

What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First!* – updated 15 August 2014

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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
Lake Almanor	Clear, low 70's, lake level is good.	Fishing is good. Water is warm up in Almanor. Rainbows and browns are concentrated near the tributaries and springs where water is cool. Nymphing the Hamilton Branch with a beadhead nymph through the pocket water is producing some big rainbows. Use a float tube, pontoon boat or motor boat stripping leach and pond smelt patterns on a uniform sinking line around the mouths of tributaries. Good reports around Hamilton Branch and the NF Feather in Chester.	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), Milt's floating pond smelt (#4-8).	Float tube is needed for best access. Fishing pressure during the week is light with some pressure on the weekends at Hamilton Branch. CDAG pg 43. Road work on highway 32. Check Cal Trans for conditions.
Carson River, E.F. (Along Hwy 89 downstream to Nevada)	Off color, low to mid 60s F, low flows (46 cfs below Markleeville Creek).	Fishing is fair. Best fishing is early until around 11am when the heat of the day pushes fish into fast pocket water and pools. Hatches of mayflies and caddis are sparse. A big hopper splashed around boulders and along the bank will get some action. Add a beadhead nymph dropper when fishing pocket water. Indicator nymphing is producing better numbers in off color water. Big stones and flashy attractor nymphs are also producing. Good numbers of big stocked rainbows and Lohanton Cutthroat above Hangmans Bridge. Below the bridge is catch and release. Look for trout keying on the early morning trico spinnerfall.	Attractor beadhead nymphs Hogan's Steelie Caddis, hare's ear, twenty incher, Hart's dark lord, copper john (red, 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). Caddis pupa/emergers Fox's poopah (olive, tan), hot wire caddis, Anderson's peeking green, Fox's springtime poopah, Amber wing prince, M's Dirty Bird, Hogan's steelie caddis, Silvey's submerger caddis (olive, tan). Grasshopper patterns Dave's hopper, Burk's spent hopper, bullethead hopper, parachute hopper, kingfisher foam hopper, frankenhopper, morrish's hopper (tan, golden), Weir's whopper (#8-14) spring creek hopper. Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). Golden stonefly dries (listed elsewhere in report).	Heavy fishing pressure on the weekends. Access at Hangman's Bridge and along Hwy 89. NCDAG pg 90. New CDAG pg. 67.
Deer Creek (Along Highway 32)	Slight tint, high 50's F, low flow.	Fishing is good. Best fishing is morning and evening when trout come out of pools to feed on mayflies and caddis in riffles and pocket water. Small attractor dries are deadly before the sun is on the water. As temps rise, switch to a beadhead nymph dropper tied to the bend of a caddis dry. Mid-afternoon slows, take a break. Fishing improves as the sun is off the water with trout keying on yellow sallies and caddis. Good reports around Elam and Alder campgrounds where there are good numbers of stocked fish. This is a great fishery for beginners with plenty of hatchery trout around Elam and Alder campgrounds. Best action for wild trout is away from easy access areas.	Attractor dries irresistible adams, parachute light cahill, Rio Grande trude, parachute adams, paralyzer, royal coachman, crystal stimulator, renegade, royal wulff, para wulff, (#10-18). Ant patterns Deer hair ant, 2 tone Para ant, Cutter's perfect ant, Schroeder's parachute ant, hi-vis foam ant, flying ant, fur ant, flying ant (#12-18). 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, Fox's crowning poopah olv/cinn, Kyle's better foam caddis (#12-20), Hopper Stone Tan (#6,8). PMD emergers/cripples/dries and BWO/Baetis nymphs and Caddis pupa/emergers and Golden stonefly dries and 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)	Slight tint, normal Summer flow.	Fishing is good. Trout are rising to tricos and PMD's until midday. Hatches vary depending on your location. Best trico spinnerfall is above Spring Creek Bridge. Also try small midge and mayfly nymphs fished below an indicator along the flats. Trout concentrate on small areas with good insect activity. In the evening, swing caddis emergers and soft hackles on an intermediate line. Streamers fished on a sink tip are also producing on bends of the river. Weeds are thick but cool water is keeping the insects and trout active.	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), skinny nelson, crystal HBI (#18-22). Caddis cripples/dries and PMD emergers/cripples/dries and Lake woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Pram with electric motor needed. Access at Cal trout and Rat Farm launches. NCDAG pg 38. CDAG pg 35.

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Feather River (Hwy 70 bridge to Gridley)	Clear, mid 60s F, good flow in low flow (1300 cfs), high flow below the Afterbay (1,700 cfs) at Gridley.	Fishing is fair and improving. Spring steelhead are holding in the low flow section above the outlet where they are feeding on midges and caddis in the morning and evening. Concentrate on riffles and tailouts with a caddis pupa and midge pupa dropper under an indicator. Midday, steelhead move to deep pools. Suspending a birdsnest and attractor beadhead nymph has a good chance of being eaten by steelhead. Steelhead fishing will improve when cooler temps get salmon on their redds. No salmon fishing in the low flow section!	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). BWO/Baetis nymphs and Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Moderate fishing pressure. Access from Oroville State Wildlife Area. The stretch above Hwy 70 is closed until Jan 1. Be sure to have your steelhead card signed and dated before fishing. NCDAG pg 68, 78.
Feather River, N.F. (Cresta powerhouse to Lake Oroville)	Slight tint, low 50s F, 225 cfs below Rock Creek 214 below Grizzly Creek and 114 below Poe. Check flows at WWW.Dreamflows.com.	Fishing is fair. Best action is when the sun is off the water. An E/C caddis fished in pocket water and tailouts below Rock Creek powerhouse will find big rainbows just before dark. Nymphing midday in oxygenated water will find rainbows finding relief from the midday sun. Cover water to find pods of fish with a golden stone, beadhead nymph or caddis pupa. Best nymphing is deep with heavy weight and no indicator to get flies down between the boulders. Use 4X tippet to have a chance to land these thick rainbows. The Caribou Road section provides good numbers of stocked trout for kids perfecting their dead-drift.	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, 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. PMD emergers/cripples/dries and Attractor beadhead nymphs and Midge pupa and Golden stonefly nymphs, 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.
Hat Creek (PH#2 to fish barrier)	Clear, low 50s F, good flow.	Fishing is fair early and late. Best fishing is in the morning for trout feeding on tricos around 8am. A long 6X leader and a good presentation is essential to get these trout to bite on the flats. Walk the flats looking for trout keying on tricos. A few PMD's around mid-morning but the hatch is sporadic. Midday to early evening is slow. Fishing picks up around dusk with trout looking up for yellow sallies, PMD's and caddis. Cooler weather will improve hatches.	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). Golden stonefly nymphs jumbo john, Morrish cone stone, Morrish WMD, Mercer's raghead, Poxback golden stone nymph, Mercer's poxyquill golden stone, copper back, Pat's Rubberleg. Little yellow stone dries (listed elsewhere). PMD emergers/cripples/dries and Midge pupa (listed elsewhere).	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 off color, mid 50s F, low flow (6 cfs).	Fishing is good. The morning starts with fish rising to tricos and midges around 8am followed by a caddis. The best of the hatches are in the late afternoon with rainbows and browns rising to caddis. If caddis are too abundant, switch to a small hopper or ant pattern along the bank and in the open slots of vegetation. Trout will hide in vegetation waiting for something delicious to float by. The key is to get your fly very tight to the bank. The day finishes with the best of the caddis hatch and some tricos before dusk. Weeds are thick making subsurface flies difficult to fish.	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 (#16-20). Midge pupa (listed elsewhere). Caddis cripples/dries and 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.
Little Truckee (Between Stampede and Boca Reservoirs)	Clear, mid 50's, low flow 47 cfs from Stampede Reservoir)	Fishing is good but super technical. The LT has been getting fished hard this summer and flows are low. Trout are very spooky and not eager to rise to just any attractor dry. Light tippet, a stealthy presence and a good match to the hatch is essential for hooking these wild fish. Look for trout rising to PMD's, caddis and yellow sallies mid-morning. An ant pattern is also a good option when nothing else is hatching. Best fishing is when the sun is off the water and trout are feeding. Mid afternoon is tough due to hot weather conditions.	PMD nymphs Hogan's military may (brown), Beadhead flash back pheasant tails, Morrish pick pocket, Mercer's micro mayfly (brown), Black AP nymph, Aram's secret agent brown, Burk's crystal HBI, flashy PT, copper john (#14-18). Midge pupa and BWO nymphs (listed elsewhere). Little yellow stone dries (listed elsewhere). Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere). Ant patterns (listed elsewhere). Grasshopper patterns (listed elsewhere). PMD emergers/cripples/dries (listed elsewhere).	Expect crowds on the weekends. Access from Stampede to Boca. CDAG Pg. 53, 60.

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McCloud River (below McCloud Reservoir)	2-2.5 ft clarity, mid 50's, normal flow (201 cfs at Ash Camp, 194 cfs at Ah-Di-Na)	Fishing is fair. Clarity is getting better everyday. Hatches are slowing as they do in August but luckily trout remember! Prospecting with a golden stone, ant, PMD or streamer in pocket water can produce great rainbows in the morning and evening. Nymphing is producing the best numbers. A golden stone with a small dark beadhead nymph fished in runs, pocket water and pools can be good. Get the flies deep! Best hatch is at dusk with yellow sallies, caddis and PED's (pale evening duns). Trout are running 10-16 inches.	Little yellow stone dries Mini hot, Brooks headlight little yellow sally, Cutter's little yellow sally, Quigley's little yellow sally, yellow stimulator, yellow crystal stimulator (#14-16). 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, Carlson's egg sack stone (#8-12). River woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). Ant patterns (listed elsewhere). PMD emergers/cripples/dries (listed elsewhere). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Moderate fishing pressure. Access below McCloud Reservoir. NCDAG 36.
Pit River #3,#4, #5 (below Lake Britton to Big Bend)	Green to brown tint, high 50s F, no flow level on Pit #3 but somewhat high, 437 cfs on Pit #4 and 436 cfs on Pit #5.	Fishing is good. The new flow standard is keeping water cool and fish active. Best success is subsurface with a golden stone and a tungsten beadhead nymph to get flies down in heavy pocket water. Afternoon fishing is slow. Some caddis, PMD's and yellow sallies hatching on Pit #4 when the sun is off the water in the evening. Hatches are sparse but trout will rise with a good dead-drift. No reports of Isonychia yet, but soon. Isonychia tend to concentrate in tailouts, so dead-drift with a big swing at the end of the drift. Pit 5 is running warm.	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). 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 pupa/emergers and Attractor beadhead nymphs and BWO nymphs and Golden stonefly dries (listed elsewhere). Little yellow stone dries (listed elsewhere).	Low fishing pressure on 3, no pressure on 4. Access below Lake Britton or from Big Bend. Studded boots and a wading staff are a must for fishing the Pit. New flow regiment makes wading very tough. NCDAG pg 47. New CDAG pg. 34.
Sacramento River, Lower (below Keswick Reservoir to Butte City)	Green tint, mid 50s, low summer flow 8,000 cfs.	Fishing is fair to good. Hatches are sparse but nymphing remains good. Walk the edges fishing the seams will find trout suspending stoneflies, caddis pupa and PMD nymphs. From a drift boat, tandem flies under an indicator in 4-6 feet of water is the most productive method at these flows. Hot flies: Birds nest, Rubber legged stones, and PMD nymphs. Best dry fly fishing with caddis dries is just before dark when the sun is off the water and the trout are feeding in riffles. Stripers are actively feeding on juvenile shad and pike minnows from Red Bluff down. Chartreuse and white clousers and whistlers stripped away from structure and along weed beds are producing.	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). Little yellow stonefly nymphs poxy back micro stone tungsten hotwire prince, Morrish's iron sally (#14-16). Golden stonefly nymphs , Attractor beadhead nymphs and BWO nymphs (listed elsewhere). PMD emergers/cripples/dries (listed elsewhere), Pale morning dun nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Drift boat fishing is provides best access. Market St, Convention Center, Barge Hole and below Cypress Bridge are all good spots to wade. NCDAG pg 46, 57. New CDAG pg. 41
Truckee River (Trout Creek to CA Stateline)	Clear, mid to high 60's. Low to moderate flow (127 cfs near Truckee, 182 cfs below Boca).	Fishing is fair. Best bite is in the morning with trout rising to caddis, midges and small mayflies. Fishing slows by 10am due to warm water temps. Best fishing is below Boca Reservoir where water temps are cooler than the top section. Crawfish patterns in fast pocket water will find fish. Afternoon rains will also bring big fish out eager to eat a streamer stripped off the bank or structure. Watch the water temps! Trout will not revive well in water temps over 68 degrees. Fishing will pick up on cloudy days.	PMD emergers/cripples/dries 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). 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). River woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). Caddis pupa/emergers (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Access along Hwy 89 down through Hirshdale. NCDAG 81.
Yuba River, North Fork (between Downieville and Sierra City)	Clear, mid to high 60's, low flow (low).	Fishing is good. Best fishing is around Sierra City where water is cool and trout are eager to rise to hoppers, caddis and stonefly patterns early and late. Best tactic is a dry dropper. A stimulator with a small prince nymph, copper John or caddis pupa is hooking good numbers of trout 8-12 inches. This is great 2 or 3 weight rod water and good action for young anglers perfecting their skills. Recent afternoon rains have rejuvenated the Yuba. Not a lot of reports from tributaries.	Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). Attractor dries (listed elsewhere in the report). Golden stonefly nymphs and Golden stonefly dries (listed elsewhere). Caddis pupa/emergers (listed elsewhere).	Light fishing pressure. Access off of Hwy 49. NCDAG pg 70.

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Yuba River, Lower (from Englebright dam to Marysville)	Clear, low 50s F, moderate flow, 1,464 cfs below Englebright.	Fishing is fair. Flows remain high but wadeable at 1,464 cfs. Walking the bank fishing hoppers 3 inches off the bank is producing some nice rainbows. Add a caddis pupa or PMD dropper for best action. Concentrate on areas where there is good amounts of vegetation along the bank. Not a lot of action from big trout rising to PMD's and caddis at dusk. Look for the egg bite to start in September when temperatures cool. The Yuba closes above Hwy 20 Bridge August 31 st . Best hatches above highway 20 (Parks Bar) and above Hammond Grove.	PMD emergers/cripples/dries 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). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). BWO/Baetis nymphs and Midge pupa and BWO/Baetis emerger/dries and March browns (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. Putah Creek (below Lake Berryessa) High summer flows making fishing tough. Fish the breaks in the current and along the edges with midges and BWO nymphs suspended under an indicator. Best fishing is in the morning when trout are feeding on midges and BWO's. Flows have increased making it difficult to land fish on 6X tippet. Concentrate on back eddies and breaks in the current. Sacramento River, Upper (Lake Siskiyou to Lake Shasta) is fishing early and late around Dunsmuir. Look for trout keying on caddis when the sun is off the water. Water is too warm on lower sections below Sims Exit. Feather River, Middle Fork (Graeagle downstream) Fishing is slow due to low flows and hot temperatures. Some action below Two Rivers where tributaries add some cooler water. Best action is early and late when trout are rising to caddis and yellow sallies. Baum Lake is fishing best early and late with hatches of PMD's, Caddis and callibaetis in the main current. Midday, fish the edges of the weed beds with bugger patterns on a sink tip. Trinity River Flows are consistent at 450 cfs. This will provide some excellent dry fly fishing with caddis, PMD's and stoneflies along the edges.				
Largemouth Bass Fishing Nothing like chugging a bass popper along the bank for a massive bass blow-up! Valley and foothill bass ponds are in prime shape with temps between 60 to 70 degrees. Thermalito Afterbay is located off highway 99 south of Chico. Thermalito is diverted water from the Feather River to warm water for rice farmers. This shallow water fishery has largemouth bass, big carp and hatchery steelhead. Cover the edges early morning with a bass popper (hot fly: Umpqua swimming frog). Best locations are around heavy cover. Best bass poppers have a weed guard to get through heavy cover without snagging. Midday, switch to a crayfish or baitfish pattern (good choice: clouser) on short sink tip with a heavy leader. Good reports from anglers fishing channels between islands and deep water (4-10') around ambush points and rock walls. Frank's Tract & San Joaquin Delta (including Mildred, San Joaquin River, and nearby sloughs) Water temps are currently high 60's to low 70's. Bass are post-spawn, spawning and a few post spawn depending where you are. Early and late are ideal times to fish topwater poppers and divers around rock walls, heavy cover and up against tullies. Midday, clousers and crayfish patterns on a sink tip will produce. 8- 9 wt rods and are ideal to turn over big flies and fight fish.				
WH&WN™ FREE flyfishing report would not be possible without the help of: Jon Baiocchi/Baiocchi Troutfitters, Tom/Lake Almanor Fly Fishing Co., Craig Nielsen/Shasta Trout Guide Service, Jordan Romney (Putah Fly Fishing Guide), Victor Babbit/Tahoe Fly Fishing Outfitters/Tahoe, Jerry/The Troutfitter/Mammoth Lakes, Ted Fay Flyshop/Dunsmuir, Greg/Sweeny's sport shop, Andy/Kiene's Fly Shop/Sacramento, Ken's Sporting Goods/Scott Freeman-EW report. 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.				