

What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First!* – updated 16 October 2007

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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.

Fishery	Water Conditions	Fishing Conditions, Techniques, and Hatches	Flies	Comments
American River (below Nimbus Dam)	Clear, low 60s F, moderate flow (1260 cfs)	Fishing is fair. There are plenty of acrobatic half pounders to be caught in the lower river. Swinging tan caddis pupa on a floating line or Type II sink tip is the traditional method. Fishing a pupa and egg under an indicator will get you more hook ups. Riffles are great holding water early morning and evening. Go to deeper water during the day. Some half pounders are coming to the surface in the evening for caddis dries. With the cooler weather and rain, things should really pick up. Flows are perfect for wading.	Caddis pupa/emergers Hogan's Yuba pupa, Hogan's swingin' caddis, green been, translucent pupa, Amber wing caddis, pulsating caddis (tan, olive), Fox's poopah (olive, tan), Mercer's z-wing (green, amber), M's Dirty Bird, Hogan's steelie caddis, Hogan's good & plenty nymph (tan, olive), (#12-18). Steelhead wet flies/streamers (Listed elsewhere in report). Caddis Dries (Listed elsewhere in report)	Expect heavy fishing pressure. Access below Nimbus Dam. Beware of the closed section near the hatchery. NCDAG pg 86, 87.
Deer Creek (above Potato Patch Campground down to Ishi Wilderness)	Slight tint, mid to high 60s F, Low summer flow.	Fishing is fair. Nymphing away from easily accessed areas will produce more and larger fish. Attractor nymphs will have you covered. Smaller trout will eagerly rise to an attractor dry fly, if presented softly. There are hatches of BWO's on cloudy days. A silhouette dun or sparkle dun will get them on top, and a mighty may or flashback PT is great fished subsurface and pre-hatch.	Attractor dries 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, grey wulff (#10-18). Attractor beadhead nymphs (Listed elsewhere in report). Midge pupa and BWO emerger/dries (Listed elsewhere in report).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Access off Hwy 32 from Deer Creek bridge upstream to Hwy 36. NCDAG pg. 58.
Fall River (Cal Trout access to Spring Creek Rd.)	Clear, normal flow.	Fishing is fair. BWOs are showing themselves mid morning and into the afternoon. A camo or dark colored line is a huge advantage on the river's ultra selective fish. Downstream presentations and the classic Fall River twitch are working well. There are still a few callibaetis emerging later in the afternoon and nymphing with a indicator nymphing is the way to go. It is worth the time to swing/strip small olive buggers and wiggle tail nymphs in deeper holes and slots. Fluorocarbon tippet will ensure stealth, but the presentation is the key. Recent wind has been a problem.	Callibaetis dries sparkle dun, captive dun, CDC callibaetis transitional dun, Brook's CDC dun callibaetis, CDC biot comparadun, callibaetis extended body, callibaetis cripple, Brook's sprout callibaetis, hackle stacker callibaetis, loopwing callibaetis, Callibaetis nymphs Janssen's emerging callibaetis, pheasant tail, Scharantz callibaetis, pickpocket (#14-16). Midge pupa and BWO nymphs and River woolly buggers streamers (Listed elsewhere in report).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Pram with electric motor needed. Public access is at Cal Trout. NCDAG pg 38.
Feather River (Hwy 70 bridge to Gridley)	Clear, mid 60s F, good flow in low flow (600 cfs), high flow below the Afterbay (2400 cfs) at Gridley.	Fishing is fair to good. Plenty of steelies and salmon in the river and the hordes of salmon fisherman are gone with the end of salmon season. In the morning, bounce an olive caddis pupa with a glo bug dropper. Fish will head for cover during the height of daylight so fish your flies deep. Single out salmon on their redds. Steelies will be close behind to gobble up stray eggs. Look for the male salmon chasing the steelhead out of the redds. Overcast and rainy days are by far the best to get out and catch fish. Steelhead season will continue to improve with more rainy days and more fish moving up the river.	Egg patterns for salmon Sucker spawn oregon cheese, Fox's fertilizer (shell pink, fire orange, flo red), glow-bug (peach, pink, champagne, light yellow, cheese, chartreuse), micro egg (flo fire orange, flo orange, flo red, shell pink), Leeson's crystal egg (chartreuse, orange) Pettis' Unreal egg clusters (gold nugget, burnt orange, dark roe, light row), clown egg, Pettis' unreal single egg (#8-16). Caddis pupa/emergers (Listed elsewhere in report). Attractor beadhead nymphs (Listed elsewhere in report).	Expect crowds on the weekends at all the popular spots. Fishing is closed above Hwy 70. Access from Oroville State Wildlife Area. NCDAG pg 68, 78
Feather River, N.F. (Beldon Forebay to Lake Oroville)	Clear, low 60s F.	Fishing is good. Deep indicator nymphing with a caddis pupa and stonefly patterns are producing some nice 'bows. Start out with a poxyback biot stone (brown or golden) in the morning, covering deeper slots and pocket water. BWO are coming off in the late morning and overcast days - switch to a small sparkle dun and fish riffles and runs. Tan caddis pupa and small stonefly nymphs will get some fish into the evening. More BWO activity in the evening as well as some caddis. Dapping a small stimulator along likely water will bring fish to the surface.	Midge pupa 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). BWO/Baetis emerger/dries (Listed elsewhere in report). BWO nymphs (Listed elsewhere in report). Caddis Pupa (listed elsewhere in report). Stonefly Nymphs (Listed elsewhere in Report). Golden Stonefly Nymphs (Listed elsewhere in report)	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Access off of Caribou Rd and Hwy 70. NCDAG pg 59.

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Frank's Tract & San Joaquin Delta (including Mildred, San Joaquin River, and nearby sloughs)	Clear (3-5 ft visibility, low 60s F.	Fishing is good. The stripers have arrived several weeks ahead of schedule. Most fish are running 2-6 lbs, but there are some hungry big boys around. Fish all the usual areas such as current breaks, edges of weeds, and ledge drop offs. Black clousers are producing well first thing in the morning and late in the evening. The standard color is Chart/White fished with a fast rip of 1-2 feet, then several seconds of distinct pause. For a chance at a double digit striper spend time fishing structure very near to deep water, especially early and late in the day. It has been windy some days, which can slow the bite. Some black bass are also being caught, but look at this to slow down as the water temps decrease.	Striper patterns Flashtail clousers and whistlers in chartreuse/white, pink/white, all white, and black (2/0-3/0), pearly poppers (red/yellow, green/yellow), gurglers.	Boat needed - rentals are available at Sugar Barge Marina on Bethel Island. Moderate to heavy fishing pressure. NCDAG pg 96 and 106.
Hot Creek	Clear, low to mid 60s F, low flow 4 cfs.	Fishing is fair to good. Tricos and midges are happening in the midmorning. On overcast days BWOs will take over around 11 AM. In the afternoon, the caddis hatch gets the fish working the surface. Dry fly opportunities are very good here, but be sure to make each cast count. Placing your fly along the undercut banks will bring fish out from cover. The best flies have been small mayflies, caddis, and midge emergers. You will increase your odds with cripples and emergers so fish accordingly. More browns are being caught now that fall has arrived.	Caddis cripples/dries 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, hot butt peacock caddis, peacock caddis, Lawson's E-Z caddis, green humpy, Blue ribbon X2 caddis, Fox's crowning poopah olv/cinn, Kyle's better foam caddis (#12-20). Tricos Trico spinner, trico poly spinner. BWO/Baetis nymphs (Listed elsewhere in report).	Expect moderate fishing pressure on weekends. Access at upper parking lot and fish downstream to the hot springs. NCDAG pg 112.
Klamath River (mouth to Orleans)	Clear, high 50's - low 60s, good flow (2340 cfs).	Fishing is fair. The lower river from Orleans to the mouth is the most productive. Salmon and adult steelhead are in the system and the half pounders are moving upriver. With the recent inclement weather the bite will hopefully increase substantially. Right now the best technique is swinging traditional steelhead flies on a floating line. Mossbacks, green butt skunks, and brindle bugs are a few favorites for this river. Many anglers are fishing spey rods, as they provide a big advantage to cover a lot of water. The upper river is also picking up in the last week.	Steelhead wet flies/streamers 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.
McCloud River (below McCloud Reservoir)	Slight tint, low to mid 50s F, normal to moderate flow (320 cfs above Shasta lake).	Fishing is good. Browns are coming up from the lake and streamers would be a sure fire way to entice them. Fish a dark streamer at the tailouts of pools early and late in the day. Try various retrieves and swinging methods, but getting it deep is key. BWOs are present on overcast days and October caddis are out in full force. There are also some small, dark stoneflies out on sunny days from 4PM-dusk. Nymph fishers are having good success with an October caddis pupa and a small mayfly nymph dropper. If the rains cause the river to be tainted, dark patterns are key for easier visibility. Lighter/tan nymphs will be perfect when water stays clear. Look for the egg bite to pick up as we dip into the end of the regular season. Some nice trout have been caught this week.	October caddis pupa Mercer's October caddis pupa, Morrish October deep caddis pupa, Morrish WMD (#6-8). October caddis dries Morrish oct caddis, Foam october caddis, Mercer's oct caddis, Sloan's oct Paralyzer, orange stimulator (#6-10). River woolly buggers/streamers Black beadhead woolly bugger, conehead double bunny, muddler minnow, Hogan's puff'clawdad, Cutter's goblin, matuka, Morrish's sculpin (#4-10). Midge pupa (Listed elsewhere in report). Caddis pupa/emergers (Listed elsewhere in report). BWO/Baetis nymphs and Caddis cripples/dries (Listed elsewhere in report).	Expect light fishing pressure. Access at Ah-Di-Nah or Ash Campgrounds. Access the middle portion of the river off of the Pacific Crest Trail. NCDAG 36,37,47.
Pit River #3,#4, #5 (below Lake Britton to Big Bend)	Slight tint, high 50s F, normal flow on Pit #3.	Fishing is good. Standard indicator and tightline nymphing will tie anglers into hungry 'bows. Start the day with a brown WMD stone and Micro May dropper. Be sure to use lots of weight to keep your fly down and cast in tight the rocks and other structure. Keep an eye out for rising fish, and be prepared to switch to a small adams or BWO midday. Later on into the afternoon, switch to a Morrish october caddis pupa and copper john trailer. There is good reports with small streamers and wooly buggers fished deep and swung in runs, tail outs, and pools. All stretches of the river are fishing well.	Attractor beadhead nymphs royal flush, Hogan's Steelie Caddis, hare's ear, twenty incher, Eng thing, Fred Gordon amber wing prince, Hart's dark lord, copper lite brite prince, copper john (red, black, lime, copper) Hogan's amber wing attractor, Tungsten Hotwire prince (olive/copper & Green/Yellow), Queen prince, bird's nest, black AP, Red Squirrel (#10-18). October caddis pupa (Listed elsewhere in report) BWO/Baetis emerger/dries (Listed elsewhere in report). Attractor dries (Listed elsewhere in report).	Low 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.

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Putah Creek (below Lake Berryessa)	Slight taint, low 50s F, winter flows (46 cfs below lake Berryessa).	Fishing is good. The low winter flows are here and fishing is solid. Nymphing is consistent all day. The key is to fish size 18-22 olive mayfly nymphs on 6-7x tippet. A Hacklestacker and loopwing paradun will get fish on top during the BWO hatch around 11 AM. If you're having problems hooking up during a hatch, get creative will a BWO spinner fished sunk like a nymph behind a parachute adams. BWOs will make an appearance again in the evening for some more dry fly action. Good reports of trout over 16" the last two weeks.	BWO/Baetis nymphs 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). BWO Dries (Listed elsewhere in report) Midge pupa (Listed elsewhere in report).	Moderate fishing pressure. NOTE: Take precautions not to transport New Zealand mud snail. Zero limit after Nov 15 NCDAG pg 85, 95.
Sacramento River, Lower (below Keswick Reservoir)	Clear, low 50s, Moderate flow (6000 cfs).	Fishing is very good to excellent. Now is the time to hit the river. 4x tippet is as light as you want to go. Tie on a rubberleg stone or Morrish cone stone with an egg dropper in the morning. As the sun gets high, nymphing with a caddis pupa and small mayfly dropper is your best bet. Swing your fly at the end to imitate a pupa swimming desperately to the surface. Egg patterns are deadly with the spawning salmon in system. If you want to fish dries in the evening, and AC caddis fluttered across the surface will bring slashes from hungry trout. Better yet, swing a Bird's Nest treated with desiccant and use split shot to penetrate the surface.	Golden stonefly nymphs jumbo john, Morrish cone stone, Morrish WMD, Mercer's raghead, Poxback golden stone nymph, Mercer's poxyquill golden stone, micro cable stone, beadhead twenty incher, copper back, Burglar stone golden, tungsten rag stone golden (#8-12), stinger stone (#6). Egg Patterns (Listed elsewhere in report) Caddis pupa/emergers (Listed elsewhere in report). Golden stonefly nymphs (Listed elsewhere in report). Attractor beadhead nymphs (Listed elsewhere in report).	As water drops wade fishing is possible at the Posse Grounds, Turtle Bay, Cypress St, and Anderson River Park. NCDAG pg 46, 57.
Sacramento River, Upper (above Lake Shasta)	Clear, mid 50s, moderate to low flow (226 cfs at Delta).	Fishing is good. The lower sections of the river are best fished with small nymphs and midge pupa throughout the day. BWO's are coming off midday. A small BWO dry with a tailwater tiny will pick them up. In the upper reaches, try dead drifting large october caddis pupa with a small, dark trailer. There are a few adult Oct Caddis flying around in the afternoon on sunny days. Present your dry with a vertical drop to fool the fish. Work lots of water to find eager fish looking up. Some very nice trout are showing in the lower 10 miles of the river.	BWO emerger/dries Brook's KD dun, Mercers emerging poxy back bwo, fluttering mayfly cripple BWO, Harrop captive dun, BWO extended body, Brooks CDC dun baetis, hackle stacker BWO, loopwing paradun, parachute BWO, Brook's sprout baetis, quill body baetis cripple, Harrop's CDC BWO emerger, Quigley's loopy cripple stacker, Burk's silhouette dun (#16-20). Attractor beadhead nymphs and Caddis pupa (listed elsewhere in report). BWO nymphs (listed elsewhere in report).	Access off of I5 and through Dunsmuir. Crowded in popular spots around Dunsmuir on the weekends. NCDAG 46,36.
Stanislaus River, Lower (below Goodwin Dam)	Clear, high 50s, good flows (192 cfs).	Fishing is good. Midges and BWO mayflies are on the menu. Nymphing is a standard procedure right now using a small BWO nymph and a black midge trailer. A pair of WD-40's in different colors is another killer combo. When you spot risers, try throwing a BWO Cripple. If you cannot get a take and the fish are still rising, tie a floating BWO nymph on and make those first casts count. This river closes on Oct 31.	Attractor beadhead nymphs (Listed elsewhere in report). Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere in report). Attractor dries (Listed elsewhere in report). BWO/Baetis emerger/dries (listed elsewhere in report) BWO nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). Midge pupa (Listed elsewhere in report)	Expect moderate to heavy pressure. Access of Tullock Rd, 2-Mile Bar, or Knights Ferry. NCDAG 108.
Trinity River (near Lewiston)	Clear, mid 50s F, low flow (300 cfs).	Fishing is good. There are some very nice fish in the Trinity and beautiful scenery as well. Swinging a traditional steelhead fly or skating an October caddis dry at first and last light is producing. As the sun rises indicator nymph with a stone or October caddis and a glo bug or bloody mary dropper. Fluorocarbon tippet is an advantage in the gin clear water and wary fish. There are plenty of steelies in the upper river as well as down by Willow Creek. Rain will improve fishing.	Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere in report) October caddis pupa (listed elsewhere in report) Steelhead wet flies/streamers (listed elsewhere in report). Attractor beadhead nymphs (Listed elsewhere in report).	Moderate to heavy fishing pressure below Lewiston dam. Fly only section below Lewiston closes on September 15 th . NCDAG pg 45.
Truckee River (below the town of Truckee to Nevada State line)	Clear, mid 50s F, good flow (285 cfs near Truckee).	Fishing is good. Now is the time for october caddis and BWOs. The best technique is to go subsurface with Morrish's october caddis pupa and trailing small mayfly nymph 18"-24" behind it. BWO will show midday with the trout working the dries in the runs and tailouts. In the late afternoon, run a dry/dropper rig with an Oct caddis dry and small birds nest or S&M dropper. Streamers are catching big fish in the water below Boca. A rag sculpin or goblin does a good job imitating the abundant forage fish in the river Fishing is good from the town of Truckee all the way to state line.	October caddis pupa Mercer's October caddis pupa, Morrish October deep caddis pupa, Morrish WMD (#6-8). BWO nymphs (Listed elsewhere in report). Attractor beadhead nymphs (Listed elsewhere in report). Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere in report) Caddis pupa/emergers (Listed elsewhere in report). Golden stonefly nymphs (Listed elsewhere in report). River woolly buggers/streamers (Listed elsewhere in report).	Access off Hwy 80. Expect crowds in popular areas on the weekends. NCDAG pg 81.

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Other Reports **Little Truckee River** is fair. BWO's are coming off midday to provide some dry fly action. Silhouette Duns and BWO Cripples in size 18-20 are good matches. Nymphing with some Midge pupae is also effective. **Heenan Reservoir** has been decent. Buggers, Wiggle Tails, Amber Wing Prince Nymphs have all been successful on Intermediate lines. With only 2 weeks left for Heenan before it closes, get out and land a big Cutt! **Yuba River, Lower** is fair for 'bows and half pound steelhead. A glo-bug seems to be the ticket and a Poxback Skwala Nymph is a close second. Below Daguerre Dame is fishing the most productive. Heavily pressured water below the Highway 20 bridge has been fair. Above Highway 20 bridge is closed until December 1st. **Yuba River, North Fork** (between Downieville and Sierra City) Fish Sloan's October caddis Paralyzer with a Mighty May dropper and you will be successful throughout the day. Smaller Stimulators and E/C Caddis will also get fish, but nymphing a Fox Oct caddis pupa is a better idea for big grabs. **Walker River, East Fork** (below Bridgeport Reservoir) is good. Smaller midges and baetis nymphs trailed behind a larger stonefly nymph would be a good choice. Afternoon and evening caddis action has been good on top. **Butte Creek** (Butte Meadows) Small Stimulators and AC caddis are doing well right now. Hang an Amber wing Prince or black copper john off the bend for a 2 fly rig that will produce all day. Try nymphing with a tan Z-Wing caddis or sparkle pupa in the afternoon to evening. **Owens River** (above Crowley Lake) New DF&G regulations are in effect, the river is closed to all fishing from the Benton Crossing Rd bridge downstream to the monument, located above the mouth of Crowley Lake. Fishing has been very good with large stimulators on top and caddis pupa subsurface. Water flows are perfect.

WH&WN™ FREE flyfishing report would not be possible without the help of Victor Babbit/Tahoe Fly Fishers/Tahoe, Keith Kaneco/Guide, Jerry/The Troutfitter/Mammoth Lakes, Truckee River Outfitters, Tahoe Fly Fishing Outfitters, Motherload Fly Shop, Ted Fay Flyshop/Dunsmuir, Greg/Sweeny's sport shop, Frank Rinella/Nevada City Anglers/Nevada City, Rob/Reno Fly Shop/Reno, Andy/Kiene's Fly Shop/Sacramento, Angler Edge fly shop, Steve Vaughn/Vaughn's Sporting Goods/Burney, Val & Randy Aubrey (www.eaglelakefishing.info), Craig Nielsen, Gary McFarland, Mark Harris & Richie. Special thanks to all the WH&WN™ subscribers who have submitted their fishing reports for the fisheries listed in WH&WN, you help keep us honest, accurate, and up-to-date.