

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

Experts always lecture size, shape and color as essential keys to imitating the trout's food, but motion is also an important aspect to consider in your fly selection. In order to be more successful, choose your fly by size first, then shape and lastly by color. Often we do this in reverse, and if the fish does not recognize the shape as natural, trout will turn their attention to something that does have the correct silhouette or shape.

Weather Conditions

Typical Eastern Sierra low-pressure system moved into the area dropping the temperatures slightly with several days of very windy conditions and starting mid-week it looks like a great summer at high elevation lakes is going to be the norm. All rivers are low, and there is virtually NO snow above 9800.

Strategic Vision

The Blue Ribbon Citizen Commission (BRCC) and Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) a 47 member committee, in accordance with AB2376 (Huffman, 2010) for the purpose of improving the ability of California Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Game commission to "tackle" the challenges of the 21st century. The California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision (CFWSV) appointed the BRCC and SAG to assist in developing the Strategic Vision through working groups and joint meetings along with the DFG employees who were closely involved in the processes affected by policies. Meetings were held around the state and on-line resources were made available. Eight main topics from previous recommendations and audits along with a number of comments emerged from interviewees and survey respondents were discussed with barriers to organizational change with eleven items of concern related to protecting and managing Fish and Wildlife.

In addition, the literature generally found that the problems to implementation of previous changes at both agencies were listed as three external barriers; mandates and procedural conditions, shifts in demographic values and constituent interests and funding sources.

Five internal barriers were identified in the hierarchical structure, leadership, technical expertise, communication and collaborative processes. Any long-term change to both agencies will require legislative support along with recommendations to produce a working relationship with all involved.

"Examples of the recommendations in the CFWSV include to: ensure successful recruitment and retention of Fish and Game wardens, build capacity within DFG to address the complex role that science plays in resource management, establish an inter-agency coordination process to ensure consistency and efficiency in the review of multiple permits, remove barriers to small-scale restoration projects, increase penalties for wildlife crimes, create a permanent stakeholder advisory group to periodically advise DFG and F&GC, and require open and transparent accounting practices in order to improve public confidence in how funds are managed. More info available at www.vision.ca.gov

Lawsuit – Nothing current on the horizon to date.

ROCK CREEK LAKE has been good, and fish are hitting black woolly buggers, olive Matukas and a number of dries. Mosquito Flats is slowing and the mosquitoes are not as bad as expected.

CROWLEY LAKE is down below mid-level and continuing to drop. Temps on the bottom are getting above the ideal 57°. Algae in McGee is done and water is clear again over most of the lake except the Marina where it is swampy. Windy as usual so look for fatties in the 18-22" range in the McGee area as they are chasing all the dinks out. The big fish are chasing Tui chub fry up from the bottom and whacking them on the surface. Nymphs and streamers have been the main course so try Black Optimidge w/green flashback #16, copper tiger midge, blood worms, ultimate damsel, purple leech or bird's next up top. Tie streamers as top fly with a bird's nest as the bottom fly, and watch the action.

UPPER OWENS water conditions are around 64cfs with temps in the 80-90's and wet wading is comfortable. Mud snails are around so clean all your gear with care and help prevent the spread. Trico hatch early with some caddis, PMD's and midges. Try Stimulators, Adams, Elk hair Caddis, Missing Link and Griffith's Gnats in 16-18's. Nymphs working are western coachmen #12-14, red copper John #14, Tungsten Zebra midge #18-20, copper Zebra Midge #20-22, reddish/brown San Juan worm and Prince #14-18

CONVICT LAKE has been producing nice Alpers on large woolly buggers in black and dark brown #6 or 8. Also the Marvel is truly a wonder fly for this lake, be sure and ask at the store the color of the day. The Marvel is a flash-body woolly bugger with a small prop at the head with a slender body. Some standard midges for top water near the southwest bank where the bugs show off their best.

MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN water conditions are clear and starting to warm up. Watch for fish cruising the warmer shallow water. Patterns working are Griffith's Gnat #20-22, parachute Adams #20, Brook's sprout midge \$20-22, and flying ants sizes 16 to 18. Nymphs: black zebra midge \$20-22, Olive Bird's nest #18, and Callibeatis nymphs. Streamers: The infamous Doc Randol's Twin Lakes Special in black or olive size 10-12, Rickard's seal bugger, olive Matuka, and Pop's bugger in Olive. Trail your streamers with a nymph (bird's nest, hare's ear or pheasant tail).

HOT CREEK – Water is clear and fairly low (64cfs) compared to the same time last year and weeds are growing. Mostly dries and hoppers have arrived so fish the far bank and whack it on the water so it makes noise. Constant afternoon breezes so be ready to change up when conditions change. New Zealand Mud Snails are still around so it's imperative that fly fishers help prevent the spread by NOT WADING in Hot Creek.

SAN JOAQUIN – Water is great with flows around 42cfs and much lower than normal due to lack of snowpack. Reports state the Stock truck has not hit the area but there are a lot of wild fish and holdovers. Flies working are Royal Wulff #14-18, Stimulator's #14-16, Yellow humpy #16-18, Chernobyl Ant #12, parachute Adams #16, and Elk hair caddis #16-18. Nymphs are all sizes 16-18, copper John (red and green), BH micro mayfly, prince and bird's next. Streamers, black Twin lakes special #10, and #10 Crystal bugger

Get in early so you can drive your car and not take the shuttle.

JUNE LOOP – has been doing great on black, and olive woolies, grey ghosts, and spruce flies. Silver Lake has also been stocking extra Alpers due to the bad publicity. Also try some stones, mayflies and caddis near Rush Creek for best

results when water is high. Never forget the bridge on the access road to Mono Lake.

LUNDY LAKE beaver ponds have been great with small dries early and late with a slight breeze on the water. Flies doing well are olive crystal flash buggers, olive leeches, grey ghosts, and my Carey bugger (peacock body version).

VIRGINIA LAKES has been a hot ticket for tubers and waders using olive Twin Lake special. Midges are working very well. The bugs have arrived early in droves from gnats to mosquitoes but have died. Use sparse Griffith Gnats, small mosquitoes and Adams females all #18-20. Some emergers have worked over the past week, but this will increase with the temps as have the flying ants and blue damsels.

EAST WALKER – Current flow is 132fs (cubic foot per second) and the mosquitoes are down. Hopper-dropper is the best method now and fish below the 1st mile (crowded). Nymph under an indicator would be the best choice but also try emerging Caddis early and late. The first mile is getting pounded like Chicken Kiev.

WEST WALKER – Water is at 53cfs, so look for pools and use a two-fly rig with large attractor/indicator and tiger, crystal or flashback Zug as the bottom fly. This is standard for most of the summer until the terrestrials hit the air.
See you on the water! CJ (12.7)