

What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First!* – updated 19 November 2009

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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
Davis Lake (near Portola off hwy 70)	Clear, mid 40s F.	Fishing is good. Best reports are coming from Mosquito Slough in the northeast corner. Strip streamers on an intermediate line for rainbows from 17-20 inches. Also midges and birds nest nymphs under an indicator are producing. The fish are schooled up - if you are not catching fish, move. Trout will move into deeper water as it gets colder.	Attractor beadhead nymphs and Callibaetis dries (listed elsewhere in report). Lake woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere). Midge pupa (listed elsewhere).	Moderate fishing pressure. NCDAG pg 70.
Eagle Lake (near Susanville)	Clear, mid 40's F.	Fishing is good. Best fishing is on overcast days with big rainbows pushing baitfish into the shallows. A floating line with a longer leader will get the fly down. These big rainbows will chase bait in only a few feet of water. Be on the water early! Best reports are coming from Wildcat and Spalding Point.	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).	Moderate fishing pressure. CDAG pg 44.
Feather River (Hwy 70 bridge to Gridley)	Clear, mid 50s F, good flow in low flow (600 cfs), high flow below the Afterbay (2000 cfs) at Gridley.	Fishing is fair and improving. Steelhead are spread throughout the system. Drifting the low flow or high flow in a pontoon boat or drift boat is the preferred method to cover water to find fish. Green caddis pupa and flashy attractor beadhead nymphs with an egg dropper is the standard. Look for salmon redds. Fish over the salmon to hook steelhead not far behind. On overcast days, use a #16 BWO nymph to match the mid morning hatch. Decent numbers of half pounders and some adults.	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). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). Caddis pupa/emergers (listed elsewhere).	No salmon fishing. Access from Oroville State Wildlife Area. The stretch above Hwy 70 is closed until Jan 1. Bring your steelhead card and bay delta stamp. NCDAG pg 68, 78.
Feather River, N.F. (Cresta powerhouse to Lake Oroville)	Slight tint, low 60s F, 346 cfs @ Grizzly Creek.	Fishing is fair to good. Best top water fishing is on overcast days with good hatches of BWO's. Rainbows are rising in the flats and tailouts of riffles in midday. On sunny days, fish the deep, big boulder runs with beadhead prince and rubberleg stone. Stripping streamers with a fast sink tip line will hook the bigger fish. Reports of nice fish from 16 to 20 inches caught in the last week.	Attractor beadhead nymphs royal flush, Hogan's Steelie Caddis, hare's ear, twenty incher, Hart's dark lord, 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, prince of darkness, king prince, dirty bird (tan, olive), Hogan's drifter, biotic nymph, Hogan's Red Headed Step Child (#10-18). Attractor dries and BWO/Baetis emerger/dries (listed elsewhere in report).	Open from Cresta powerhouse to lake Oroville. Access along Hwy 70. NCDAG pg 59. CDAG pg 51.
Frank's Tract & San Joaquin Delta (including Mildred, San Joaquin River, and nearby sloughs)	Clear to off color (2-5 ft visibility, mid 50s F.	Fishing is good. Best action is during a strong tide when stripers are ambushing baitfish. Slack tide is time to take a break. 1/0 clousers with T-14 custom lines are working best. Use a fast retrieve with some pauses to entice a bite. The stripers are hanging around island points, rock walls, and weed edges. Morning and evening topwater action is improving with calm weather conditions. Most stripers are running 1-4 lbs. Reports of larger fish on the way up from the bay.	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, crease fly.	Boat needed - rentals are available at Sugar Barge Marina on Bethel Island. Moderate to heavy fishing pressure. NCDAG pg 96 and 106. New CDAG pg. 72, 73.
Hot Creek	Clear, low to mid 50s F, low flow (12 cfs).	Fishing is good. Hatches of BWO's start around 10 am and continue through late afternoon. Water is clear and these trout are educated. Use light tippet and a good presentation. As BWO's start to hatch, a small BWO dropper under a dry with 7X tippet will hook more fish. Also try some streamers as the weedbeds have died back. Trout are running 12-16 inches with an occasional bigger brown.	BWO/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere). 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 dun (#16-20).	Expect moderate fishing pressure on weekends. Access at upper parking lot and fish downstream to the hot springs. NCDAG pg 112.

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Klamath River (Iron Gate to Seiad Valley)	Clear, low 50s, good flow (1340 cfs below Iron Gate).	Fishing is good to excellent. Good numbers of rainbows, half pounders and adult steelhead from Iron Gate to Sied Valley. Swing a herniator or assassin on a sink tip line through the tailouts. The grab is best on warm days. Numbers wise, indicator nymphing with a rubberleg stone and a egg dropper will get the most action. Fishing will hold up until the cold weather of January hits.	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). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). Egg patterns (listed elsewhere). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere in report).	Expect drift boat and pontoon boat traffic on the weekends. Access above and below Interstate 5 and along hwy 96. New CDAG pg. 25.
Little Truckee	Slight tint, low 50's, low flow (33 cfs)	Fishing is good. Flows are low and fish are spooky. Use stealth tactics and light tippet with small flies for the best success. Rainbows and browns are feeding on midges and BWO's. Start with a BWO nymph and a midge dropper under an indicator as the hatch begins. Switch to a BWO dry when fish are feeding top water. Best fishing days are overcast.	BWO/Baetis emerger/dries (listed elsewhere) Midge pupa (listed elsewhere), PMD emergers /cripples/ dries (listed elsewhere). BWO/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Expect heavy fishing pressure, especially on weekends. NCDAG 81.
Pit River #3,#4, #5 (below Lake Britton to Big Bend)	Green tint, mid 50s F, high flow on Pit #3.	Fishing is good. Best action is on Pit 4 and 5 from midday on with trout feeding on big nasty stones subsurface. High stick the riffles and deeper pools with a stonefly and beadhead nymph dropper. Use plenty of split shot to get the flies deep. Best topwater action is on overcast days with fish rising to BWO's midday. This is also a great time of the year to strip streamers on a fast sink tip. Fishing is holding up well with the cooler weather.	River woolly buggers/streamers Black beadhead woolly buggie, conehead double bunny, muddler minnow, Hogan's puff/clawdad, Cutter's goblin, matuka, Morish's sculpin, black woolhead sculpin, near nuff sculpin, orange blossom, crispy critter, sculpzilla, Silvey's sculpin leach (#4-10). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). BWO/Baetis emerger/dries (listed elsewhere).	Light 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.
Putah Creek (below Lake Berryessa)	Slightly off color, low 50s F, low flow (87 cfs below lake Berryessa).	Fishing is fair. Best fishing is early before crowds and before fish see too many anglers. Nymphing is producing best numbers. Small midge and BWO nymphs with 7X tippet under an indicator. Best dry fly action is on cloudy days when big fish are sipping emergers and cripples. Most trout are running 8-12 inches, with a few larger fish starting to show up. Best action is from the Dam downstream about a mile. Do not fish over actively spawning trout and stay away from the redds.	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, Burk's olive hunchback two-tone, Mercer's micro mayfly (#16-22). BWO dries and 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)	Green tint, low to mid 50s, moderate flow (4,440 cfs at Bend bridge).	Fishing is good. Flows are low and wadeable. In the morning, fish are on egg patterns and BWO nymphs. Start with a surreal egg and a #18 BWO nymph under an indicator. Fish behind salmon redds where rainbows will key on eggs. On overcast days, good numbers of trout are feeding on BWO nymphs and midge pupa along the flats. On sunny days, the trout are keying in on caddis pupa and rubberleg stones. Best access is from a drift boat or pontoon boat to cover all parts of the river. Good walk/wade around Deschutes Bridge, Knighten road, and Sundial bridge. More steelhead are starting to show below Battle Creek.	Egg patterns 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). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). BWO/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere in report).	Drift boat fishing is provides best access. No drifting under the Cypress St Bridge above 7000 cfs. NCDAG pg 46, 57. New CDAG pg. 41
Sacramento River, Upper (Lake Siskiyou to Lake Shasta)	Clear, mid 40's, low flow (271 at Delta).	Fishing is fair to good. Fishing starts midmorning when the weather warms. Start indicator nymphing with an October caddis pupa and an S&M mayfly nymph. Be sure to cover the water as the trout will not move far for your fly in the cold water. Some midges and BWO are bringing trout to the surface in the afternoon. Look for risers in the slow runs and pools. On warmer days trout are still looking up for October caddis dries in the upper river. Streamers fished on sink tips are producing nice trout also.	BWO/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). BWO/Baetis emerger/dries (listed elsewhere).	Expect little fishing pressure. Be careful when wading. NCDAG 36, 46.

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Truckee River (Trout Creek to CA Stataline)	Clear, mid 50's to mid 60's. low to moderate flow (12 cfs near Truckee).	Fishing is fair to good. Best fishing is below Boca where water flows are higher. Fish a rubberleg stone with a flashy beadhead nymph under an indicator. The big browns are responding to streamers in deeper pools and runs. The midday afternoon BWO hatch is good most days, with trout rising in selected runs. Move the find them.	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), Mack's bugger, bunny leach (white), chub minnow (#6-12). Caddis pupa/ emergers (listed elsewhere). Golden stonefly nymphs and BWO/Baetis nymphs and Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Access along Glenshire Rd down through Hirshdale. NCDAG 81.
Trinity River (near Lewiston)	Clear, mid 50s F, low flow (300 cfs).	Fishing is fair. Best reports are coming from Junction City with the highest concentrations of half pounders and adult steelhead. Swinging steelhead wet flies through runs will get action below Junction City. Cover water to find fish. Above Junction City, a rubberleg stone with an egg pattern is catching mostly half pounders with a few adult steelhead. Look for upcoming weather to spread out fish and anglers.	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). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). Egg patterns (listed elsewhere).	Moderate to heavy fishing pressure in the Lewiston to Douglas City area. Fly only section below Lewiston Lake is closed. NCDAG pg 45. New CDAG pg. 31, 32, 40.
Yuba River, Lower (from Englebright dam to Marysville)	Clear, mid 50s, moderate flow, 879 cfs below Englebright dam.	Fishing is fair. Best fishing is midday on overcast days with fish rising to BWO's and midges in the tailouts on runs. A longer leader with a light presentation on a downstream drift will get these finicky fish to eat. Most trout are being caught with beadhead nymphs and a small midge and mayfly nymph dropper. The egg bite is about over for the year.	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), skinny nelson, biot midge, crystal HBI (#18-22). BWO/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Water above Hwy 20 bridge is open from December 1 st until August 31 st . Access at the Hwy 20 bridge and Sycamore Ranch campground. NCDAG pg 78,79.
Other Reports Baum Lake Fishing is fair. Fish are rising to hatches of midges and BWO in the afternoon. Best reports are coming from anglers stripping olive mini leeches along the weed beds on an intermediate line. Lake Almanor Reports of good numbers of rainbows and some large browns caught around the dam. Streamers on a type 3 sinking line are getting good action. Vary the retrieve and depth to find fish. Walker River, East Fork (below Bridgeport Reservoir) Flows are low at 27 cfs. Fishing is good. Fish are feeding on small BWO and midges in the morning. As temperatures rise, switch to a bugger on a floating line. Search all the nooks and crannies to find bigger browns. Be stealthy! Flows are low and fish are spooky.				
WH&WN™ FREE flyfishing report would not be possible without the help of: Craig Nielsen/Shasta Trout Guide Service, Victor Babbit/Tahoe Fly Fishing Outfitters/Tahoe, Jerry/The Troutfitter/Mammoth Lakes, Ted Fay Flyshop/Dunsmuir, Greg/Sweeny's sport shop, Frank Rinella/Nevada City Anglers/Nevada City, Reno Fly Shop/Reno, Andy/Kiene's Fly Shop/Sacramento, Angler Edge fly shop, Janet & Steve/Vaughn's Sporting Goods/Burney, Val & Randy Aubrey (www.eaglelakefishing.info), Richard Hardy-Davis report, Gary McFarland, JT, 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.				