

What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First!* – updated 9 February 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
Baum Lake	Clear, mid 40s, lake level is normal.	Fishing is good. Best fishing is on overcast days with hatches of midges and BWO's. As the hatches begin around 11am, rainbows and browns will key on soft hackles on a 10ft leader swung in the current. As the hatch progresses, switch to a small #18 BWO dry. Position your boat or float tube off the main current and cast downstream to active risers. Streamers are producing big browns around weed beds. Use different stripping techniques to entice these big fish. A couple reports of browns over 10 pounds in the last few weeks.	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).	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 (1300 cfs) at Gridley.	Fishing is fair to good. Best fishing is in the low flow section. Wild and hatchery steelhead are spread out from the hatchery to the outlet. Standard method is an attractor beadhead nymph with a green caddis dropper fished under an indicator. Midday, switch the dropper to a BWO nymph. Steelhead will hold off drop-offs and in deeper riffles. Another method for this time of year is fishing alevin or smolt pattern dead-drifted through redds and swung at the end of the drift. Steelhead are spawning. Please do not tread on their redds.	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, Currently unavailable cfs @ Grizzly Creek.	Fishing is fair. Best fishing is during the warmest part of the day during hatches of BWO and midges. In the morning, dredge a stonefly with a beadhead nymph dropper in pocket water and deeper runs. Be sure to use heavy weight to get flies down in heavy flows. Streamers fished on a sink tip are getting bigger rainbows along rocky banks and deep pools. Cover water with a streamer to find fish. Flows are inconsistent so be sure to check flows before fishing.	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). Lake woolly buggers/streamers (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 (3 ft visibility, mid to upper 40s F.	Fishing is fair. Water temperatures are cold. Give strippers plenty of opportunity to grab your fly with a slow/erratic retrieve with lots of pauses. The west Delta is off color. East and south Delta remain clear and continues to fish despite recent rains. Focus on the Mokelumne, Sycamore, Beaver, Whiskey and Discovery Bay. Fish island points, rock walls, and weed edges. Use a 1/0 clouser in chartreuse and white with T-14 custom line.	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 (15 cfs).	Fishing is good. Best fishing is during the warmest part of the day with fish rising to midges and BWO. Use small flies to match the hatch, but during the hatch fish are not particular to a specific pattern. A floating line with a small leach pattern will also hook fish now that weed growth is down. Snow is on the ground but access is still possible. Check weather before fishing.	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).	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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Putah Creek (below Lake Berryessa)	Off color to murky, low 50s F, low flow (52 cfs below lake Berryessa).	Fishing is fair. Best fishing is from 10am to 2pm with fish feeding on small midges and BWO. Best method for good number is fishing 2 small midges or mayfly nymphs under an indicator using light tippet. Not much in the way of dry fly fishing as the creek is murky. Best reports are coming from the first mile below the dam where visibility is best. Below that the creek blows out with rain. Do not fish over actively spawning trout.	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.
Pyramid Lake (outside of Reno)	Clear, good lake level.	Fishing is fair to good. As weather warms, fish become more active. Fish ledges and deeper water with bugger and a snail trailer. Switch between bright and dark flies to see what the fish want. Big Pyramid Lahontans call for 7 wt rods with 250 grain shooting heads. Vary your retrieve to find the right speed. Access at Separator and Wino beaches.	Pyramid Flies woolly worms, pyramid buggers (black/purple, chartreuse/white, olive, black), Pyramid snail (black/purple, chartreuse/white, olive, black) (#8-12)	Expect light to moderate fishing pressure. Fishing from a float tube or pontoon boat is an option. Note: Day permit required.
Sacramento River, Lower (below Keswick Reservoir)	Green tint, low to mid 50s, low flow (3,250 cfs below Keswick).	Fishing is fair. Clarity is off but better in the top section from Posse Ground to Anderson. Best fishing is from 11am to 3pm with fish feeding on skinny olive mayfly nymphs. Fish the slow water on the edge of the seams. Some stonefly patterns are also producing. Some large trout to 20 inches are being caught. Fishing will improve with better water clarity. Wade fishing is good at these flows. The next couple of months are the best time of the year here.	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. High flow (2,210 at Delta).	Fishing is poor to fair. It is a small window for rising fish but worthwhile if you can find a pod of feeding fish. Look for fish rising from 1-3pm in slow moving water. Nymphing the slower water pre-hatch with a beadhead nymph and a mayfly nymph dropper will hook a few fish. Best fishing is close to Dunsmuir where water levels are more fishable. Flows will come down between storms. Check flows before making the drive.	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. 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.
Trinity River (near Lewiston)	Clear, mid 40s F, low flow (971 cfs) at Douglas City.	Fishing is fair. Best fishing is near Lewiston where flows are lower and tributaries are not discoloring the river. On cold days when the water is clear, fish small flies such as #14 copper johns and prince nymphs. Fish are lethargic and tough to entice to grab a fly, so be sure to fish the water thoroughly. When water is off color, fish a golden stonefly nymph with a beadhead or egg dropper fished under an indicator is getting the best action. Please take some time to revive the steelhead when it is cold. A mixture of hatchery and wild steelhead to 8 lbs are showing.	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.
Truckee River (Trout Creek to CA Stateline)	Clear, mid 40's. low flow (38 cfs near Truckee).	Fishing is fair. No need to get on the water before midday. The best dry fly opportunity is from 1-3pm. Pre-hatch, start with a beadhead nymph and a small BWO pattern under an indicator. Dead drift with a swing at the end of the drift. As the hatch starts, switch to a dry/dropper setup with an attractor dry and a midge or BWO nymph. You will find most risers in the slow water. Streamers are hooking big browns with sculpin, crayfish. Best tactic is fishing a sink tip line in the pools and slower runs. Best brown trout fishing is on the Nevada side.	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). Crayfish patterns Hogan's puff claw dad, Cutter's goblin, mercers deaddrift crawfish, Whitlock's near-nuff crayfish, cinnamon woolly bugger, crazy dad, crawdad(rusty brown), Hogan's rattle tube (#4-8). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere). BWO/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Access along Glenshire Rd down through Hirshdale. Expect icy conditions. Wading staff and cleated boots are essential. NCDAG 81.

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Yuba River, Lower (from Englebright dam to Marysville)	Clear, low 50s, moderate flow, 1132 cfs below near Smartville.	Fishing is fair. Best fishing on cloudy days is during the warmest part of the day with rainbows rising to small BWO's. A long leader with a delicate downstream drift will get these educated fish to eat the fly. On sunny days, best fishing is from 2pm to 4pm with rainbows feeding on skwala dries in the riffles and tailouts. Search the bank and tops of the willows to find hatched skwalas. The section of the river with the highest concentration of skwalas will have the best action. Nymphing is producing some big rainbows before and after hatches. A golden stone with a small BWO dropper is producing good numbers in runs and riffles. No march browns yet.	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). Skwala Stonefly Adults/Nymphs Hogan's split wing skwala, Hogan's skwala, Bullethead Skwala, poxy-back Skwala nymph, Mercer's tungsten skwala nymph, tungsten bead skwala, flush floater skwala (#8-12). 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.
<p>Other Reports Davis Lake (near Portola off hwy 70) is done for the winter. It is iced over. Klamath River (Iron Gate to Seiad Valley) Fishing has improved with warmer temperatures and active fish. Water is still cold but better than it has been. Fish the slower moving water with a stonefly and beadhead nymph under an indicator. Fishing will pick up with warmer weather. American River is fishing fair for steelhead. Decent numbers of fish moving up the river. Swinging Caddis pupa and traditional steelhead patterns are hooking a few fish around Sunset, Goethe park and Watt Ave. Expect crowds on the weekends. Best fishing is during the week with less fishing pressure. Pit River #3,#4, #5 (below Lake Britton to Big Bend) No reports this week. 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. Little Truckee is difficult to access due to recent storms. When access gets better, look for midday hatches of midges and mayflies. Lower Mokelumne (below Comanche) is fishing fair to good. Fish are feeding on small mayfly nymphs in the morning but the best fishing is with a dry/dropper. An attractor dry with a small baetis dropper will hook fish top water and subsurface. Small streamers fished on a long leader or with a sink tip is hooking good numbers of feisty rainbows in deeper runs and pools. Stanislaus River, Lower (below Tullock Reservoir) is fishing fair. Flows are a little high at 320 cfs, but easily fishable. Best reports are from fishing small midges under an indicator. Prospecting riffles and tailouts with a dry/dropper will get some action.</p>				
<p>North Coast Steelhead - (Fishing conditions change daily, to check on coastal river low flow closures call the following numbers: North Coast River Closures 707.442.4502. Central Coast River Closures 707.944.5533). Russian River- Flows are high and the river is currently unfishable. When the recent storms pass and flows recede, swing traditional steelhead patterns with a sink tip or Skagit line. Klamath River was fishable above Orleans. When water recedes after the recent storms, swing mossbacks, silver hiltens in slower runs. Smith River-Steelhead are just starting to show. Swinging traditional steelhead patterns on a Skagit line will hook fish in tailouts and drop-offs. Keep an eye on river flows. This river will blow out quick but will also recover fast. Best fishing is when the river is dropping. Eel River (main stem) is open. Flows are high and the river is unfishable. After this weather system and flows recede, fish from Benbow upstream on the south fork where we have had the best reports when it was fishing. Mad River is high and off color. When it comes back into shape, swinging an egg sucking leach or traditional steelhead pattern on a sink tip line will find a few fish. Van Duzen River- Currently off color. Should fish when it clears next week. This is usually the first river to clear.</p>				
<p>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.</p>				