



The shadow of a false-cast fly line over a spring creek can put down fish. The solution? Cast without a false-cast. The guide holds the angler's leader and fly; the angler gives the signal and delivers the fly with one forward casting stroke. Serve a hearty meal, like a big-bodied hopper or cicada pattern.

# Spring Creek

## *Stealth*

Tactical approaches on a hidden spring creek bring success.

**J**uly on a Colorado spring creek is more like hunting than fishing. Stand way back from the water's edge, with the sun in front of you, and watch. Then watch a little longer. Look, in the channel between the weed beds, a spotted back and dorsal fin sticking way up out of the water. A rainbow so big its belly nearly drags on the bottom. Stealthy fishing on this creek requires a long, bow-and-arrow cast. There's no room for hanging a backcast in the tall grass behind you. So the guide holds your line in a mock backcast. Add a single haul for speed, and drift your tip for a gentle presentation. Drop that fly 10 feet above him, right in the middle of the current seam in between the weed beds. Gently.

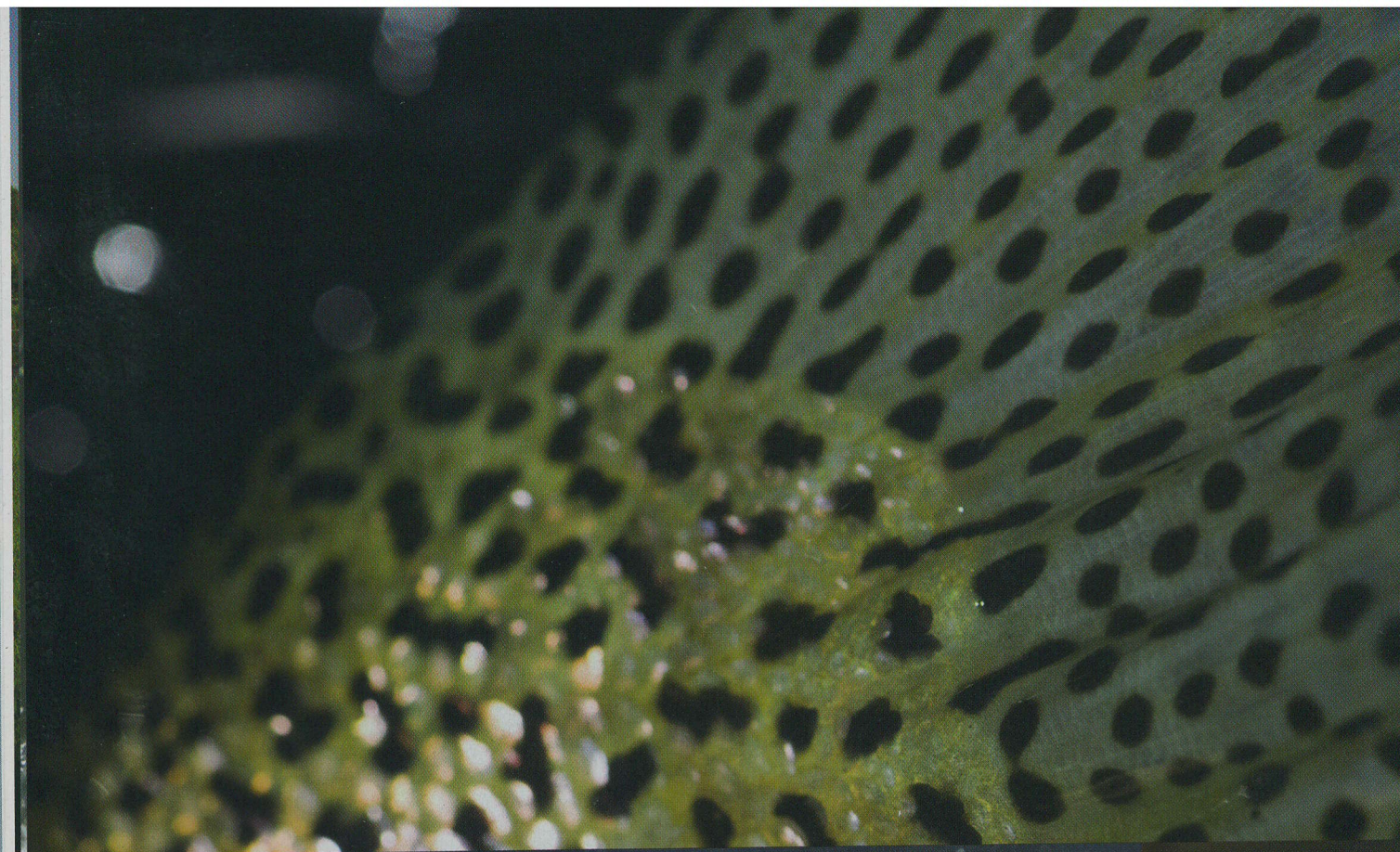
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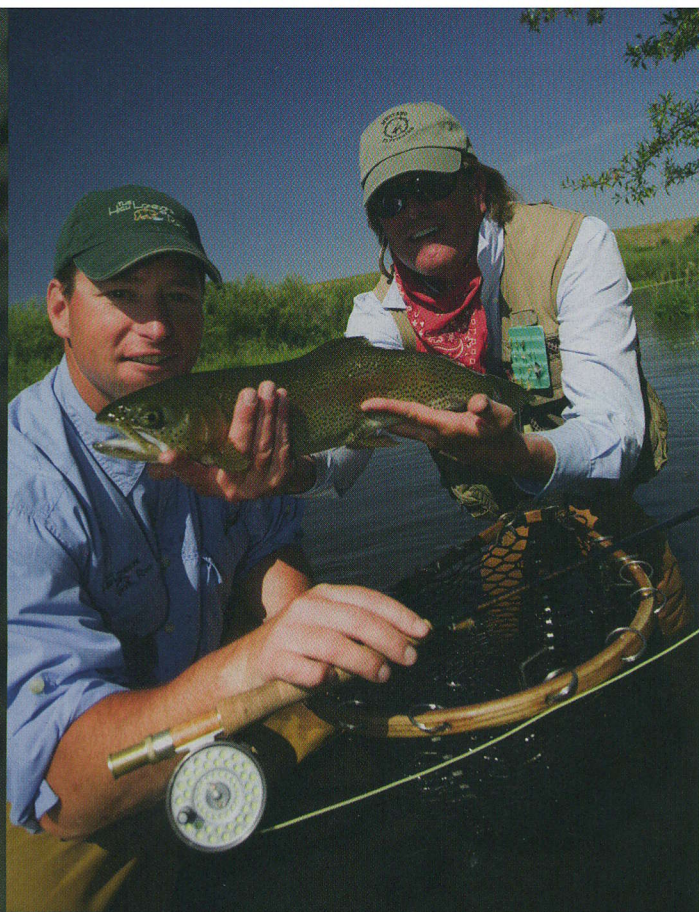





**S**kinny-water trout erupt on big hoppers like tarpon blow up on mullet. There's not much elbowroom in a narrow creek that's full of weeds. Keep your rod tip high and don't let the trout get into the grass. Weeds on a leader add weight and snap tippets.







**I**f you want to see those fishy spots and red cheeks up close, keep your rod high, maintain pressure and wait. When your guide resembles a shortstop, crouched down with his long-handled net stretched out beyond the weed line, it's time. After the two-foot 'bow is in the net...breathe. 

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