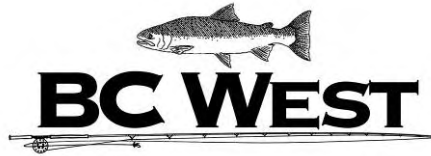


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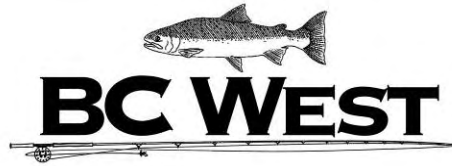


# Trip Planner

## 2009 Season

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## Welcome!

Thank you for booking a trip with BC West.

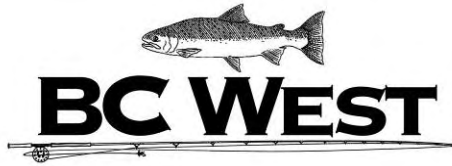
BC West is a remote fly fishing lodge located on the lower Dean River - a legendary spot at the end of the Dean Channel, tucked in the shadow of Kimsquit Peak and within earshot of the Dean River canyon. We chase the hottest fish around-- steelhead of superstar status and chinooks that will make you think twice about testing your arbot knot.

We consider our time on the Dean to be a real privilege, and we work hard to ensure that our operation does this river justice.

The purpose of this trip planner is to give you all the information that you will need to plan a successful trip to BC West. We hope that we've answered all of your questions in this guide, but if you have any questions that we didn't answer, or if we can help in any way, please don't hesitate to get in touch by calling us at 800-344-3628 or emailing us at [info@bcwestfishing.com](mailto:info@bcwestfishing.com)

Thank you and welcome to BC West!





## Our Location

BC West is located on the lower Dean River - a legendary spot at the end of the Dean Channel, tucked in the shadow of Kimsquit Peak and within earshot of the Dean River canyon.

The mouth of the Dean is roughly 135 miles NNE from the north end of Vancouver Island, near the end of the Dean Channel which brings saltwater more than 90 miles inland from the open ocean. The Dean is accessible only by boat, float plane or helicopter. The surroundings are classic wild coastal BC—big trees, beautiful glaciers, bald eagles, grizzly bears and of course incredibly beautiful rivers!

## Travel Logistics

Guests travel to BC West via Vancouver and Bella Coola, BC. Many major airlines serve Vancouver, and guests from the Pacific Northwest may also choose to drive to Vancouver.

From Vancouver, guests fly on Pacific Coastal Airlines ([www.pacificcoastal.com](http://www.pacificcoastal.com), 604-273-8666) to Bella Coola. Flight times vary from week to week; contact us at [info@bcwestfishing.com](mailto:info@bcwestfishing.com) or 800-344-3628 for more information on specific flights to book with Pacific Coastal Airlines. Guests are responsible for booking and paying for their travel to Bella Coola with Pacific Coastal.

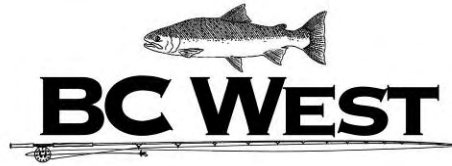
Some guests will spend the night in Bella Coola prior to their trip to the Dean. For these guests, we arrange and pay for double-occupancy lodging at the Bella Coola Valley Inn.

The final leg of the trip to BC West is a charter flight from Bella Coola to the mouth of the Dean. The price of this charter flight is included in the cost of the trip to BC West. We utilize two aircraft for this final leg—a Eurocopter A Star helicopter, and a Cessna 185 on floats. The pilots for both aircraft are extremely skilled and have extensive experience flying in the area surrounding the Dean River.

The flight from Bella Coola to the Dean goes essentially straight through the mountains on a clear weather day. On days with a lower ceiling, the flights will follow the ocean channel. To say the scenery between Bella Coola and the Dean is spectacular is putting it mildly!

On arrival at the Dean, guests and luggage are loaded into trucks for the very short drive from the airstrip to BC West. Guests unpack, have a quick meal, and have the opportunity to get a few hours of fishing in on the arrival day.





## **Our Facility**

Our facility is nestled in the woods of the Dean River delta. Stunning views of Kimsquit peak are had right from our courtyard, and accessing the Dean itself requires just a 10-minute walk through the trees.

### **Guest Cabins**

Guests stay in comfortable rustic cabins with running water, comfortable beds and wood heat. Several of our cabins house two anglers, and one cabin provides lodging for four anglers—perfect for a group of four that would like to ‘stick together’ during the week.

### **Main Lodge**

The main lodge building includes our kitchen, dining room and housing for our management. The dining room has loads of natural light, and is the spot for breakfast and our main mid-day meal.

### **Clubhouse**

A separate large cabin with a casual seating area, our clubhouse provides the main indoor lounge area at the lodge. Comfortable couches, a wood stove, fishing pictures and a fly tying area all greet guests upon entry into the clubhouse. In addition, our light evening meal is served in the clubhouse. It’s a room with character like no other, and the site of many a fish tale.

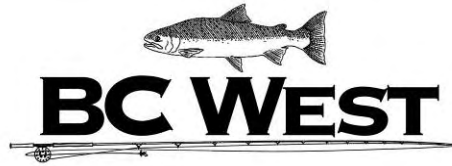
### **Shower House / Drying Room**

Newly constructed in the summer of 2007, our combination shower house/drying room provides comfortable central shower facilities and a heated room to ensure that waders and raingear are dry the morning following a hard rain or a wade that got just a little too deep.

### **Our Grounds**

Our lodge is tucked into the woods, so our grounds are made up of the native forest of coastal BC. Neat landscaping and paths connect our group of buildings, and a footpath allows a beautiful, peaceful 10-minute walk to the river.





## The Fishing Day

Fishing days are long at BC West! We fish a two-shift day that maximizes fishing time during low-light hours and provides a nice break in the middle of the day.

Days start early. Our schedule is designed to have our guests on the water right around sunrise, so depending on the time of year our light breakfast starts between 5:00 am and 5:30 am. Guests enjoy coffee, pastries, fruit and light breakfast fare, and head on out to the river for the start of the day!

Our morning fishing shift runs from sunrise until roughly 11:30 am. After the morning shift, guests return to the lodge for our main meal, a delicious plated lunch in our main lodge building. The break between the fishing shifts lasts until about 4pm. Guests use this opportunity to relax after their meal, work on their gear and often, wisely, take a nap. At 4pm guests head back out onto the river for the evening fishing shift that runs until just before dusk.

After the evening fishing shift, guests return to the lodge for our evening meal served at 9:30pm, made up of heavy appetizers and served in our clubhouse. Guests relax in the late evening and head back to their cabins for some much-needed sleep at the end of a very long fishing day!

During most weeks in our season, guests alternate days fishing below and above the Dean River canyon.

## Fishing below the Canyon

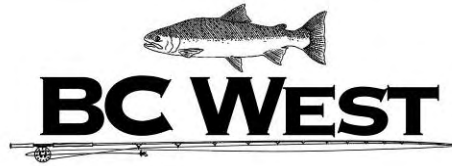
Guests fishing below the Dean River canyon are transported from run to run by jet boat. Fishing time is a mix of closely-guided (guide standing near the guest as they fish through a run) and relatively unguided (guide within 1 ½ miles of guests on the river; communication via handheld radio).

The Dean below the Canyon presents a mile and a half of big, beautiful, broad runs that provide an on-ramp for fish exiting the saltwater of the Dean Channel, headed for the spawning grounds of the upper Dean. Most fish in the lower Dean are passing through—they're within a tide or two of the salt, and are not yet truly 'holding'. This provides a very unique angling opportunity—large runs with the flow and character of typical steelhead holding water, but with a constant supply of fish moving in and out of the run.

Just made a pass through a 200-yard run? No problem—fish it again! It's likely that you'll be showing your fly to a completely new set of critters that have just moved in out of the salt.

We access the lower Dean using a custom 24-foot Dean River-style aluminum jet boat built by Mike Forsyth in New Hazelton, BC. This vessel gives plenty of room for four guests plus guides, and does a great job accessing the sometimes shallow, rocky shoreline of the lower Dean. Depending on guest preference and guide availability, one or two guides accompany four guests on the lower river.





## **Fishing above the Canyon**

Guests fishing above the canyon do so self-guided. At the beginning of the week, guests are given an orientation on the basic layout of the upper river. They are trained on the safe operation of our 4-wheelers, and then turned loose to fish the upper river on their own. Each guest is issued a 4-wheeler, which is used to access the upper river via a network of trails on one side of the river. Once the guests reach the section of river that they have chosen to fish, they leave their 4-wheeler and fish the river on foot.

In a couple locations on the upper river, small 2-man boats are placed to allow access to the side of the river opposite the trail system.

The water above the canyon consists of a variety of runs that are relatively easy to read and quite accessible on foot. Guests enjoy their time on the upper river since all are experienced in fishing for anadromous fish—this is an excellent combination with the guided fishing on the lower river.

## **Catch and Release**

BC West adheres to a strict catch and release policy for all species.

## **Gratuities**

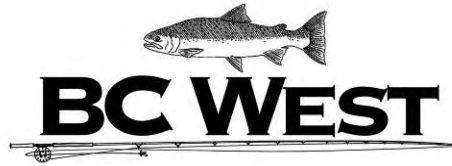
Gratuities at BC West are collected once, at the end of your stay. This single gratuity will cover the entire team that works with you during your time with us, including guides and lodge staff. 'Day tipping' is not customary and is not encouraged.

We are frequently asked questions regarding the 'correct' amount to tip. That is a very hard question to answer, but may be best addressed with the fact that tips for a full week stay have averaged about \$350 per angler. Follow your heart and tip in accordance with the level of service you feel you received.

## **Alcohol**

Beer and wine are included in our standard package at BC West. Red and white wine are served with meals. Beer, mixers and soft drinks are always available in the refrigerator in our clubhouse. Liquor is not provided. Guests are welcome to bring along any alcohol that they prefer.





## Packing List

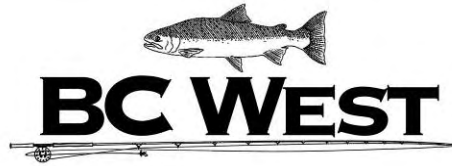
BC West is located in remote coastal BC. There is nothing for sale on the Dean, and there are no fly shops in Bella Coola! Use Vancouver as your last supply stop. We recommend water-repellant luggage with soft sides. Always have your rain gear near or at the top for easy access.

Weather on the Dean is very unpredictable. No matter when you visit, be prepared for highs in the 80s and lows in the 40s. July is typically the warmest month, with cooler temperatures in June and August. Always be prepared for rain and wind.

Camp clothing should be casual and comfortable. Remember to keep all important medications separate from your luggage. Because we are exposed to the elements even around camp, warmth and dryness should be considered in all clothing choices. We recommend layering your clothing for warmth and versatility.

	<b>In-Camp Gear</b>		<b>On-River Gear</b>
√	<b>Item</b>	√	<b>Item</b>
	Jeans		Fleece tops and bottoms to wear under waders
	Long-sleeved shirts		Polypropylene long underwear
	Sweater		Sweater
	Socks		Vest or warm jacket to wear under rain gear or waders
	Underwear		Warm socks – several pairs
	Casual shoes		Warm, waterproof and lucky fishing hat
	Waterproof footwear		Warm fishing gloves
	Light weight jacket		Rainwear - Gore-Tex and other breathables are best
	Rain coat and pants		Waders - Gore-Tex and other breathables are best
	Shoes for wet and dry weather		Wading Boots - please no studs as they damage our boats
	Toiletries		Polarized sun glasses
	Shower sandals		Camera
	Battery powered reading light		Film or memory cards and extra batteries
	Books or games		Sun block
	Alarm clock		Bug repellent
			Head net
			Bag for carrying your gear on boat—dry bags are best
			Rod Tubes - important for carrying rods on ATVs





## Tackle Recommendations

### Rods

Most guests at BC West fish most of the time with two-handed rods. For king salmon, most rods are 9- or 10-weight, from 12 to 15 feet. For steelhead, most fishing is done with tips and rods are 8- or 9-weight, from 12 to 14 feet. Later in the season, some guests like to fish a dry line on a 7- or 8-weight rod from 12 to 13 ½ feet. Single-handed rods require a bit more effort but work just fine as well! 10- to 12-weight rods for kings and 7- to 9-weight rods for steelhead have produced many fish over the years.

### Reels

Dean fish are known for blazing runs and incredible power. Sturdy, quality reels with strong disk drags are the rule here. Expect to see your backing during the week. Tie your knots well and wind on a bunch of backing-- we recommend at least 100 yards. Large arbor reels are very helpful when retrieving line after one of those legendary long Dean runs.

### Lines

Since we fish tips and relatively large flies most of the time for kings and steelhead, Skagit-style line systems are our recommendation and the choice of the vast majority of our guests. Any of a variety of modern popular floating lines may be used when fishing a dry line for steelhead.

For king salmon, heavy tips are most effective given relatively high, fast water. 15 feet of T-14 is the 'go-to' tip, with lengths ranging from 10 to 20 feet. For steelhead, T-14 in lengths from 7 to 15 feet may be used, as well as standard 15-foot tips from type 3 to type 8.

### Leaders

For king salmon, a short straight length of 15 to 20 pound monofilament is the standard leader configuration at BC West. For steelhead, a straight leader or a leader terminating in 10 to 15 pound monofilament is most often used.

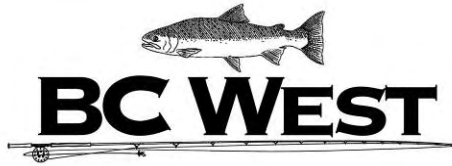
### Flies

Although most of our guests enjoying tying and/or selecting their own flies for their trip, we do have flies available for your use as well.

Flies for king salmon include large profile articulated and strung flies in a variety of color combinations. Marabou, rabbit fur and hair can all create the large, lifelike silhouette that Dean kings prefer. Hooks range from size 2 to 1/0, and octopus-style hooks are particularly effective.

Guests targeting steelhead fish a selection of larger strung or tube flies in colors like black and blue, purple, and any combination of orange, pink and white. Larger flies may be over 3" long. Popular patterns include variations of the Skagit Minnow and Temple Dog-style tube flies. To cover all possible conditions it's helpful to bring some smaller, more traditional patterns like the Dean River Lantern or the Green Butt Skunk in sizes from 2 to 6, as well as a selection of dry flies.





## Contact Information

Mailing Address:

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200 West 34<sup>th</sup> Ave, PMB 1170  
Anchorage, AK 99503

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