

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

Fishing conditions:

Again Mother Nature for the 5th year has deemed it necessary to continue to provide moisture right through much of April. Heavy wind from the 14 through the 15th blew in about 6 inches of snow at the lakes and the weather has been very unstable with only a few t-shirt days. Spring run off has started in some places and the flows are fluctuating along with the night temperatures. Opening week was incredibly beautiful in the high country. Hopefully this summer will produce lots of afternoon showers to maintain the lake levels. The No-see-ums are early and heading for Bridgeport then onto more sweaty skin, with mosquitoes not far behind. I already resemble a red and white polka dot dress from the 50's, oops, my slip (age) is showing.

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.

News

The DFW's (Dept. of Fish and Game) reports that pre-season stockers destined for Inyo and Mono county waters were around 450,000 pounds. Also, Mono County anglers will have an shot at Alpers rainbows in the 2-4 pound range opening day thanks to funding from the Eastern Sierra Fishing Coalition. Waters to receive these are Crowley, Silver, Gull, Convict, Lundy, both Twins in Bridgeport, Bridgeport Reservoir, and the West Walker. Raven Angeles of IAG reported that June Lake Marina saw a privately-funded load of Alpers last week.

More News

Next report will have the latest from the Inland Desert Region 6 regarding the High Mountain Lakes Project.

Fishing Report:

Most lakes above 8500' are thawing as the temps rise.

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

ROCK CREEK road is open and the lake had one small ice floe floating around. Resort plans to open Memorial weekend.

HOT CREEK flow has been around 45cfs. Road is open to parking lots. The breezy afternoons is a constant. Try midges in the am, mayflies mid-day and caddis in the afternoon with lizards basking on the rocks. Blue wing olives are working great with cloud cover and the fish are moving around. Nice size trout near trail under the bank, walk quietly and slow to avoid spooking your prey. Standard nymphs in #18-20 dark colors are the best right now.

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

CROWLEY Water is between 42-46 degrees and warming. Trout are hungry and waiting. Lake will fill once the regular DWP draw-down is complete. Good news is the opening was terrific with tons of fish getting caught adding to a great weekend.

UPPER OWENS has been fair to good, water is clear so fish deeper pools using light color streamers, or small nymphs #16-18. Use a 2 fly rig with a Para-Adams #18 over standard nymphs, be adventurous. Check regs to make sure you are fishing the right area.

CONVICT saw a great weekend with the number of limits coming out which made for many happy anglers. Repaving a section of the road may happen this summer..

MAMMOTH BASIN roads are being plowed but may not fully open until it is safe for traffic, then CalTrans heads to Minaret Vista by the end of April. Forest Service (760.924.5500) will head for the Red's Meadow and do any repair and tree removal on the road shooting for public access by May 25th. Twin Lakes is open but no word on Mary, Mamie or George.

SAN JOAQUIN ROAD plowing starts around May 10th due to agreement between the powers that be. Check with Forest Service in Mammoth Lakes for an exact opening date.

JUNE LAKE loop road opened around March 25th, and ready for the season. Tubing spots are plentiful and the Alpers await. Everyone did well with lots of limits.

GULL LAKE is ice free and saw a lot of Alpers for the opener. SILVER LAKE resort is open along with the Forest Service campground. Rush Creek is in good shape but a bit low.

Anglers had a loads of limits hit the stringers in hopes for the big weekend hawg.

GRANT LAKE is ice free and shoreline has great access for all anglers looking for that monster brown for the loop Derby.

LUNDY LAKE is open, but the resort plans to open Memorial weekend. Ponds in the back are higher than I've ever seen them, thanks to the beavers. Anglers had a great time especially with the great weather.

VIRGINIA LAKES - The road was plowed to Big Virginia on the April 16th. The resort opens May 24th. The ice on Little Virginia is slushy so do not attempt to fish it from the ice. It has water showing around the edges. Ice on Big Virginia is approx 30" but is also slushy and has cracks along the entire east side. Anglers did well Saturday am with less anglers on Sunday due to ice conditions. Skiing is great.

EAST WALKER flow as of this writing is **49cfs**, and was 299cfs on April 30th '2010. Loads of bugs showed with the warmer weather and this could prove to be the hot spot. Nice browns showed last week when the flow increased. Try blue wing olives when there's cloud cover, but nymphing with WD40's, Zebra midges, pheasant tails #18-20, root beer's and anything dark should get you into some nice fish. Try some Chernobyl's over your nymphs.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR water is a bit off color and the Rez is slowly filling. Lake has been stocked with DFW bows and has a ton of big fish. Some Alpers were also added by Eastern Sierra Fishing Coalition for more excitement. The Bridgeport Fish Enhancement Foundation stocked catchable brown trout in 2010 and there are still some that have grown considerably, and probably mighty hungry!

WEST WALKER flow is **764cfs**. Stay with some nice attractors over San Juan worms around curves and flats. Water is off color and high so try your new Class IV raft for some fun. SONORA PASS opened the 24th but subject to storm closure. TIOGA PASS road crew started assessing the road on the 15th and reports state CalTrans started from this side on 4.22.13 and reports are there is not that much snow on top. It has always been difficult to schedule a annual start date for plowing, because it is determined by the winter snow-pack. Glacier Point and Mariposa Grove will open first then and began plowing Hwy. 120 on April 29th from the west side for opening by May 11th weather dependent. nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/tioga.htm MONITOR PASS opened April 11, but subject to storm closure. See you on the water, CJ 13.4.30 vlresort@wildblue.net