

What's Hot and What's Not™ (THE Northern California Flyfishing Report) from *Fish First!* – updated 25 September 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
Lake Almanor	Clear, high 60's, lake level is good.	Fishing is good to excellent. Best fishing for browns is early morning followed by rainbows throughout the day at mouth of Hamilton Branch and other tributaries. Nymphing midges, attractor nymphs and egg patterns can be done from the bank with an under indicator and a floating line. Hot fly- #18 anato may. Stripping buggers or pond smelt is best done by boat with a type 3 sinking line. Surface action is with small adams or cream sprout midge on a floating line mid morning.	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), hale bopp leach (brown, olive), Mack's bugger, bunny leach (white), chub minnow (#6-12), Milt's floating pond smelt (#4-8). 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).	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.
Baum Lake	Clear, low 50's, lake level is good	Fishing is good. Best fishing is 9am to noon and 4pm to dusk. Midges are everywhere. Drift an attractor dry with a zebra midge dropper during the hatch. Midday, fish will start rising to callibaetis followed by caddis. Use an E/C caddis as the hatch begins will hook some of the larger fish planted by DFG last week. The best action is near the boat ramp. Look for BWO's to start on overcast days.	BWO emerger/dries Brook's KD dun, fluttering mayfly cripple BWO, Harrop captive dun, BWO extended body, Brooks CDC dun baetis, hackle stacker BWO, loopwing paradun, olive hatch master, parachute BWO, Harrop's CDC BWO emerger, Quigley's loopy cripple stacker, Burk's silhouette dun (#16-20). Midge pupa (listed elsewhere). Attractor dries (listed elsewhere). Callibaetis dries (listed elsewhere).	Fishing pressure during the week is very light with some pressure on the weekends. NCDAG pg 48.
Carson River, E.F. (Along Hwy 89 downstream to Nevada)	Slight tint, mid to high 50s F, low flows (28 cfs).	Fishing is fair. Best fishing is above Hangman's Bridge and downstream near Markleeville Creek. Fish in the morning and evening when the sun is off the water. No prominent hatches, but fish will rise to hoppers and attractor dry patterns. Best method is fishing an attractor dry with a smaller beadhead dropper in the deeper water. Access along the road and drop in to the prime water.	Grasshopper patterns Dave's hopper, Burk's spent hopper, bullethead hopper, parachute hopper, kingfisher foam hopper (#8-14). 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). River woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Moderate fishing pressure on the weekends. Access at Hangman's Bridge and along Hwy 89. NCDAG pg 90. New CDAG pg. 67.
Deer Creek (Along Highway 32)	Slight tint, low to mid 60's F, low flow.	Fishing is fair. Fishing is best at early morning and late afternoon when trout are rising to midges and small mayflies in riffles and pocket water. Nymphing midges and attractor nymphs in the deeper, cooler pools/pockets during the heat of the day. Elam and Alder camps have good numbers of stocked fish and report good fishing. Wild trout below Deer Creek Falls have been more selective. Smaller flies and good presentation with 6X tippet will trick the wild fish. Great 1-3 wt rod fishing.	Attractor dries irresistible adams, parachute light cahill, Rio Grande trude, parachute adams, paralyzer, royal coachman, crystal stimulator, renegade, royal wulff, para wulff, (#10-18). PMD emergers/cripples/dries 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 dun, PMD parachute (#14-18). Caddis pupa/emergers and d 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.
Fall River (Cal Trout access to Spring Creek Rd)	Slight tint, normal Summer flow.	Fishing is fair to good. As early morning water temps rise, trout are feeding on emerging midges and BWO. Use a small mayfly nymph with a midge dropper under a small indicator with small split shot to suspend above the bottom. Look for trout rising to caddis and BWO midmorning followed by a few callibaetis hatching in the afternoon. Stripping and swinging unweighted mohair leeches on an intermediate or type 2 sinking line is producing some quality trout. Weeds are thick but cool water is keeping the trout active. Great time of year to get quality trout without the crowds.	Callibaetis dries sparkle dun, captive dun, CDC callibaetis transitional dun, Brook's CDC dun callibaetis, fluttering mayfly callibaetis, CDC biot comparadun, callibaetis extended body, Quigley's flashing cripple, callibaetis cripple, Brook's sprout callibaetis, hackle stacker callibaetis, loopwing callibaetis, parachute adams, Callibaetis extended body (#14-16). Caddis cripples/dries and Midge pupa glass bead midge (red, black), crystal dip, disco midge, brassie, desert storm, zebra midge (rust, black), WD40 (olive, chocolate), skinny nelson, crystal HBI (#18-22). PMD emergers/cripples/dries and Lake woolly buggers/streamers (listed elsewhere). BWO/Baetis nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Expect moderate fishing pressure on weekends. Pram with electric motor needed. Public access is at Cal Trout. NCDAG pg 38. CDAG pg 35.

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Feather River (Hwy 70 bridge to Gridley)	Clear, mid 60s F, good flow in low flow (1100 cfs), high flow below the Afterbay (1,700 cfs) at Gridley.	Fishing is fair to good. Salmon are getting thick in the low flow section (above outlet). Salmon are pre-spawn and busy chasing steelhead out. Best fishing is with egg, caddis or attractor beadhead nymphs away from the salmon. As salmon start digging redds and dropping eggs, steelies will move behind them to steal their share of eggs. Some reports of spey anglers swinging pink and purple intruders around Vance and Palm Ave (high flow section). 8 weight spey with a Skagit and T-14 tip to get it down is producing a few big chrome Chinook early and late. No salmon fishing in the low flow section!	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). Steelhead wet flies/streamers Mossback, assassin (natural, copper), Herniator (silver, copper), gray hackle yellow, chappie, burlap, bleeding prawn (chart/orange), cone sucking bunny, egg sucking crystal leach, general practitioner (black, orange), comet, green butted skunk, freight train, sedge spey purple, red headed boss, coal car, skykomish sunrise, prism, purple peril, silver hilton, winters hope, Gareth's fire fly, red ant (#4-8). BWO/Baetis nymphs and Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Moderate fishing pressure. Access from Oroville State Wildlife Area. The stretch above Hwy 70 is closed until Jan 1. Be sure to have your steelhead card signed and dated before fishing. NCDAG pg 68, 78.
Feather River, N.F. (Cresta powerhouse to Lake Oroville)	Slight tint, mid 60s F, 179 cfs below Rock Creek 198 below Grizzly Creek and 111 below Poe. Check flows at WWW.Dreamflows.com.	Fishing is fair. Reports are best around Beldon where water temps are cooler than Pulga and trout are eager to eat golden stones, caddis pupa, midges and streamers. Go deep with heavy split shot in the fastest most oxygenated water. Use enough split shot to get flies down around the boulders where trout will hold. Use 4X tippet to have a chance to land these thick rainbows. Stripping and swinging streamers around boulders and in pools will get some action. A sink tip line or a Rio versi leader will get the fly down. Cover water to find trout. The Caribou Road section provides good numbers of stocked trout.	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. PMD emergers/cripples/dries and 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.
Frank's Tract & San Joaquin Delta (including Mildred, San Joaquin River, and nearby sloughs)	Clear to slightly off color (3-6 ft visibility, mid to high 60s F.	Fishing is fair to good. The big "if" is the wind and has been blowing most days. Good numbers of 8-14 inch stripers with a fair share of 3-6 lb fish are found on or near the San Joaquin River. Switch to a bigger fly to get away from the schoolies. Good topwater early and late around the weed beds with gurglers and crease flies when the wind is down. Best bite is during the outgoing tide, incoming is ok if it is in the morning and evening.	Striper patterns Flashtail clousers and whistlers in chartreuse/white, pink/white, all white, and black (2/0-3/0), pearly poppers (red/yellow, green/yellow), gurglers, crease fly.	Boat needed - rentals are available at Sugar Barge Marina on Bethel Island. Moderate to heavy fishing pressure. NCDAG pg 96 and 106. New CDAG pg. 72, 73.
Heenan Reservoir (near Markleeville)	Clear, low 50's, lake level is good.	Fishing is fair to good. Heenan started the season well, but has slowed recently. Fish a streamer with a prince nymph dropper on a sinking line. A slow, twitchy retrieve is best. Also try a prince nymph with a midge dropper under an indicator. Give the flies a small pull once in a while. Tip: the cutthroat like to cruise along the edge of the weedbeds. Best fishing is from a float tube but fishing along the shore for cruising Lahontan cutthroats is also productive.	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). Scuds patterns Scud (pink, olive), GB Kaufman's scud, J Fair scud, stillwater stimulator (olive, burnt) (#12-16). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday until the 26 th of October. Access along Hwy 89. New CDAG pg. 68
Klamath River (mouth to Orleans)	Clear, high 60s, good flow (1350 cfs at Orleans).	Fishing is good. Reports are improving with fresh salmon and steelhead moving up the river with pulse flows. Best fishing is in the morning and evening when the sun is off the water. Fish a wet fly swing with a herniator or silver hilton on a long 2x leader with a floating line. When the sun is on the water use a sink tip line to get the fly down in deeper runs. Look for fish holding where cooler tributaries such as Blue Creek enter the mainstem of the Klamath. The steelhead are starting to move upriver, with good reports from Orleans and Somes Bar areas.	Steelhead wet flies/streamers Mossback, assassin (natural, copper), Herniator (silver, copper), cone sucking bunny, egg sucking crystal leach, general practitioner (black, orange), comet, green butted skunk, coal car, skykomish sunrise, prism, purple peril, silver hilton, winters hope, Gareth's fire fly, red ant (#4-8).	Expect heavy fishing pressure in the lower part of the river. Access at Orleans and Somes Bar along hwy 96. NCDAG 33, 34. New CDAG pg. 30, 31

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Pit River #3,#4, #5 (below Lake Britton to Big Bend)	Green to brown tint, 60- 66 degrees F on Pit 3, 312 cfs on Pit #3 somewhat high, 414 cfs on Pit #4 with water temps at 64-70 degrees and 387 cfs on Pit #5.	Fishing is good. Pit 3 is fishing best from dawn to noon and again from 4pm to dark. Nymph the pocket water with black AP's, tan birdsnest and tan caddis pupa. Keep moving to find the willing eaters. Best results are coming from anglers nymphing with a big rubberleg stone and dark beadhead nymph dropper under an indicator in fast, oxygenated water midday. Few reports of Isonychia, but it should be on its way, especially on Pit 4 reach. Hogan's Isonychia nymph with a larger soft hackle is deadly combination. Fish with a swing at the end of your drift. All stretches are fishing well. Not a lot of fishing pressure.	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), bunny leech (white), chub minnow (#6-12). 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. Caddis pupa/emergers and Attractor beadhead nymphs and Golden stonefly dries and Little yellow stone 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. New flow regiment makes wading very tough. NCDAG pg 47. New CDAG pg. 34.
Sacramento River, Lower (below Keswick Reservoir to Butte City)	Green tint, low to mid 50s, moderate normal flow 5,000 cfs.	Fishing is fair to good. Flows have dropped to good wading levels. Best reports are coming from Balls Ferry down to Los Molinos where anglers are hooking rainbows on rubberleg stones, copper johns and micro mayflies under an indicator. Upstream around Posse Grounds and Cypress, a few bigger fish are being taken on egg patterns. Salmon have yet to spawn but the big trout are looking for eggs. Some fish are in the riffles but the best reports of good numbers of fish are from the flats. Best setup is 8-9 feet of leader below the indicator with AAA split shot 18 inches above the first fly. Fish water 4-6 feet deep along the flats to get the flies on the bottom with the fish. Stripers are actively feeding on pike minnow on weed beds and around structure. Chartreuse and white clousers and whistlers stripped in 3-6 feet of water will find stripers. Best fishing is around Chico.	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 olv/cinn, Kyle's better foam caddis (#12-20), 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 edible emerger (#12-18). Little yellow stonefly nymphs poxy back micro stone tungsten hotwire prince, Morrish's iron sally (#14-16). Golden stonefly nymphs and Attractor beadhead nymphs and BWO nymphs and PMD emergers/cripples/dries and Pale morning dun nymphs (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
Sacramento River, Upper (Lake Siskiyou to Lake Shasta)	Slight tint, high 50's to low 60's. Low flow (166 at Delta).	Fishing is fair. Best fishing in the morning is in the lower stretches near Gibson, Simms and Sweetbriar. Look for midge and mayfly hatches. Midday, move up river where water temps are cooler. Fishing Mott in Dunsmuir is a good location where plenty of fish taking caddis and beadhead nymphs under an indicator. Not much action on dries but nymphing is producing some bigger trout as temperatures fall. October caddis have not started hatching yet, but be sure to try fishing the pupa. The hatch should start in a couple weeks.	October caddis pupa Mercer's October caddis pupa, Morrish October deep caddis pupa, Morrish WMD (#6-8). 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 Harrop last chance PMD cripple, 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). Caddis pupa/ emergers and Attractor beadhead nymphs and Attractor dries and Midge pupa (listed elsewhere).	Expect heavy fishing pressure. Be careful when wading. NCDAG 36, 46. New CDAG pg. 33
Trinity River (near Lewiston)	Clear, mid 50s F, low flow (450 cfs).	Fishing is fair, and improving. Reports of both half pounders and adults caught around Hoopa and Willow Creek. Recent high flows will bring more fish in the system. There are some fresh steelhead as high up as Junction City. Swing a herniator, silver hilton or mossback on a floating line early or late. Midday, indicator nymph with a golden stone and an attractor nymph dropper. Use at least 2X tippet to land these hot fish.	Steelhead wet flies/streamers Mossback, assassin (natural, copper), Herniator (silver, copper), cone sucking bunny, egg sucking crystal leach, general practitioner (black, orange), comet, green buttled skunk, coal car, skykomish sunrise, prism, purple peril, silver hilton, winters hope, Gareth's fire fly, red ant (#4-8). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere).	Moderate to heavy fishing pressure below Lewiston dam. Fly only section below Lewiston is closed. NCDAG pg 45. New CDAG pg. 31, 32, 40.
Yuba River, North Fork (between Downieville and Sierra City)	Clear, mid to high 60's, low flow 94 cfs at Goodyears Bar.	Fishing is fair to good. Cool evening temps are getting trout active longer during the day. Matching the hatch is not as important that a good dead drift with an attractor dry with a small beadhead dropper. This is great 3 weight rod water with plenty of 6-10 inch trout.	Attractor beadhead nymphs (listed elsewhere). Attractor dries (listed elsewhere in the report). 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.

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Yuba River, Lower (from Englebright dam to Marysville)	Clear, low 50s F, low flow, 686 cfs below Englebright.	Fishing is fair. Low flows are low making trout scatter. Concentrate on deep slots, pools, drop-offs and riffles where trout will feed on midges stonefly nymphs and the remaining caddis. Some salmon in the system but no reports of salmon on redds. Eggs are still a good option in the morning fished behind salmon. Best action is with dark stonefly nymphs and a midge dropper. Best hatches are above Hammond Grove.	PMD emergers/cripples/dries 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 dun, PMD parachute (#14-18). Golden stonefly nymphs (listed elsewhere). Attractor beadhead nymphs and BWO/Baetis nymphs and Midge pupa and BWO/Baetis emerger/dries (listed elsewhere).	Water above Hwy 20 bridge is open from December 1 st until August 31 st . Access at the Hwy 20 bridge and Sycamore Ranch campground. NCDAG pg 78,79.
<p>Other Reports. McCloud River (below McCloud Reservoir) Mud Creek mud flow has turned the McCloud into chocolate soup. No reports. Hot Creek Cool evening temps are bringing back insect activity but weeds are still thick. Look for cool temps to beat back the weeds and get fish feeding again. Truckee River (Trout Creek to CA Stateline) is improving with cool nights. Best fishing is dawn to 10 am when water temps are their coolest. Best fishing is on cloudy days or rainy afternoons. Be sure to check the water temps before you fish! Little Truckee (Between Stampede and Boca Reservoirs) Trout are very spooky and not eager to rise to just any attractor dry. Light tippet, a stealthy presence and a good match to the hatch is essential for hooking these wild fish. Look for trout rising to PMD's, caddis and yellow sallies mid-morning. Bring a thermometer! Trout do not revive well in water over 70 degrees. Putah Creek (below Lake Berryessa) High summer flows are dropping but still pretty high. 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. Expect lower flows in a couple weeks which will turn on the fall bite. Feather River, Middle Fork (Graeagle downstream) Fishing is slow due to low flows and hot temperatures. Some action below Two Rivers where tributaries add some cooler water. Best action is early and late when trout are rising to caddis and yellow sallies.</p>				
<p>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.</p>				