

What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First* ! – updated 24 May 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. | | | | |

| Fishery | Water Conditions | Fishing Conditions, Techniques, and Hatches | Flies | Comments |
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| Battle Creek | Slight tint, low 50's, 464 cfs at Coleman Fish Hatchery. | Fishing is fair to good. As temps rise, look for trout rising to golden stones, caddis, and ants. The best reports are coming from angler's high stick nymphing stoneflies and attractor nymphs (hot fly is red copper john) in riffles and pocket water. As water temps increase, prospecting with big, bright streamers on a sink tip is a good alternative to find some brute rainbows. Reports of turbid conditions but not sure. Flows are high but receding. | 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, Cutter's perfect ant, Schroeder's parachute ant, hi-vis foam ant, flying ant, fur ant, flying ant (#12-18). Golden stonefly nymphs and Lake woolly buggers/streamers (Listed elsewhere in report). | Moderate fishing pressure above Coleman Hatchery. |
| Baum Lake | Clear, mid 40s, lake level is normal. | Fishing is good. Fish the current with a BWO or midge under an indicator in the morning. Trout are keying on midges mid-morning. Best flies are flashy midges, flashback pheasant tails, and copper johns. On warm afternoons, look for trout keying on march browns, pmd's, and drakes in the main current. Fishing with a pram, pontoon boat, or float tube allows good access to weedbeds where stripping a crystal bugger on a sink tip line is productive. | 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 58s F. | Fishing is fair and improving. Trout are starting to move to the west shore around Jenkins and Cow Creek where they will pod around islands feeding on blood midges in the morning. As temps rise, slow strip streamers on a type three sinking line around weed beds. Fishing damsels on an intermediate of floating line with a long leader can also be productive. Hatch is still a couple weeks away. Look for callibaetis hatching in the afternoon. | 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 good. Best fishing is in the morning and on overcast days with midges and BWO nymphs under an indicator. On sunny days, look for hatches of PMD's around 10 am. A delicate down stream drift with a long leader will present the dry best. On warm days, look for trout rising to spring caddis along the edges. Great time of the year to swing light, un-weighted, black and brown leeches. Strip through inside bends with an intermediate line or swing through flats. Be prepared with drakes, caddis, ants, midges, BWO, and streamers. | 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, 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 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). 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 54s F, 314 cfs below Sloat Creek.. | Fishing is good. Flows are down to wadeable levels and the emergence of gray drakes, ants and the remainder of BWO's are getting trout keying on hatches. Swinging soft hackles in riffles and pocket water will find trout as hatches get started. If no hatches are spotted midday, switch to an ant along the edges. Nymphing small stoneflies and flashy beadhead nymphs will also hook fish in runs and tailouts. Look for warmer weather to bring the caddis. June and July are primetime here. | 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 (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs (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, Check flows at WWW.Dreamflows.com. | Fishing is fair to good. Flows are high below Rock and Grizzly Creek due to runoff (645 cfs). It's fishable but difficult to land fish in high flows. High stick nymphing around boulders are best. Be sure to use plenty of split shot to get golden stones down and heavy tippet (3X) to land fish. Best fishing is on the Caribou section near Beldon where you can have good success on planted rainbows. Fishing ants, attractor dries (royal wulff, yellow humpies) are good choices for these trout. A dropper under a dry is a deadly combination. Trout rising to golden stones and spring caddis well in the evening. | 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. 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 good. Nymphing with a midge or BWO nymph under a dry is best in the morning pre-hatch. Look for hatches of BWO's and brown drakes mid morning followed by caddis and PMD's in the afternoon. Best of the hatches are at dusk with trout keying on a specific hatch. Salmon flies are a good bet along the edges where big fish will ambush insects from cut banks. Sight fishing along the flats can be a real challenge but rewarding. Also consider hiking down from Carbon Bridge. | 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, beadhead twenty incher, copper back, Pat's Rubberleg. 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. |
| McCloud River (below McCloud Reservoir) | Good clarity, mid 50's, normal flow (166 cfs at Ash Camp, 184 cfs at Ah-Di-Na) | Fishing is good. Nymphing is good with stonefly nymphs, mayfly nymphs, and general flashy attractor nymphs. High stick nymphing with plenty of split shot to get flies down in pocket water will produce fish in the morning. Look for trout rising to PMD's, brown drakes, and the start of golden stones mid-morning and again in the evening. Another productive method is a dry dropper in the along the edges. Best of the evening hatch is at dusk. Fish will be rising to caddis, PMD's, and stoneflies. Cover water for best success. | March brown nymphs/dries 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). 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). BWO/Baetis emerger/dries (listed elsewhere). | Heavy fishing pressure on the weekends at Ah-Di-Na. Access below McCloud Reservoir. NCDAG 36. |
| Pit River #3,#4, #5 (below Lake Britton to Big Bend) | Green to brown tint, low 50s F, 379 cfs on Pit #3, 639 cfs on Pit #4 and 424 cfs on Pit #5. | Fishing is good to very good. Water levels are high but fishable on Pit 3, and get difficult on 4. High stick nymph with plenty of split shot to get down around the boulders. Stoneflies, small black nymphs, PMD nymphs are all producing nice trout. In the afternoon, look for trout rising to isolated PMD and caddis hatches. At dusk big trout rising to the remainder of the salmon flies and beginning of the golden stones. Prospecting with sculpin patterns along the edges and through breaks in the current will produce big trout. Studded boots and a wading staff are essential for fishing Pit #3. | 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, Poxback golden stone nymph, Mercer's poxyquill golden stone, micro cable stone, beadhead twenty incher, copper back, Pat's Rubberleg. Attractor beadhead nymphs and BWO nymphs and Golden stonefly dries (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. |
| Sacramento River, Lower (below Keswick Reservoir) | Green tint, low to mid 50s, normal flow 6,500 cfs. | Fishing is good to very good. Best fishing is with rubberleg stones, PMD nymphs, micro mayflies and black attractor nymphs fished under an indicator on the seams between fast and slow water. Best of the dry fly action is around 10am and again at 3pm with trout rising to PMD's along the edges on flats. Not easy to see them so look closely! A downstream drift is the best to get these big rainbows. Hot fly: CDC comparadun and PMD sparkle dun. Caddis are just starting to show and will improve in coming weeks. Reports are best in Redding for big fish but the river is fishing 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. Closed to fishing above Hwy 44 bridge until August 1. 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 (525 at Delta). | Fishing is fair and improving. Run-off is quickly subsiding and fishing is looking up. Salmonflies are starting and trout are eager to rise to them in the afternoon. Indicator nymph from 10am on with a golden stone and something dark and small as the dropper. Trout are holding off the main current, pockets, and pools. Search them out and use enough split shot to get your fly down. A dry/dropper combo is working fair along the bank where trout are feeding. Expect hatches of salmonflies, midges, PMD's, and march browns. They are not strong yet, but are improving daily as the water temps warm. | 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 old/cinn, Kyle's better foam caddis (#12-20), Hopper Stone Tan (#6,8). 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). 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. |
| Truckee River (Trout Creek to CA Stateline) | Clear to off color, low 50's. Moderate to high flow (220 cfs near Truckee, 950 cfs below Farad). | Fishing is poor to fair. Variable weather conditions are making spotty fishing conditions. Indicator nymphing with golden stones and a small mayfly dropper is effective. Streamers are also dragging up a few large specimens. Carpenter ants are trying to show but snow and cold weather are slowing them. Try to stay above Boca inlet where water is lower. Expect fishing and hatches to improve in the next couple weeks. | 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. Flows are close to 400 cfs in the afternoon. BWO hatches have been occurring daily. Most productive times are from 9am to 2pm. Fish along the edges where trout can find relief from heavy current. 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 pupa in runs and tailouts. Reports of a few opportunities to hook steelhead on caddis dries. Flows are high and difficult to wade. Best access is by boat or pontoon boat. Hot Creek is fishing poor with high water from runoff and it's a bit off color. Some midges and some caddis but the best has yet to begin. Lower Feather River has some spring steelhead in the low flow section but flows are high. Fishes great from a boat but not easy to wade. Putah Creek (below Lake Berryessa) 466 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. | | | | |
| Shad Report Shad are really 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 good around Chico. Still lots of males with some females in the mix. Recently, unsettled weather and a full moon has slowed the bite, but incoming warm weather will improve the bite. Access at Woodson Bridge, Washout and along River Rd. American River - Shad are being caught from Gristmill to the mouth. Look for slower water where shad can get a break from these high flows. Yuba River - Good reports below Daguerre Access off Hallwood Ave. Feather River - Reports are good around Boyd's Pump and Star Bend. Shad should move up with increased flows. Best success is from a boat at Boyd's Pump. | | | | |
| 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. Early and late are ideal times to fish topwater poppers and divers around rock walls, heavy cover and up against tulles. 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. Lake Oroville 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. | | | | |
| 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, 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. | | | | |