

Dry fly fishing, no doubt is visually exciting, but when the trout won't cooperate it is time to change your tactics and head for the bottom. Biologists say that 80-90% of the trout feed at the lower reaches of most waters. There are so many conditions that dictate where they hold during specific times' water clarity, temperature, elevation and sometimes just how they are feeding and on occasion, I believe how they are feeling. They are reactionary and at times will strike because it's irritable, or just in their space. Unlike a lot of people, they are definitely fickle.

My "two-cell" brain tells me that in quick water using a big fly will excite big fish, and I'm going to be there when it happens. Weighted nymphs with a two-fly rig are going to be the best option for this summer, as we went right into summer without spring.

Weather Conditions

Eastern Sierra visibility has been under wraps for almost a week due to the 32 major fires, and a total 850 throughout the state with all the lightning strikes. Conditions are still ideal and the lakes are getting ready to turnover. Morning temps are between 48 and 52 daily and day temps are running around the low to mid 70's. Mosquitoes are wearing camo gear and hard to detect, I think they even have developed some sophisticated noise filter to lessen their buzzing. Bring the "juice".

Legislation

AB7 has been funded so that hatchery stocking will continue and Eastern Sierra Waters and we will get an increase in fish, which is about 250 lbs per water for 2008. Recently CalTrout sponsored a bill, which would clarify that the fish production requirements mandated by federal law cannot be used to satisfy the production requirements set forth in California law, was recently approved by the Senate (36-0) and is currently pending approval by the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee.

New Zealand Mud Snail has a companion invasive, the Quagga mussel, which is creating havoc all over the US. Marinas are stepping up and doing boat inspections especially on Crowley Lake sponsored by LADWP since it is their water storage facility.

LOWER OWENS ~ River is running high and the drifting hasn't been sensational, I would avoid this area until the water level drops.

ROCK CREEK LAKE has been good, and fish are taking black woolly buggers, olive Matukas and large streamers. Mosquito Flats is running high with some hard to fish areas, and the mosquitoes are ready for some great meals.

CROWLEY LAKE – The water is getting warm and the fish are moving into cooler water for comfort. Try nymphs for the best red/black tiger midges and gray/black Optimidges. Not much streamer action yet with any substantial results.

CONVICT LAKE has been producing nice Alpers on large woolly buggers in black and olive #6 or 8. Also their "Marvel" is the hot ticket, be sure and ask what color is working at the store. Some standard midges for top water near the south bank where the party boats hang. The woolly bugger with some flash in the tail will also get some great action. I'm not much on hardware on flies, kind of a "sicko" dry fly purist at heart.

MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN - Lake Mary and Mamie have been producing on some small dries. George and the Twins have had the best evening hatch on dries, but pulling streamers like Matukas, black leeches, and black or chocolate woolly buggers.

HOT CREEK is clear and the best hatches are between 10am and 3pm. Try Caddis, BWO, Scuds, midges and yellow sallies. Please remember to stay out of the water due to the fragile condition of the stream and avoid spreading mud snails.

SAN JOAQUIN – Access road open and water is high and fast and with good clarity, so try nymphs, #10 micro stones, #16 copper john and #12 Humpies, and AP nymph's size 12. Also, try some large mayfly patterns and don't forget the jungle juice, skeeters are brutal.

JUNE LOOP – All four lakes are producing and water clarity is terrific. Woolly buggers near the beach, Hornbergs, Matukas, and extended body leeches are all doing well. If you get a huge tug, make sure it's not part of someone's bikini, but that's a good name for a fly. VIRGINIA LAKES has been a hot ticket for tubers and waders using red throat Matuka, black woolly buggers with side flash. Scuds are very active along with midges by the thousands. The gnats are everywhere so sport some type of snout mask so you can breathe. Try small Griffith Gnats, mosquitoes and Adams females #18-20. Some emergers are starting to work and will continue to increase with the temps. Of course dragging a streamer always works. Bear report is zilch!

EAST WALKER – Flow currently is at 220cfs and the mosquitoes are inhuman. Bring plenty of bug juice. If you know what you are doing, you'll be into poundage. First brown on a fly by Michelle Dude, 6lb plus on "her" two-fly rig. Try some nymphs mid day, PT flashback, Copper Johns, Micro-Mays, Zebras and maybe an Optimidge.

WEST WALKER – Water is at 523cfs, so look for flat water and fish the bottom, and try a two fly rig with large attractor as indicator and midge like a tiger, crystal or flashback Zug as the bottom fly. This is a tough area unless you know where the fish are holding.

See you on the water! CJ