

What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First!* – updated 17 July 2008

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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
Davis Lake (near Portola off hwy 70)	Clear, high 60s F.	Fishing is good. The damsel migration is bringing a lot of trout to the net around Cow Creek, Freeman Creek and Jenkins Cove. The hatch can go anywhere from 7:30am to 1pm depending on where you are. Long leaders and floating lines are working well for anglers walking the shore sight fishing for cruising trout. Fishing two damsel patterns with a slow retrieve is working best. The trout are averaging 16-23" and are very hot. Look for the hatch to taper off in coming weeks as the water temps climb.	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 (#12-16). Blood midge pupa Bead brain blood midge pupa, desert storm, WD 40 red, red brassie, disco midge red, red and copper zebra midge (#12-14).	Moderate to heavy fishing pressure. NCDAG pg 70.
Deer Creek (above Potato Patch Campground down to Ishi Wilderness)	Clear, high 50's to low 60's F, 62 cfs at Vina.	Fishing is good. The tree and brush lined banks along with the steep canyon of Deer Creek is keeping the water temperature nice and cool during the heat of summer. Attractor and caddis dries work well in the morning before the sun gets on the water. Look for rises along scum lines and seams. An attractor nymph fished under a dry midday will hook fish in the pools and runs. Fish are on caddis and golden stonefly dries in the evening. Check road conditions on highway 32 due to the fires.	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, Blue ribbon X2 caddis, Fox's crowning poopah olv/cinn, Kyle's better foam caddis (#12-20). 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). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). Attractor dries (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure around campgrounds along highway 32. Access off Hwy 32 from Deer Creek bridge upstream to Hwy 36. NCDAG pg. 58.
Fall River (Cal Trout access to Spring Creek Rd.)	Clear, normal flow.	Fishing is fair to good. The trico spinner fall starts around 9am. Be sure to use a downstream drift to present the fly first. Reports of PMD's hatching around 11am. HBI's and small pt's are hot flies before the adults are on the water. When the hatch gets going, a PMD adult with a drowned trico spinner is a good dual fly rig. The hex are still happening on the lower river. The full moon this weekend will mean the fish will be active later into evening.	Hexagenia cripples/dries Quigley's Hex cripple, Mercer's poxyback hex cripple, Water's foam hex, Bear's foam hex, (#6-8). Hex nymphs- Quigley's emerging hex nymph, Burk's hex nymph, Bear's headbanger hex (#6-8). Tricos triple wing spinner, male poly spinner, twilight trico spinner, Barr's drowned spinner. PMD emergers/cripples/dries (listed elsewhere). Pale morning dun nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Pram with electric motor needed. Public access is at Cal Trout. NCDAG pg 38.
Feather River, N.F. (Beldon Forebay to Lake Oroville)	Slight tint, mid to high 60's F, 247 cfs at Rock Creek, 219 at Grizzly Creek.	Fishing is poor to fair. The best fishing is from first light to 10am for trout. Caddis larva and mayfly nymphs will pick up fish in pocket water and the heads of runs. The water warms considerably during the day and the fishing turns off midday. Now is the time to pull out the woolly buggers and hunt for the smallmouth bass. Target the slower water along rocky points and log jams in the lower river around Pulga. Use erratic strips with distinct pauses on a sink tip line. Make sure to use a loop knot to connect your fly to give it better action.	Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere). Caddis pupa/emergers Mercer's tungsten swing caddis, Amber wing caddis, pulsating caddis (tan, olive), Fox's poopah (olive, tan), Mercer's z-wing (green, amber), Fox's springtime poopah, Amber wing prince, M's Dirty Bird, (tan, olive) (#12-18). River woolly buggers/streamers Black beadhead woolly bugger, conehead double bunny, muddler minnow, Hogan's puff'clawdad, Cutter's goblin, matuka, Morrish's sculpin, black woolhead sculpin, near nuff sculpin, orange blossom (#4-10).	Expect light fishing pressure. Access along Hwy 70. NCDAG pg 59.
Hat Creek (PH#2 to fish barrier)	Green, high 50s F, good flow.	Fishing is fair. The trico hatch is between 8am and 10am. Target risers along the flats near Carbon Bridge. Use a drab colored fly line with fluorocarbon tippet. Nymphing in the Powerhouse 2 riffle is best with caddis pupa and callibaetis or PMD nymphs. Evenings is the best time to be on the water with caddis and callibaetis activity until dark. If you can't get a take on an emerger, try fishing a drowned rusty spinner 8-10" behind a caddis dry.	Callibaetis nymphs Janssen's emerging callibaetis, pheasant tail, Scharantz callibaetis, tungsten skinny nelson (#14-16). Callibaetis dries sparkle dun, CDC callibaetis transitional dun, Brook's CDC dun callibaetis, CDC biot comparadun, callibaetis extended body (#14-16). Caddis pupa/ emergers (listed elsewhere). PMD emergers/cripples/dries (listed elsewhere). Tricos (listed elsewhere). Tricos (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.

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Hot Creek	Slight tint, low to high 40s F.	Fishing is good. Fish are actively feeding on dries throughout the day. Knowing when to switch patterns will greatly increase your success rate. Fish start the day feeding on tricos from 8-10am. Female trico patterns in sizes 22-24 are best. Caddis will shift the attention of fish after the trico's fade off. Fish a caddis adult with a trico dropper on 7x tippet during the transition of hatches. As the caddis hatch begins, switch to a caddis dry with a small caddis emerger. Yellow sallies and PMD's are coming off in the afternoon. Drifting terrestrials along the streamside vegetation in the afternoon is very productive. The male tricos and caddis are out in the evening.	Grasshopper patterns Dave's hopper, Burk's spent hopper, bullethead hopper, parachute hopper, kingfisher foam hopper (#8-14). Ant patterns Turk's Power ant, Deer hair ant, 2 tone Para ant, Cutter's perfect ant, Schroeder's parachute ant, hi-vis foam ant, flying ant (#12-18). Tricos Triple wing spinner, triple wing trico male, barr's drown spinner, twilight trico (20-24) PMD emergers/cripples/ dries (listed elsewhere). Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere). Little yellow stone dries (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	Slight tint. Low 50's. Moderate flow (130 cfs)	Fishing is good. Flows on the LT are coming down making the stretch between Stampede and Boca a top choice for anglers in the Tahoe area. Early morning nymphing is best before hatches begin. The PMD's are coming off around 11am. Drifting a caddis dry with a PMD nymph will get fish pre-hatch. Afternoon is the prime times to fish a green drake nymph until the adults begin hatching around 7 PM. Small caddis and sporadic mayflies hatches are seen along with green drakes from 7:30 until dark. The LT is a great place to fish with your 3 or 4wt rod. Sight fishing is the best way to catch feeding trout - blind casting tends to put them down. Fish it like a spring creek and you will be rewarded. There are many 15-18" trout in the creek, but they are smart.	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 lun, PMD parachute (#14-18). Caddis pupa/ emergers (listed elsewhere). Green drake dries Green Drake parachute, Neally's green drake, Brook's sprout green drake, challenged green drake (#8-10). Green drake nymphs tungsten hunchback green drake nymph, Poxystack green drake, Quigley's crown jewel, black AP, prince nymph, (#8-10).	Expect heavy fishing pressure, especially on weekends. Fish between Boca and Stampede Reservoirs. NCDAG 81.
McCloud River (below McCloud Reservoir)	Clear to green, mid 50's, normal flow (375 cfs at Shasta Lake)	Fishing is fair to good. The best fishing is early and late in the day. Start the day indicator nymphing with small dark nymphs, dark lords and zebra midges work well. Use enough split shot to get your flies down to the fish. Most trout are located in the deeper runs and fast pocket water. There is a midmorning caddis hatch but the trout are not on the dries. Beetle and ant patterns are producing in the afternoon in the shaded areas of the stream. When fishing these cover lots of water to find the few trout that are looking up. Late afternoon fishing slows down. The evening from 6pm to dark is good with hatches of PED and caddis. The trout are working the dries. The Conservancy and Ah-Di-Nah are fishing better than Ash Camp.	Golden stonefly nymphs, Pale morning dun nymphs (listed elsewhere) Caddis pupa/ emergers (listed elsewhere). River woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere). Ant patterns (listed elsewhere).	Moderate fishing pressure. Access below McCloud Reservoir. NCDAG 36.
Sacramento River, Lower (below Keswick Reservoir)	Slight tint, mid 50s, high summer flow (12,750 cfs).	Fishing is fair. Fishing the Sac is fairly straightforward during the high summer flows. Successful anglers are tossing long leaders, heavy split shot, and stonefly-caddis pupa patterns under a high floating Thingamabobber strike indicator. Many trout are hanging along the clay banks and drop-offs. Fish different slots until you figure out where the trout are that day. There is decent caddis hatches in the evening, with some trout rising once the sun is off the water. Most of the rising fish are near streamside brush where the caddis hang out prior to evening mating sessions. The bite is good one day and spotty the next.	Golden stonefly nymphs 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). Caddis pupa/ emergers (listed elsewhere). Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere).	With these higher flows, best access is by pontoon or drift boat. Wade access is limited. DO NOT wade into the rainbow trout redds. NCDAG pg 46, 57.

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Sacramento River, Upper (Lake Siskiyou to Lake Shasta)	Slight tint, high 50's to low 60's. Low flow (239 at Delta).	Fishing is fair to good. There is a large variety of insects coming off on the river right now. Little yellow stones, caddis, PMD's, and some golden stones are on the menu. The best fishing is early and late in the day, as the hot summer days are dampening the afternoon bite. The lower river will fish until 10am until the water starts to warm up. Move upstream where the water is cooler. You can still pick up a few fish in the pocket water with various caddis and stonefly patterns. Evening is by far the best time to cast dry flies to rising fish. The best hatches are from Dunsmuir upstream to Box Canyon Dam. With all the insects hatching right now, the fly pattern does not make as much difference as a good presentation	Pale morning dun nymphs Hogan's military may (brown), Beadhead flash back pheasant tails, Morrish pick pocket, Mercer's micro mayfly (brown), Black AP nymph, dark lord, Burk's crystal HBI, flashy PT (#14-18). PMD emergers/cripples/dries (listed elsewhere). Caddis pupa/emergers (listed elsewhere). Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Expect heavy fishing pressure. Be careful when wading. NCDAG 36, 46.
Truckee River (Trout Creek to CA Stateline)	Slight tint, high 60's. Slightly high flow (390 cfs).	Fishing is fair to good. Water releases from the surface of Lake Tahoe is causing the temperature to rise on the Truckee River. Wet wading is very pleasant. The best fishing is from first light to 11am when bigger fish are actively feeding on small stoneflies, PMD's, caddis larva, and aquatic worms. Keep an eye out for a PMD hatch, which will extend the fishing time into the afternoon. Midday fishing is slow. In the evening, decent hatches of caddis, yellow sallies, and a few PED's will keep dry fly anglers busy. When fishing dries on the Truckee, keep in mind that big fish will make subtle, confident rise forms. Splashy rises often indicate smaller fish.	Caddis pupa/emergers (Listed elsewhere) Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere), PMD emergers/cripples/dries (listed elsewhere). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere) Little yellow stonefly nymphs Wired stone, poxy back micro stone (green, dark), tungsten hotwire, Morrish's iron sally (#14-16). Little yellow stone dries (listed elsewhere).	Good access at Glenshire and below Boca Reservoir. Expect moderate fishing pressure. NCDAG 81.
Yuba River, Lower (from Englebright dam to Marysville)	Clear, low 50s, moderate flow, 1610 cfs below Englebright dam.	Fishing is fair. The PMD's are still coming off around 11 AM. Fish an emerger style fly on 24" of 6x fluorocarbon tippet. Floating nymphs are also a good option. Nymphing during the afternoon is decent using caddis pupa and small brown mayfly nymphs. You can also fish small hoppers along the banks. As the summer progresses step up the sizes of your hopper patterns. The best bite is during the last 2 hours of daylight during the caddis hatch. Caddis emergers produce early on and Hogan's last call caddis produces until it's too dark to see. These fish are picky so bring your 'A' game and box full of spring creek patterns.	Pale morning dun nymphs (listed elsewhere). Caddis pupa/emergers (listed elsewhere). Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere). Grasshopper patterns (listed elsewhere) PMD emergers/cripples/dries (listed elsewhere).	Water above Hwy 20 bridge is open. 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 60's, low flow (160 cfs).	Fishing is good. Lots of bugs are hatching now. Caddis and yellow sallies are the best hatches, but some golden stones and gray drakes are making appearances. Prime times are early and late in the day when the sun is off the water and the temperatures are cooler. Midday fishing is productive with drowned ants and small caddis larva. Look for banks with vegetation where ants fall into the water. With the low, clear water, a light rod will give you a delicate presentation and make those little fish feel big. Do not get stuck on fishing one spot for an hour, it is best to search the water for consistent action.	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). Attractor dries 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). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). 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.
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. Clinics are held every weekend in July and August. Cost is \$175 per person.				

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Other Reports Pit River #3,4,& 5 Will be undergoing another flushing program starting July 17 and will be unfishable until the following week. Check with us before heading out. **East Walker River** Many anglers are saying that the East Walker has been inconsistent this season. It has been good for some and poor for others. Best fishing is at first light to 9 AM. The water warms considerably during the day and we recommend not fishing during the day to protect the fish. 203 cfs at Bridgeport. **Lake Almanor** The Hex hatch is at the tail end and will taper off within the next week or so. Smallmouth bass fishing should remain decent with the warm surface temperatures. As the lake warms, looks for fish congregating at Hamilton Branch and the NF Feather through Chester. **Feather River. Lower** Fishing is slow. Best bet is first light with pt nymphs and san juan worms. Look for great steelhead fishing to start in September. **East Carson River** A rain storm on Monday caused the water to become discolored. As the water clears hatches of yellow sallies and caddis will continue in the evenings. 129 cfs at Markleeville. **West Carson River** Fish stimi's early and late for consistent action on both stocked and native rainbows. 34 cfs. **Putah Creek** is poor. Summer water levels (693 cfs) make it tough for fly fishing. **Baum Lake** has good hatches of callibaetis, caddis, and some PMD's. Fish can be found actively working the surface. Fish will respond to a properly presented dry fly. Best set-up is a parachute adams with a zebra midge dropper. **Stanislaus River below Goodwin Dam** Fishing is fair. Nymphing with mayfly and midge patterns in size 18 and smaller is the most productive method. **MF Stanislaus River below Beardsley Reservoir** - Fishing is poor to fair. Some anglers are hooking into fish with BWO nymphs and small caddis larva. Dry fly action is spotty, but some caddis are coming off in the evening.

WH&WN™ FREE flyfishing report would not be possible without the help of: 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, Andy/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, Craig Nielsen, 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.