

**What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First* ! – updated 19 July 2016**

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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>Lake Almanor</b>	Clear, low 70's, lake level is good.	<b>Fishing is fair to good.</b> Best fishing is in the morning and evening. The Hex hatch slowing. Best fishing is subsurface with a hex nymph even as fish are rising. The hatch is 20-45 minutes. Start fishing earlier with the nymph subsurface. Start in deep water with nymphs and progressively fish in shallower water as the sun goes down. A slow, methodical retrieve is a productive way to get fish on the bite. With water temps rising, your best bet is nymphing the Hamilton Branch with a beadhead through the pocket water will produce some big rainbows.	<b>Lake woolly buggers/streamers</b> 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). <b>Hex nymphs-</b> Quigley's emerging hex nymph, Burk's hex nymph, Bear's headbanger hex (#6-8). <b>Hexagenia cripples/dries</b> Quigley's Hex cripple, Mercer's poxyback hex cripple, Water's foam hex, Bear's foam hex, (#6-8). <b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> (listed elsewhere).	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.
<b>Battle Creek</b>	Slight tint, low 50's, 464 cfs at Coleman Fish Hatchery.	<b>Fishing is fair to good.</b> Best fishing is early and late. Look for trout rising to PMD's in the morning. Hatches are isolated-Keep an eye out for PMD's in riffles and tailouts. Fishing slows as temps rise, fishing hoppers in pocket water will bring trout up. Nymphing subsurface with stoneflies and caddis pupas in fast, oxygenated water will find trout seeking relief from the heat of the day. Best of the hatches are in the evening with trout rising to caddis, yellow sallies and stoneflies. Don't leave early, the best is just before dark.	<b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> 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). <b>Attractor dries</b> irresistible adams, parachute light cahill, Rio Grande trude, parachute adams, paralyzer, royal coachman, crystal stimulator, renegade, royal wulff, para wulff, (#10-18). <b>stonefly nymphs and Lake woolly buggers/streamers</b> (Listed elsewhere in report).	Moderate fishing pressure above Coleman Hatchery.
<b>Davis Lake</b> (near Portola off hwy 70)	Clear, high 60s to low 70s F.	<b>Fishing is fair.</b> Midmorning, strip damsel flies on an intermediate sinking line over weed beds. Although the majority of the hatch is over, trout remember gorging on damselfly and aren't hesitant on the bite. As temps keep rising, strip woolly buggers and streamers deeper on a type 3 sinking line. In the afternoon, key in on the callibaetis hatch using floating line and a long leader. Fish a Callibaetis nymph with a slow retrieve or dries to rising trout. Reports of sporadic hex hatching in the evening. Water temps are pushing the upper limit of fishing.	<b>Damsel fly nymphs/dries</b> 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). <b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>Lake woolly buggers/streamers</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>Midge pupa</b> (listed elsewhere).	Moderate to high fishing pressure. Coves may be busy during the weekends NCDAG pg 70. Tributaries around Davis lake open Saturday preceding Memorial Day to Nov. 15 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Fall River</b> (Cal Trout access to Spring Creek Rd.)	Slight tint, normal spring flow.	<b>Fishing is fair to good.</b> Best fishing is in the afternoon to evening with hatches of callibaetis, caddis, and hex. In the morning and on overcast days, nymph the flats with midges and BWO's under an indicator. Swing soft hackles with an intermediate line or long leader with split shot to rolling trout along the flats. PMD and caddis hatches are sparse. When trout are spotted rising use a long leader with a delicate down stream drift. In the evening, swing light, un-weighted brown and black leeches through bends or flats with an intermediate sinking line. Also look for trout rising to evening caddis along the edges. Hex hatch is waning and is now spotty at best.	<b>BWO/Baetis emerger/dries</b> 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, 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). <b>Midge pupa</b> glass bead midge (red, black), crystal dip, disco midge, brassie, desert storm, zebra midge (rust, black), WD40 (olive, chocolate), skinny nelson, biot midge, crystal HBI (#18-22). <b>Lake woolly buggers/streamers</b> (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Pram with electric motor needed. Public access is at Cal Trout. NCDAG pg 38. CDAG pg 35.

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<b>Feather River, Middle Fork</b> (Graeagle downstream)	Clear, mid to high 60s F, 314 cfs below Sloat Creek..	<b>Fishing is fair.</b> Best fishing is in the evening for trout rising to yellow sallies, caddis, and stoneflies. Pre-hatch, swinging soft hackles and high stick nymphing in pocket water and tailouts will produce trout on caddis soft hackles. Use enough split shot to get flies down. A caddis with a small attractor bead nymph will produce fish. Be sure to look for trout feeding in oxygenated water. Most productive fishing is below Two Rivers where water is colder due to the influx of tributaries.	<b>Little yellow stone dries</b> 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). <b>Attractor dries</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> (listed elsewhere).	Best fishing is from Two Rivers upstream and Layman's Camp. (Open First Saturday in April through Nov 15 from Union Pacific Railroad Bridge to Mohawk Bridge)
<b>Feather River, N.F.</b> (Cresta powerhouse to Lake Oroville)	Slight tint, low 60s F, Check flows at WWW.Dreamflows.com.	<b>Fishing is good.</b> In the morning, high stick nymphing stone flies, caddis pupa, and mayfly patterns with plenty of split shot to get flies down in fast water will produce fish. These trout love fast oxygenated water to find relief from warm water. Get flies down in pocket water. Midday, fish deep pools, deep runs, with sculpin patterns on a sink tip to find aggressive trout. Best of the hatches start after 6 p.m. with trout rising to caddis, followed by yellow sallies and stoneflies before dusk. Best fishing is in slow pocket water where trout are easily enticed. Best fishing is from Grizzly Creek to Beldon where water temps are cooler.	<b>Golden stonefly dries</b> 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). <b>BWO 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. <b>Attractor beadhead nymphs and Midge pupa and Golden stonefly nymphs, Caddis pupa/ emergers</b> (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.
<b>Hat Creek</b> (PH#2 to fish barrier)	Clear, low 50s F, good flow.	<b>Fishing is good.</b> Best fishing is in the morning with trout feeding on tricos during the spinner fall in the wild and scenic section below Cassel. Spinner fall starts around 7:30 a.m. Present a trico with a delicate downstream drift to rising trout on the flats. Use light tippet (6x) with a long leader. Cover water to find rising trout. In the afternoon, look for trout rising to callibaetis in riffles and over weed beds on the flats. Use a delicate cast to present a fly to fish in clear water. The evening hatch can be good with yellow sallies, caddis, and stoneflies.	<b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> 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). <b>Golden stonefly nymphs</b> jumbo john, Morrish cone stone, Morrish WMD, Mercer's raghead, Poxback golden stone nymph, Mercer's poxyquill golden stone, beadhead twenty incher, copper back, Pat's Rubberleg. <b>Midge pupa</b> (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.
<b>McCloud River</b> (below McCloud Reservoir)	Good clarity, mid 50's, normal flow (166 cfs at Ash Camp, 184 cfs at Ah-Di-Na)	<b>Fishing is good.</b> Pre-dawn, before the sun hits the water early morning strip streamers in pocket water to find aggressive, big, trout willing to eat a big streamer pattern. In the morning, high stick nymph caddis, mayflies, and stoneflies. Be sure to use enough split shot to get flies down in fast water. Mid morning, look for trout rising to PMD's. A productive method is a dry dropper in pocket water along the edges. Pre-hatch, swinging attractor soft hackles for feeding trout in riffles and in tailouts is another productive method. In the evening, trout will key in on PED's, yellow sallies, and caddis.	<b>March brown nymphs/dries</b> Hogan's march brown nymph, March brown emerger, copper john, beadhead flash back pheasant tail, march brown spotlight emerger, spun dun, march brown parachute, march brown cripple, PT challenged, March Brown dun (#12). <b>Golden stonefly dries</b> 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). <b>River woolly buggers/streamers and Midge pupa</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>BWO/Baetis emerger/dries</b> (listed elsewhere).	Heavy fishing pressure on the weekends at Ah-Di-Na. Access below McCloud Reservoir. NCDAG 36.
<b>Pit River #3,#4, #5</b> (below Lake Britton to Big Bend)	Green to brown tint, low 50s F, 344 cfs on Pit #3, 424 cfs on Pit #4 and 418 cfs on Pit #5.	<b>Fishing is good.</b> Water levels are high but normal flow on Pit #3 and #4. High stick nymph stoneflies, small black nymphs, and PMD's. Use plenty of split shot to get flies down and around boulders. In the morning, swinging soft hackles and caddis and high stick nymphing will produce fish after hatches get going. In the evening, trout are rising to caddis, yellow sallies, and stoneflies. Stripping and or swinging sculpin patterns along the edges and breaks in the current will produce trout.	<b>River woolly buggers/streamers</b> 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). <b>Golden stonefly nymphs</b> jumbo john, Morrish cone stone, Morrish WMD, Mercer's raghead, Poxback golden stone nymph, Mercer's poxyquill golden stone, micro cable stone, beadhead twenty incher, copper back, Pat's Rubberleg. <b>Attractor beadhead nymphs and Golden stonefly dries and Caddis pupa/ emergers</b> (listed elsewhere), <b>Caddis pupa/ emergers</b> (listed elsewhere).	Moderate 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. NCDAG pg 47. New CDAG pg. 34.

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<b>Sacramento River, Lower</b> (below Keswick Reservoir)	Green tint, low to mid 50's, flow of 10,500 cfs.	<b>Fishing is good to very good.</b> Best fishing is during the evening hatch when fish are aggressively feeding on the flats. It's all about the caddis hatch right now so nymphing caddis pupa's and birds nest are the hot flies getting fish on the bite. Nymphing rubber leg stones, micro mayflies, and pheasant tails are also getting good action throughout the day. Due to high summer flow, be sure to lengthen leaders and add split shot to get flies down deep. In the morning, trout will be keying in on the remainder of PMD's along the edges of flats. Pre-hatch, swinging caddis soft hackles in riffles and in the seams will find trout.	<b>Caddis pupa/emergers</b> 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). <b>Golden stonefly nymphs, Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> and <b>BWO nymphs</b> (listed elsewhere). <b>PMD emergers/cripples/dries</b> (listed elsewhere), <b>Pale morning dun nymphs</b> (listed elsewhere)	Drift boat fishing is provides best access. Closed to fishing above Hwy 44 bridge until August 1. NCDAG pg 46, 57. New CDAG pg. 41.
<b>Sacramento River, Upper</b> (Lake Siskiyou to Lake Shasta)	Clear, mid 50s to high 60s. Low flow (525 at Delta).	<b>Fishing is fair.</b> Best fishing is in the evening around Dunsmuir where water temps are cooler. In the morning, fish small mayfly pattern dries in pools and tailouts where fish are actively rising. Midday, swing soft hackles in riffles and high stick nymph in pocket water and pools where trout are seeking relief from the heat of the day. Nymph caddis pupa, golden stones, midges, and micro mayflies. In the evening, fish stoneflies, caddis, and yellow sally dries. In the morning, the best fishing action is below Sims, and in the evening look to fish above Sims where water temps are cooler.	<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, Fox's crowning poopah old/cinn, Kyle's better foam caddis (#12-20), Hopper Stone Tan (#6,8). <b>Caddis pupa/emergers</b> 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). <b>Attractor beadhead nymphs</b> (listed elsewhere), <b>BWO/Baetis nymphs</b> (listed elsewhere), <b>Golden stonefly nymphs</b> (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Be careful when wading. Access to Mossbrae falls at Scarlet Way is posted no parking. NCDAG 36, 46.
<b>Other Reports. Little Truckee.</b> Fishing is fair to good. Small midges and baetis under an indicator in the morning. Trout rising to caddis in the evening. <b>Lower Feather River</b> has some spring steelhead in the low flow section but flows are high. Fishes great from a boat but not easy to wade. Salmon season is open below the Outlet but not many reports yet. <b>Putah Creek</b> (below Lake Berryessa) 536 cfs. 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.				
<b>Largemouth Bass Fishing</b> 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. <b>Thermalito Afterbay</b> 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. <b>Frank's Tract &amp; San Joaquin Delta</b> (including Mildred, San Joaquin River, and nearby sloughs) Water temps are currently high 60's to low 70's. Bass are post spawn. Early and late are ideal times to fish topwater poppers and divers around rock walls, heavy cover and up against tules. 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. <b>Lake Oroville</b> Catching bass top water is the best before 10:00 a.m. Rainbow pole dancers and small baitfish divers are also producing fish. Fish back bays to block out the wind. Stripping big, weightless, saltwater streamers on a floating line is also producing fish. Due to increase in water levels and temperature, fish are scattered throughout the system, so look to shoot flies towards structures such as logs or boulders to locate bass. As the top water bite slows down midday, fish weighted streamers on a sink tip to get flies down.				
<b>WH&amp;WN™ FREE flyfishing report would not be possible without the help of:</b> 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, 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.				