

What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First!* – updated 3 December 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
Eagle Lake (near Susanville)	Clear, low 40's F.	Fishing is fair. Best fishing is near rocky points where bigger rainbows will push baitfish into the shallows. A floating line with a longer leader will get the fly down. Best reports are coming from Wildcat. This is the time of year to fish here - the colder the better. Be on the water early!	Lake woolly buggers/streamers J Fair wiggle tail (olive, brown, burnt orange) BH woolly buggie (black, olive, brown), crystal buggie, mini buggie black/olive, seal buggie (rust, olive, black), hale bopp leach (brown, olive), Mack's buggie, bunny leach (white), chub minnow (#6-12).	Moderate fishing pressure. CDAG pg 44.
Feather River (Hwy 70 bridge to Gridley)	Clear, low 50s F, good flow in low flow (600 cfs), high flow below the Afterbay (2000 cfs) at Gridley.	Fishing is fair. Reports of mostly wild fish scattered throughout the high flow and low flow sections. On sunny days, get out at first light. Fishing is best when the sun is off the water. On cloudy days fish will hold in shallow riffles and drop offs and will feed throughout the day. Fish will feed on small mayflies midday but their main fare are eggs. An egg with a flashy nymph dropper will hook steelhead behind salmon redds. The bulk of the reports are half pounders with a few wild adult fish.	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 50s F, 316 cfs @ Grizzly Creek.	Fishing is fair to good. Rainbows are rising to BWO's on overcast days in tailouts and riffles. When fish are not rising, go deep with a beadhead nymph and a small mayfly nymph dropper. Get the flies down with plenty of split shot. Fish the deeper slots between boulders. This is also a good time for streamers. Cover water stripping crawdad and big sculpins around boulder and through deeper slots.	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, low to mid 50s F.	Fishing is good. Strip 1/0 clousers with T-14 custom line around island points, rock walls, and weed edges. Use a fast retrieve, but mix in plenty of pauses. With water temps falling, lots of fish are coming on the drop. Topwater action is improving during low light conditions. Most stripers are running 1-4 lbs. The larger stripers should show at any time.	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 (3 cfs).	Fishing is good. Best fishing is from 11 am to 3 pm starting with midges followed by BWO's. Use light tippet and a good presentation to hook these educated fish. As BWO's start to hatch, a small BWO dropper under a dry with 7X tippet will hook more fish. Now that weeds are down, fish small streamers along the bank. Cover water to find fish eager to take a bigger meal. Trout average 12-16 inches with an occasional bigger brown.	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). River woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere). BWO/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure on weekends. Access at upper parking lot and fish downstream to the hot springs. NCDAG pg 112.
Klamath River (Iron Gate to Seiad Valley)	Clear, mid 40s, good flow (1320 cfs below Iron Gate).	Fishing is fair to good. Best fishing is on overcast days when fish are most active. A silver hilton with a small beadhead dropper swung through tailouts and riffles is getting some aggressive grabs. Most productive method is "steak and eggs". A rubberleg stone with an egg dropper fished under an indicator through runs will find good numbers of half pounders and a few adults. Best access is with a pontoon boat or drift boat. Rain will improve fishing.	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.

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Little Truckee	Slight tint, low 40's, low flow (60 cfs)	Fishing is fair to good. Best tactic for good numbers is with a small midge and BWO under an indicator with light tippet. Drift flies in pocket water behind boulders to find fish. Good technical dry fly fishing on overcast days with fish rising to BWO's midday. Access can be difficult with snowy conditions.	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, low 50s F, high flow on Pit #3.	Fishing is good. Best reports are coming from anglers fishing nymphs in fast water on Pit 4 and 5. A big rubberleg stone with a smaller beadhead nymph fished in riffles and tailouts are producing some big rainbows and browns. On cloudy days, fish are rising during the warmest part of the day to BWO's. A few reports of anglers hooking big fish on streamers in the pools. A bugger on a sink tip line with a short leader is the preferred method. Vary the retrieve and fish different depths to find fish.	River woolly buggers/streamers Black beadhead woolly bugger, 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 (129 cfs below lake Berryessa).	Fishing is fair and improving. Best fishing is midmorning when fish start feeding on midges and BWO's. Small midge and BWO nymphs with 7X tippet under an indicator is the preferred method for good numbers. Best dry fly action is on cloudy days. A light leader with tandem flies on a downstream drift will get some action. Best reports are from the dam downstream about a mile. Most trout are running 8-13", with a few going to 18". Do not fish over spawning trout and stay away from 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, low flow (3,240 cfs below Keswick).	Fishing is fair to good. Flows are incredibly low and Wadeable. A few redds have been spotted from Bonnevieu to Balls Ferry. An egg pattern with a beadhead nymph fished through redds can produce good numbers of big fish. Best of the BWO hatch is in the afternoon. Fish the flats with a beadhead nymph and a BWO nymph dropper along the flats in 4-6 feet of water. Good walk/wade around Deschutes Bridge, Knighten road, and Sundial bridge. A few reports of steelhead below Balls Ferry.	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, low 40's. Low flow (271 at Delta).	Fishing is fair to good. Best fishing is 11am to dusk with fish rising to BWO's and midges. Start the morning with an attractor dry and a small beadhead nymph dropper. Search riffles and tailouts to find podded fish feeding. If no hatch is found, switch to a october caddis pupa with a beadhead nymph dropper. Search for fish in deeper pools and runs. Fish tend to be in pods this time of the year. Pull fish out quick to keep the rest of the pod feeding. Good reports coming from Delta and Sims.	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). 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.
Truckee River (Trout Creek to CA Stateline)	Clear, low to mid 40's. Low to moderate flow (12 cfs near Truckee).	Fishing is fair to good. Flows are low around Truckee. Best fishing is at Hirshdale and Farad where flows are higher. Best opportunities for bigger fish are with streamers during low light conditions. Good reports from anglers stripping sculpin patterns with a sink tip line. Cover water stripping the fly away from the bank to find fish. The midday BWO hatch is good most days but better with overcast skies. Indicator nymphing is producing in the slower runs and pools using a stone and BWO nymph.	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.

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Trinity River (near Lewiston)	Clear, mid 40s F, low flow (348 cfs) at Douglas City.	Fishing is poor on sunny days and good on overcast days. On sunny days, use small flies and light tippet. Fish the deeper runs and pools. Best fishing is on overcast days when the steelhead are out of the deep pools and eager to bite a fly. Look for fish in pocket water and tailouts. Fish a rubberleg stone with an egg or #14 BWO nymph dropper. Best fish are in the nooks and crannies. Good reports from Junction City but fish are throughout the system. Next weeks rain should get the fish moving.	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, 804 cfs below near Smartville.	Fishing is fair. The section above the Highway 20 bridge is open. Indicator nymphing with small BWO and midge pupa is producing some nice rainbows. Trout are rising to small midges and mayflies midday, and are willing to come up when no bugs are hatching. Approach these fish with stealth using a long leader. Fish a visible attractor dry with a small baetis emerger. The attractor dry will be the indicator for the small BWO pattern.	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). BWO/Baetis emerger/dries (listed elsewhere). Attractor 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.
Other Reports Baum Lake Fishing is fair. Best fishing is on overcast days when fish are rising to small midges and BWO's. When fish aren't rising, switch to a streamer on a type 2 sinking line. Lake Almanor Anglers fishing buggers around the dam and gerital cove. Olive and tan buggers fished on a type 3 sinking line are getting good action. Vary the retrieve and depth to find fish. Davis Lake (near Portola off hwy 70) is almost done for the winter. Davis is iced over except for some shore access around Mallard Cove. American River Steelhead fishing is slow. Water is low and clear and the few adult fish are spooky. Swinging Caddis pupa and traditional steelhead patterns are hooking a few fish around Goethe park and Watt Ave.				
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.				