

What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First!* – updated 8 July 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
Carson River, E.F. (Along Hwy 89 downstream to Nevada)	Clear, low to mid 50s F, moderate flows (225 cfs below Markleeville Creek).	Fishing is good. Water levels are down and fishing is getting good. Indicator nymphing with a golden stone nymph and a yellow stone or caddis dropper is producing some nice trout. The yellow stone and caddis hatches are good and the trout are looking up in the morning and evening. Streamers are getting some hogs early and late in the deeper pools. Best fishing for large stocked trout is along Hwy 89 and the wild trout are below the Hwy 89 bridge.	Little yellow stone dries Hogan's yellow hanging stimulator, Brooks headlight little yellow sally, Cutter's little yellow sally, Quigley's little yellow sally, yellow stimulator, yellow crystal stimulator (#14-16). Little yellow stonefly nymphs poxy back micro stone tungsten hotwire prince, Morrish's iron sally (#14-16). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). Golden stonefly dries (listed elsewhere in report). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). River woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere)	Moderate fishing pressure on the weekends. Access at Hangman's Bridge and along Hwy 89. NCDAG pg 90. New CDAG pg. 67.
Davis Lake (near Portola off hwy 70)	Clear, low to mid 60s F.	Fishing is good. The damsel is still going from 9 to noon. Fish the west side of the lake from Freeman to Cow Creek. in the morning walk the shoreline looking for cruisers and as the sun gets high you might have to switch to a float tube and fish the outer weed beds. The bigger trout like a slow, short strip. There are lots of small trout around, so be patient for the larger ones. Look for a callibaetis hatch in the early afternoon if the wind is not too strong. In the evening look for a few blood midges or fish a leech on a type II sinking line.	Damsel fly nymphs/dries Burk's sierra damsel (tan, olive), Fox's damsel nymph olv/cinn, mono eye damsel, Burk's stillwater nymph (tan, olive), No name damsel, foam swimming damsel, Stalcup's ultra damsel, J Fair wiggle tail nymph (olive, fiery brown), adult blue damsel, Burk's adult damsel, horny damsel, damsel dragon (#12-16). Attractor beadhead nymphs and Callibaetis dries (listed elsewhere in report). Lake woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere). Midge pupa (listed elsewhere).	Moderate to heavy fishing pressure. NCDAG pg 70.
Deer Creek	Slight tint, mid to high 50's F, normal flow.	Fishing is fair to good. Start fishing mid morning with attractor nymphs or a dry/dropper combo. Take a break in the afternoon as the temperature gets hot. In the evening there are good caddis and mayfly hatches. Some golden stones are still around also. Best fishing is when the sun gets off the water until dark. There is a mixture of both stock and native rainbows to be found. The stockers are near the campgrounds. Most trout are running 6-12 inches. This is a great stream for the beginner and novice anglers to catch some willing trout.	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). Caddis pupa/emergers Mercer's tungsten swing caddis, Lawson's caddis emerger (tan, olive), Hogan's Yuba pupa, Hogan's swingin' caddis, green bean, translucent pupa, Amber wing caddis, pulsating caddis (tan, olive), 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, Hogan's good & plenty nymph (tan, olive), Silvey's prime time pupa, Silvey's submerger caddis (olive, tan), Silvey's edible emerger (#12-18). Golden stonefly dries (listed elsewhere in report). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere in report).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Access off Hwy 32 from Deer Creek bridge upstream to Hwy 36. Catch & Release from Deer creek falls down stream to Ishi Wilderness. NCDAG pg. 58.
Fall River (Cal Trout access to Spring Creek Rd.)	Clear, normal flow.	Fishing is good. Start the day fishing the PMD hatch around 9am. Good size rainbows are rising to emergers and cripples, but are getting very selective with the heavy fishing pressure. Use a downstream presentation and be willing to fish 15 ft leaders down to 7X tippet if the trout are refusing your flies. As the PMD hatch slows early afternoon switch to streamers on sinking lines, or take a siesta. In the evening the hex hatch is still happening, generally around the mouth of the Tule River. Best action is with a raghead hex nymph, but some large trout are being caught on the dry right at dark. There is also a good caddis hatch for those that do not want to go to the lower river for the hex hatch.	Callibaetis dries sparkle dun, captive dun, CDC callibaetis transitional dun, Brook's CDC dun callibaetis, fluttering mayfly callibaetis, CDC biot comparadun, callibaetis extended body, Quigley's flashwing cripple, callibaetis cripple, Brook's sprout callibaetis, hackle stacker callibaetis, loopwing callibaetis, parachute adams, Callibaetis extended body (#14-16). 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). PMD emergers/cripples/dries (listed elsewhere). Lake woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate to heavy fishing pressure. Pram with electric motor needed. Public access is at Cal Trout. NCDAG pg 38. CDAG pg 35.

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Feather River, N.F. (Cresta powerhouse to Lake Oroville)	Slight tint, mid 50s F, 476 cfs @ Grizzly Creek.	Fishing is fair to good. Fishing is best in the morning and evening, and slows during the heat of the afternoon. Indicator nymph with a golden stone nymph and a dark attractor nymph dropper. Stay in the deeper runs and pocket water to catch the larger trout. A few trout are coming up for terrestrials in the shaded areas of the stream. In the evening look for caddis, mayflies, and a few late golden stones to bring the trout to the surface. Good reports from Beldon and Rock Creek areas for trout 10-16 inches.	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, Tunstgen 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). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). Golden stonefly dries (listed elsewhere in report).	Expect light fishing pressure. Access along Tobin, Rock Creek, Beldon and Caribou. Access along Hwy 70. NCDAG pg 59. CDAG pg 51.
Hat Creek (PH#2 to fish barrier)	Clear, low to mid 50s F, normal flow.	Fishing is fair. Nymphing is the PH#2 riffle is good as early in the morning as you can get there. Use two small mayfly nymphs under a micro indicator. Concentrate on the deeper slots and in the pocket water. The trico and PMD hatch starts around 9am, followed by some callibaetis. Risers are spread out throughout the flats, keep walking to find them. Long leaders and a drag free drift are a must. The dry fly fishing slows in the afternoon. In the evening rusty spinners and caddis are the main fare. The lower riffle above the barrier can hold some large trout as the sun goes down.	Callibaetis dries sparkle dun, captive dun, CDC callibaetis transitional dun, Brook's CDC dun callibaetis, fluttering mayfly callibaetis, CDC biot comparadun, callibaetis extended body, Quigley's flashing cripple, callibaetis cripple, Brook's sprout callibaetis, hackle stacker callibaetis, loopwing callibaetis, parachute adams, Callibaetis extended body (#14-16). 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). PMD emergers/cripples/dries (listed elsewhere in report).	Expect crowds at the PH#2 riffle on weekends. To escape the crowds, try fishing below Carbon Flat or the Hwy 299 bridge. NCDAG pg 48.
Hot Creek	Slight tint to clear, mid 50s F, moderate flow (32 cfs).	Fishing is good to very good. Caddis are the main hatch and the trout are really on them. The hatch starts around 9am and goes most of the day. Be sure to use size 20 flies and get a drag free drift. Beetles and hoppers are also producing as long as you get them within a couple inches of the bank. There are some PMD's and yellow stones out also. The weeds are starting to set in so if you want to nymph the best rig is a hopper and small dropper. Most rainbows and browns run 12-15 inches.	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, tung split case BWO (#16-22). PMD emergers/cripples/dries (listed elsewhere). Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere). Midge pupa (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure on weekends. Access at upper parking lot and fish downstream to the hot springs. NCDAG pg 112.
McCloud River (below McCloud Reservoir)	Clear to green, low to mid 50's, low flow (430 cfs at Shasta Lake)	Fishing is good. Indicator nymphing is consistent all day, even in the afternoon if you can find some shade. Best nymphs are golden stones and small black things. The deeper runs and pocket water are producing better than the pools. Terrestrial fishing is ok in the afternoon, but most anglers just take a long lunch break. There are good hatches of yellow stones, PMD's and golden stones in the evening. The trout are coming up for the dries pretty good once the sun is off the water. Heavy fishing pressure is somewhat effecting the catch rate.	Golden stonefly dries Hogan's split-wing stone, hedgehog, Hogan's hangin stimi, crystal stimulator, yellow humpy, rubber-legged stimulator, Rogue foam golden stone, Gould's half down golden, Sloan's paralyzer. Golden stonefly nymphs jumbo john, Morrish cone stone, Morrish WMD, Mercer's raghead, Poxyback golden stone nymph, Mercer's poxyquill golden stone, beadhead twenty incher, copper back, Burglar stone golden, tungsten rag stone golden, speculator stone, tungsten golden stone (#8-12). Pale morning dun nymphs (listed elsewhere), Caddis pupa/ emergers (listed elsewhere). PMD emergers /cripples/ dries (listed elsewhere).	Moderate to heavy fishing pressure on the weekends. Access below McCloud Reservoir. NCDAG 36.
Pit River #3,#4, #5 (below Lake Britton to Big Bend)	Green tint, low 50s F, good flow on Pit #3.	Fishing is good. Even with the warmer weather the indicator nymph fishing is holding up well. Get on the water by 8:30am and fish the fast pocket water with tan caddis pupa and black mayfly nymphs. Some yellow stones and PMD's are out late morning to early afternoon, but it is hard to find risers. Fishing after 2pm slows until the evening. The evening caddis hatch is holding up and trout are rising until dark. Reports of big fish on Pit #4 and 5, and good numbers on Pit #3. Traffic will be closed over Pit #3 dam from July 6-Dec 1 (access from Clark Creek Rd northside). The road will be closed at Pit 4 dam, to fish the Pit 4 or 5 reach access from Big Bend.	PMD emergers/cripples/dries Harrop last chance PMD cripple, PMD CDC transitional dun, Harrop PMD captive dun, Lawson's PMD emerger, fluttering mayfly cripple PMD, last chance PMD cripple, Quigley's Hat Creek PMD emerger, 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). Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). Yellow stone nymphs and 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.

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Sacramento River, Lower (below Keswick Reservoir)	Green tint, low to mid 50s, high summer flow (13,200 cfs).	Fishing is fair to good. The fishing does not pick up until late morning through the evening. Best fishing is from a drift boat. Fish a large indicator with lots of shot. The trout are less selective with the high summer flows, but they still prefer the large brown rubberleg stones. The dropper is either a caddis pupa or a olive mayfly nymph. There is some dry fly fishing from early evening to dark with caddis emergers. Be sure to swing them at the end of the drift. There are some salmon spawning in the upper river so egg patterns are working in the morning and evening. At these flows you cannot drift under the Cypress St Bridge.	Caddis pupa/emergers Mercer's tungsten swing caddis, Lawson's caddis emerger (tan, olive), Hogan's Yuba pupa, Hogan's swingin' caddis, green bean, translucent pupa, Amber wing caddis, pulsating caddis (tan, olive), 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, Hogan's good & plenty nymph (tan, olive). Egg patterns for salmon 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. Wading is difficult at the high summer flows. NCDAG pg 46, 57. New CDAG pg. 41
Sacramento River, Upper (Lake Siskiyou to Lake Shasta)	Slight tint, mid 50's. low flow (338 at Delta).	Fishing is good. Nymph fishing is very good from 8am on. Try a large prince nymph or golden stone with a red copper john dropper. The pocket water and runs are producing better than the pools. Action is also better from Castle Crag upriver. In the heat of the afternoon the trout seem to take a break. The late afternoon and evening dry fly fishing with caddis, pink alberts, and golden stones is solid, especially as it gets close to dark. A mixture of 6-12 inch and 14-17 inch trout are showing.	PMD emergers/cripples/dries (listed elsewhere), Pale morning dun nymphs (listed elsewhere), BWO/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere), Caddis pupa/ emergers (listed elsewhere), Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere), Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure, even with higher flows. Be careful when wading. NCDAG 36, 46.
Truckee River (Trout Creek to CA Stalentine)	Clear, low to mid 50's. low to moderate flow (325 cfs near Truckee).	Fishing is good, especially in the evening. There is a good PMD hatch mid morning. Most rising trout are found in the slow to moderate flowing water, and can be picky. Indicator nymphing is also good with a combo of a golden stone with a olive caddis pupa dropper. Dead drifting crawfish patterns is also starting to work. Caddis and yellow stones are out in force in the evening, so do not quit early. Some large rainbows and browns are coming up for the dries right at dark.	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). Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere). BWO/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Access along Glenshire Rd down through Hirshdale. NCDAG 81.
Yuba River, Lower (from Englebright dam to Marysville)	Clear, low 50s, moderate flow, 1935 cfs below Englebright dam.	Fishing is fair. With the recent hot weather fishing is best in the morning and evening. Indicator nymphing with small PMD nymphs and caddis pupa is steady, especially if you are fishing from a drift boat. There are some very large trout rising to caddis and PMD's above the Hwy 20 bridge from 8am to noon. Afternoon fishing slows but you can bring up a few trout to a hopper pattern. The evening caddis hatch is good, but may start the as late as the last hour before dark. Wading is getting a little tough with the recent increase in flows.	PMD emergers/cripples /dries Harrop last chance PMD cripple, PMD CDC transitional dun, Harrop PMD captive dun, Lawson's PMD emerger, fluttering mayfly cripple PMD, last chance PMD cripple, Quigley's Hat Creek PMD emerger, 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). BWO/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere). Pale morning dun nymphs (listed elsewhere). Caddis pupa/emergers (listed elsewhere).	Water above Hwy 20 bridge is open until August 31 st . Access at the Hwy 20 bridge and Sycamore Ranch campground. NCDAG pg 78,79.
Yuba River, North Fork (between Downieville and Sierra City)	Clear, mid 50's, low flow (230 cfs).	Fishing is good. Dry fly is the way to go on the Yuba. Attractor dries is about all you will need, although there are lots of caddis, yellow stones, and golden stones out in the evening. If you feel the need to nymph try a golden stone dry with a beadhead prince nymph dropper. The best water is from Sierra City downriver about 8 miles. Most trout run 6 to 10 inches and are aggressive. Fishing will hold up well throughout the summer. This is a good stream for both beginner and novice anglers.	Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). Yellow stone nymphs and dries (listed elsewhere). Caddis pupa/ emergers (listed elsewhere). Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere). Golden stonefly nymphs and dries (listed elsewhere).	Light fishing pressure. Access off of Hwy 49. NCDAG pg 70.
Small Stream Clinic- Great clinic for a beginning or novice angler. The streams surrounding Chico are full of hungry and willing trout. Dry fly fishing on these streams is very good. Topics covered include rigging, "reading" water, and techniques to fish both nymphs and dry flies. Most important, students will have plenty of practice learning how to hook, fight, and land trout. Exact stream location will depend on current water conditions. Clinic is limited to 3 students. July 11,18 August 8,22,29 September 19. Cost is \$175 per person for a full day on the water.				

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Other Reports Lake Almanor Hex hatch is going well around Prattville and near the dam on the west side of the lake. Get n the water around 6pm and fish a hex nymph on a fast sinking line. Vary your retrieve or troll with lots of turns slowing and speeding up the fly. At 5pm bring the nymph up in the water column. Switch to a floating line with a longer 3X leader around 6pm. Casting and stripping the fly back can get some aggressive grabs. When hex flies are thick switch to an emerger or dun and cast to rising or cruising fish. Both smallmouth bass and large rainbows and browns are being caught. **Feather River, MF** Flows are down and fishing is good. The recent hot weather is pushing the good fishing to mornings and evenings. **Baum Lake** is fishing best from 10am to dusk with fish feeding on smaller midges in the morning and callibaetis in the afternoon on warmer days. Overcast days are slowing the dry fly action. Stripping streamers around weed beds will find feeding fish. **Butt Lake** is fishing very well from 4pm to dark with rainbows, browns and bass feeding on Hexagenia nymphs and dries. Start with tandem hex nymphs on a sinking line around the dam from 3-5pm. When hex start hatching, switch to a floating line with a hex nymph on a longer 3X leader. Use an erratic retrieve to bring nymphs through the water column. When fish are steadily rising switch to a hex dry on a 3X leader. Reports of large rainbows and browns caught in the last week. The hatch is varying in duration and size day to day. **Putah Creek** (below Lake Berryessa) High summer flows making for tough wading. Best fishing is early and late in the day with small mayfly nymphs and caddis pupa. Small 4-8 inch trout are rising to dries in the evening to caddis. **Lower Stanislaus River** (below Tulloch Reservoir) moderate flow (420 cfs at Orange Blossom). Recent drop in water levels has improved access and the catch rate. Concentrate on the morning and evening with smaller nymphs. Access at the dam or at 2 Mile Bar. **Walker River, East Fork** (below Bridgeport Reservoir) Flows are moderate (263 cfs). Fishing is good in the morning and evening. Small nymphs are the rule in the morning, with a few fish coming up to caddis in the evening. Water temps are creeping up so fish it in the next few weeks.

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.