

**What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First!* – updated 11 September 2008**

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**NCDGA page numbers:** NCDAG page numbers in the comments section refer to page numbers in the Northern California DeLorme Atlas and Gazetteer.

<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Water Conditions</b>	<b>Fishing Conditions, Techniques, and Hatches</b>	<b>Flies</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>American River</b> (Sailor Bar to Nimbus Dam)	Clear to slight green, low to mid 50s F, moderate flow (1260 cfs)	<b>Fishing is fair.</b> Best time to fish for the half pounders is early morning and evening when the sun is off the water. Swing caddis pupa and steelhead flies on a sink tip line in riffles and over ledges to find fish. Stripers are active from Rossmoor to Howell. Best fishing is at dusk when the big fish come out of their hiding places to feed. Use a chartreuse and white clouser near clay banks and behind snags. Stripers are known to follow the fly, so be sure to give your fly some pauses. Stripers average 3-10 lbs, with a few fish to 20 lbs.	<b>Striper patterns</b> Flashtail clousers and whistlers in chartreuse/white, pink/white, all white, and black (2/0-3/0), pearly poppers (red/yellow, green/yellow), gurglers. <b>Steelhead wet flies/streamers</b> Mossback, assassin (natural, copper), Herniator (silver, copper), gray hackle yellow, chappie, burlap, bleeding prawn (chart/orange, Al-can express, red/black), cone sucking bunny, egg sucking crystal leach, general practitioner (black, orange), comet, green butted skunk, freight train, sedge spey purple, red headed boss, coal car, skykomish sunrise, prism, purple peril, silver hilton, winters hope, Gareth's fire fly, red ant (#4-8). <b>Caddis pupa/emergers</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>River woolly buggers/streamers</b> (listed elsewhere).	Pressure is moderate on the weekdays but can be heavy on the weekends in popular spots. NCDAG pg 87. New CDAG pg. 65.
<b>Carson River, E.F.</b> (Along Hwy 89 downstream to Nevada)	Slight tint, mid to high 50s F, good flows (38 cfs).	<b>Fishing is fair to good.</b> No prominent hatches, but fish will rise to an attractor dry in pocket water and deeper pools in the morning and evening. Adding a smaller beadhead dropper to the dry will increase hookups substantially. There are lots of hoppers around. Drowning hoppers will get some big takes from the stocked monsters above Hangman's bridge. Try a weighted streamer in the oxygenated pools using a floating line and a short 3X leader. It is an easy walk above and below Hangman's bridge. Search out deeper water to find the larger fish.	<b>Grasshopper patterns</b> Dave's hopper, Burk's spent hopper, bullethead hopper, parachute hopper, kingfisher foam hopper (#8-14). <b>Attractor dries</b> irresistible adams, parachute light cahill, Rio Grande trude, Pink & lime trude, yellow humpy, parachute adams, indicator fly, paralyzer, royal coachman, crystal stimulator, renegade, royal wulff, sierra bright dot, grey wulff (#10-18). <b>River woolly buggers/streamers</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> (listed elsewhere).	Moderate fishing pressure on the weekends. Access at Hangman's Bridge and along Hwy 89. NCDAG pg 90. New CDAG pg. 67.
<b>Fall River</b> (Cal Trout access to Spring Creek Rd.)	Clear, normal flow.	<b>Fishing is good.</b> Fish rising to sporadic hatches of tricos, BWO's in the morning and smaller caddis and callibaetis in the afternoon. Bring a dry fly setup with a BWO and female trico dropper on light tippet. Look for fish rising in isolated spots along the flats. Most productive methods are drifting smaller mayfly nymphs and midges under a small indicator and swinging nymphs and streamers on an intermediate line. Cover lots of water and be sure to get a good dead drift on your fly. In the afternoon, swing and strip nymphs and streamers in deep bends. Best fishing is up stream near Cal trout and Zug Bug Alley where water temperatures are cooler.	<b>Callibaetis dries</b> sparkle dun, captive dun, CDC callibaetis transitional dun, Brook's CDC dun callibaetis, fluttering mayfly callibaetis, CDC biot comparadun, callibaetis extended body, Quigley's flashwing cripple, callibaetis cripple, Brook's sprout callibaetis, hackle stacker callibaetis, loopwing callibaetis, parachute adams (#14-16). <b>Caddis pupa/emergers</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>PMD emergers /cripples/dries</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>Caddis cripples/dries</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>River woolly buggers/streamers</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>BWO/Baetis nymphs</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>Midge pupa</b> (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Pram with electric motor needed. Public access is at Cal Trout. NCDAG pg 38. New CDAG pg. 35.
<b>Feather River</b> (Hwy 70 bridge to Gridley)	Clear, mid 60s F, good flow in low flow (600 cfs), high flow below the Afterbay (1,900 cfs) at Gridley.	<b>Fishing is fair to good.</b> Half pounders are showing in the riffles early morning and evening. Bigger fish can be found in deeper water behind ledges, in pocket water and in deeper pools. Fish an olive birds nest with a smaller mayfly nymph dropper in the morning and evening when mayflies are active in the water. Fishing slows midday, but try to high stick in deeper pools with bigger flies such as a san juan worm and caddis pupa dropper with lots of weight to get the flies down. Bigger steelhead will start moving into the riffles and pocket water when temperatures cool. The low flow is fishing better than the high flow, unless you have a drift boat.	<b>BWO/Baetis nymphs</b> Hogan's S&M nymph, Hogan's better baetis, berry nymph in gooseberry, Burk's crystal hunchback, Hogan's olive military may, Mercer's BWO trigger nymph, Kyle's beerhead baetis, tailwater tiny, flashy pheasant tail, Sloan's mighty may, Burk's olive hunchback two-tone, Mercer's micro mayfly (#16-22). <b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>Caddis pupa/emergers</b> (listed elsewhere).	Light fishing pressure due to no salmon fishing. Access from Oroville State Wildlife Area. The stretch above Hwy 70 is closed until Jan 1. Be sure to have your steelhead card and bay/delta stamp. NCDAG pg 68, 78.

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<b>Feather River, N.F.</b> (Beldon Forebay to Lake Oroville)	Slight tint, high 60's to low 70s F, 257 cfs at Rock Creek, 230 at Grizzly Creek.	<b>Fishing is poor to fair, but improving.</b> Mornings are getting cooler triggering more insect activity on the mainstem of the Feather. Grizzly, Rock, Yellow, and Indian Creeks are good places to find cooler water. Fish are rising to midges and mayflies in the morning and evening but will also come up to a caddis dry or mayfly and midge dropper. Reports of anglers catching smallmouth bass in the warmer water below Pulga. Streamers fished on a sink tip line will get fish in deeper pools and around structure.	<b>Caddis pupa/emergers</b> Mercer's tungsten swing caddis, Amber wing caddis, pulsating caddis (tan, olive), Fox's poopah (olive, tan), Mercer's z-wing (green, amber), Fox's springtime poopah, Amber wing prince, M's Dirty Bird, (tan, olive) (#12-18). <b>River woolly buggers/streamers</b> Black beadhead woolly bugger, conehead double bunny, muddler minnow, Hogan's puff'clawdad, Cutter's goblin, matuka, Morrish's sculpin, black woolhead sculpin, near nuff sculpin, orange blossom (#4-10). <b>BWO/Baetis nymphs</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>Caddis cripples/dries</b> (listed elsewhere).	Expect light fishing pressure. Access along Hwy 70. NCDAG pg 59.
<b>Klamath River</b> (mouth to Orleans)	Clear, high 60s, good flow (1670 cfs at Orleans).	<b>Fishing is fair.</b> A good pulse of half pounders and a few adults have pushed through with more fish expected. Best fishing is from the mouth to Orleans with fish stacking near cool tributaries. In the morning and evening fish assassins, brindle bugs, and mossbacks on a floating line with a longer leader. As the water temperature increases midday, go deeper with a sink tip to get the fly down.	<b>Steelhead wet flies/streamers</b> Mossback, assassin (natural, copper), Herniator (silver, copper), cone sucking bunny, egg sucking crystal leach, general practitioner (black, orange), comet, green butted skunk, coal car, skykomish sunrise, prism, purple peril, silver hilton, winters hope, Gareth's fire fly, red ant (#4-8).	Expect heavy fishing pressure in the lower part of the river. Access at Orleans and Somes Bar along hwy 96. NCDAG 33, 34. New CDAG pg. 30, 31
<b>Pit River #3,#4, #5</b> (below Lake Britton to Big Bend)	Slight tint, mid to high 60s F, controlled release on Pit #3: 150 cfs.	<b>Fishing is good.</b> Finding cooler water is the key to finding the fish. Fish are located in oxygenated water and deeper pools. High sticking a golden stone with black beadhead dropper will find fish in riffles and pocket water on Pit #3 in the morning. Midday when the sun is on the water move to deeper pools. Stripping streamers or high sticking a heavy golden stone will get fish deep in the pools. Dry fly fishing is slow, but a few trout will come up in the evening to a e/c caddis or parachute adams. We are not far off from Isonychia hatching. Some cooler weather will help the improve the hatches.	<b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> royal flush, Hogan's Steelie Caddis, hare's ear, twenty incher, Eng thing, Fred Gordon amber wing prince, Hart's dark lord, copper john (red, black, lime, copper) Hogan's amber wing attractor, Tungsten Hotwire prince (olive/copper & Green/Yellow), Queen prince, bh buggy bird's nest, black AP (#10-18). <b>Golden stonefly nymphs and Golden stonefly dries</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>Caddis pupa/ emergers</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>Attractor dries</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>Caddis cripples/dries</b> (listed elsewhere).	Moderate fishing pressure. Access below Lake Britton or from Big Bend. Studded boots and a wading staff are a must for fishing the Pit. NCDAG pg 47. New CDAG pg. 34.
<b>Sacramento River, Lower</b> (below Keswick Reservoir)	Slight tint, mid 50s, moderate flow (7,525 cfs).	<b>Fishing is good.</b> Flows are steadily dropping. Best fishing is 24 hours after flows drop to give fish a chance to acclimate to the new flow. The trout are turning on around 10am. Fish are keying on mayfly nymphs and midges in the morning. Drifting a two fly rig of micro mayflies and midges under an indicator will catch fish along the flats and in the riffles. Midday, switch to a rubberleg stone with a caddis pupa dropper. Fish the seams between riffles and back eddies to find bigger fish. Good steelhead reports below Balls Ferry. Drifting a rubberleg stone through riffles and over drop offs will hook these 3-8 lb rockets. Cypress Bridge will be driftable at 7,000 cfs. Look for trout to start gobbling salmon eggs in coming weeks.	<b>Midge pupa</b> glass bead midge (red, black), crystal dip, disco midge, brassie, desert storm, zebra midge (rust, black), WD40 (olive, chocolate) WD50 tungsten (olive/wine) (#18-22). <b>Golden stonefly nymphs</b> jumbo john, Morrish cone stone, Morrish WMD, Mercer's raghead, Poxystack golden stone nymph, Mercer's poxyquill golden stone, micro cable stone, beadhead twenty incher, copper back, Pat's Rubberleg, Burglar stone golden, tungsten rag stone golden (#8-12). <b>Caddis pupa/ emergers</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>BWO/Baetis nymphs</b> Hogan's S&M nymph, Hogan's better baetis, Burk's crystal hunchback, Kyle's beerhead baetis, tailwater tiny, flashy pheasant tail, Sloan's mighty may, Burk's olive hunchback two-tone, Mercer's micro mayfly (#16-22).	With these higher flows, best access is by pontoon or drift boat. Wade access is limited. DO NOT wade into the rainbow trout redds. NCDAG pg 46, 57. New CDAG pg. 41
<b>Sacramento River, Upper</b> (Lake Siskiyou to Lake Shasta)	Slight tint, high 50's to low 60's. Low flow (187 at Delta).	<b>Fishing is fair.</b> In the morning fish lower stretches near Gibson, Simms and Sweetbriar. Fish the riffles and pocket water with midge pupa and other small nymphs. Midday is slow due to the heat. Any shade or deeper, oxygenated runs will hold fish. High sticking a beadhead nymph with a caddis pupa dropper will find some fish in the upper river. Hatches will come out in the evening. Look for fish sipping smaller caddis, mayflies and midges above Dunsmuir where the water is cooler. The October caddis hatch should start in coming weeks.	<b>Pale morning dun nymphs</b> Hogan's military may (brown), Beadhead flash back pheasant tails, Morrish pick pocket, Mercer's micro mayfly (brown), Black AP nymph, dark lord, Burk's crystal HBI, flashy PT (#14-18). <b>PMD emergers /cripples/ dries</b> Harrop last chance PMD cripple, Brook's KD dun PMD, loopwing paradun PMD, Brook's sprout PMD, PMD biot comparadun, hackle stacker PMD, PMD hair wing dun, PMD sparkle dun, PMD parachute (#14-18). <b>Caddis pupa/ emergers</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>Caddis cripples/dries</b> and <b>Golden stonefly nymphs</b> and <b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> and <b>Attractor dries</b> and <b>Midge pupa</b> (listed elsewhere).	Expect heavy fishing pressure. Be careful when wading. NCDAG 36, 46. New CDAG pg. 33

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<b>Trinity River</b> (near Lewiston)	Clear, mid 50s F, low flow (450 cfs).	<b>Fishing is fair, and improving.</b> A pulse of half pounders and adult steelhead are pushing up from the Klamath and are currently reported to be as far up as Junction City. Best reports are coming from Hoopa and Willow Creek. Fish are scattered and on the move. This is the time to swing assassins, mossbacks, brindle bugs and skate dry flies. In the morning, use a floating line with a longer 2X leader. In the afternoon, use a sink tip to get the fly down in deeper water. Swing the riffles and runs to find fish. Cover lots of water to find fish in the river.	<b>Steelhead wet flies/streamers</b> Mossback, assassin (natural, copper), Herniator (silver, copper), cone sucking bunny, egg sucking crystal leach, general practitioner (black, orange), comet, green butted skunk, coal car, skykomish sunrise, prism, purple peril, silver hilton, winters hope, Gareth's fire fly, red ant (#4-8). <b>Golden stonefly nymphs</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> (listed elsewhere).	Moderate to heavy fishing pressure below Lewiston dam. Fly only section below Lewiston closes on September 15 <sup>th</sup> . NCDAG pg 45. New CDAG pg. 31, 32, 40.
<b>Truckee River</b> (Trout Creek to CA Stalene)	Clear, mid to high 60's. Slightly high flow (245 cfs).	<b>Fishing is good.</b> The best fishing is downstream from Boca. Morning and evening is the best time for dry fly fishing with fish rising to BWO's, caddis and little yellow stones. Bigger fish are hanging in the deeper pools. Strip a sculpin, crayfish, or streamer on a sink tip line. Fish are responding to hoppers with a beadhead dropper fished in pocket water and riffles in the afternoon. Reports of some big browns caught on streamers in the last week.	<b>BWO/Baetis emerger/dries</b> fluttering mayfly cripple BWO, Harrop captive dun, BWO extended body, Brooks CDC dun baetis, hackle stacker BWO, loopwing paradun, olive hatch master, parachute BWO, twilight baetis dun day-glo, BWO CDC transitional dun, Brook's sprout baetis. <b>Caddis pupa/emergers</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>Caddis cripples/ dries</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>Grasshopper patterns</b> (listed elsewhere) <b>River woolly buggers/streamers</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> (listed elsewhere).	Good access at Glenshire and below Boca Reservoir. Expect moderate fishing pressure. NCDAG 81.
<b>Yuba River, Lower</b> (from Englebright dam to Marysville)	Clear, low 50s, moderate flow, 900 cfs below Englebright dam.	<b>Fishing is fair to good.</b> Fish are sipping mayflies and midges in the morning and evening. Best method is fishing midges under an indicator for some larger fish in the riffles and backwater eddies. Midday, hoppers are still active along the banks. Try drifting a small hopper in the riffles and splashing it along the banks. Fish can be finicky in the evening. Bring a box full of smaller caddis, pale evening duns and midges. It is best to use a long leader and small tippet to fool these rainbows. Flows are great for wading.	<b>Pale evening dun dries</b> Hackle stacker PED, Fluttering mayfly cripple PED, loop wing comparadun PED, PED parachute, sulphur parachute (#14-20). <b>Grasshopper patterns</b> Dave's hopper, Burk's spent hopper, bullethead hopper, parachute hopper, kingfisher foam hopper (#8-14). <b>Caddis cripples/dries</b> Hogan's last call caddis, Henryville, Brook's headlight, elk hair caddis (brown, tan, olive), Cutter's E/C, Overly's spotlight (tan, olive), Hemingway, Goddard caddis, Blue ribbon X2 caddis, Fox's crowning poopah olv/cinn, Kyle's better foam caddis (#12-20). <b>Caddis pupa/emergers</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>PMD emergers/cripples/dries</b> (listed elsewhere).	Water above Hwy 20 bridge is closed until Dec 1. Access at the Hwy 20 bridge and Sycamore Ranch campground. NCDAG pg 78,79. New CDAG pg. 58.
<b>Other Reports</b> <b>East Walker River</b> Best fishing is in the morning and evening when water temperatures are lower. During the day water temperatures are high, but dropping with cooler nights. Please respect these fish and leave them alone when water temperatures are at 70 degrees. Even a safely released fish has a slim chance of surviving at these water temperatures. <b>Lake Almanor</b> is fishing good. Rainbows are stacked up at Hamilton Branch, Big Springs and around the dam at the south end of the lake. Trolling buggers on a type 4 uniform sink line or casting from the shore and stripping flies back are catching some bigger rainbows. A few reports of brown being caught around the north fork of the Feather near Chester. <b>Deer Creek</b> (Potato Patch campground to Highway 36) The road is open but recreation is suspended due to smoldering wild fires in the area. There is no stopping from the first bridge below Potato patch campground to highway 36. <b>Little Truckee</b> (Stampede Reservoir to Boca Reservoir) Fishing is fair to good. Flows are a little higher for this time of the year. In the morning and evening fish are feeding on baetis and midges when the temperatures are cooler. Fish will rise to a baetis or midge dry using 7X tippet and a longer leader. Dropping a smaller dry down to a rising fish with a downstream drift will hook fish. Midday and evening, drift a hopper with a midge or baetis nymph dropper. <b>Hot Creek</b> is fishing good with tricos and caddis coming off around 8am followed by the trico spinner fall around 10am. Fish will rise to smaller hopper and caddis in the afternoon. Weeds are up. Drifting a dry along the weed beds will bring out fish. <b>McCloud River</b> (below McCloud Reservoir) As of 9/9/08 McCloud silted up and muddy. It could take at least a week for the river to clear. <b>Yuba River, North Fork</b> (between Downieville and Sierra City) is fishing fair from Downieville to Sierra City where water temperatures are cooler. Look for hatches of mayflies, midges and caddis in the afternoon. Adding a smaller midge dropper to a caddis emerger or adult caddis will hook fish in pocket water and riffles. Streamers on a longer leader and floating line will catch fish in deeper pools. Approach pools with stealth so not to spook the fish. <b>Hat Creek</b> (PH#2 to fish barrier) is fishing fair to poor. Best fishing is in the morning and evening with hatches of BWO and midges with a few smaller caddis in the evening. Best fishing is near carbon bridge and PH2. In the flats, use a longer leader with smaller tippet and a stealthy approach. <b>West Carson River</b> There are plenty of stocked fish congregating around the bridges where there is relief from the heat of the day. Great place to take kids and beginning anglers. An attractor dry with a descent drift will hook the stockers. <b>Feather River, M.F.</b> (Portola downstream to wild and scenic) Water temperatures are warmer. Fish are congregating near cooler tributaries such as Nelson Creek and deeper pools. Fish are rising to mayflies and midges in the morning and evening. Midday, nymph and pull streamers through deeper pools. <b>Putah Creek</b> is poor. Summer water levels (483 cfs) make it tough access. Look for better fishing when the flows come down in the next few weeks. <b>Stanislaus River below Goodwin Dam</b> Fishing is poor to fair. Fish are rising to midges, BWO's and a few caddis in the morning and evening. 2 mile bar is a popular spot for anglers. <b>MF Stanislaus River below Beardsley Reservoir</b> Fish is poor. Flows are low and fish are seeking cooler water in deeper pools. High stick nymphing is the best method right now with the lack of top water activity. Drifting a high floating dry with a beadhead dropper will also catch a few fish in riffles and pocket water.				
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