiled. Before the battle had even begun, it abruptly ended as my line made a loud snap then went slack and returned to float with the movement of the currents. I stood there motionless... my heart still pounding with the roar of silence all around me. The birds had stopped singing. The fish was gone. Before I began to reel-in my line, I bowed to the big Brown from my position in the river out of respect and thanked him for the moment that we all live for... that moment when all of your senses speed information to your brain at once and you find you're outside of your body watching from a short distance above. It's a moment that confirms your existence. It's a moment that lets you know you are tuned-in with the Universe... embraced in its power, its glory and its life... a life that is never ending.