

What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First!* – updated 21 April 2010

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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)	Tainted, low 50's to low 50's. 1810 cfs.	Fishing is fair to good. Best fishing is on sunny days with steelhead feeding on emerging caddis from afternoon to dark. Swinging tandem caddis pupas on a sink tip is getting some aggressive takes. Fishing can be good in the morning as well. Dead-drift an egg pattern with a caddis pupa dropper. Be sure to swing at the end of the drift. Best access at Sunset to Rossmoor.	Egg patterns Sucker spawn oregon cheese, 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). Salmon sac-fry (Alevin) patterns and Caddis pupa (listed elsewhere in report)	Heavy fishing pressure. Please do not target spawning fish and please stay off the redds. Barbless hooks only. Report snaggers to DFG. NCDAG pg 86, 87.
Baum Lake	Clear, mid 40s, lake level is normal.	Fishing is good. Best fishing is from 11am to dusk with fish rising to midges followed by BWO in the afternoon. Start the day fishing a dry/dropper combo of a big mayfly supporting a smaller midge pupa. Most of the fish will eat the dropper. As the hatch progresses and fish start rising, use a sparkle dun with an emerger dropper. Some rises are very subtle. Stripping streamers along the weed beds are hooking larger browns.	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/Baetis emerger/dries (Listed elsewhere in report). BWO nymphs (Listed elsewhere in report). Midge pupa (Listed elsewhere in report).	Light fishing pressure. NCDAG pg 48
Feather River (Hwy 70 bridge to Gridley)	Clear, low 50s F, good flow in low flow (600 cfs), high flow below the Afterbay (780 cfs) at Gridley.	Fishing is fair. Best concentration of steelhead is in the low flow section near the hatchery. In the morning, fish a yellow egg pattern with a caddis pupa dropper in deeper riffles and runs. Some sporadic dry fly action on juveniles 14-20 inches feeding on caddis emergers in riffles in the afternoon. HOT FLY: Tan #16 E/C caddis. Fishing will improve as more spring steelhead move up with the recent rains.	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 open from Jan 1 to July 15th. Bring your steelhead card. NCDAG pg 68, 78.
Feather River, N.F. (Cresta powerhouse to Lake Oroville)	Slight tint, low 50s F, 209 cfs @ Pulga.	Fishing is good on sunny days. Sunny afternoons are best with trout rising to caddis, march browns and stoneflies. Trout are rising in small pods in tailouts and riffles. Search water to find rising fish. Walking the railroad will give you a bird's eye view of the river. Best reports of numbers are coming from anglers high stick nymphing in the pocket water and deep runs. A stonefly nymph and a caddis pupa with plenty of split shot to get the flies down will produce the larger browns and rainbows. Best access is at Pulga but fishing above Cresta Powerhouse opens on 4/24.	Golden stonefly dries Hogan's split-wing stone, hedgehog, Hogan's hangin stimuli, 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. Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). Midge pupa (listed elsewhere). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere). 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.
Hot Creek	Clear, low to mid 50s F, low flow (8 cfs).	Fishing is good. Hatches start with midges in the morning followed by BWO's midday and small caddis in the afternoon. Start with a midge dropper under a BWO parachute. Most the action will be on the dropper until temps increase. As BWO's start to hatch, switch to a BWO nymph dropper. When fish are feeding on the surface, target rising fish with cripple or cdc pattern. Fish are not very selective when the hatch is in full bloom, but you still need a good dead drift. The micro caddis hatch is best during warm, sunny days.	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). BWO/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Moderate fishing pressure on weekends. The gate is closed for the season so there is a 1/4 mile walk in to the creek. Access at upper parking lot and fish to the hot springs. NCDAG pg 112.

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Pit River #3,#4, #5 (below Lake Britton to Big Bend)	Green tint, low 50s F, marginally high flow on Pit #3 but fishable.	Fishing is good. Fishing starts around 10am. Best hatches are in the afternoon until dusk. High stick nymph a big black stone with a beadhead dropper in the pocket water on Pit #3. Be sure to use plenty of split shot to get the flies down in fast water. The 10-15 inch rainbows are pretty aggressive to a dead drifted fly. Fish will come up for golden stones, PMD's and caddis from 3pm until dark. A few salmon flies are also around. Dry fly action continues improves as the sun goes down. Current construction is keeping anglers off the river. Access on Pit 4 from Big Bend Road. Road construction on Pit 3. Call Barnard Construction for current road conditions. (406) 586-2206 ext. 703.	Golden stonefly nymphs jumbo john, Morrish cone stone, Morrish WMD, Mercer's raghead, Poxyback golden stone nymph, Mercer's poxyquill golden stone, micro cable stone, beadhead twenty incher, copper back, Pat's Rubberleg. 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, Blue ribbon X2 caddis, Fox's crowning poopah olv/cinn, Kyle's better foam caddis (#12-20). BWO/Baetis emerger/dries (Listed elsewhere in report). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). BWO nymphs (Listed elsewhere in report). River woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere). Golden stonefly 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.
Sacramento River, Lower (below Keswick Reservoir)	Off color below Bonneyview, low to mid 50s, low flow (4,500 cfs below Keswick).	Fishing is good on sunny days and fair on rainy days. Best fishing is from Redding to Anderson. Water is currently off-color below Anderson due to recent rain. Trout are feeding on sucker eggs, midges and small mayflies in the morning. A yellow egg pattern with a #16 or 18 green mayfly nymph is hooking fish until 10am. Midday, switch to a beadhead nymph with a caddis pupa or rubberleg stone dropper. You will find fish in 4 to 6 feet of water. Sporadic afternoon hatches of PMD's, march browns and caddis, best on sunny days.	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). Attractor beadhead nymphs royal flush, Hogan's Steelie Caddis, hare's ear, twenty incher, Hart's dark lord, copper john (red, black, lime, copper) 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). 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
Trinity River (near Lewiston)	Clear, mid 40s F, low flow (300 cfs) at Lewiston.	Fishing is good. Best fishing is in the fly only section below Lewiston Dam. Good numbers of Juvenile steelhead ranging from 14-20 inches eager to take any fly floating down the river. An attractor dry with a small beadhead nymph will get lots of action from these feisty jumping fish. Great water to get a good bend out of a 2 or 3 weight rod. To get to the larger fish, switch to a streamer on a sink tip line. Swing and strip larger streamers through deeper water. Good possibility of hooking a large brown. Good afternoon hatches of mayflies, march browns and caddis. Water levels go up to 2000 cfs by 4/27 - fish it now.	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). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). River woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere).	Moderate to heavy fishing pressure in the Lewiston to Douglas City area. Fly only section below Lewiston Lake is open. NCDAG pg 45. New CDAG pg. 31, 32, 40.
Yuba River, Lower (from Englebright dam to Marysville)	Off color, low 50s, moderate flow, 1662 cfs from Englebright.	Fishing is fair. Flows are high making wading a challenge. Concentrate on the tailouts of riffles for nymphing and slower backwater eddies where fish will rise. Hatches start with midges and small PMD's in the morning followed by caddis and march browns in the afternoon. Fishing tailouts with a rubberleg stone and a caddis pupa dropper under an indicator is catching the best numbers of fish. Dry fly fishing is technical. Use a longer leader with a downstream drift to get these big fish to eat. A caddis dry with a PMD emerger dropper is a deadly combination. Best strategy is to nymph until you find rising fish since rising fish are not throughout the entire river.	March brown nymphs/dries Hogan's march brown nymph, March brown emerger, copper john, beadhead flash back pheasant tail, march brown spotlight emerger, spun dun, march brown parachute, march brown cripple, PT challenged, March Brown dun (#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), skinny nelson, biot midge, crystal HBI (#18-22). BWO/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs and BWO/Baetis emerger/dries (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.

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Other Reports **Davis Lake** (near Portola off hwy 70) is icing out. Recent cold weather prolonged the ice out. Look for a week of warm weather to open the lake. The only iced out section is on the east side from Coot up to lightening tree campground. Fishing in the open section has been hit and miss. **Little Truckee** can be difficult to access due to snow. Look for fish feeding on midday hatches of midges and mayflies during the warmest part of the day. Fish will also feed on small black winter stones subsurface. **Putah Creek** (below Lake Berryessa) is fishing poor. Best fishing is below the dam where water clarity is better. Fish are rising to mayflies and midges midday and caddis in the afternoon. A caddis pupa with a small midge or baetis nymph under an indicator will catch a few fish. **Stanislaus River, Lower** (below Tullock Reservoir) is fishing poor due to high water flow. A few trout are rising to caddis on sunny days. Access at 2 mile bar and below Tullock. **Truckee River** (Trout Creek to CA Stateline) Water is cold around Truckee making fish sluggish and not eager to take a fly. Best fishing is on the Nevada side where water is warmer and trout are feeding during the warmest part of the day on midges and BWO. **Sacramento River, Upper** (Lake Siskiyou to Lake Shasta) Flows are high and water is cold. Best fishing is from noon to 4pm with trout feeding. Fish the edges of the current where fish will feed and get a break from the current.

Trout Opener Prediction Trout season opens Saturday April 24th. Lots of snow in the mountains. Expect some higher flows as runoff starts in mountain streams. Good luck. Call or email us with your results. **North Fork of the Feather** is running high and unfishable below Grizzly Creek (1888 cfs). Flows are high below Rock Creek (323) but fishable. Use caution when wading. Lower stretches below Cresta are fishable (202 cfs) and we are seeing good hatches of mayflies in the morning, caddis in the afternoon and stoneflies just before dusk. Expect hatches of caddis and stoneflies to improve with warmer weather. **Deer Creek** flows are high due to current weather but will come down when the rain subsides. Expect hatches of mayflies and midges in the top section along highway 32. Hatches of caddis and stoneflies are already starting on the lower sections around Ishi wilderness. Hatches will continue to move upstream as temperatures increase. The mouth to Deer creek falls is catch and release. Hatchery fish will be planted above the Deer Creek falls on Highway 32 with the most popular spot being Elam campground. This is a great fishing spot for kids. **Burney Creek** is expected to be good for the opener. Pit river is a good indicator of what will happen on Burney Creek. Hatches of yellow stones, salmon flies, mayflies and caddis are all starting on the Pit and should be happening on Burney Creek as well. Fish an attractor dry with a beadhead dropper in the morning. All the best dry fly opportunities will be in the afternoon. Put and take is above the fall and catch and release is below the falls. Bigger fish are below the falls. Salmon fly hatch should continue to improve with warmer weather. **Hat Creek** Salmon flies will start to show in a couple weeks with warmer temperatures. Temperatures are warm enough to get hatches of midges and mayflies started. Indicator nymphing with small mayfly nymphs in the PH #2 riffle in the morning. As temperatures rise, fish will feed on the surface. **McCloud River** will be fishing best below the reservoir where there are fewer tributaries increasing flow. The farther you get below the dam the higher the flow. Flows above the lake are very high and currently unfishable. As temperatures increase, hatches of stoneflies and caddis will start to show. Expect hatches of mayflies and midges for the opener. **Fall River** will start soon. For the opener, expect hatches of midges and BWO. As temperatures rise, hatches of PMD's, caddis, march browns will begin. Fishing streamers and swinging soft hackles will get some action in the morning.

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.