

What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First* ! – updated 22 May 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
Battle Creek	Slight tint, low 50's, Slightly high flows but wadeable.	Fishing is fair to good. Trout are rising to golden stones and caddis in the afternoon. Nymphing is the most productive tactic during the day. High stick rubberleg stones, caddis pupa and heavy beadhead nymphs in pocket water. Carpenter ants are bringing trout up along the edges when nothing else is happening. Prospecting with big, bright streamers on a sink tip is a good alternative to find fish.	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). Ant patterns Deer hair ant, 2 tone Para ant, Schroeder's parachute ant, hi-vis foam ant, flying ant, fur ant, flying ant (#12-18). Golden stonefly dries and Golden stonefly nymphs (Listed elsewhere in report).	Moderate fishing pressure above Coleman Hatchery.
Baum Lake	Clear, low 50s, lake level is normal.	Fishing is good. Best fishing is early and late when the sun is off the water. A dry/dropper fished in the main current is the most common method of success. Try a purple parachute adams with a BWO or midge dropper. Some callibaetis and PMD's starting to show in the afternoon. On stormy afternoons, look for fish rising to drakes and BWO's. Fishing with a pram, pontoon boat, or float tube allows good access to weedbeds where stripping a crystal bugger on a sink tip line.	Attractor dries irresistible adams, parachute light cahill, Rio Grande trude, parachute adams, paralyzer, royal coachman, crystal stimulator, renegade, royal wulff, para wulff, (#10-18). 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). BWO/Baetis nymphs and BWO/Baetis emerger/dries, Attractor beadhead nymphs, and Midge pupa (Listed elsewhere in report).	Light fishing pressure. A float tube or pram is best. NCDAG pg 48
Davis Lake (near Portola off hwy 70)	Clear, low to mid 50s F.	Fishing is fair. As temps rise, trout will move to the west side feeding on the leeward side of islands around Jenkins and Cow Creek. Strip streamers on a type two or three sinking line. Fishing snails and damsel nymphs will be good as the day warms. A few damsels have already been spotted so expect an early hatch this year. Hex were spotted hatching last year so get ready from mid June to mid July.	Blood midge pupa desert storm, WD 40 red, red brassie, disco midge red, red and copper zebra midge, red copper john, Hogan's red headed step child, Chironomid Larva (#12-14). Chirono Cones Red (#16,20). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). Lake woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere). Midge pupa (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 th .
Fall River (Cal Trout access to Spring Creek Rd.)	Slight tint, normal spring flow.	Fishing is fair to good. The good spring hatches of PMD's starting around 10am and some callibaetis, followed by afternoon caddis are starting. Midges and BWO's are still around early and late with the best of the hatches on rainy afternoons. Good action subsurface with midges and BWO nymphs in the morning with a small indicator on 6X tippet. Fishing slips around 2pm but trout can be enticed to eat a black or cinnamon leech on an intermediate or type 2 sinking line on inside bends of the river.	PMD emergers/cripples/dries Harrop last chance PMD cripple, PMD CDC transitional dun, Harrop PMD captive dun, Lawson's PMD emerger, 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). Midge pupa 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). BWO/Baetis emerger/dries and Lake woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Pram with electric motor needed. Public access is at Cal Trout. NCDAG pg 38. CDAG pg 35.
Feather River, Middle Fork (Graeagle downstream)	Clear, mid 50s F, good wadeable flow.	Fishing is good. Catch this while it's good! Currently, trout are spread out. In the morning try a midge or BWO nymph under an attractor dry. As temps rise during the day, look for fish rising to march browns, and caddis in the afternoon. Streamers along the edges with a sink tip line is producing some browns. Rubberleg stones and beadhead nymphs will also produce. Some BWO's mid-morning and when the sun is off the water in the afternoon. Expect hatches of yellow sallies, caddis and PMD's as temps rise.	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, 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). 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 and PMD emergers/cripples/dries and Attractor beadhead nymphs and Caddis pupa/emergers (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)

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Feather River, N.F. (Cresta powerhouse to Lake Oroville)	Slight tint, low 50s F, 211 cfs below Rock Creek 184 below Grizzly Creek and 115 below Poe. Check flows at WWW.Dreamflows.com.	Fishing is good. Start your day with an attractor nymph under an indicator with a little split shot. For bigger trout, concentrate on deep runs and close to tributaries. High stick nymph a rubberleg stone with a caddis pupa dropper at the base of boulders. In the evening this is the best time of year to hook big rainbows on stonefly and caddis dries. Best fishing for kids is on the Caribou section near Beldon where can have good success on planted rainbows.	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, Burk's crystal hunchback, Hogan's olive military may, Mercer's BWO trigger nymph, tailwater tiny, flashy pheasant tail, Sloan's mighty may. Attractor beadhead nymphs 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 good. The PH#2 riffle is producing well with a stonefly nymph and small PMD dropper all day. Some BWO and PMD are hatching mid-morning, with some nice trout rising on the flats. Cripples and emergers fished downstream on 7x tippet is needed to catch these wary trout. Afternoon slows, but once the sun goes down the salmonflies are out, along with small caddis, rusty spinners, and green drakes. Be sure to fish until dark.	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, Poxyback golden stone nymph, Mercer's poxyquill golden stone, beadhead twenty incher, copper back, Pat's Rubberleg. Midge pupa and salmonfly dries (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, high 40s F, high flow (27 cfs).	Fishing is good. Water is a little off color due to recent storms but will clear soon. BWO's are hatching in the morning. The beginning of the caddis hatch is in the afternoon. A few green drakes have been spotted on overcast and rainy days. Nymphing a midge under an indicator or as a dropper under a dry in early morning is producing consistent action. Best tactic is to fish the edges and between weed beds where fish will hold looking for a meal.	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, looping 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). Attractor 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.
McCloud River (below McCloud Reservoir)	Good clarity, mid 50's, normal flow (166 cfs at Ash Camp, 191 cfs at Ah-Di-Na)	Fishing is good to very good. Fishing is good from 9am on. Indicator nymph with a 2 fly rig large golden stone with a smaller dark dropper of your choice. Switch the smaller dropper if it is not producing. The trout are getting selective and spooky. Some dry action mid morning on PMD's and caddis, but the best dry fly action is when the sun goes down on golden stones, PMD's and caddis. Go now fishing is prime. Lots of anglers on the river.	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 and Midge pupa (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere) and attractor dries and BWO/Baetis emerger/dries (listed elsewhere).	High fishing pressure. Access below McCloud Reservoir. NCDAG 36.
Pit River #3,#4, #5 (below Lake Britton to Big Bend)	Green to brown tint, low 50s F, no flow level on Pit #3 but slightly high, 416 cfs on Pit #4 and 470 cfs on Pit #5.	Fishing is good to very good. Start fishing around 9am with a two nymph rig – golden stone with a dark lord dropper. With fast water use plenty of split shot and make accurate casts to the seams or your fly will never get down to the fish. The trout stay grabby until mid afternoon. Take a break and get ready for the evening. Caddis, golden stones, and some salmonflies are out depending on the area. Dry fly fishing is spotty, but cover lots of water and you will find a few willing takers. Fish until dark for best results. Trout are averaging a healthy 10-14 inches, with a few bruisers pushing 18 or better.	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). Salmon fly dries Rogue foam stone giant, hedgehog, stimulator (orange), B1 bomber, Hogan's hangin stimi, Chernobyl ant (#4-8). 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 caddis pupa and golden stonefly 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. NCDAG pg 47. New CDAG pg. 34.
Sacramento River, Lower (below Keswick Reservoir)	Green tint, low to mid 50s, normal flow 7,000 cfs.	Fishing is very good. Best fishing is with rubberleg stones, micro mayflies and black attractor nymphs fished under an indicator. Best of the dry fly action is on the flats around 10am and 3pm. Not east to see the risers look closely for noses sipping emergers and use a downstream drift. Hot fly: CDC comparadun and PMD sparkle dun. Caddis are getting stronger everyday. Best in Redding for big fish, but the best numbers are down to Los Molinos.	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). Golden stonefly nymphs, Attractor beadhead nymphs and BWO nymphs (listed elsewhere). PMD emergers/cripples/dries (listed elsewhere), Pale morning dun nymphs (listed elsewhere) March brown nymphs/dries (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

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Sacramento River, Upper (Lake Siskiyou to Lake Shasta)	Clear, mid 50'sF. Low flow (250 at Delta).	Fishing is good to very good. Fishing gets going around 9am with trout eating golden stones to PMD's, caddis, and little black stuff. Most productive method is high sticking or indicator nymphing pockets and runs. Some trout rising mid morning if you keep your eyes open. The golden stones are starting to show in the evening and the dry fly fishing is getting better. Best action is on PMD's and caddis, but as the sun goes down the trout love the golden stone dries. Fishing is good from Dunsmuir all the way down to Lake Shasta.	Salmonfly dries Rogue foam stone giant, hedgehog, stimulator (orange), B1 bomber, Hogan's hangin stimi, Chernobyl ant (#4-8). Golden stonefly dries and Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere), BWO/Baetis nymphs and Caddis pupa/emergers (and 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.
Truckee River (Trout Creek to CA Stalene)	Clear, low 50's. Low to moderate flow (135 cfs near Truckee, 405 cfs below Boca).	Fishing is fair to good. Flows are good with very little increase due to runoff. Stripping streamers along the edges can hook some big browns where there is a break in the current below Boca. Best fishing is above Boca where march browns, green drakes, and PMD's and caddis are starting to hatch. For best action fish subsurface with a dropper under a dry or two nymphs under an indicator. Primetime will be much earlier than normal this year, so expect it in the next week or two.	BWO/Baetis nymphs Hogan's S&M nymph, Hogan's better baetis, Burk's crystal hunchback, Hogan's olive military may, 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). River woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere in report). BWO/Baetis emerger/dries (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure. Access along Hwy 89 down through Hirshdale. NCDAG 81.
Other Reports. Little Truckee. Fishing is fair, BWO hatches have been occurring daily. Most productive times are from 9am to 2pm. Fishing is poor due to the extreme pressure this water has seen during the winter. Feather River (Hwy 70 bridge to Gridley) Best reports are from the top section above highway 70. Best fishing is in the afternoon when steelhead are keying on caddis pupas in runs and tailouts. Reports of a few opportunities to hook steelhead on caddis dries. Putah Creek (below Lake Berryessa) 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.				
Shad Report Low rainfall totals and less runoff will make wading off the bank for shad good this year. Shad are moving up the Sac, Feather, American and Yuba Rivers. Fishing a 225-300 grain fast sink shooting head with Rio's Grip Shooter running line will hook shad on the swing, stripped in, or jigged off the back of a boat in slower back eddies where shad can find relief from the current. Sacramento River -Shad are moving up! Reports are great around Verona and Grimes and good around Chico. Access at Woodson Bridge, Washout and along River Rd. American River -Shad are starting to show from Gristmill to the mouth. Look for slower water where shad can get a break from these high flows. Yuba River - No reports of shad, but increased flows will bring fish up the Yuba to Daguerre Dam. Access off Hallwood Ave. Feather River - No reports at Shanghai Bend. Flows are up in the past few days to 1,300 cfs in the low flow section and 1,700 cfs below the outlet. Higher flows will bring more shad up the Feather River. Best numbers on of fish are on the Sac and American.				
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 pre-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.				