

What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First!* – updated 18 September 2017

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<p>NCDGA page numbers: NCDAG page numbers in the comments section refer to page numbers in the Northern California DeLorme Atlas and Gazetteer.</p>				
Fishery	Water Conditions	Fishing Conditions, Techniques, and Hatches	Flies	Comments
Baum Lake	Clear, low 50s, lake level is normal.	Fishing is fair to good. Not much hatching at this time but trout are still willing to rise to a mayfly or caddis dry with a good presentation in the main current early and late. Add a midge drifter for better results. Expect an emergence of callibaetis in the afternoon on sunny days. Swinging soft hackles in the main current with a light sink tip (polyleader) will get some big tugs. Stripping and swinging leech and sculpin patterns on a sink tip will produce fish larger than average along the edges of the weed beds. Hatches will improve with cooler weather.	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, Fox's crowning poopah olv/cinn, Kyle's better foam caddis (#12-20), Hopper Stone Tan (#6,8). Lake woolly buggers/streamers J Fair wiggle tail (olive, brown, burnt orange) BH woolly bugger (black, olive, brown), crystal bugger, mini bugger black/olive, seal bugger (rust, olive, black), hale bopp leach (brown, olive), Mack's bugger, bunny leach (white), chub minnow (#6-12). BWO nymphs and Midge pupa (Listed elsewhere in report).	Light fishing pressure. CDAG pg 34
Deer Creek (above Elam Campground down to Ishi Wilderness)	Slight color, low to mid 50s F, high with runoff but fishable.	Fishing is good. Trout are active and flows remain steady. Best fishing is mid-morning and again evening when the sun is off the water. Fish are rising to attractor dries in riffles and along the edges. Be sure to try terrestrial patterns along under tree branches. Midday, add a nymph dropper behind the dry to give trout an option. Nymphing pools with attractor bead head nymphs will also produce fish during the warmest part of the day. Best fishing access from the meadows down to the Red Bridge (first bridge north on Hwy 32). It's been a great summer on Deer Creek and fishing will continue with the October caddis hatch.	Attractor dries irresistible adams, parachute light cahill, Rio Grande trude, Pink & lime trude, yellow humpy, parachute adams, hippie stomper, royal coachman, crystal stimulator, renegade, royal wulff, grey wulff, pink cahill, light cahill, royal coachman, para wulff, (#10-18). Ant patterns Deer hair ant, 2 tone Para ant, Cutter's perfect ant, Schroeder's parachute ant, hi-vis foam ant, flying ant, fur ant, flying ant (#12-18). Mayfly nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). Beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere in report).	Expect moderate fishing pressure around the campgrounds on the weekends. C & R below Deer creek falls Access off Hwy 32 from Deer Creek Bridge to Hwy 36. CDAG pg 42/43.
Fall River (Cal Trout access to Spring Creek Rd)	Clear, good flows, mid 40s F.	Fishing is fair. Best fishing is above Spring Creek bridge with a trico spinnerfall around 9:30 am. A precise downstream drift with a long leader and tandem trico spinners is what you need to hook these smart trout. Slack line nymph with PMD nymphs, midge pupa, and BWO nymphs under an indicator post hatch to find eager trout. In the afternoon, look for trout keying on Callibaetis. Try swinging a callibaetis soft hackle and un-weighted brown and black leech patterns with a sinking line in the afternoon if trout are not rising to Callibaetis. Some caddis hatching in the afternoon. A couple more weeks until the fall hatches start.	PMD nymphs BH flash back pheasant tails, Kyle's super flash PMD, Mercer's micro mayfly (brown), Black AP nymph, dark lord, Burk's crystal HBI, flashy PT (#14-18) Woolly buggers Krystal bugger, beadhead mini-leech, Argentina bugger, J Fair's wiggle tail, marabou leech (#8-12). 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 and Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere).	Expect light to moderate fishing pressure. Pram with electric motor needed. Only public access is from Cal Trout. CDAG pg 35.
Feather River, N.F. (Cresta powerhouse to Lake Oroville)	Slight tint, low 50s F, 421 cfs below Rock Creek 336 below Grizzly Creek and 167 below Poe. Check flows at WWW.Dreamflows.com .	Fishing is fair to good. Flows are good from Beldon to Poe! High stick nymph the fast pocket water with stoneflies, caddis pupa, and crayfish patterns. Use plenty of split shot to get flies down. Great river for Czech nymphing. Not much dry fly action in the afternoon. Better action on dries in the Caribou Section above Beldon in evening with caddis, and attractor dries. On the mainstem, concentrate on tributaries where big fish will hold. Strip streamers in pools and pocket water. Fish a sink tip with a short leader or a long leader with a weighted fly. Fishing will improve in the next couple weeks with cooler weather.	Golden stonefly dries Hogan's split-wing stone, hedgehog, Hogan's hangin stimi, crystal stimulator, yellow humpy, rubber-legged stimulator, Rogue foam golden stone, Gould's half down golden, Sloan's paralyzer, Carlson's egg sack stone (#8-12). BWO 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. PMD emergers/cripples/dries and Attractor beadhead nymphs and Midge pupa and Golden stonefly nymphs, Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere).	Expect light fishing pressure. Access along Hwy 70. Open to fishing from Cresta powerhouse to lake Oroville. NCDAG pg 59. CDAG pg 51.

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Feather River (Hwy 70 Bridge to Gridley)	Clear, mid 50s F, good flow in low flow (800 cfs), high flow below the Afterbay (6,700 cfs) at Gridley.	Fishing is fair. Hold over spring steelhead are still in the low flow section holding in riffles and tailouts. Best fishing is in the morning when they are keying in on BWO's and midge pupa's under and indicator with enough split shot to get flies down in fast water. Reports of a few bigger fall run steelhead starting to make their way into the system. Single hand or two-handed swinging tactics are productive right before or after hatches. In the evening, be sure to look for steelhead slashing caddis dries. Best access if by drift boat, however there is good wading access through the Oroville Wildlife Area. The best steelhead fishing is yet to come. Eggs are on their way!	Caddis pupa/emergers Fox's poopah (olive, tan), Hot wire caddis, Anderson's peeking green, green machine, Fox's springtime poopah, Amber wing prince, M's Dirty Bird, Hogan's steelie caddis, Silvey's submerger caddis (olive, tan), Silvey's edible emerger (#12-18). BWO/Baetis nymphs and Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). Egg patterns 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, unreal egg cluster (dk roe, burnt orange) (#8-16).	Moderate fishing pressure. Access from Oroville State Wildlife Area. The stretch above Hwy 70 is closed until Jan 1. Be sure to have your steelhead card signed and dated before fishing. NCDAG pg 68, 78.
Hat Creek (PH#2 to fish barrier)	Green, low to mid 40s F, good flow.	Fishing is fair. Trout are feeding on tricos around 8am on the flats. Present a fly downstream with a delicate drift. Some BWO also hatching at PH2 in. A dry dropper with a BWO nymph or midge pupa will get more action than the dry itself. As temps rise in the afternoon, look for trout rising to callibaetis. Swinging a soft hackle is productive as the hatch gets going. Caddis and small stoneflies are active when the sun is off the water. As fall approaches, look for good BWO hatches on rainy days.	BWO/Baetis emerger/dries Brook's KD dun, fluttering mayfly cripple BWO, BWO cripple, BWO captive dun, Brooks CDC dun baetis, hackle stacker BWO, loopwing paradun BWO, parachute BWO (#16-18). Callibaetis dries sparkle dun, captive dun, CDC callibaetis transitional dun, Brook's CDC dun callibaetis, fluttering mayfly callibaetis, CDC biot comparadun, Quigley's flashwing cripple, callibaetis cripple, Brook's sprout callibaetis, hackle stacker callibaetis, loopwing callibaetis, parachute adams, Callibaetis extended body (#14-16). Midge pupa (listed elsewhere in report).	Expect large crowds at the PH#2 riffle. To escape the crowds, try fishing below Carbon Flat or the Hwy 299 bridge. CDAG pg 34.
Heenan Reservoir (near Markleeville)	Clear, low 50's, lake level is good.	Fishing is fair to good. Heenan started the season well, but has slowed recently. Fish a streamer with a prince nymph dropper on a sinking line. A slow, twitchy retrieve is best. Also try a prince nymph with a midge dropper under an indicator. Give the flies a small pull once in a while. Tip: the cutthroat like to cruise along the edge of the weedbeds. Best fishing is from a float tube but fishing along the shore for cruising Lahontan cutthroats is also productive.	River woolly buggers/streamers 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). Scuds patterns Scud (pink, olive), GB Kaufman's scud, J Fair scud, stillwater stimulator (olive, burnt) (#12-16). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday until the 26 th of October. Access along Hwy 89. New CDAG pg. 68
Klamath River (mouth to Orleans)	Clear, high 60s, good flow (1330 cfs at Orleans).	Fishing is fair and improving. Reports are improving with fresh salmon and steelhead moving up with pulse flows. Best fishing is in the morning and evening. Fish a wet fly swing with a herniator or silver hilton on a long 2x leader with a floating line. When the sun is on the water use a sink tip line to get the fly down in deeper runs. Look for fish holding where cool tribs such as Blue Creek enter. Fish are starting to move upriver, with some reports from Orleans and Somes Bar areas.	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. New CDAG pg. 30, 31
McCloud River (below McCloud Reservoir)	Good clarity, mid 50's, normal flow (247 cfs at Ah-Di-Na)	Fishing is good. Nymphing and fishing streamers are most productive. Try october caddis pupa with a small black nymph dropper. For larger trout, stripping streamers in pools and runs are finding some fall browns running up from Shasta. Casting into the head of a pool and stripping it out of the tayout could get a big surprise! Strip sculpins and small trout patterns. The evening hatch is a smattering of caddis and PED's. Fishing will improve with some colder temps and rain. October caddis will start hatching in coming weeks.	Golden stonefly nymphs jumbo john, Poxyback golden stone nymph, Mercer's poxyquill golden stone, beadhead twenty incher, copper back, Burglar stone golden, tungsten golden stone (#8-12), 2 bit golden stone. October caddis pupa Mercer's October caddis pupa, Morrish October deep caddis pupa, Morrish WMD (#6-8). Pale evening dun dries Hackle stacker PED, Fluttering mayfly cripple PED, loop wing comparadun PED, PED parachute, sulphur parachute (#14-20). River woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs and PMD emergers/cripples/dries and Caddis pupa/ emergers (listed elsewhere).	Moderate fishing pressure. Access below McCloud Reservoir. NCDAG 36.

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Oroville Lake	Slight tint (2-4ft viability), mid to high 70's F.	Fishing is good. Although water temps remain high, the early fall weather should cool the lake down bringing out the bigger spotted bass. Best fishing is early morning before 10am and again later in the day for the evening bite. In the morning, fishing top water near structure is the most productive until the bite slows down. Be sure to pause in between strips to increase strikes from those aggressive bass. When the top water bite slows, switch to the float-n-fly tactic suspending a leech or baitfish pattern under an indicator close to the rock walls and structure. Another tactic is stripping subsurface flies with a sinking line around logs, rocks walls, and edges. Be sure to pause often between strips. Fishing back bays and mouths of tributaries are key finding pods of fish.	Bass subsurface flies Hogan puff-claw dad, bluegill, Wyatt's rattle shad, Wyatt's rattle rainbow, Cutter's goblin, rag sculpin, zonker, woolhead sculpin, blossom, Double bunny, blossom, Cowen's coyote, Whitlock's scorpion, garage door opener (rust, chartreuse), Burk's bass flash, Clouser Darter, flexi-tail bunny, baby smallmouth (#2-10), balance leeches. Bass surface flies Rubber leg hard foam popper (grn/blk, red/ylw), Whitlock's crystal dragon, Umpqua swimming frog, Messinger frog, Hi Viz rubberleg beetle Whitlock's mouse rat natural, Steve's loco mouse, bullet head cricket, Whitlock's wiggle legs frog, Swimming frog, Bass hopper, dancing frog, micro slider, micro popper, pencil popper (#2-10). Price's Mudflap Jr. Olive, Price's Mudflap Jr. Chartreuse, Price's Snakecharmer Red, Price's Snakecharmer Purple.	Best fishing access is by boat. Expect light pressure with a lot of lake to fish. Access at Lime Saddle and Bidwell Marina. CDAG pg.51
Pit River #3,#4, #5 (below Lake Britton to Big Bend)	Green to brown tint, 60- 66 degrees F on Pit 3, 330 cfs on Pit #3 somewhat high, 427 cfs on Pit #4 with water temps at 64-70 degrees and 387 cfs on Pit #5.	Fishing is good. Pit 3 is fishing best from 8am to noon and again from 4pm to dark. Nymph the pocket water with black AP's, tan birdsnest and tan caddis pupa. Keep moving to find the willing eaters. The bite slows down in the afternoon heat. In the evening nymphing improves again. Stripping streamers with a sink tip in tailouts and pocket water can also produce large rainbows. October caddis, yellow sallies and caddis hatches will improve as temps cool. Marginal hatches in the evening, but a stonefly or caddis will rise trout in the evening when the sun is off the water.	River woolly buggers/streamers J Fair wiggle tail (olive, brown, burnt orange) BH woolly bugger (black, olive, brown), crystal bugger, mini bugger black/olive, seal bugger (rust, olive, black), hale bopp leach (brown, olive), bunny leech (white), chub minnow (#6-12). Golden stonefly nymphs Morrish cone stone, Morrish WMD, Poxystack golden stone nymph, Mercer's poxyquill golden stone, beadhead twenty incher, copper back, Pat's Rubberleg. October caddis pupa Mercer's October caddis pupa, Morrish October deep caddis pupa, Morrish WMD (#6-8). Caddis pupa/emergers and Attractor beadhead nymphs and Little yellow stone dries (listed elsewhere).	Low fishing pressure on 3, no pressure on 4. Access below Lake Britton or from Big Bend. Studded boots and a wading staff are a must for fishing the Pit. New flow regiment makes wading very tough. NCDAG pg 47. New CDAG pg. 34.
Sacramento River, Lower (below Keswick Reservoir)	4-5' visibility, low to mid 50s, low flow (9,050 cfs).	Fishing is good. Mid-morning through out the evening, trout are actively feeding on caddis and BWO patterns on the upper section, and rubber legs on the lower section towards Anderson. With October creeping up on us, fish are starting to think about feeding on eggs. Look for salmon to make their way up the system onto redds and avoid walking over the beds. Best fishing tactic is nymphing caddis, and BWO patterns under an indicator in fast riffles and drop offs. Dry fly fishing has slowed, however use a dry dropper along edges and flats in the evening. Fishing will improve on the Lower Sac, so be sure to call and book your trip today!	Golden stonefly nymphs 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. BWO/Baetis emerger/dries Brook's KD dun, Mercers emerging poxyback bwo, 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, quill body baetis cripple, Harrop's CDC BWO emerger, Quigley's loopy cripple stacker, Burk's silhouette (#16-20). Attractor beadhead nymphs and BWO/Baetis nymphs and Egg patterns and Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere).	Water above Hwy 44 is currently closed until Aug 1st. Drift boat fishing is provides best access. NCDAG pg 46, 57. New CDAG pg. 41
Sacramento River, Upper (Lake Siskiyou to Lake Shasta)	Clear, mid 50'sF. Low flow (256 cfs at Delta).	Fishing is fair and improving. Best fishing is near Dunsmuir in the morning and evening. In the morning, fish small black attractor bead head nymphs, micro mays, and zebra midges under an indicator. Be sure to use heavy split shot to keep the flies down in deep pools and pockets along the rocks where rainbows are looking to feed. To have a more stealthy presentation when nymphing, try high-sticking nymphing in order to detect those subtle strikes. Another productive tactic is an attractor dry with a bead head dropper along the edges and deep pools. Be sure to change up flies often in order to entice those bigger rainbows. Also try stripping streamers in the deep pools and along seams.	Attractor beadhead nymphs and Little yellow stonefly nymphs and PMD emergers/cripples/dries Caddis pupa/ emergers and Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere). Attractor dries irresistible adams, parachute light cahill, Rio Grande trude, Pink & lime trude, yellow humpy, parachute adams, paralyzer, royal coachman, crystal stimulator, renegade, royal wulff, sierra bright dot, grey wulff, pink cahill, light cahill, royal coachman, para wulff, (#10-18).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Be careful when wading. Access to Mossbrae falls at Scarlet Way is posted no parking. NCDAG 36, 46.

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Truckee River (Trout Creek to CA Stateline)	Green to clear, low to mid 60's. moderate to high flow (79 cfs near Truckee, 538 cfs below Boca).	Fishing is fair to good. Truckee section is starting to improve with cooler nights and some mayfly and midge hatches early and late. The best fishing is below Boca where big trout can still be caught on crayfish patterns in pocket water. Hoppers in the afternoon splatted along the banks and around boulders can still get a grab. The same prospecting tactics with streamers on a sink tip will also produce some nice trout. The closer you get to Reno the better the streamer fishing gets. Nymphing October caddis is a good option as they are starting to crawl to the edges.	PMD emergers/cripples/dries Lawson's PMD emerger, fluttering mayfly cripple PMD, last chance PMD cripple, Quigley's Hat Creek PMD emerger, 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). Green drake nymphs tungsten hunchback green drake nymph, Poxyback green drake, Quigley's crown jewel, black AP, prince nymph (#8-10). River woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). Caddis pupa/emergers (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Access along Hwy 89 down through Hirshdale. NCDAG 81.
Other Reports Manzanita Lake (Lassen) Fishing midges on a long leader with a super slow retrieve or targeting rising trout with midges and baetis is productive in the morning. On warm days, look for trout rising to caddis along the edges. Expect Callibaetis starting to hatch in the afternoon as temperatures rise. Best fished with pram or drift boat. Mill Creek is flowing at 134 cfs where it flows into the Sacramento River. Temperatures are cold in the canyon. Nymphing with an attractor nymph under a dry is good enough to get these eager trout. Attractor dries and caddis dries are catching trout in the afternoon when the sun is off the water. Yuba River, Lower (near Highway 20 Bridge) Reports are fair. Currently flowing at 1,037 cfs below Englebright. Water temperature is 49 degrees. Hatches are sparse and fish are spread out. Covering water nymphing breaks in the current with stoneflies, caddis pupas and midges will produce a few fish. Walker River, East Fork (below Bridgeport Reservoir) Currently at 259 cfs. Water temps are high. Be sure to revive fish completely before releasing. Midges, baetis and caddis are all good droppers under a dry. Stripping streamers around structure and back eddies can produce big fish with olive and brown sculpin patterns. Some caddis along the edges at dusk with fish on them.				
River Striper Report-Sacramento River -Good reports from Red Bluff down. Stripers are still holding tight to structure due to the lack of weed beds. Fish whistlers and clousers on a fast sinking shooting head. Be sure to pause after big strips off structure. Brown olive and of course chartreuse and white clousers are still my favorites. Schoolies are easy to find off the main current. Search ambush points and outside bends to find stripers over 5 pounds. Feather River Reports of Stripers around Shanghai Bend and Boyd's pump. Fish points and breaks in the current where stripers ambush prey. Yuba River Best fishing is from the mouth of the Yuba up for two miles. Water is off color but fishing the best. Fish a fast sinking shooting head with bright silver and chartreuse clousers and whistlers. Be sure to get flies deep to find big stripers.				
WH&WN™ FREE fly fishing 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, 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, The Angler's Edge/Gardnerville, Steve Vaughn/Vaughn's Sporting Goods/Burney, Randy Aubrey (www.eaglelakefishing.info), Craig Nielsen, Gary McFarland, Mark Harris, JT, & 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.				