

EASTERN SIERRA FOCUS

By CJ Webb

STAY ALERT DEER MIGRATION – Mule deer are migrating to their winter grounds and crossing the roads. This seasonal event causes accidents and death, so please be vigilant and watch out for deer browsing on shrubs near or along the roadside.

Weather Conditions – The weather has been magnificently beautiful the entire month of October, we could have stayed opened longer, but everyone said except it to change overnight and it never did. It's now the 8th of October and the mornings are in the teens with the days around 58-60 degrees. Normally the lakes have a sheet of ice but the afternoon breezy conditions have kept them open for fishing. Little Virginia and Trumbull lakes iced over 3 days ago but have turned to slush until the daytime temperatures drop below 50 degrees. Season closes at 5:44pm Thursday, November 15th.

Fishing Tip: Taming the Wind

Casting into the wind has always been intimidating until I had someone analyze my attempt at casting into the wind. The three things he noticed was I needed to keep my rod tip traveling in a straight line during the casting stroke; make a smooth acceleration of power during this stroke and ending my stroke with an abrupt stop. He also explained that the length of my casting stroke should be proportional to the amount of fly line outside the end of your rod tip, i.e., a longer cast requires a longer stroke. Also, he pointed out that the pause time in between false casts should be proportional to the amount of fly line outside the end of your rod tip. The more line you carry, the longer you will have to wait for it to straighten out.

Also, when making a cast into the wind try to carry all the line needed to reach your target outside the rod tip during false casting. When it's time to present the fly, form as tight a loop as possible, and don't let go of the fly line. Holding the fly line tight with your line hand will keep the rod loaded throughout the entire presentation, offering a steady flow of power through the cast and help fight the wind. Lastly, he said to practice, practice, and practice and before you know it your loops will get tighter and you'll be laying your line out straight into the wind.

NEWS:

Legislative News:

AB-986 NO UPDATE on (Gallagher) 12-Month Fishing License/Veterans Discount. **STATUS: - Placed on Suspension August 6, 2018 - Killed**

AB2465 (Gallagher) *Position: Support (CSL is the sponsor)* This bill would require the department, on or before February 1, 2019, to convene a sport fishing industry group, to be known as the R3 Group, with "R3" standing for "Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation." Under the bill, the purpose of the R3 Group would be to collaborate with the department to identify barriers to sport fishing that contribute to the decline in sales of sport fishing licenses.

Committee Hearing Date: August 6, 2018

STATUS: Placed on Suspension File August 6, 2018
No change in status as of September 25, 2018

SB 518 (Berryhill) (Formally SB187) 12-Month Fishing License POSITION:

On 30-August, 2018, the Bill was "**Ordered to inactive file on request of Assembly Member Calderon - Killed**

CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife is accepting proposals for Ecosystem Restoration and Protection Projects under its 2019 Proposal Solicitation Notice. For fiscal year 2019-2020, a total of \$53 million will be made available for these grants, which are funded through Propositions 1 and 68. Deadline is Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018 at 4pm. Proposals must be submitted online at <https://watershedgrants.wildlife.ca.gov> The solicitation, application instructions and other information about the grant programs are available: Go to www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/watersheds/restoration-grants

CADFW - Strategic Plan/Trout Management/Hatcheries

No update as of Nov 5th, since I talked to Roger Bloom in July on the CADFW public meetings held around the state regarding the revision and creation of a new Strategic Plan for Trout Management and hatcheries including simplification of inland trout angling regulations. Mr. Bloom stated that the Department received over 6000 questionnaires and they are currently sifting through all this information and will prepare a press release of the final draft of these plans in the near future. I'm unsure if this will coincide with the CA Fish and Game Commission's Strategic Plan

CDFW 'Buy a Stamp' to help a Game Warden

Officials at the CDFW are urging anglers to contribute to a Warden Stamp Program that helps game wardens and the enforcement of fish-and-wildlife laws. According to the CDFW, purchase of the \$5 stamp will "procure vital equipment, protective gear, and training for wildlife officers and enhance the department's K-9 Program." Information on how to make a donation is available at: www.wildlife.ca.gov/wardenstamp

CADFW (continued)

CDFW is offering grants to engage Hispanic communities in fishing activities and now accepting grant applications for fishing programs, classes and activities that educate and engage their communities. This grant program is part of CDFW's ongoing effort to increase fishing participation statewide. Interested organizations (501) (c) (3) should review the grant guidelines and complete the application form and send via email to clark.blanchard@wildlife.ca.gov no later than 5pm on Friday, December 7, 2018. Proposals will be ranked by CDFW staff and submitted to RBFF to review by their advisory board and will choose the final grant recipients by January 18, 2019. Contact: Clark Blanchard (916) 651-7824.

CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

The Commission met in Fresno October 17th and took action on a number of issues affecting California's natural resources. A full Commission video and audio minutes, supporting information and a schedule of upcoming meetings are available at www.fgc.ca.gov. An archived video is also available.

STRATEGIC PLAN - To address changes in the scope of Commission authority and adjustments in fish and wildlife management, the Commission has recently launched a sweeping effort to update their Strategic Plan. They have initiated this effort with the development of draft core values, and a draft newly revised vision and mission statement--all of which will serve as the foundation for their new Strategic Plan.

In late September, Commission staff sent out their draft core values, and a draft revised vision and mission statement for public review. With Commission possible approval of the draft documents at the October meeting, it became clear that none of the draft documents recognized or, in any way acknowledge the lead role hunters and anglers have historically played, and continue to play in the conservation of California's game and non-game wildlife and fisheries species.

To address this very serious concern, in late September Gained & Associates contacted Commission staff and requested a meeting to discuss concerns with all the drafts. This meeting was held the first week of October with acting Fish and Game Commission Executive Director Melissa Miller-Henson and Commission Wildlife Advisor Ari Cornman attending for Commission staff.

Wildlife and fishery conservations interests were very well represented with 21 organizations and several media in attendance. The meeting went well and allowed for very candid and detailed dialogue with Commission staff leadership about their concerns. The following day, all 22 entities joined in signing a detailed coalition comment letter which provided their comprehensive recommended revision to each of the drafts to the

Commission in writing. Gaines & Associates joined several organizations in providing verbal testimony at the Commission's Oct. 17 meeting in Fresno.

After the meeting, the Commission decided to defer the final decision on language until their December meeting in Oceanside and will review all the comments received and release revised draft core values, mission and vision statements back to the public for review in late November or early December.

Be ready to comment on the revised drafts that will be released by the Commission in the coming weeks and if possible attend the Commission's Dec. 12 and 13 meeting in Oceanside to do all that is possible to secure a Strategic Plan which lays a road map for a strong future for hunting and fishing in our state for generations to come. Without license funding a lot will be lost.

Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Stocking

Updated trout releases will be on their web-site (<http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FishPlants/>) or call their specific region (Inland Deserts 855.887.1275)

CDFW has an updated free downloadable app for Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations application at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/regulations>. It tracks your current GPS location and will tell you the regulations of the water where you are standing and regulations for waters within a designated area or approximately a five-mile radius. Take a look, it's pretty thorough.

TIDBIT'S from around

Sacramento Fly-Fishing Group Wins Conservation Award - At its annual meeting in San Luis Obispo, the California-Nevada Chapter of the American Fisheries Society gave its Conservation Achievement Award to the California Fly Fishers Unlimited (CFFU) a Sacramento-based fly fishing club.

The list of the club's work is extensive: Putah Creek spawning and rearing habitat, telemetry equipment and partnering with CDFW for monitoring implanted trout. Also used same equipment with Trout Unlimited and CDFW to tag and radio track trout in the Little Truckee between Boca and Stampede and did habitat enhancement in this same area. Purchase cameras/video equipment (\$5000) to monitor and support Friends of Auburn Ravine Chinook salmon run near Lincoln. Also committed \$5750 for pack stock and packers for CDFW crews and volunteers to enable completion of a multi year status assessment of the golden trout. Remaining surveys are more than 15 miles from trailhead in the headwaters of the Little Kern River (Golden Trout Wilderness). Adoption of mile 16 on south side of the American River for trash pickup and trail cleanup. Supports cleanup of Arcado Creek annually during the Sacto's Creek Week. Annual award of the Bob Bittner Memorial Scholarship (currently \$3000) to a UC Davis grad student in fisheries/aquatic science and has awarded

\$22,900 to date to UCD students. Equipment purchases for Fish in the Classroom program in the Sacramento area and provide in-service training to instruct teachers for the Salmonids in the Classroom Curriculum. The club helped in as many as 75 classes in some years. Provides a grant of \$400 to \$500 for buses to take the children on a field trip to the river to release their fry. For more information on the CFFU, go to <http://www.cffu.org>

L.L.Bean donated 405 Angler II rods valued at over \$36,000 dollars to over 100 TU chapters throughout the United States. L.L.Bean has long been a supporter of TU's efforts, especially at the grassroots level, with little or no fanfare up until now.

ORVIS-TU Women's Trips

Trout Unlimited is partnering with Orvis to offer women's fly-fishing trips, and the first two will be at Hubbard's Yellowstone Lodge in Montana, July 28-August 3, 2019, and at the Carrileufu Lodge in Argentine between January 18-25, 2020. For more details, please phone Orvis Adventures at 800-547-4322 to reserve your spots.

AMAZON SHOPPERS can help TU

AT THE BENCH: New materials for winter tying!

Kreelex—The Kreelex (fish flash) is one of the hottest streamer materials on the Missouri River in Montana.

It's more supple than Krystal Flash, and just a touch less flashy: Kreelex is a very unique material. The flashy aspect seems almost dulled metal rather than polished metal. When you look at this stuff, it looks like it almost changes color with movement going from a dark, almost black, to it's dyed color. How this works with the Kreelex fly is that when you let it drift (either dead or swinging) it doesn't look like much, but give it a twich and all that flash lights up! Much like a wounded baitfish struggling for life. It's weird, you will just have to try it yourself. I know it's great on dirty water streamers. It may also be something you will want to try on saltwater flies. Look for it under "Kreelex Flash".



SemperFli is a relatively new fly tying company to the United States. SemperFli hails from Europe and has recently began distributing in the U.S.



Semper Fli Nano Silk – This tying thread is a Gel Spun Polyethylene thread that is very thin, but very strong that produces a clean, strong body. How thin? They are calling this a 30 denier/18/0 thread. A lot of midge patterns are just tied with 70 denier Ultra or 8/0 Uni threads. 18/0 is those threads but halved. This is not just a “midge” thread, this thread is more than that. Works well for building very fine bodies and small heads for the most discerning of trout; Nano Silk also works amazingly well when tying small deer and elk hair winged flies that call for a small tie in point while holding strong with greater torque. If you are one who often asks, “How can I get a cleaner looking fly” be it nymphs or dries, you may want to check out this thread. While the price may seem a little high for thread, it is well worth the cost if you are wanting cleaner, and more slender flies especially for those picky tailwater trout. This stuff is **STRONG** for it's size, you can really crank on it. SemperFli NANO SILK 18/0

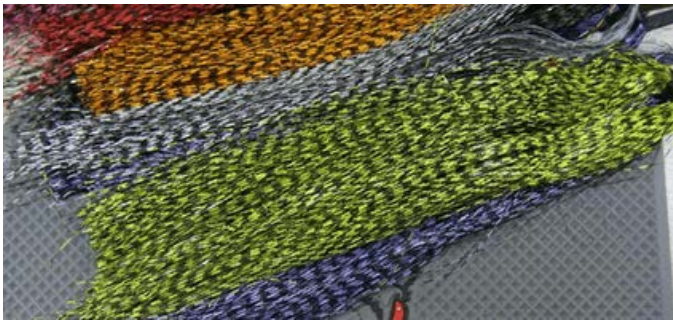
SemperFli Bodyspan – Bodyspan is an elastic spandex material that is very stretchy and brightly colored. It's actually kind of weird, but I have been brainstorming a lot with it recently. Ideally suited for tying nymphs and buzzers, it makes great bodies, ribs, and shell backs. It also comes in a 5 yard spool that is pretty swell.



What is really nice about this stuff is how stretchy it is. It's so stretchy that you can stretch it to the size that you need and it will work anywhere from sizes 12 -20. It works really great for tying a quick, 2 minute caddis. SemperFli BODYSPAN

Voodoo Fibers

Comes in hanks for easy handling and is synthetic and very thin, really quite fine and light so when blended with hair or another synthetic wing material they tend to fit right in. They are tough and have a light stretch but not elastic. The barring gets wider as they stretch and will eventually snap if stretched too much. They are the nearest thing to grizzly or Lady Amherst pheasant tail fibers. Set against a plain background the barring jumps out. These include a couple which are bright and under a UV light the chartreuse is fairly fluorescent and bright. The various highly reflective synthetic fibers can add to wings and tails are more subtle when added to wings and tails. Definitely a new and interesting tying material from Hareline.com



Fishing Report

LOWER OWENS is at **212.9cfs as of 11/12**. Water conditions are fair. Flows have dropped to the low 200's and fishing has been good. There is a good number of fish in the 10-14 inch range with some larger fish in the mix. Dries, nymphs and streamers are all good choices for a productive day on the water. **Dries:**

Griffith's Gnat #20, extended body BWO#20-22, Para Adams #18-20, Elk Hair Caddis #16-20, Parachute Caddis #16-18 and yellow and tan Stimulators #14-16 and Brooks sproutbaetis #18-22. Nymphs: Zebra Midge #18-20, Baetis BH #18-20, Barr's uncased caddis #14-16, Tungsten Caddis #14-18, Birds Nest Olive or natural #12-16, stonefly nymphs #14-16, Barr's flash BWO #18-22, and Kingrey's Cold Turkey Baetis #18-22.

STREAMERS – big and ugly, really! Pick your favorite and chuck it everywhere, you will catch few fish but there's a chance to catch much larger fish this way.

ROCK CREEK LAKE - The Lake is starting to ice up around the edges if not fully iced over. Some ice on the stream and very cold until around 11am and again around 2pm until dark.

UPPER OWENS – Flow is at 89cfs as of 11/12

Water conditions: Fair. Fishing: Rainbows have been moving up from the lake and there are some larger fish lurking around in deeper holes and undercuts. They don't seem to be the most selective, however they are extremely spooky. Give the bank some girth while casting to your desired run or bend. Streamers can be very affective this time of year in the 2-4 inch range. If streamers don't produce fish then try nymphing may save the day. A larger attractor with some flash followed by a smaller more hatch-matching fly is a good way to move fish. The evenings on the UO are a great time to throw dries at rising fish. Whatever you try the key is to cover as much water as you can after 2 or 3 solid drifts so keep moving as the fish have been spread out lately. **DRIES:**

Stimulator #16, Extended Body BWO #16, Elk Hair Caddis #16-18, and Parachute Adams #16-20.

NYMPHS: #12-16 Bead Head Prince Nymph, #16-18 Pheasant Tail, Flashback Hares Ear #14-16, Anderson's Bird of Prey #14-16, Olive birds nest #14-16, zebra midge #18-22, Juju baetis #18-22, Splitcase BWO #18-22, Olive WD-40 plain or flash #18-22. **STREAMERS:** Meat Whistle, D's Hoover Mover, Tan Sculpzilla, Olive or black Woolly Bugger, Olive Slumpbuster, Olive baby gonga, and an Olive Double Gonga. A sink tip or full sink type 3 is recommended, otherwise add some splitshot to help your bug get down in the water column.

CROWLEY LAKE - Fishing conditions has been good but not consistent but it still has its great days, just a few more tough ones in the mix.

Now that the marina is closed the lake is much more peaceful. Crooked creek has slowed considerably and be real careful to stay in the lake and stay out of any current at the mouth. Whiskey bay hasn't happened yet and not too many that it will change. The fish are now starting to move around on a daily basis, here today and gone tomorrow, so don't stick with yesterday's hot spot if things are slow. Even if you're catching fish, always have a variety of patterns on at all times, you never know when they might switch. As usual stripping streamers is more effective tubing while midging is easier out of a boat. Generally you get fewer small fish stripping, larger numbers midging. Midges are probably as effective as perch now, Albino Baron and grey or green with flash. We are also starting to see fish in deeper water as well as in the Hilton Bay area. These fish are more likely to be eating midges so don't get caught in the perch rut. One way of looking at it is if the bottom doesn't show any weeds go with midges.

McGee Bay - the fish seem to be spreading out more.

The lake has dropped to the point that fishing the stream mouths is difficult because there's very little

water between shore and the weed beds and even the Owens River channel is getting tougher.

Albino Barons, Red Barons early and later am go to Copper Tigers, Red/Black dubbed head Optimidges, then Flashback Gray/Black Optimidges, Shaft Emergers when sun is overhead – all small. For Perch: Hornbergs #6-12, birds nest #12-16 and punk perch #12-14.

HOT CREEK - Water condition is fair. Flows are at **36.4cfs as of 11/12**, Conditions and hatches: Good.

WARNING: To those who waded in Hot Creek, one of our guides witnessed 2 anglers being cited for wading in Hot Creek in September.

Hatches are still good even with the weather getting colder. Smaller mayfly and caddis patterns are key this time of year. BWO's are prominent mid-day followed by caddis hatching in the afternoon, streamers can produce some larger fish in the deeper holes. It seems with the recent stocking, pods of smaller fish are always accompanied by one or two larger fish looking for an easy meal. **DRIES:** Parachute Adams #16-20, Elk Hair Caddis #16-18, Parachute Caddis #16-22, Screaming Banshee #16-18, Hi-Vis Hatchmatcher #18-20, Brooks Sprout Baetis #18-22, Para Extended Body bWO 18-22. **NYMPHS:** Tungsten Black Beauty #18-22, Tailwater Tiny Olive #18-20, Bottom Roller Caddis #14-18, Nitro Caddis #16-18, Caddis Poopah olive #18-20. **STREAMERS:** Slumpbuster Olive, Crystal Bugger, Olive Bopp leech.

CONVICT LAKE – Same report as September.

Action has been mainly at the southwest corner and the outlet even toward the aspens on the south shore and some action on the north shore about mid point of the lake as there seems to be more brush for bugs to snuggle in and stay warm on these cold nights. Resort has stocked consistently with larger fish and they are starting to come out on flies. Whether they are still stocking large fish is unknown. Suggested flies would be dark buggers, light Spruce Flies, or even a crystal bugger in dark purple or burgundy and black size 8 or 10 and even try a point fly to search around 15 feet or so. Loads of action on hoppers along the north shore anywhere there are overhanging bushes. Also try a Loeberg and a light Assassin as a dropper. But don't forget the Convict Lake Marvel (bugger with a prop) in green and brown. These are fairly stable throughout the summer until the cooler temps arrive.

MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN – Same report as September. Fall is here and the fall pattern has begun with the brookies and browns moving towards the streams. Mayflies and damsels are a thing of the past so the only consistent hatches are the midges, on the surface early and late, hanging them under an indicator or big dry middle of the day. This time of the year with

the fish trying to fatten up and the hatches fading the fish are opportunistic so go to streamers and large dries when it's windy. Streamers: Dock's Twin Lakes Special #10-12, Crystal Bugger #10-12, Beldar Bugger #10-12, Pops Bugger #8-12. Nymphs: Barr's Copper John #12-18, Zebra Midge #14-18, and a Lightning Bug #16-18.

SAN JOAQUIN – Flows are 11cfs as of 11/12

Conditions are poor to fair. Road closes October 9th but Mammoth Pass trail via Horseshoe Lake is the way to get down there if you're willing to make the trek. #18-20 Zebras midges, # 16 Golden Stone, #16-18 Pheasant Tail, #16-20 Purple Prince Nymph. Dries: #16-18 Yellow or tan Stimulator, #18 Elk Hair Caddis, Black Ant and #14-16 mayfly patterns.

JUNE LOOP – TROUT PLANTS: CDFW Rainbow Trout plants are unknown but local businesses are still bringing in larger fish. **FLIES:** "Hopper Season" is still with us but may change as cooler temps arrive so keep throwing those Terrestrials in local streams and creeks. Dry flies are still working in the lakes while in a tube or kayak mainly in the mornings when the wind is calm. Try elk hair caddis, BWOs, para Adams, Cahill's, mayflies, etc. Until the surface water temps cool switch to deeper waters mid day with sink line down to 25' dragging wooly buggers, Hornburgs, Matukas, and other streamers. Also try a wet fly/nymph combo on full sink line or nearer the surface mornings and evenings.

LUNDY LAKE – STILL Not much news from anglers getting into fish but I'd try dark wooly buggers size 10, Flash-a-Bou's size 10, Carey Specials (olive chenille body) size 10, The Marvel fly, Olive Hornberg's with a prince nymph on point and use a full sink. Brook trout are in spawn mode it would be wise to not disturb them.. Please carefully releasing brookies so they can reproduce as any removal of slime on their bodies will seal their fate. I did fish it about 3 days ago, and found it was doing fair to good depending on the time of day and where I fished from shore. I used small midge patterns with a 7x mono tippet and while casting toward the inlet saw a few nice fish nuzzle my fly and go on their way. Changed flies several times until I found the prime rib they were looking for. You wouldn't believe it if I told you. The weather has been unbelievably mild with very cold mornings and fairly comfortable during the day between around 11-2pm, then the chill starts as the sun moves west over the ridge.

VIRGINIA LAKES –Fishing has slowed down and the reason is due to the number of anglers on and around the lakes here. Dry fly action improved overall we had light cloudiness most of the afternoon. Basically the same report as last month with a good number of caddis and hoppers and damsels on the menu but flying ants and

small lime midge's size 22 or 24 have done a great job, but it's been tough with the heat during the day driving the fish down to where it's below 62 degrees. Good dry action when the sun ripples the surface early and late afternoon; green body mosquitoes, Sierra Caddis, Grey Hackle Peacock, Henryville Special if you can find them, or tie some up after you review the "old timer's" pattern. I keep my bugs on a diet and they're faster and easier to tie when they're slim; and the water distorts them anyway.

Both Trumble and Big Virginia lakes have seen action this past week due to the numbers of anglers still around the area all vying for trout. Big V has been getting most of the action since Little V is frozen, and Trumble Lake is 75% iced over. Big V is starting to get ice on the southeast side of the lake and should be totally frozen in about 5-7 days unless the high pressure system stays off any possible storms. Try some leech patterns, damselfly, buggers, hoppers, soft hackles and Zug bugs and any terrestrial in your box. Hoppers are leaping off the shoreline brush and a Beldar Bugger (olive with rubber legs).

We did see one day last week of 31 degrees at 6am here, and the aspen leaves are 90% yellow with amazing color as you leave 395.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR – Bridgeport had one or two tough days this week but overall the fishing has been getting better and better each day. The bait anglers are still doing the best with crawlers but there's also some pinched crawler, mice tail and powerbait action. The trolling is good with needlefish, Thomas Buoyants, Rapalas and crawlers. We haven't had much news from the fly anglers lately but there should be some streamer action going on up in the channels and maybe down near where the lake narrows near the public launch ramp as well. The shore fishing hasn't picked up yet, hopefully sometime in October that will take off.

EAST WALKER – Water conditions are fair with flows at 24.8cfs as of 11/12. The fishing down is fair to good but there is still opportunity to land the fish that the East is known for. Big dries or a Dry Dropper have been effective with the current water levels, otherwise nymphing and streamer fishing are great options. Small midges and mayflies are still hatching off and on through the day. Recently covering water has been the key, cast at anything 18 inches or deeper as the fish are holding in a variety of water types. It would be worthwhile to spend a little extra time at deeper holes as we have been getting reports that multiple fish can be caught out of each deep pocket you come across. Recommended DRY Flies: Big flies to get fish to come up and eat them. Stimulator #8, Parawolf Purple #10, Chernobyl Ant #6-16, and #20-22 dark mayfly patterns.

NYMPHS: Copper Zebra #16, BH Prince nymphs #12-14, Olive Birds Nest #10-16, Caddis Larva #10-18, Stonefly nymphs #16-10, Hogan's S&M #16-20, Pocket Water baetis #18-20, black Two-bit Hooker #18-20, and Kingrey's Cold Turkey Baetis #18-22. **STREAMERS:** Meat Whistle #1, D's Hoover Mover in Rush #4, Hornberg 12-12, White Woolly Buggers #10-14, Orange Jawbreaker #10.

HONEYWELL POND – We had 3 days worth of clients on the pond this week and nearly all of the anglers did very well with some of the reports coming in at up to 16 trout for a half day. We were told that there are definitely weeds on the pond but they didn't seem to be of any hindrance to the anglers. Most of the fish were caught near the surface with either dries or nymphs and leeches just below the surface. Some of the patterns that hooked fish included: soft hackles, Mayers mini leech, pheasant tails, prince nymphs, black ants, hoppers and flashback emergers. Report from Ken's Sporting Goods.

SCEIRINE RANCH - The ranch is still fishing very well, lots of good action on some rainbows from about 14 to 18 inches as well as some browns up to around 16 inches. The patterns that are working on the California side are also working on the ranch; they're also doing well with some large prince nymphs, pheasant tails and soft hackles.

KIRMAN LAKE – No fishing reports from Kirman this week but we did get some reports from the DFW, they spent the week catching, adipose fin clipping and transplanting brookies from Silver Creek to Kirman. They were able to transplant 968 fish into Kirman and only lost 2 fish on the way. The fish they moved were from about 3 to 12 inches. Hopefully this will be a good seed to get Kirman back on track again! They are also apparently in discussion on how to proceed with Kirman as a brookie fishery in the future; hopefully they will start putting fish in there regularly and bring Kirman back to its glory days!

WEST WALKER – is running at **27.1 as of 9/28** The West is still kicking out some good fish, especially in the Pickle Meadows section. Fly anglers are having success with hoppers, stimulators, prince nymphs, soft hackles and small stoneflies. Bait anglers are going with salmon eggs and night crawlers. For lures early and late in the day try panther martins and rooster tails.

CalTrans reports 3 areas they are working on that will delay traffic up to 30 minutes, Monday through Thursday and/or Friday

1. Walker Canyon along US Highway 395 from State Route 108 to Eastside Lane Mon-Thu 6am to 6pm, Fri. 6am to 3pm.
2. On US 395 near Bridgeport from 2.9 miles south of

Swauger Canyon – daily lane closures up to 30 minutes traffic delay Mon & Tue only this week from 6am to 8pm, and Fridays from 6am to 3pm.

3. Left turn sleeve--Conway Summit & US 395

Is complete and a very welcome improvement for those recreating in the Virginia Lakes area.

For other areas go to:

www.dot.ca.gov/d9/projmgmt/projects.html

See you on the water and keep 'em wet. Cj (18-9)