

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

Fishing conditions:

Again Mother Nature has deemed it necessary to continue to provide moisture right through April, 4th year in a row. The weather has been very unstable with some T-shirt days, then heavy winds followed by snow, clearing and the pattern repeats itself. Opening day was incredibly beautiful in the high country. Spring run off has started in some places and the flows are fluctuating with the temperatures on the rise. Hopefully it will improve conditions everywhere maintaining cool and abundant water through the summer.

The No-see-ums are still on hiatus in Baja chasing yellowfin, and mosquitoes are waiting for the blood bank to arrive.

Be safe if you cross streams and 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. Wading staff might be an option.

Legislation and/or News

The DFG's Environmental Impact Report/Statement was final January 10, 2010 but the Pacific Rivers Council, et al, filed against the Department to check every body of water in the state looking for sensitive species. In the Eastern Sierra this meant making sure there were no willow fly catchers in the rivers, creeks or streams. The Department has been proactive in doing the research to clear all waters in order to continue their stocking program. Go to this link for updated cleared waters:

www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Hatcheries/FishPlanting/Evaluation.asp

Fishing Report: All waters above 8000' still frozen.

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

**=cleared for stocking*

**ROCK CREEK road is open with ice fishing the main activity and minimal water showing at both inlet and outlet. Resort plans to open Memorial weekend.*

HOT CREEK – Road still is a bit muddy with some lingering snow. Breezy afternoons (always) midges in the am and dries in the afternoon. Blue wing olives are working great and the flow is up a little and the fish are moving everywhere according to Jeff Franke at Rick's Sports Center.

Please stay out of the water to prevent the spread of New Zealand mud snails.

**CROWLEY Water is between 42-46 degrees and fish are spread out with no weeds. Lake is almost full and it was a good opener with a bit less than normal crowds.*

**UPPER OWENS has been fair to good using midges #18-20, or small nymphs 16-18, you'll get some nice fish in the 18-20" range. Use a 2 fly rig and try new indicators, be adventurous. The section from the fish monument downstream to Crowley Lake is now open.*

**CONVICT was also stocked with some brutes at the end of last season and again last Friday and provided some great angling on opening.*

MAMMOTH BASIN is still under a lot of ice from 3 feet thick to as much as 8 feet according to Rick's Sport Center. *SAN JOAQUIN ROAD plowing will not start until May 10th 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 to July 1st depending on conditions. Check with Forest Service in Mammoth Lakes for an exact opening date.

*JUNE LAKE loop road opened 4.15.10, and June Lake marina got out their 40hp ice breaker and cleared about 1/3 of the lake for anglers. Tubing spots were hard to find with so little water and so many boats. Two stock trucks planted June Lake on Friday.

*GULL LAKE is 2/3rd ice free and produced some nice rod benders for the opener.

SILVER LAKE is mostly frozen with open water at the outlet, inlet and mouth of Alger Creek. The resort is in full operation and RV camping is available, but the campground is closed. The ice is breaking away from the shoreline around the entire lake. Rush Creek is in good shape but a bit high.

*GRANT LAKE is frozen and shoreline ice has melted giving anglers more areas to fish.

TIOGA PASS plowing started on April 15th and exact location of CalTrans from the east side is unknown. Lee Vining Chamber and newly appointed Mono County Supervisor Bob Peters have been working on a schedule start date for annual plowing, but it has always been determined by the winter snowpack. They are approx. 3 miles in at the 9 mile marker from Crane Flat. See: nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/tioga.htm

*LUNDY Lake road is open but the lake is frozen, and the resort plans to open Memorial weekend. Edison will finish the repair work on the dam, and plans are in the works to complete before the trout season gets into full swing.

VIRGINIA LAKES- The road was plowed to Big Virginia on the 15th. The resort opens the 21st of May. The ice on Little Virginia is approx 55" and should hold until the temps rise. Ice on Big Virginia is approx the same.

EAST WALKER flow as of this writing is 114cfs, and was 299cfs on March 30th '10. Loads of bugs showed with the warmer weather and this could prove to be the hot spot once the run-off starts. Try your arsenal and be ready for everything, top, bottom and 2 rig nymphs might get you into some nice fish.

*BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR water is a bit off color and the Rez is filling. Water has been stocked DFG bows 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 made a showing over the weekend.

*WEST WALKER flow was 207cfs on 30th and currently is 460cfs. Quantity did not rule over quality from most of the reports. Try some nice attractors over San Juan worms around curves and flats. Water is off color and running high so try some flat water near the bridge.

SONORA PASS road crew is making progress, but subject to storm closure if conditions worsen.

MONITOR PASS opened April 17, but subject to storm closure.

See you on the water, CJ 10.4.26