

# Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

## **Fishing tip:**

*Has anyone asked Mother Nature why snow in April? It has been very unstable with great beach weather, then heavy winds followed with snow, then clearing and the pattern repeats itself. Headlines predict a cold opening day and "Mother" was not kind at high elevations. Heavy wind and snow blanketed everything above 9000 feet which only lessened the ice fishermen at high country spots. Spring run off has started in some places and the flows are fluctuating with the temperatures on the West Walker, fast and off color. Bridgeport Reservoir is filling but won't rise until full-thaw starts. Hopefully it will improve conditions on the Rez with colder water and a lot of it later into the summer.*

*No-see-ums must have been taken hostage while vacationing on the Somali Coast and everyone was thankful they were not in full force. Mosquitoes are still in the Bahamas and not due to return until more skin appears in the country.*

*Be safe if you cross streams, remember, the water is extremely cold this time of year, don't take chances unnecessarily, and keep a solar blanket in your fly/tackle vest and assess the flow and your physical ability to handle the water.*

## **Legislation and/or News**

*See attached report on DFG and Mono County.*

## **Fishing Report: All waters above 8000' still frozen.**

*Remember to check the regulations prior to fishing unfamiliar water as to limits, size, and gear.*

ROCK CREEK road is open to the pack station, some water showing at both inlet and outlet.

HOT CREEK – Road is clear and so is the water. Breezy afternoons (always) so try some midges and if you are not getting takes, try some Trio Spinners #22-24, also San Juan worms, birds nest, and zebra midges #18-20 should get tugs. Please stay out of the water to prevent the spread of New Zealand mud snails.

CROWLEY Water is between 42-48 degrees and fish are spread out with no weeds. Lake is filling slowly and it was a fair to good opener, if you like crowds.

UPPER OWENS has been fair to good, but if you put your "trout-brain" in high gear it will suggest using midges #18-20, or small nymphs 16-18 or the ever beguiling San Juan Worm, you'll get some nice fish in the 20 inch range. Use a 2 fly rig and don't be a "slow-set" like me. The section from the fish monument downstream to Crowley Lake opens is now open. CONVICT was also stocked with some heavyweights at the end of last season and should provide some great angling on opening.

MAMMOTH BASIN Twin Lakes has some water showing at both the inlet and outlet with a couple anglers trying to teach worms proper diving techniques, and should have stayed inside to watch the Lakers "dunking", it was a lot warmer.

SAN JOAQUIN ROAD plowing will not start until May 10<sup>th</sup> as usual, due to the number of skiers taking advantage of the great snow on the Mountain and has said they will try and stay open until the 15<sup>th</sup> depending on conditions. Check with Forest Service in Mammoth Lakes for an exact opening date.

JUNE LAKE loop road opened 4.5.9, and June Lake marina cage culture program released some great cutthroats for the opener. Tubing will be a means to an end for trout on your 4X. Opening Derby had a full house as I drove down to Grant to recheck the level. Campgrounds were partially filled.

GULL LAKE is also ice free and produced some nice rod benders for the opener. Lots of 2 to 4 lb. trout.

SILVER LAKE also ice free and had a great showing for the worm crowd, and some tubers/pontoons got their licks in. The campground at the resort and across the street was almost at capacity.

GRANT LAKE is ice free and being fed at the west end by Rush Creek running through it. There are lots of fish in the stream. Rod was next to spare tire but flies were in the truck. TIOGA PASS was started on the 15<sup>th</sup> and no report as to exact location of CalTrans from the east Side. Park Service started the west side on the 20<sup>th</sup>, no report on distance. Lee Vining Chamber and Mono County Supervisor Bill Reid have been working on some type of schedule for the annual plowing to start, and CalTrans provided them their Multi District Directive for Central Sierra Pass Closing and Opening Procedures, so that is kind of set in stone depending on the amount of snow from the winter season.

LUNDY Lake is ice free and road is open, with resort opening Memorial weekend. Edison is trying finish the repair work on the dam, but the report states they may keep it on the low side for the duration of the trout season until the work is complete. VIRGINIA LAKES- The road was plowed to Trumbull Campground entrance on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the resort opens the 21<sup>st</sup> of May. The ice on Little Virginia is 34" and should hold for about 14 plus days unless father "Sol" beats it down. While walking all over Big Virginia talking to the ice fishermen my left leg decided to find a hole that had been covered over during the morning storm snow and that measurement is 36". Geez that water was cold.

EAST WALKER flow as of this writing is 66cfs, and was 125cfs on March 26<sup>th</sup> '08. Loads of bugs with the warmer weather and this could prove to be the hot spot once the run-off starts. Joe at Performance Anglers took some Reno fly gals out a couple weeks ago and they did sensational, nothing big, but lots of fish. Try some Buggers under a Type II near the dam, or a tiger midge or pheasant tail behind a Stimulator #12 or 14 on the river. Big browns were returned to water. BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR water is low and a bit off color and filling. Looks like the boat launching will be at the "bathtub" again. Water has been stocked with sub-catchable DFG bows recently and literally a ton of big fish last fall. Some Alpers were also added for more excitement. The Bridgeport Fish Enhancement Foundation stocked catchable brown trout last fall and they will also be showing a nose on your 4X tippet.

WEST WALKER flow was 658cfs on 23rd and currently is 385cfs (418 in '08) making the flats the best places to try your luck. Try some nice attractors over San Juan worms around curves and flats. Water is off color and a definite **Class V**. SONORA PASS road crew is in about 4 miles.

KIRMAN – Report said water is primed and ready.

MONITOR PASS opened April 17.

See you on the water, CJ 9.4