

What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First* ! – updated 1 July 2015

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Fishery	Water Conditions	Fishing Conditions, Techniques, and Hatches	Flies	Comments
Lake Almanor	Clear, mid 60s F, good lake level.	Hex hatch is fair to good. Some days are better than others with the hatch in full swing to very few bugs hatching. Best fishing is with tandem nymphs from 6pm to dusk. Use a floating or intermediate line with one or two nymphs under a 10-14 ft leader. Retrieve slow and steady imitating the rise of the nymphs to the surface. Fish a dry or cripple to rising fish just before dark when the majority of Hex are hatching. Fish are getting smart and tougher to catch. Good numbers of fish are being caught at Hamilton Branch. Fish beadhead nymphs under an indicator or tight line with plenty of weight.	Hexagenia nymphs Burk's hex nymph, Schmidt's hex nymph, Bear's headbanger hex, Burk's beadhead aggravator, Q's Hex Emerger (#4-8). Hexagenia cripples/dries Hex poxyback cripple, Water's foam hex, Neally's adult hex, Gallop's hex spinner, Bear's foam hex (#6). Beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). Beadhead nymphs Hot wire prince, green bean, Hogan's good and plenty nymph (tan, olive), twenty incher, Eng thing, hares ear, Hart's dark lord, prince, Beadhead soft hackle (rust, olive), copper john (red, black, copper) Hogan's amber wing attractor (#10-18).	Moderate to high fishing pressure at Prattville and Geratal cove. NCDAG pg. 59
Davis Lake (near Portola off hwy 70)	Clear, mid to high 60s F.	Fishing is fair. The damsel hatch is slowing and getting technical as water warms and trout get wise. Use a slow retrieve on a floating or slow sinking line with a longer leader. The best damsel hatch is from Freeman to Cow Creek. Stripping a bugger around weed beds will get some bigger rainbows. A good callibaetis hatch is going in the afternoon near Freeman Creek. Use a sparkle dun with a Jansen's callibaetis nymph dropper. There is a mix of both small and large rainbows (15-18 inches) showing.	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.
Battle Creek	Slight tint, mid 60's, 201 cfs at Coleman Fish Hatchery.	Fishing is fair. Flows are holding steady around 200 cfs. It's hopper time! Splash them around boulders and along the bank. Cover water to find eager trout. Nymphing with golden stones, attractor beadhead nymphs and caddis pupa are producing good numbers in deep runs, pools and pocket water. Skip the indicator fishing deep with heavy split shot to get the flies down in aerated water. Best of the evening hatch is caddis and yellow sallies with a few PMD's still around when the sun is off the water. These are strong trout! Use 3X tippet nymphing and 5X tippet on dries with a light hand. Bring a thermometer! If water gets above 70 degrees find cool water. Trout do not revive well in warm water.	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). Golden stonefly dries and Golden stonefly nymphs and Caddis cripples/dries PMD and emergers/cripples/dries (listed elsewhere).	Moderate fishing pressure. Access above Coleman Hatchery.
Deer Creek (Along Highway 32)	Clear, high 50's F, low flow.	Fishing is fair. Water levels are low but fish are still hungry. Best fishing is early and late when the sun is off the water and trout are rising to small mayflies and caddis in pocket water and pools. During the heat of the day, trout will hold in fast oxygenated water and deep pools where water temps are the cooler. Get deep with attractor beadhead nymphs and caddis pupa with plenty of split shot. Evening dry fly action is good once the sun is off the water. Best to bring a thermometer. If water temps get above 70 degrees find cooler water. Higher on the creek is cooler.	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). 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.

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Fall River (Cal Trout access to Spring Creek Rd.)	Clear, normal flow.	Fishing is fair to good. Hatches of PMD's are from 10am-1pm. Cover water to find fish rising to PMD's. Fishing a sparkle dun with a captive dun dropper through rising fish will get some action. Switch to streamers midday. Fishing a wiggle tail nymph or bugger through inside bends of the river will bring big fish out for a meal. The hex is going strong in the evening from 7ppm to dark. Start with the nymph and switch to a cripple or dry just before dark. Caddis will also become active in the evening. Bring different stages of caddis to match what fish are taking. Swing the fly at the end of the drift.	PMD emergers/cripples/dries (listed elsewhere in report). River woolly buggers (listed elsewhere in report). Caddis pupa/emergers (listed elsewhere in report). Pale morning dun nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere in report).	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) And Feather River, M.F. (Portola downstream to wild and scenic)	Slight tint, mid to high 60s F, low summer flow.	Fishing is fair. Best fishing is in the morning and last hour of light with fish actively feeding on top. Splashing a bullet head hopper along the bank in the morning will make fish rise. Add a pheasant tail under the hopper and fish will have a choice. Dredge through deep pools and runs with a rubberleg stone and a hotwire prince dropper to find fish through the heat of the day. Caddis will be active around 6pm followed by small yellow stones just before dark. Stay until dark to get the best of the hatch drifting a #16 crystal stimulator will get fish excited just before dark. Bring a thermometer! If water gets above 70 degrees find cooler water. Fish do not revive well in warm water.	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. 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). 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), Silvey's edible emerger (#12-18). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). Golden stonefly dries (listed elsewhere in report). Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere in report).	Expect light fishing pressure. North Fork -Access along Hwy 70. NCDAG pg 59. Middle Fork - Best fishing is from Graeagle downstream. NCDAG pg. 70.
Hat Creek (PH#2 to fish barrier)	Green, mid to high 50s F, low flow.	Fishing is fair early and late. Start at 6am walking the flats during the trico spinnerfall. A long leader down to 6X or 7X with a downstream drift is essential for targeting these spooky trout. Midday, chase the shade below carbon flat fishing fallen trees and grassy cut banks where trout will find relief from the heat of the day. Fishing will definitely slow down midday but it gets better when the sun is off the water. Look for trout rising to caddis and callibaetis along the edges an in tailouts. Not a lot of pressure this time of the year.	PMD cripples/dries Fluttering mayfly cripple PMD, last chance PMD cripple, Quigley's Hat Creek PMD emerger, looping paradun PMD, Brook's sprout PMD, hackle stacker PMD, PMD hair wing dun, PMD sparkle dun, PMD parachute (#14-18). Golden stonefly dries Hogan's split-wing stone, hedgehog, Hogan's hangin stimi, crystal stimulator, rubber-legged stimulator, Rogue foam golden stone. Pale morning dun nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). Caddis 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	Clear, mid 50s F, low flow 4 cfs.	Fishing is good. Great hatches and smart trout. Fish are on tricos around 9am, then move to caddis and PMD's around 10am and caddis again around 5pm. Start the day off fishing an elk hair caddis with a trico dropper. Switch to a Brook's sprout PMD with a captive dun dropper during the PMD hatch. In the afternoon, walk the bank fishing different kinds of caddis to trick these smart fish. Also consider fishing a small yellow stimulator to imitate the yellow sallie at dusk. Bring an arsenal of flies to trick these fish.	PMD cripples/dries (listed elsewhere in report). Golden stonefly dries (listed elsewhere in report). Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere in report). 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).	Expect moderate fishing pressure on weekends. Access at upper parking lot and fish downstream to the hot springs. NCDAG pg 112.
Little Truckee River (between Stampede and Boca Reservoir)	Clear, high 50s, very low flow (30 cfs).	Fishing is fair. Best fishing has been 8am to noon and 5pm to dusk. Nymphing under a small indicator with a small PMD nymph and midge pupa or san juan worm dropper is catching a few fish. Midday fishing has been tough, concentrate on fishing the shaded riffles and runs. Best dry fly fishing has been during the evening with current hot weather. Look for hatches of PMD's and caddis as the sun goes down. Key is long leaders, light tippet and stealth. Low water is making the trout very nervous.	Pale morning dun cripples/dries PMD foam emerger, PMD CDC transitional dun, Harrop PMD captive dun, PMD Stalcup emerger dun, Lawson's PMD emerger, CDC Rusty biot spinner, poly-fluff emerger, fluttering mayfly cripple PMD, (#14-18). PMD nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). Beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). Midge pupa glass bead midge (red, black), disco midge, brassie, thread midge (brown, red, black, olive), zebra nymph, desert storm, brown midge pupa, Hogan's thread pupa, zebra midge (rust, black) (#18-22).	Expect heavy fishing pressure. Access between reservoirs. NCDAG pg 81.

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McCloud River (below McCloud Reservoir)	Normal green, low to mid 50s F, high flows (262 cfs above Shasta lake).	Fishing is fair to good. Trout have become educated with a spring of fishing pressure. Fish will rise to a well placed dry fly but nymphing will be the most productive at this time. Nymphing early morning with an epoxy back stone and a black AP dropper through pocket water and oxygenated water will get some fish before it gets too hot. Try switching to a sink tip line with a seal bugger and fish the deep pools and runs where fish will hide. As the temps fall in the evening, look for hatches of caddis, small stoneflies and mayflies. Dabbing a dry dropper through pocket water while working up stream will get some eager fish. Best to reserve a spot at the Conservancy.	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, deer hair ant, two tone ant, grey wulff (#10-18). Pale evening dun dries (listed elsewhere in report). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). Golden stonefly dries (listed elsewhere in report). Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere in report). PMD cripples/dries (listed elsewhere in report).	Expect heavy fishing pressure. Access at Ah-Di-Nah or Ash Camp. Access the middle portion of the river off of the Pacific Crest Trail. NCDAG 36,37,47.
Pit River #3,#4, #5 (below Lake Britton to Big Bend)	Slight tint, mid 60s F, normal flow 335 cfs on Pit #3.	Fishing is good. Best fishing has been 8am to noon and 7pm to dark. Use a micro mayfly and a caddis pupa under an indicator in the morning. Switch to tight line nymphing using a heavy stonefly nymph, a beadhead dropper and plenty of weight to get the flies down. Fish deeper runs and pocket water when it gets hotter in the afternoon. Decent hatches of creamy mayflies and caddis are bringing fish to the surface in the evening. The hotter the weather during the day the later the hatch will start. Good reports of larger fish being caught this week.	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). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). Attractor dries (listed elsewhere in report). Stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). March brown nymphs/dries (listed elsewhere in report).	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.
Sacramento River, Lower (below Highway 44 bridge)	Slight tint, low to mid 50s, 7200 cfs below Keswick.	Fishing is fair. Best fishing is during the morning and evening. Nymphing with a tan caddis pupa and a small mayfly nymph is catching fish. Look for fish in the riffles and along the seams. Evening caddis hatch during the last hour of light is good with pods of fish eating bugs on the surface along the flats. Rubberleg stones below Anderson produce fish around clay banks. Fishing should improve when heat spell ends.	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. Attractor beadhead nymphs and BWO/Baetis nymphs and Egg patterns and Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere).	Drift boat fishing is provides best access. NCDAG pg 46, 57. New CDAG pg. 41. New regulations: Closed from Keswick to the highway 44 bridge until July 31st.
Sacramento River, Upper (Lake Siskiyou to Lake Shasta)	Clear, mid to high 50's F. low flow 203 at Delta).	Fishing is fair. Fishing is best from 9am to 1pm and 6pm to dusk. Fish from Conant upriver to find cool water. Nymphing with a stonefly nymph and caddis pupa is productive until midday. Find fish in deeper runs and shaded areas during the warmest part of the day. PED's and small caddis are bringing fish to the surface in the last two hours of light. Fish a sulphur parachute with a micro caddis as a dropper during the hatch. Also reports of little yellow stones hatching a dusk. Hatches are starting later and lasting until dark with the warmer weather.	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), Hopper Stone Tan (#6,8). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere), BWO/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere), Caddis pupa/ emergers (listed elsewhere) Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Be careful when wading. Access to Mossbrae falls at Scarlet Way is posted no parking. NCDAG 36, 46.
Yuba River, North Fork (between Downieville and Sierra City)	Clear, high 50's, low flow in Sierra City.	Fishing is good. Fishing is holding up with the warm temps and trout are being be caught fishing princes with a caddis pupa under an indicator in deeper pools, pocket water and runs. As temps come down in the late evening, look for fish rising to caddis and small yellow stoneflies. Fishing an attractor dry with a caddis pupa dropper will rise some fish. Terrestrials are also a good option for this time of year. Cover water with an ant or hopper with a nymph dropper. Best fishing is upstream of Downieville. Also try some of the tributaries such as the Lavazzola Creek and Downie River.	Golden stonefly dries Hogan's split-wing stone, hedgehog, Hogan's hangin stimi, crystal stimulator, rubber-legged stimulator, Rogue foam golden stone. Attractor beadhead nymphs (Listed elsewhere in report). Attractor dries (Listed elsewhere in report). Caddis cripples/dries (listed elsewhere in report). Caddis pupa/emergers (Listed elsewhere in report).	Light fishing pressure. Access off of Hwy 49. NCDAG pg 70.

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Other Reports **Yuba River, Lower** (from Englebright dam to Marysville) is fishing fair. Best hatches are early and very late with trout rising to caddis and PMD's. Not much action during the day and not worth a drift. We were hoping this would be a great hopper year but not a single report of trout eating hoppers during the day. **Truckee River** Running very low and too warm to fish. Wait until the fall.

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 Babbitt/Tahoe Fly Fishing Outfitters/Tahoe, Jerry/The Troutfitter/Mammoth Lakes, Ted Fay Flyshop/Dunsmuir, Greg/Sweeny's sport shop, Mike-American Fly Shop/Sacramento, Ken's Sporting Goods/Scott Freeman-EW report, Jim-Reno Fly Shop. 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.