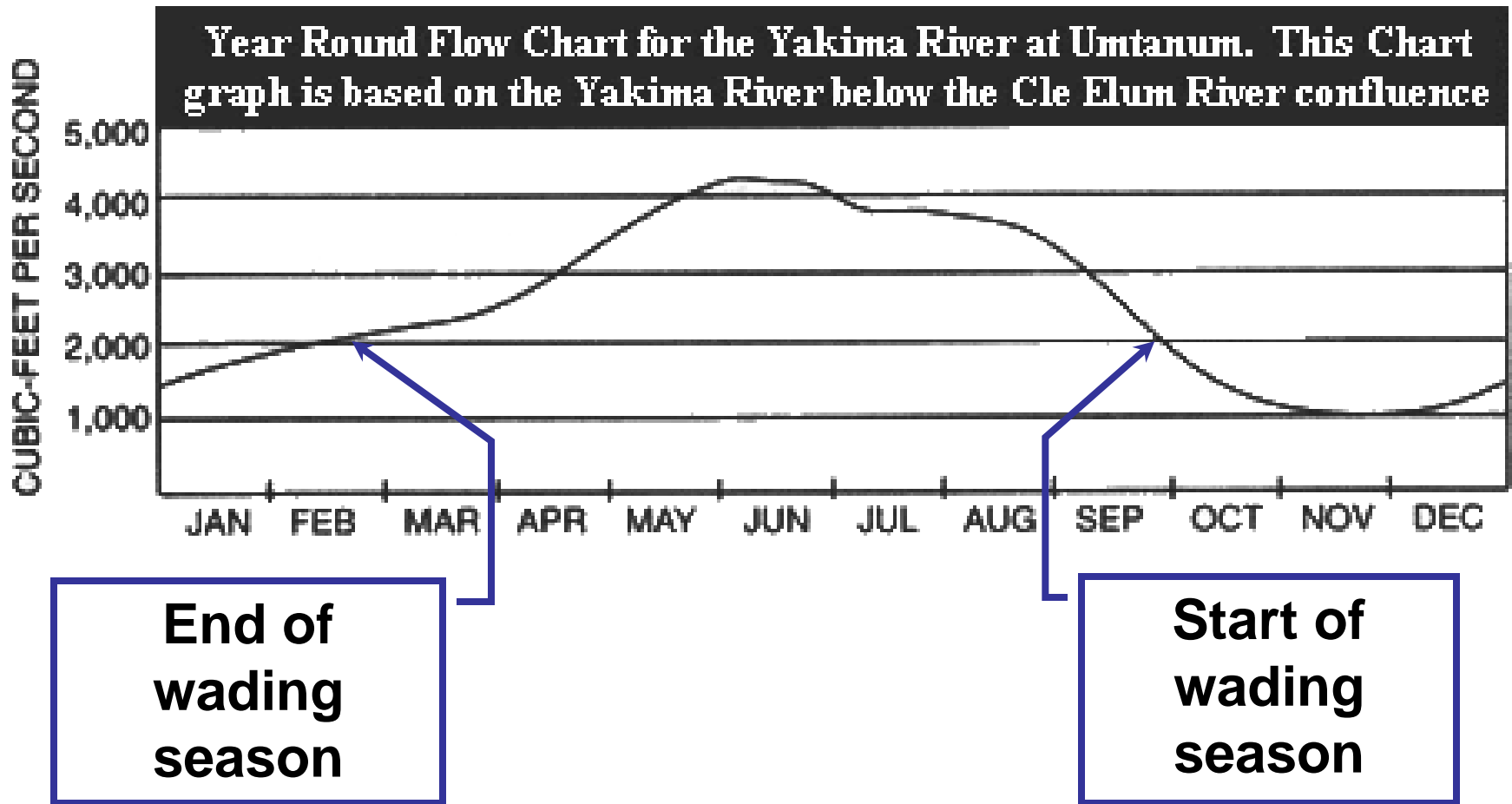


A wide-angle landscape photograph of the Yakima River valley. The river flows from the center towards the right, bordered by green shrubs and trees. In the background, large, brownish mountains rise under a cloudy sky. A road is visible on the left side of the image.

# **Yakima River**

**Some tips and techniques**

# Yakima flows are Important



# Drift or Wade Fishing?

Both have their advantages

More Yakima anglers drift fish

Fair weather months are more easily drift fished

Different angling experiences

# Sections of the River and Wade Fishing

Wade fishing delivers a different experience and challenge and, in the Yakima, dam releases dictate the extent and quality of the opportunity.

## **Upper Yak (Keechelus to Cle Elum)**

Some beautiful low-flow season wading water at Bullfrog area (Salmon la Sac exit 80, turn south from exit, cross RR tracks and follow to terminus)

## **Upper Canyon (Cle Elum to KOA)**

Lots of good road access from Highway 10

## **Farmlands (KOA to a little past Ringer)**

Many channel, braided nature of this area offers some wade angling opportunities year round. Some hiking to it though during higher flow periods. This section is hazardous to go through in a boat. Most drift anglers take out at the KOA.

## **Canyon (Ringer and below)**

A few but pretty limited wading opportunities during summer flows. Lots of drifter fishers always working the canyon.

# WADING SAFELY

Wading is a Fun Challenge, but . . . . :

It is fun and satisfying to successful wade across a river but we must consistently take stock of our situation and surroundings when stepping even a little ways into the river.

**Some tips on wading safely:**

**Are you fishing alone or out of site of a fishing buddy:**

Recognize and allow for the added risk.

**Look downriver:**

What would happen if you lost your feet?

**Your Clothing and Gear will Impair your Ability to Swim:**

Count on it. Your clothing will give the river's current power over you.

**A Staff can Help:**

Try it. Sometimes a stick from shore is enough to get the job done.

**Lay your Rod downstream on the surface:**

Sometimes it is enough of a stabilizer in a tight spot.

**Stand like you are the Eiffel Tower:**

It can increase down pressure a little.

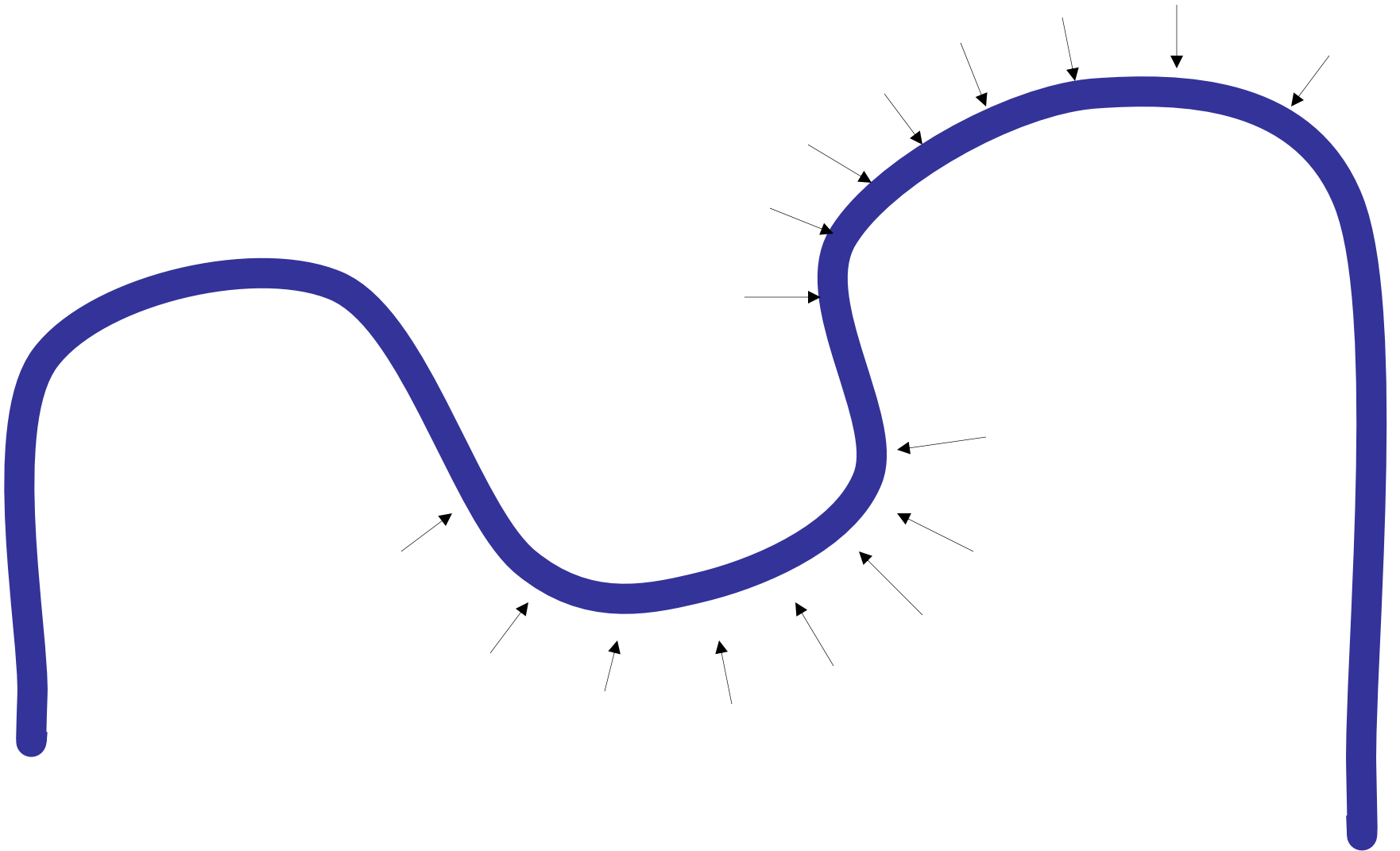
**If your waders fill with water:**

Climbing out can be a real challenge. Guess how I know this.

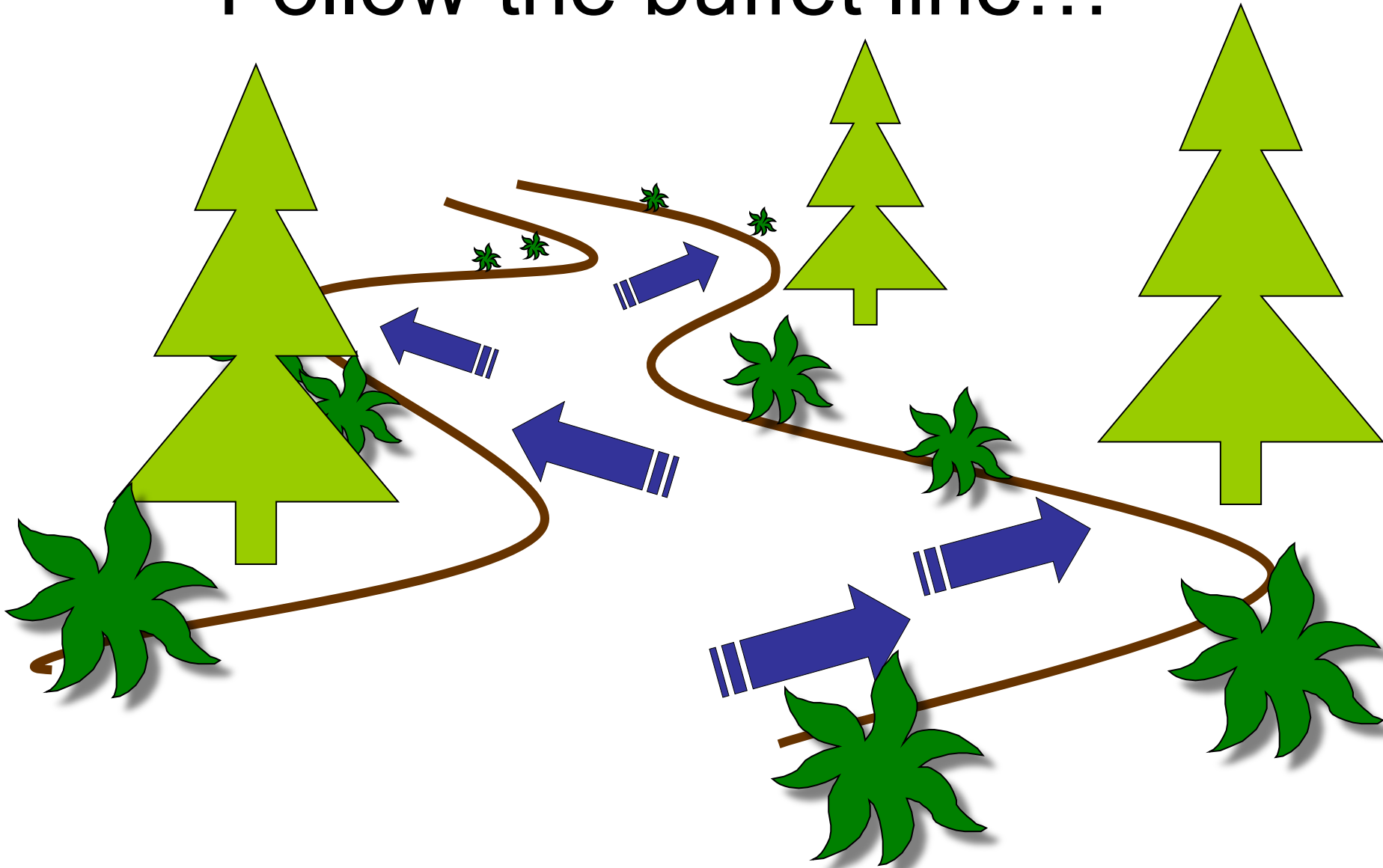
# Accessing the River

- Wade fishing limited to public access areas
- Drift boat fishing
  - Rent a boat for ~\$175/day; split 3 ways it's > \$60 pp. vs. buying a boat @ ~\$7000 (plus storage fees, plus shuttle) = <116 floats
  - Access to miles of river
  - Comfortable fishing platform

# Work the outside banks...

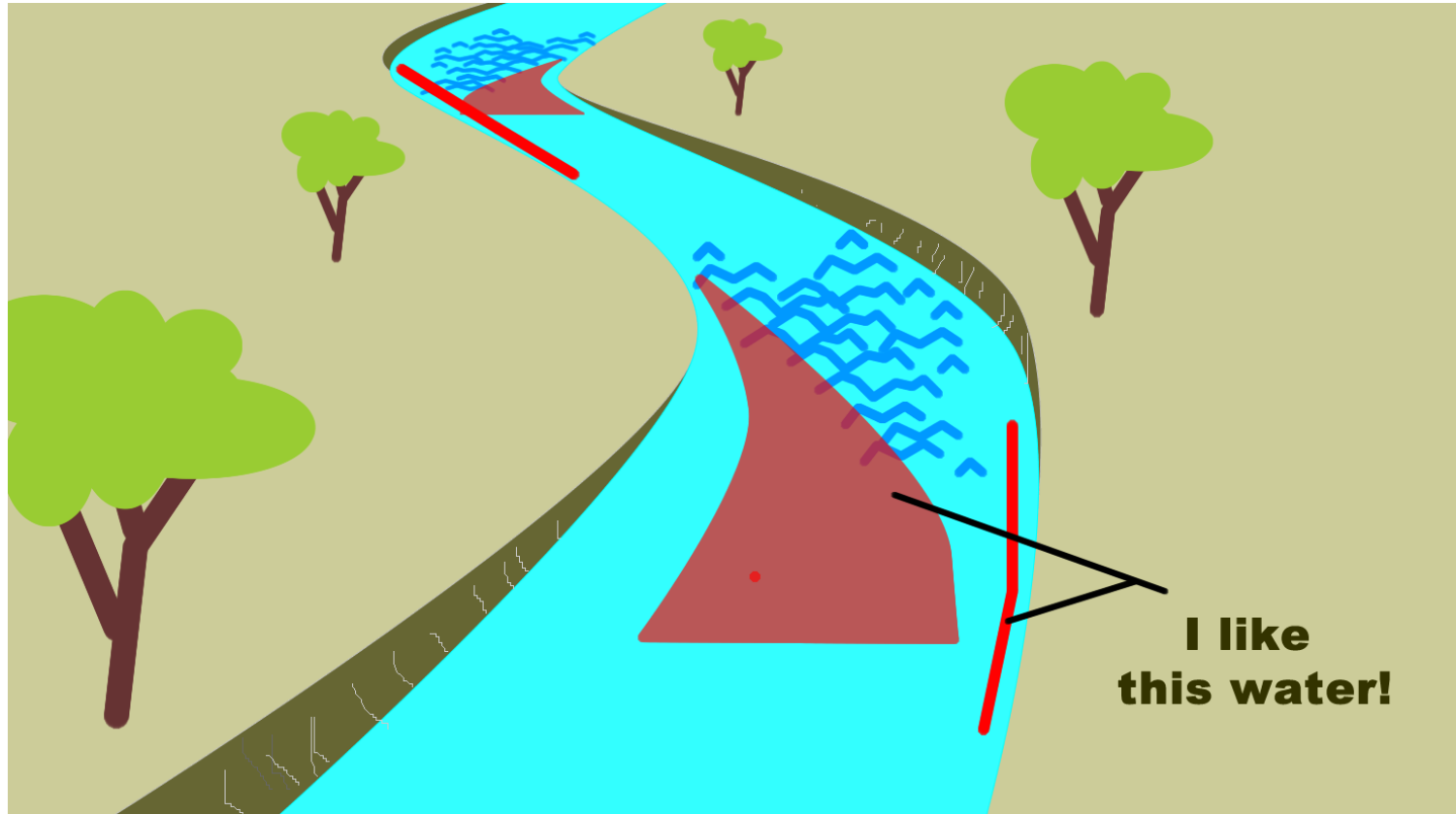


Follow the buffet line...

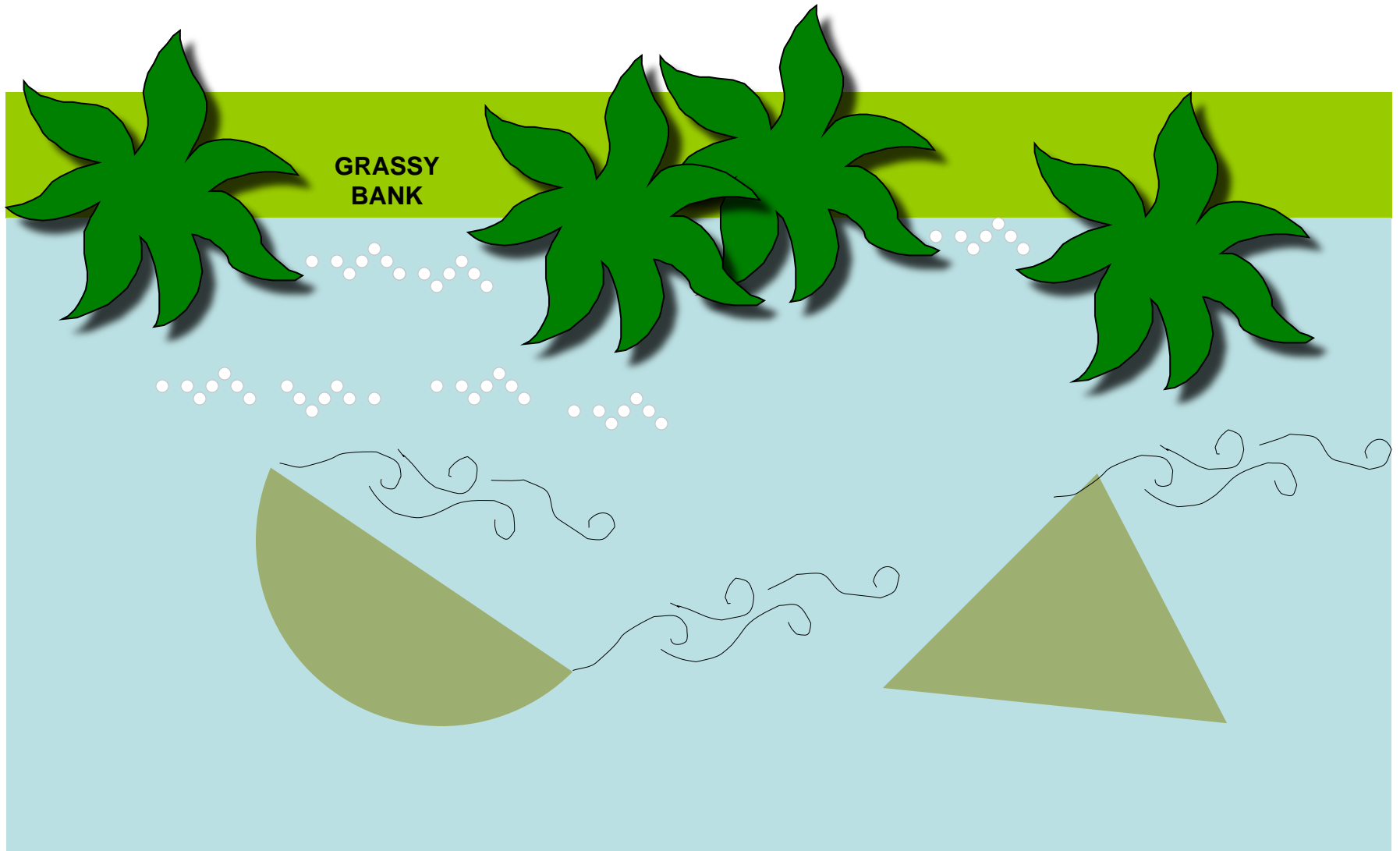




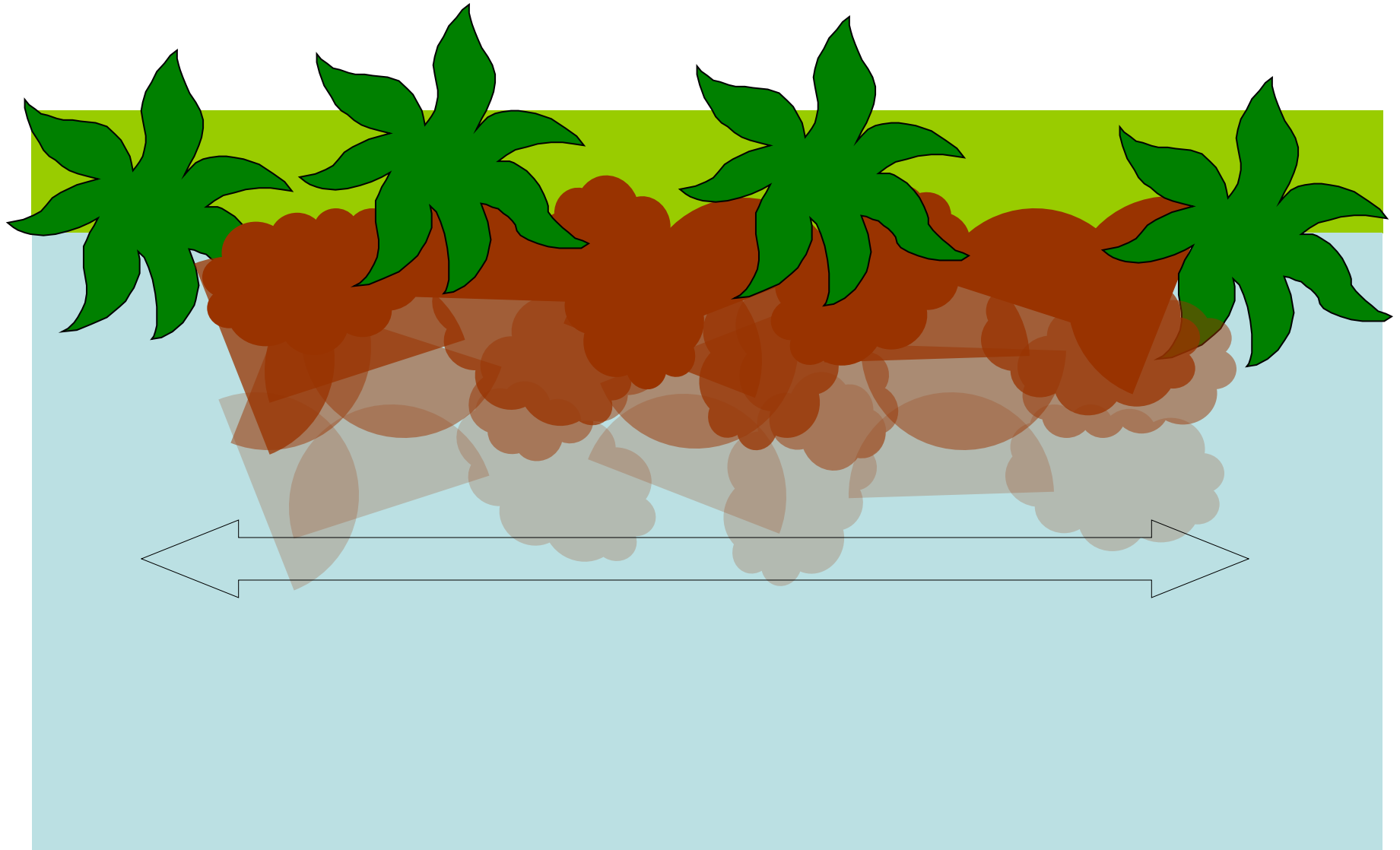
# Fishy spots for the wading angler



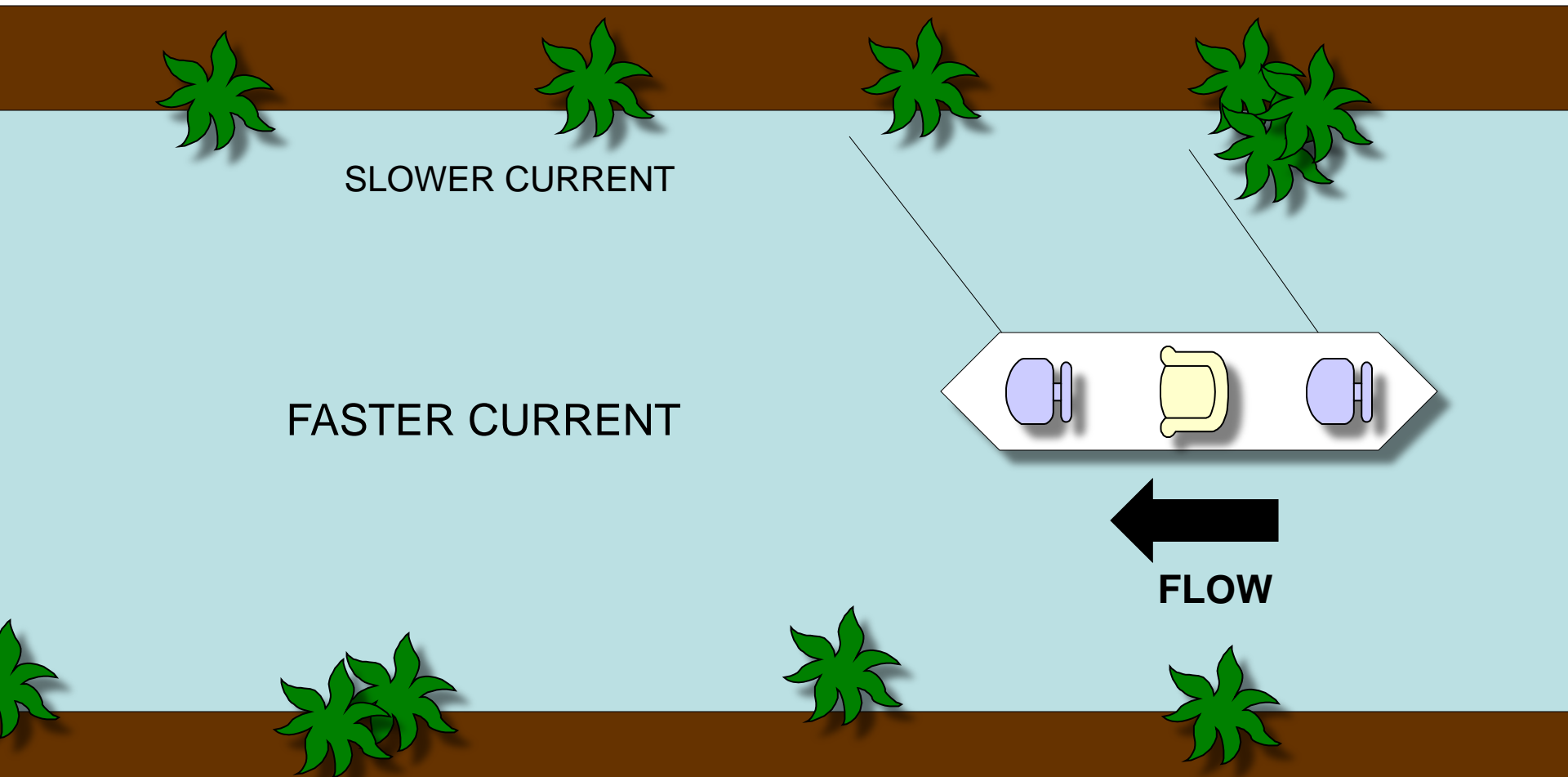
# Where to put your dry fly....



# Shoreline Transition Zone



# Casting



# Most Common Flies - Dry

## Mayflies



BWO



PMD



March Brown

## Caddis



X-Caddis



Slick water Caddis



Royal Trude

## Big Floaters



Chernobyl Ant



Hopper



Skwala

→ Plus 8 to 12”  
for dropper

# Most Common Flies - Nymph

## Mayflies\*



Pheasant Tail



Hare's Ear



Copper John



Lightnin' Bug

## Caddis\*



Caddis pupa



Caddis pupa



Soft hackle

## Streamers



Sculpin



Zonker



Wooley Bugger

## Others\*



San Juan Worm

\*Dropper flies

# Flies a la Kris the wading angler

**Beadhead, mylar backed, pheasant tail nymph (I prefer a copper, 3/32 bead)**

(size 18 but 16 good too) I love, love, love this fly and that's why it's listed first

## **X Caddis**

Super, easy-to-tie. Wing is enough to float the fly which sits right in the film. The Z-lon tail delivers a shuck/emergent quality to have the fly be effective for a longer period around the hatch.

## **Hairwing Dun**

(size 14 – 18, color to match) More challenging to tie but a very effective pattern. Most of the time, Western anglers need dry flies that really float well but the bushy patterns are a trade-off, compromising silhouette and contact with the film.

## **Soft Hackle**

(size 14, 16, color to match) I like soft hackles a lot because they are a versatile fly. Suggestive as opposed to an exact insect imitation, they help me catch fish when I am not sure what is happening.

# Equipment

- Rod: 3 to 6 wt.
  - Heavier for nymphing and dropper fishing
  - Faster action for quick casts and wind penetration
- Leader (usually 7 1/2 foot is plenty)
  - 2-3x for large flies and nymphs
  - 4-5x for dries and droppers
  - 6x for occasional small flies and low wind conditions
  - Fluorocarbon for nymphing, regular mono for dries



# Things to consider...

- Fish see a lot of the same flies
  - Use alternate patterns for current hatches
- Break the rules once in a while
  - Fish away from the bank; nymph down the center especially in low water; use attractors vs. accurate imitations
- Fish drop offs
  - Look for gravel bars under water and fish the edges

# Things to consider...

- Try streamers when visibility is low, or just because...
  - Cast close to shore and strip toward boat
  - Vary depth by using interchangeable sink-tip systems – higher water: use heavier tip

# Things to consider...

- Rower should view/scan downriver
  - Watch for rise activity
  - Anchor boat at hot spots
- Work the water in “relaxed intensity”
  - Quick casts; pick up when dragging, cast angling toward front of boat; anchor up and hunt fish, or just observe over a glass of wine; get out and nymph drop offs
- Bring plenty of flies
  - Prepare to lose them in brush or rocks

# A few more ...

- **Envision the Fish at your Nymph:**
- **Feel the Bottom:**
- **Water that looks fishy but is a challenging to hit or a short drift is very much worth casting to**
- **Get into Good Position**
- **Sometimes the Best Cast isn' t a Cast at All**
- **If it Ain' t Working, Change it**
- **Little, Hard-to-See Flies**
- **Drag-free Drifts**
- **The Wiggle Cast**
- **FOAM!!!**

# Additional Resources

- [www.washingtonflyfishing.com/faq/idx/0/034/article/Yakima\\_River\\_Fly\\_Fishing\\_\\_A\\_River\\_of\\_All\\_Seasons\\_by\\_Jack\\_Mitchell.html](http://www.washingtonflyfishing.com/faq/idx/0/034/article/Yakima_River_Fly_Fishing__A_River_of_All_Seasons_by_Jack_Mitchell.html)
- [www.worleybuggerflyco.com](http://www.worleybuggerflyco.com)
- [www.theeveninghatch.com](http://www.theeveninghatch.com)
- [www.redsflyshop.com](http://www.redsflyshop.com)
- *Recreational User's Map of the Yakima River* by Kittitas County Field & Stream Club

A landscape photograph showing a wide river valley. In the foreground, there are green bushes and a road on the left. The middle ground features a river flowing through a valley with green vegetation. The background consists of large, brown, rocky mountains under a cloudy sky. The word "Questions?" is written in large white letters across the center of the image.

Questions?