

**What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First* ! – updated 3 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.

<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Water Conditions</b>	<b>Fishing Conditions, Techniques, and Hatches</b>	<b>Flies</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>American River</b> (below Nimbus Dam)	Clear, low to mid 60s F, moderate flow (1320 cfs)	<b>Fishing is good.</b> There are good numbers of adult and half pound steelhead throughout the lower river. Swinging traditional steelhead flies and caddis pupa patterns on a sink tip line is very effective. Also try indicator fishing with a caddis pupa and egg dropper. Look for the egg bite to increase in coming weeks. Best fishing is from Goethe Park down and best fishing is during the week. If rain or overcast is predicted plan to get out as the steelies are much more active.	<b>Caddis pupa/emergers</b> 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). <b>Steelhead wet flies/streamers</b> (Listed elsewhere in report).	Expect heavy fishing pressure. Access below Nimbus Dam. Beware of the closed section near the hatchery. NCDAG pg 86, 87.
<b>Deer Creek</b> (above Potato Patch Campground down to Ishi Wilderness)	Slight tint, mid to high 60s F, Low summer flow.	<b>Fishing is fair.</b> For the most action, fish around the campgrounds with a prince nymph and micro mayfly under an indicator. Fish will also come up for a well placed attractor dry fly. For best quality, fish below the falls and away from easy access points. High stick nymphing through deeper runs and pools during the day will get a few fish on a black AP with a mighty may dropper. Trout are rising in the afternoon to mayflies, midges and a small caddis. Cover lots of water to find rising fish. Look for BWO's hatching on overcast days.	<b>Attractor dries</b> 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, sierra bright dot, grey wulff (#10-18). <b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> (Listed elsewhere in report). <b>Midge pupa</b> (Listed elsewhere in report).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Access off Hwy 32 from Deer Creek bridge upstream to Hwy 36. NCDAG pg. 58.
<b>Fall River</b> (Cal Trout access to Spring Creek Rd.)	Clear, normal flow.	<b>Fishing is fair to good.</b> Look for trout rising to smaller mayflies in the morning, callibaetis in the afternoon and still some PMD's in isolated spots in the afternoon. These fish are very educated. Fishing a cripple or emerger on a down stream drift with a long leader will hook fish if the presentation is right. Indicator nymphing is also good with small mayfly and midge patterns. If no fish are rising, strip or swing a bugger or wiggle tail nymph on the inside and outside bends of the river in deeper holes. Look for the fall bite to turn on with rainy day hatches of baetis and midges.	<b>PMD emergers/cripples/dries</b> Harrop last chance PMD cripple, PMD CDC transitional dun, Harrop PMD captive dun, 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). <b>Midge pupa</b> (Listed elsewhere in report). <b>River woolly buggers/streamers</b> (Listed elsewhere in report). <b>BWO/Baetis nymphs</b> (Listed elsewhere in report).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Pram with electric motor needed. Public access is at Cal Trout. NCDAG pg 38.
<b>Feather River</b> (Hwy 70 bridge to Gridley)	Clear, mid 60s F, good flow in low flow (600 cfs), high flow below the Afterbay (3,500 cfs) at Gridley.	<b>Fishing is good.</b> Steelhead are in the system. Look for salmon on their redds and fish Hogan's steelie caddis with a glo bug dropper behind the salmon. Best fishing is in the early morning and evening when steelhead move into the riffles and runs. As the sun gets higher steelhead will be in the deeper runs and less eager to take a fly. Be persistent and change flies and drift angles before giving up on a run. Salmon fishing is closed on the Feather leaving a lot of popular spots open for steelhead fly fishers. Overcast days are best with steelhead active throughout the day.	<b>Egg patterns for salmon</b> 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). <b>Caddis pupa/emergers</b> (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
<b>Feather River, N.F.</b> (Beldon Forebay to Lake Oroville)	Slight tint, low 60s F, low summer flow.	<b>Fishing is fair to good.</b> Isonychia nymph shucks can be seen on the rocks around the rivers edge indicating their migration. Nymph fishers are catching some nice fish during the day near Beldon on Hogan's Isonychia and black AP's. There are still some mayflies and small stones hatching in the evening. Look for fish actively feeding on the surface near Pulga. Try a small mayfly cripple or E/C Caddis to rising fish.. Streamer fishing is good for the big fish in deep holes. Use a type 2 sink tip and a crayfish or sculpin pattern. Imitate an injured fish with an erratic jerk/strip retrieve. With the cooler weather and shorter days, fishing will only get better.	<b>Midge pupa</b> 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). <b>Isonychia nymphs</b> Mercer's poxyback Isonychia nymph, beadhead twenty incher, prince, Hogan's isonychia (#10-12). <b>River woolly buggers/streamers</b> (Listed elsewhere in report). <b>BWO nymphs</b> (Listed elsewhere in report).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Access off of Caribou Rd and Hwy 70. NCDAG pg 59.

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<b>Frank's Tract &amp; SF Bay</b> (including Mildred, San Joaquin River, and nearby sloughs)	Clear (3-4 ft visibility, mid 60s F.	<b>Fishing is fair and improving.</b> The first runs of stripers have arrived in the delta. They have spread out quickly, so you must cover lots of water to find the fish. Stripers are being caught from Pittsburg all the way to Stockton. Most fish are running 2-4 lbs and are hot, but some double digit stripers are around, especially around high tide along rock walls and main migration paths. With the warm water temps, the stripers like a very fast retrieve, with few, if any pauses. Fly selection is not as important as a good retrieve. Use a T-14 shooting head to keep your fly down. Wind has been a problem the last week. Look for numbers of fish to increase weekly until they peak in mid-November.	<b>Striper patterns</b> Flashtail clousers and whistlers in chartreuse/white, pink/white, all white, and black (2/0-3/0), pearly poppers (red/yellow, green/yellow), gurglers.
<b>Hot Creek</b>	Clear, low to mid 60s F, low flow 4 cfs.	<b>Fishing is good.</b> Tricos are still present, but are tapering off. The caddis hatch is like clockwork from 9 AM to 12 PM, and afternoon and evening baetis can be awesome on overcast or rainy days. Dry fly fishing is the way to go, since the water is thick with summer weed growth. Hoppers and ants are still producing midday and the key is to get a perfect drift on the first cast. Place your fly along the banks and keep it drag free. Warmer weather after a cold spell helps the fishing. BWO hatches will continue to improve in coming weeks with more overcast and rainy days.	<b>Caddis cripples/dries</b> 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). <b>Tricos</b> Trico spinner, trico poly spinner. <b>BWO/Baetis nymphs</b> (Listed elsewhere in report).
<b>Klamath River</b> (mouth to Orleans)	Clear, high 60s, good flow (2110 cfs).	<b>Fishing is fair to good.</b> River levels have risen from recent rains and will set back fishing a few days. Both half pounders and adult steelhead are in the system and the mouth is open. Low light conditions are ideal. In the morning fish a floating line with a herniator, limey, or mossback. When the sun comes out, get deep with a type 3 sink tip line. Cover lots of water to find the fish. These fish are straight out of the ocean and are hot. Best action is below the mouth of the Trinity, access from the mouth off Hwy 101 or from Blue Creek.	<b>Steelhead wet flies/streamers</b> 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).
<b>McCloud River</b> (below McCloud Reservoir)	Slight tint, low to mid 50s F, normal to moderate flow (308 cfs).	<b>Fishing is fair to good.</b> This is a good time of the year to start the day off by stripping streamers in the deeper pools for browns. A Matuka on a sink tip line will hook some big browns when they are active early morning. Nymph during the day with a golden stone and dark lord dropper in pocket water and deeper runs when the sun is on the water. Look for fish rising to midges, mayflies and a few smaller caddis in the afternoon. Fishing the flats with a light cahill and S&M dropper will hook fish actively feeding. Not too many October caddis flying around yet but October caddis nymphs are active subsurface. High sticking a WMD October caddis through pools and tailouts will attract fish. Look for fish keying on October caddis dries in the next week or so.	<b>October caddis pupa</b> Mercer's October caddis pupa, Morrish October deep caddis pupa, Morrish WMD (#6-8). <b>Caddis cripples/dries</b> Hogan's last call caddis, Henryville, Brook's headlight, elk hair caddis, Cutter's E/C, Overly's spotlight (tan, olive). <b>River woolly buggers/streamers</b> Black beadhead woolly bugger, conehead double bunny, muddler minnow, Hogan's puff/clawdad, Cutter's goblin, matuka, Morrish's sculpin (#4-10). <b>Midge pupa</b> (Listed elsewhere in report). <b>Caddis pupa/emergers</b> (Listed elsewhere in report). <b>BWO/Baetis nymphs</b> (Listed elsewhere in report).
<b>Pit River #3,#4, #5</b> (below Lake Britton to Big Bend)	Slight tint, high 50s F, normal flow on Pit #3.	<b>Fishing is good.</b> As temperatures warm in the morning, look for fish rising to midges and mayflies. Target rising fish with a parachute adams or royal wulff with a micro mayfly dropper. Nymphing is the most productive method during the day with trout keying on Isonychia nymphs, caddis pupa and midges. Swinging Hogan's Isonychia nymph with a Black AP dropper will get fish in tailouts and riffles during the day. This is also a good time of the year to swing streamers in deeper pools to get some big grabs. Fish will be rising to mayflies and midges in the late afternoon. The October caddis hatch will start very soon.	<b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> 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). <b>Isonychia nymphs</b> (listed elsewhere in report). <b>BWO/Baetis emerger/dries</b> (Listed elsewhere in report). <b>Attractor dries</b> (Listed elsewhere in report).

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<b>Putah Creek</b> (below Lake Berryessa)	Off color, low 50s F, low flows (293 cfs below lake Berryessa).	<b>Fishing is fair to good.</b> With the lower flows, fishing has improved. Indicator nymphing with tailwater tinys, mighty mayflies, and midge larva down to size 22 is the best bet. Use 6x tippet. Make sure to clean the moss off your fly - if you are not cleaning it off once in a while add some split shot. Later in the day, a small BWO parachute will draw fish to the surface. Some nice trout to 20 inches have been reported last week. Look for fish to start migrating up from Lake Solano in the next few weeks.	<b>BWO/Baetis nymphs</b> 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). <b>Midge pupa</b> (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.
<b>Sacramento River, Lower</b> (below Keswick Reservoir)	Clear, low 50s, Moderate flow (7,500 cfs).	<b>Fishing is good to excellent.</b> Deep indicator nymphing is producing some really nice rainbows with the lower flows. There are a few salmon in the river and we are already getting reports of trout starting to get egg stupid. In the lower stretches below Anderson River Park fish a brown biot stone with an amber wing prince or bird's nest in 4 to 6 feet of water. Using 4x tippet is a huge advantage on these hard fighting tailwater fish. There is some caddis dry fly activity in the afternoon. Try an E/C caddis or Spotlight emerger in the slicks. If no fish are rising, nymphing will get the most fish.	<b>BWO/Baetis nymphs</b> (Listed elsewhere in report). <b>Caddis pupa/emergers</b> (Listed elsewhere in report). <b>Golden stonefly nymphs</b> (Listed elsewhere in report). <b>Attractor dries</b> (Listed elsewhere in report). <b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> (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.
<b>Sacramento River, Upper</b> (above Lake Shasta)	Clear, mid 60s, moderate to low flow (205 cfs at Delta).	<b>Fishing is good.</b> Fall is ushering in some good action here. Very small mayfly nymphs fished under an indicator is producing some large trout in the lower river. If you are not getting action, switch to a smaller fly. BWO are hatching in the afternoon on cloudy day, and some PMD's are still out. And the October caddis hatch is getting underway. It is worth tossing a large October caddis dry in the late afternoon, the trout are looking for them. This is a great hatch, which enables anglers to fish a high floating, big dry fly with a small beadhead nymph dropper. This hatch will go into early Nov.	<b>BWO emerger/dries</b> 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). <b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> and <b>Caddis cripples/dries</b> (listed elsewhere in report).	Access off of I5 and through Dunsmuir. Crowded in popular spots around Dunsmuir on the weekends. NCDAG 46,36.
<b>Stanislaus River, Lower</b> (below Goodwin Dam)	Clear, high 50s, good flows (251 cfs).	<b>Fishing is fair to good.</b> With the low water levels, the runs are very accessible and the trout are responding. Best fishing is from 9am on. Both caddis pupa and small mayfly nymphs fished under an indicator are getting 10-16 inch trout. A BWO and micro caddis hatch is coming off in the afternoon. Hoppers can also produce. Look for rising trout in the tailouts and shallower runs. They can be picky, you need a dead drift.	<b>Grasshopper patterns</b> Dave's hopper, Burk's spent hopper, bullethead hopper, parachute hopper, kingfisher foam hopper (#8-14), Frankenhopper. <b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> (Listed elsewhere in report). <b>Caddis cripples/dries</b> (listed elsewhere in report). <b>Attractor dries</b> (Listed elsewhere in report).	Expect moderate to heavy pressure. Access of Tullock Rd, 2-Mile Bar, or Knights Ferry. NCDAG 108.
<b>Trinity River</b> (near Lewiston)	Clear, mid 50s F, low flow (450 cfs).	<b>Fishing is good.</b> Steelhead are in the system and starting to spread out. Reports of fish as far up as Douglas City. The steelhead are fresh and eager to take a fly. Try skating a steelhead dry fly first thing in the morning. Indicator nymphing with a jumbo john and bloody mary or egg dropper is also producing. When the sun is on the water, switch to a prince nymph and October caddis pupa. High stick the deeper runs with a swing at the end of the drift. A traditional steelhead fly on a type 2 sink tip line works during low light conditions. Use a quartering drift to cover water.	<b>Golden stonefly nymphs</b> 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, Burglar stone golden, tungsten rag stone golden (#8-12), stinger stone (#6). <b>Steelhead wet flies/streamers</b> (listed elsewhere in report). <b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> (Listed elsewhere in report).	Moderate to heavy fishing pressure below Lewiston dam. Fly only section below Lewiston closes on September 15 <sup>th</sup> . NCDAG pg 45.
<b>Truckee River</b> (below the town of Truckee to Nevada State line)	Clear, mid 50s F, good flow (293 cfs near Truckee).	<b>Fishing is good.</b> Indicator nymphing is producing nice fish and those throwing streamers are getting some big boys. Start out with an October caddis pupa and mighty may dropper. Look for BWO to come out around 11AM. Try a cripple or small thorax dun. In the afternoon, switch back to an October Caddis pupa with a Bird's Nest Dropper. Streamer fish in deeper pools and runs from late afternoon to dark if no fish are rising. Crayfish or sculpin patterns are solid streamer patterns. Stripping a crayfish pattern along a rocky bank on a sink tip line will get some big fish.	<b>October caddis pupa</b> Mercer's October caddis pupa, Morrish October deep caddis pupa, Morrish WMD (#6-8). <b>Tricos</b> Trico spinner, trico poly spinner. <b>BWO/Baetis nymphs</b> (Listed elsewhere in report). <b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> (Listed elsewhere in report). <b>Caddis cripples/dries</b> (listed elsewhere in report). <b>Grasshopper patterns</b> (listed elsewhere in report). <b>Caddis pupa/emergers</b> (Listed elsewhere in report).	Access off Hwy 80. Best fishing is below Boca. Expect crowds in popular areas on the weekends. NCDAG pg 81.

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**Other Reports** **Little Truckee River** is fair. BWO's come off in the AM for a great dry fly opportunity. These guys are small, size 20-22, best imitated with a comparadun, thorax and emerger pattern on light tippet. Some micro caddis and midge activity as well. **Heenan Reservoir** is spotty. Float tubers are still catching cutthroat on the standard patterns. Prince Nymphs, Buggers, Scuds are good patterns to start with on an Intermediate or Type II line. Change your retrieve from long steady pulls to short erratic strips to find what fish want. **Yuba River, Lower** is low and easy to wade. Walking the bank fishing small mayflies and midges to rising fish will get some action. Be sure to use stealth and a downstream drift to trick these finicky fish. Hatches are good one day and off the next. If no hatches are present, switch to a stonefly with a micro mayfly under an indicator in backwater eddies and deeper runs. Few reports of salmon on redds. Above Highway 20 bridge is closed until December 1<sup>st</sup>. **Yuba River, North Fork** (between Downieville and Sierra City) Cooler weather has brought out BWO and we will start seeing Oct. Caddis. Drifting an Oct caddis pupa and tailwater tiny through pockets and runs will get you into plenty of fish.

**Walker River, East Fork** (below Bridgeport Reservoir) Flows are still fishable and fish are eager to take many different flies. Fishing a stonefly with a prince dropper in deeper runs will get some good fish. Swinging streamers such as a bugger will get some big browns in the morning and evening. Good fishing will continue at these flows. Look for fish eating BWO's on rainy or overcast days. **Hat Creek** (PH#2 to fish barrier) is fair. A few fish rising to baetis late morning after the temperatures increase. Nymphing the riffles with a pickpocket and micro mayfly will produce some nice fish. Baetis hatches will improve with rainy or cloudy weather. **Butte Creek** (Butte Meadows) Smaller fish are eager to take dry flies and nymphs around the campgrounds in preparation for a long winter. To get the bigger fish, hike away from campgrounds. High stick nymphing with a stonefly and pt dropper in deeper runs and pocket water will get some bigger fish. **Owens River** (above Crowley Lake) has been very good. Indicator nymphing from 9-11 AM with small mayfly nymphs and then tie on a dry when the BWO hatch starts. Small parachute and thorax patterns are perfect. Try a streamer if all else fails.

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