

EASTERN SIERRA FOCUS

By CJ Webb - July 2022

Mule Deer Summer Migration has slowed and the females have dropped their fawns. Please be alert and leave young alone as the mother will return. Early morning and dusk are the worst times so please be vigilant and stay alive. Glance left and right along the road edges as Deer browse the brush along the roadside and cross the road to get to water. **ALERT:** The roadside area of US Hwy. 395 is a major deer crossing stay alert and don't be a statistic.

2021 Inland Water Fishing Regulations have changed, so download the app to see if there are any changes to the waters you enjoy fishing.

<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. This will probably make the new regulations easier to understand.

FISHY NEWS -

Who were all these Americans who went fly fishing in 2020? We all know fishing participation increased in a big way in 2020/ as a refresher. Fishing license sales increased 13%. The overall increase in fishing is even greater as youths--who generally do not need a fishing license--increased their fishing activity significantly compared to older age groups. Though fishing participation by non-residents in many tourist-driven areas fell, the number of licensed anglers who fished in their own states increased 16%. The good news for the long run was that the number of first-time fishing license buyers increased 31% in 2020, led by the number of first-female anglers whose numbers grew 45%.

These numbers come from a license sales dashboard created by Southwick Associates on behalf of a coalition of the American Sportfishing Association, state fish and wildlife agencies, and many other industry and sportsman's conservation organizations. You can see the dashboard by yourself by visiting <https://asafishing.org/data-dashboard>.

But what happened in 2021? Using the same resource, we have answers. Going into the year, we knew from surveys that many 2020 anglers would not return. They fished to accompany others who enjoyed fishing, and often had extra time on hand to do so. As things begin to return to normal in 2021, we expedited some loss, and that's exactly what happened. Compared to 2020 sales, the total number of anglers declined 6%. The number of female anglers declined 11% compared to the number of males, who declined 4%. Participation decreased the most among anglers in younger age brackets. The number of first-time anglers declined 17% compared to 2020.

It may not sound like good news, but these are not bad numbers! Comparing 2021 anglers to 2020 is like comparing your income to the year you won the lottery. 2020 was a phenomenal year for the industry. We knew we would give back some anglers, but, as I've said in this column before, the burden has been on all of us--retailers, manufacturers, NGOs, and anyone with an interest in sportfishing--to do all we can to retain as many anglers as possible. Even though we gave back some anglers, 2021 was probably our second best year when it comes to participation and tackle sales since the heydays in the mid 1980s.

Let's take a look at 2021 compared to 2019, which was the last "normal" year. 2019 has become our new baseline for measuring fishing trends. 2021 anglers were 6% over 2019 levels. This means, for the twenty states tracked in the license dashboard, 706,000 additional anglers visited retail stores, bought fishing tackle, and went outdoors. For all 50 states, we likely gained more than a million new anglers. Female anglers were 10% above 2019 levels, while the number of people buying nonresident fishing licenses grew 11%.

What is interesting is the growth in anglers from 35 to 44 years of age. They experienced an 11% increase since 2019. This growth rate was more than two times greater than the next fastest growing age group--45-54 year-old anglers (+5%). In fact, the number of 35-to 44-year-old anglers has coincidentally grown 11% over the past five years. During this time, most other age categories, except the 55-to 64-year olds, actually saw declines. When millennial anglers enter your store, be sure to give them a hug.

Finally, the number of first-time anglers was 8% greater than 2019, meaning we continue to create new anglers at rates faster than we did prior to the pandemic. Maybe our new 2020 anglers are making friends with them. Whatever the case, we need to do our best to serve beginning and inexperienced anglers when they enter our stores to keep them coming back.

By the end of this year, fresher and more in-depth data will become available.

Fishing TIP:

Dry Shake, dust, powder, top ride. These are all generic names for desiccant – that chalky hydrophilic substance most of use to absorb moisture out of our dry flies.

Desiccant is a solid floatant. Some use it as often as other drying agents. When using tiny winter dry flies like midges and blue-winged olives, however, the absorbent powder doesn't cut it much of the time. Furthermore, many winter dry fly anglers go with CDC as the wing material for their minute surface patterns. Desiccant is a notoriously standard drying agent (with the possible exception of Frog's Fanny" for this kind of material.

On a cold early March day just a couple of years ago, a longtime guest of Mr. Allen produced a couple of folded Bounty paper towel sheets (that's right! Bounty!) to dry his BWO emergers. He had picked up this trick from another guide with whom he frequently fishes. I rolled my eyes at first, but by the end of the day was completely sold on its ability to absorb moisture from his flies.

The quicker picker-upper markets itself as super absorbent and durable. This has been his experience when he used it for drying surface patterns. Squeezing a tiny mating midge imitation with three or four folded-over sheets seemingly sucks all of the moisture out in no time. Those same sheets quickly dry and can be used over and over again without coming apart. I rely on Bounty along with other floatants year round, but winter is when he turns to it most frequently.

AT THE BENCH:

Handling large marabou feathers is fairly straightforward. The prime portion of the feather for tying fly wings and tails is both sides of the plume. The feather tip is typically too wispy, the fluff near the base is short and often sheathed (i.e., covered in a chalky scale indicating the feathers was still growing when the bird was culled.)

To take a bunch from a feather, it is preferred to gather the barbs then tear the bunch from the stem, pulling from the tip of the feather towards the thick end. You may prefer to use scissors and cut your bunch from the stem, which works too.

Marabou barbs are soft and changeable which is why we use them. Handling marabou feathers and barbs tends to charge them with static electricity. I use damp fingers, moistened with spit (or a damp cloth if I'm really organized) to take the barbs.

Depending on the quality of feather and the fly I'm working on, I may need one or more bunches of marabou barbs for a tail or wing. Rolling the base of a bunch between my dampened thumb and forefinger lets me make a few bunches ready for tying.

Marabou barbs are covered in fine barbules. I can make a little less bulk by scraping some of those barbules away from the base of the tail or wing before tying in – if it helps! On some patterns there is no need, on smaller or slimmer flies scraping the base helps make a neater fly.

Once tied in, a marabou tail might be too long and or the tips of the tail can be too wispy. There is a temptation to bring out the scissors and cut. I would encourage you, just once, to cut a marabou tail with scissors, look at the hideous tuft you have created and never do that again. Use your thumb and forefinger to pinch and tear the tip of a wing or tail to shape, the result is far nicer.

English Partridge from Veniard

Aka grey partridge and Hungarian partridge. These are dyed and natural grey partridge neck feathers, all the

samples are in a 1g packet (they also offer 3g packets of natural grey). I've a couple of dyed partridge skins (blue and yellow) but this is the first time I've seen a range of dyed partridge this extensive and as available.

Grey partridge neck is a classic game hackle, think spiders and soft hackles. Then dye it blue or a fluorescent color and hackle the head of a wet fly for a sprinkle of fine bright fibers. Then tie an Oliver Edwards nymph and you'll want dyed yellow, non fluorescent partridge – I have a sample package in my box.

Beautiful stuff, the feathers seem to be in good condition, and nicely dyed – as you would expect from Veniard.

The selection of colors uses Veniard dyes, so expect familiar colors. Running a UV torch over the packages, the dyed fluorescent colors jump out – pink, chartreuse, fluorescent yellow, sunburst. As a bonus, it seems natural grey feathers fluoresce too – that could be the wash used to prepare the feathers, the optical brighteners in many detergents flame.

These are mixed packages in the sense that the sizes and underlying patterns of the feathers all vary, where as on a skin you can go straight to the feather type and size, in these packets you have to sort through and find the feather size you need. Pretty interesting material.

SemperSeal Natural Collection

Here's a seal fur substitute in extensive range of colors (41). Mix a couple of these colors to make a blend of colors and you must have near infinite possibilities.

SemperSeal is a synthetic dubbing; the fibers are glossy, and a fair match for seal by diameter. The fiber length is long – this type of man-made material is made in more or less continuous lengths, then bundled and cut to whatever staple length is needed.

From the packets the fiber-length varies, tufts from one packet are maybe 50mm, from another packet more like 75mm – so two to three or more inches – then the contents of another packet is one very long roll. The fibers are sparkling, glossy and fairly straight.

A 'length from the package' you can tie in the tip of a wispy tuft, then twist and wrap it around the hook to give a corded effect, some taper is possible. No fuzziness, not really palmer friendly, but it makes a very tough fly.

Then you can cut the fiber to any length you desire, crumple and mix the cut fibers treating the resulting wad as conventional dubbing. But the fibers are slippery; wet your fingers a bit and the fiber seems to twist on better

These fibers are inevitably more slippery than many natural dubbings, including seal, however you can cut and mix them to make a workable conventional dubbing, and the color possibilities are endless!

Tip – Being pre-prepared, there's no second Chance.

How you can catch more fish if you're all rigged up the day before a trip. Anticipate the flies to use, tie all the knots and leave your rod rigged and you'll only have

to walk to the river. Think about it! An angler is not fishing if he's rigging and that's a lot of fishing time. You can catch 10 percent more fish if you keep your rod strung, rigged, a fresh knot on the rod and ready to go. Try this – a week in advance – do a mental assessment on what flies and leaders will be needed. Make some notes, maybe a to-do list. Put some time aside and rig the rods, clean the lines for more distance, get your waders and boots out and sort through fly boxes and tie one on. Not sure, if it takes a fisherman 45 minutes to rig up on the bank of a trout stream and “said angler” fishes 15 times a year, that is 11.25 hours of fishing time he or she does not get back. Eleven hours is two fishing trips. Over the course of 50 fishing years that equals 100 more trips! And how many more trout?

Want to live longer, want to catch more fish. Rig at home. Fish when you are at the river.

You don't get second chances at first light.

LOWER OWENS –Flows are at 165.5cfs as of 7/29.

Fishing conditions and hatches have been good to very good. The flows have dropped for the first time in awhile; we'll see if it has any affect. This is the time to key on the riffles, ankle to knee deep. If you think a run is too shallow or fast it's probably just right. Except early mornings, the fish will be in slower water feeding on Tricos. We seem to be transitioning into a more summer like pattern hatch-wise. The PMD's are just about done but the fish are still eating the nymphs (#16-18). The big hatch now is the Tiny BWO, they used to be considered part of the PMD family but have been reclassified to Baetis. These guys are tiny, #22-26 and the hatch starts around 10 building up around 12 noon and lasting until late afternoon. The Little yellow Sallies are fading. The Trico mayfly hatch is at full strength, males emerging in the evenings and females in the morning with egg laying starting 9-10. That of course includes midges all day long and crane flies after 9 am. Evenings are getting better, small pale #20 mayflies, Trico male emergence and caddis. I did get a report of Cicadas in a few stretches.

DRIES: Extended Body BWO #16-20, Hi-Vis PMD #16-18, Stillborn Midge #20-22, Griffith's Gnat #22-24, CDC Transition midge #20-22, Slvrnm Stillborn Caddis #16-18, Elk Hair Skaddis #16, Tan Stimulator #14-16, Headlight Yellow Sally #16-18 and CDC Baetis #22-24. **NYMPH:** Pheasant Tail #14-18, Caddis Cased #12, Zebra Midge #18-22, Olive Hot Spot Jig #18, Bottom Roller Physco Rhyco #10-14, Juju Baetis #16-20, Pearl & Orange #16, Tungsten Olive Mic Drop #16-18, TB Millers +1 Lt #16-18 and Lexi Girdle Bug Tan/Black #6. **STREAMERS:** Woolly Bugger Olive & Black #10-12 and Mini Sculpin Olive & Black #10-12.

ROCK CREEK LAKE – Weather has been very warm at this elevation driving the fish down to colder water so use a sink tip and streamers without beads to get to their comfort zone and twitch and tug a bit for the best results.

Try black bead head Zebra midges #18 under another midge like copper. Stream above is doing well but nothing big just lots of action along with the voracious mosquitoes. Try a Eucalyptus repellent, it has a nice odor. If you want to try a dry fly, drop into the store and ask for their RC Lake mosquito. It deserves its name.

UPPER OWENS – Flows are 49cfs as of 7/29.

The stretch of river above Benton Crossing Road is artificial, barbless, catch and release only. The reason why the flows on the Owens don't go up and down much is that it is common for Deadman Creek to go underground up above 395 during drought years. The water gets dirtier and has more debris the further downstream you go.

Better news, we're just starting to see hoppers, both adults and the flightless "nymphs". Good news, it appears that the early season "slime weed migration" is over. Fishing isn't great but if you work at it you should be able to pick up some fish and the lack of pressure is a big plus. We are starting to see some lake fish up above Benton Crossing. Above the bridge the micro caddis (#26-28), midges and Trico female emergence starts around 7 with the Trico spinner fall starting around 9. Don't be afraid to fish spinner patterns until after 12, there will be spinners drifting far after they actually finish egg laying. Mid morning into the afternoon there's a sparse PMD emergence. Caddis is out all day long. If you want technical now's the time, size 26 emerging caddis across 4-5 different current seams can test the best. It's one thing to pick off migratory fish with attractors, something else to con fish keying on specific food. They have stocked below the bridge and they are healthy, feisty and are starting to get a clue about what real food is.

It's good to remember that there aren't a lot of "resident" fish in the Upper Owens, it's basically a nursery for Crowley Lake and as they get bigger most of them will move down to the lake. The fish that haven't gone to the lake yet tend to be pickier because it's their natural environment. So much for the temperature gage, it lost its funding and has been shut down. Scratch that, it may be shut down but it's still functional. There was a temperature gage on Hot Creek right above the Owens River Road Bridge. Right now the water temperature ranges between the low 80s and high 90s. If you're not familiar with it, to get to the upper most branch of Hot Creek, go through the first drive-through-gate on the main road and immediately turn left. The confluence is between the first and second walk-thru gates. **DRIES:** Griffiths Gnat #20-24, Para Adams #20-24, CDC Transition Midge #20-24, Extended PMD #16-18, Tan Stimulators #14-16, Beck's Sulphur Emerger #16-20, CDC Emerger Baetis #24 (for the caddis), Parachute Caddis Grey #22, Z Wing Real Midge #22-26 and CDC Spring Creek Hopper Tan #14-16. **NYMPHS:** Zebra Midge #16-22,

Copper John #14-16, PMD Duster #14-16, B/H Pheasant tail #14-18, Mop Fly assorted colors #10-16, Bling Midge #22-24, Tungsten Olive Mic Drop #16-18, San Juan worms assorted colors and Birds Nest Natural #16-20. STREAMERS: Shock Collar Leech #10, Woolly Bugger White or Olive #6-14 and Punk Perch light or dark #10-16.

CROWLEY LAKE – Lake Elevation is at 6766.4 as of 7/29. Algae is getting thicker, McGee Bay is the biggest culprits. Fishing Conditions and Hatches are poor according to local guides.

Well it turned out guides were just banging their heads against the wall but they've always been the stubborn type so they'll try attacking the wall again over the next couple of days. If you do spot big concentrations of fish mid-depth it'll be perch which is better than nothing. The report stands as is and they're hoping for a breakthrough. Most of the fish are being found in 30+ feet of water without any concentrations. Even when you do find concentrations don't be patient because they have a tendency to lock their jaws or flee. McGee bay to Sandy Point 30-40 feet and don't be afraid to move back and forth, Leyton Springs 18-23 feet, Hilton Bay 25-30+ feet, south of Alligator point and between Pelican Point and McGee Bay. They're feeding mostly on midges with some Callibaetis nymphs mid to late morning and the Damsels are becoming much more prevalent. Hopefully it's a good sign, the perch fry are close to eating size. The best midge patterns are skinny, with flash and/or flash tail and small. The color combinations can be endless. Dries: Zero. Nymphs: V-Rib Red/Claret #14-16, Shaft Emerger #14-16, Albino Baron #14-16, G/B Opti Tiger #16-18, Optimidge Olive/Dun #16-18, Double Bead Zebra silver/black small, Copper Clown and Janssen's Emerging Callibaetis #14-16. Streamers: Marabou Leech Burgundy or Brown #12, Perfection Perch #8, Hornberg #8-14, Baby Fat Minnow, Punk Perch #14-16 and Cheech Leech #1.

HOT CREEK - Flow was 34.6cfs as of 7/29
Remember, these are the flows just below Highway 395 on Mammoth Creek.

Tough fishing has returned with low flows but try to look at the weed beds as added hiding places for the trout. The bird problem seems to have improved and seeing better surface activity. Tricos, small caddis and midges in the morning, there are days where the Trico emergence is as heavy as ever. The PMDs are fading fast and are being replaced by the Tiny BWO. These guys are hatching midday and are tiny, #22-26. The evening Hatches are male Tricos and micro caddis, the caddis are #24-28 but #20-22 are working. Since the caddis are now getting active try fishing a Pheasant Tail #16-20, either bead or non-bead. Not only does it cover the

mayflies, but it also imitates the cased caddis. And don't forget the ever-present midges.

Guides are still tell their clients that a 4 second drift is average and finish with an aggressive pick-up; you will hook fish you never knew existed. DRIES: R.P. Emerger #22, Parachute Adams # 16-20, Mother Shucker #24, CDC Baetis Dun #18-24, Griffith's Gnat #20-24, Stillborn Midge Black #20-22, Hi-Vis Baetis #16-20, Para Caddis #18-22, Elk Hair Skaddis #18-22, Spent Partridge Caddis #18-22, Brooks Hot Creek Caddis #22, Tan Stimulator #14-16, and Sparkle Dun Foam PMD #16-18. NYMPHS: T Midge #24, Zebra Midge #18-22, Juju Baetis #16-20, Medallion Midge #18-24, Buckskin #16-20, Split Case PMD #16-18, CDC Transition Midge #18-22, Scuds grey or olive/grey #14-18, Tailwater Sowbug Rainbow #16-18, Bling Midge Brown #24, TB Millers+1LT #16-18, Nori's Caddis #20-22, Copper Bead Micro Stone #14-18 and Tung Yellow Sallie #16-18. STREAMERS: Mini Sculpin Orange #6, Slumbuster Natural #10, and Hornberg #10-14.

CONVICT LAKE – No report but stick with the basics similar to June Lake or Silver Lake and stay away from the party boats, they seem to have taken over the larger bodies of water that allow gas motors.

MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN – No Report. Again, some of these lakes are getting into the recreational use of water crafts and make it hard to get serious about fly fishing, so check out the web-sites to see the type of crafts they rent and the size of the lake and see if it has potential for your particular type of fly fishing.

SAN JOAQUIN - Flows are at 15.2cfs as of 7/29. Fishing and hatches are slowing down a bit but are now dropping well below average so we'll see how long the fishing holds up. Most of the hatches have been mayflies and as is typical of freestone streams there are several species emerging right now. Unlike most years the big drakes (they are fading fast) are coming off in the afternoon with caddis in the evenings. Generally the best time to fish is after 11 am but with the warming waters the mornings have been improving. Dries: Elk Hair Caddis #12-18, Para Caddis #14-20, Sparkle Flag PMD #16-18, Lawsons Thorax PMD #16-18, CDC Mahogany Dun #12-16, and Tan Stimulators #14-16. Nymphs: Tungsten Black Beauty #20-22, Nori's Caddis #18-22, B/H Prince #10-20, Hogan's S and M Nymph #18-22 and Iron Sally #14-16.

JUNE LOOP – Silver Lake would be the best bet this early and the north end of Rush Creek. But the cloud cover will bring more fish up from the colder water as it moves upward during the night time temperatures. Gull reported some nice fish as did June Lake. Check their web-sites to get the latest on fly fishing.

LUNDY LAKE – Resort is closed this summer.

No report. I would check with Beaver's Sporting Goods in Lee Vining. Assuming you know the lake and how to fish it this time of year should work. Good hatches have been ongoing if you know where to look. Large streamers trolled slowly from a tube along the south shore and avoid the shore anglers. Also try the ponds beyond the store for some nice three-weight action. Water fall is still nice, drive up and hit the water, it should be great. County stocked Oregon fish recently and the action is on!

VIRGINIA LAKES – July was much warmer and the run-off from the upper canyon is over but fishing has been sensational regardless of the haze from the "Oak" fire in Mariposa County just west of Yosemite. The lakes were stocked six times this month. County Trophy Program the 27th and a load from DFW last Wednesday. Finding a spot along the shoreline has been difficult with the amount of anglers bait fishing so the best way to get into fish is either personal watercraft or a row-boat. The trout that were stocked from Desert Springs Hatchery by DFW were in the 1.6-2 pound range and eager to bite just about anything. Lots of new fly anglers also hit the water with great success. Black bead head flashy Woolly Buggers; leech patterns similar to Loe's punk perch but a larger style with a bushier marabou tail have also been working. Leeches in the lake tend to be smaller with more slender bodies. Lots of other patterns are working but the emergers were taking top spot and getting picked off one at a time. For top water addicts; try small dark dries. I saw a lot of action with heavy dark olive Doc's Twin Lakes special with a prince, or pheasant tail dropper, all black elk hair caddis, my special ant pattern, and bead head Matuka's. Or try your trusted patterns and tie one on. No, I didn't mean that kind of "tie one on".

TRUMBULL LAKE was stocked with BFEF trout from Desert Springs with a full load of fish on the 20th of June 2022. And another private party paid for a load early in July. No recent report although I've sent a lot of anglers trying their luck there.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR – No fly Report.

EAST WALKER – Flows are 86.8cfs as of 7/29

The time of year has arrived with low flows and increased temperatures and the need to let the East Walker rest at least until the first couple weeks in September. The river was doing well for a while with night temperatures in the 40's but the temps have increased and into the 50's or higher. This has not helped the river temperature for the sake of the fish. If we get rain or some type of weather shift that will lower the temperatures we should be able to hit the water again. But that remains to be seen..

Please check out the "Random Information" section below and read about the petition Jim Reid started to get the East Walker River regulations changed to catch and release, if you are in agreement with this idea please sign the petition and share it with anyone you think would like to see this change, in just a few days we have over 600 signatures so hopefully that number will keep increasing. There's a link below that will take you straight to the petition on change.org.

"I've started a change.org petition to try to encourage the Department of Fish and Wildlife to reconsider the East Walker River regulation changes they made a couple seasons ago. Most importantly they doubled the limit on the river and got rid of the barbless hook requirement which I believe in the long run will be extremely detrimental to the fishery as a whole. A lot of anglers still pinch their barbs and we encourage them to do so but there are still a lot of anglers who don't take the time to do that. My petition proposes that they go all the way and make the East Walker River artificial flies or lures only, single barbless hooks, zero fish limit (catch and release only) and open all year long. If you would like to see the regs on the river change please go to <https://chnng.it/Jzv5JzSy> and cast your vote. I've also shared the information on Ken's Facebook page, feel free to vote and share as often as you like. If we get a bunch of signatures hopefully we can get the DFW to take a closer look at the regulations for the EW and maybe make some changes".

HONEYWELL POND – No Report

SCEIRINE RANCH - The ranch is in the same shape as the California side of the river, though parts of it have some shade from the willows and some extra water that comes in from several springs that cool it down a few degrees it's still probably time to let those fish rest for a while. We'll start booking more days on the ranch some time after Labor Day. Provided by Ken's

KIRMAN – Ken's had one report from Kirman this past week; the anglers they spoke with were able to catch several fish early in the morning on leech patterns but like other waters in the area the water temps are rising quite a bit. The surface temp was about 68 degrees early and about 70 later in the morning. I feel like it's probably also time for this water to let those fish have a rest until the weather cools down and brings the water temps down.

REPEATING THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE JUNE REPORT: Kirman Lake recently stocked with 3500 trophy Brook trout, June 30, 2022.

State amps up efforts to offset losses due to bacterial outbreaks in local hatcheries.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) recently stocked 3500 large Brook trout into Kirman Lake in Mono County as part of an ongoing

commitment to restore one of the West's best trophy Brook trout fisheries.

The Brook trout released were in the one-to-two-pound class and came from the CDFW's American River Trout Hatchery near Sacramento; part of an effort by the state to help stock the Eastern Sierra's lakes and rivers following two outbreaks of a bacteria that has triggered the state to kill hundreds of thousands of infected fish this spring and summer (see more stories on this in the past two issues of the Mammoth Times).

Located about 20 miles north of Bridgeport, Kirman Lake is a small, backcountry lake with an outsized reputation for growing brook trout that can quickly reach for to six pounds in size, the CDFW said in a news release. "Unlike many high-mountain lakes where trout eke out an existence in near-sterile conditions, Kirman's fertile waters support a smorgasbord of aquatic invertebrates – water boatman, dragonflies, mayflies and midges among them – along with high-protein leeches and shrimp-like scuds that produce a tremendous growth rate in the trout that live there," CDFW said.

"Kirman's food-rich waters, however, lack any spawning habitat for trout, and Kirman's famed recreational fishery has been entirely dependent on stocking from CDFW over the years," they said. "Kirman is stocked more regularly with Lahontan cutthroat trout, but Brook trout plans have been sporadic in recent years as CDFW hatcheries transition from raising and stocking non-native trout in favor of native trout species. The Brook trout stocked from the American River Trout Hatchery are believed to be among the last Brook trout within CDFW's hatchery system. The fish are sterile and not capable of reproducing. Similarly, there is no outlet for the trout stocked into Kirman Lake and no risk of the non-native fish escaping into nearby waters. Given these unique dynamics and Kirman's celebrated reputation among anglers, CDFW has committed to restoring Kirman Lake as a trophy trout fishery, providing infusions of brook trout whenever possible

Since 2018, CDFW has translocated wild brook trout into Kirman Lake from nearby Silver Creek, where native trout restoration work is underway though in much fewer numbers and much less regularly than when CDFW was stocking Kirman with heavy, annual plantings of hatchery-raised brook trout prior to 2015.

Still, CDFW is seeing increasing angler satisfaction with the Brook trout fishing at Kirman as collected in an Angler Survey Box lakeside. Anglers have reported more frequent catches of Brook trout and a higher percentage of Brook trout caught compared with Lahontan cutthroat trout.

Kirman Lake is a special regulations water that opens to fishing the last Saturday in April through Nov. 15 each year. Only artificial lures may be used. Only two trout may be taken with a minimum size limit of 18 inches in total length per fish.

WEST WALKER – Flow is 64.6cfs as of 7/28. The West has been fishing fairly well considering the low water but there have been some decent reports coming in from fly anglers using a dry/dropper rig with a hopper, stimulator or chubby Chernobyl on top and a prince, PT or Copper John underneath. Also try a sowbug under a dry it might surprise you. Start at the first bridge and walk down about ¼ mile or more and get away from the campground.

CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife 2021 Regulations:

Please provide comments to these changes for any water you feel would be detrimental to the resource. They need your input in order to make informed decisions on all these waters.

Every person or agency recommending that regulations be added, amended, or repealed must submit a petition to the Commission at the site listed: (<https://fgc.ca.gov/Regulations/Petition-for-Regulation-Change>) using this petition form. You can contact their office to see when the next meeting will be held to submit regulation changes on time and whatever is on the books today can be changed. Also include your comments to Governor Newsom at: (<https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail/>). Here is the Executive Director's contact information: Melissa Miller-Henson - fgc@fgc.ca.gov (916) 653-4899 or (916) 653-7229.

NOTE: You must fill out the form in its entirety and reference the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested (see page 2, item number 2) and without this they will disregard your petition.

Fly-Fishing Apps

onWATER.com App provides boundaries that are found on maps, but now they're on an app so you can explore your water with confidence.

It's Your Water...Explore It - Everything you need to plan your trip, explore your water and relive your experience. Plus we're constantly adding rivers and updating info. From your laptop to your phone it's like having a seasoned guide at your side.

Know Before You Go - Whether you're planning a fly fishing destination trip, just getting out for a day or exploring water on the app instead of working, all the things you need are right at your fingertips.

Detailed River Maps and Real Time Data - Locate access points, boat ramps, camping, parking, and know the distance between them, so you never miss a take-out or honey hole again. Plus Current River flows and weather, everything you need to know is in this app. And you won't have to fold it up after you glance at it.

Public and Private Land Boundaries - Stream access laws and public land overlays help you plan where to fish and eliminate the worry that you may be on private

property (onWater is for the angler that likes to fish a lot and not make waves).

Local Fishing Reports and Fly Shops - Connect with local fly shops that serve the area you're exploring. Get current fishing reports, hot flies, stream flows, weather and more. It's your one-touch guide to all the local experts.

Catch and Relive - Snap a quick photo of your catch before releasing it, and add it to your trip log. Uploading the photo also captures the river, flow and weather. Then archive by trip, water, date or other categories. Add trip notes like the fly used, GPS coordinates and how much bigger your fish was compared to your fishing buddy's. \$3.99/mo. or \$39.99/yr.

"Fish Head Nervous Water "App, \$6.99 iPhone and Android

Not only the best app for steelhead rivers, but surf, and also helpful in most any trout-fishing situation around the country. It has a river directory with flows and where and when to find the best windows of action. It's handy when you're actually packing to go fishing; it's quick, organized with the most pertinent information available.

Orvis Fly Fishing Green Mountain - Digital, iPhone, Android is a grand-daddy of fly fishing apps that is free and packed with tons of general interest fly-fishing news, advice, discussion and entertainment you'll never be able to digest it all. It has Tom Rosenbauer's podcasts, casting videos for every stream, flats, or surf situation; knot-tying instruction, fishing reports, up-to-date news feeds, fly pattern descriptions and recommendations with built-in links so you can buy flies you're interested in. It's sort of geared toward beginners, but its solid information and we could all use a little tune-up now and again. Loren Elliott

The Pocket Fisherman by Magic Mobile

This app will help you find out more about the specific species of fish, as well as regulations and records of 49 Continental states regarding fishing in their deep waters. The app also comes with a GPS map that tracks the nearest tackle shops and marinas. You can easily identify the fish by either searching for its name or looking at the gallery of fish images. It's the most comprehensive fisherman app so far as it comes with a summary of each type of fish, description, appearance, weight, natural habitat, and its average length.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

A reservation will be required to drive into Yosemite National Park from May 20 through September 30, 2022, between 6 am and 4 pm.

www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/reservations.htm

CalTrans Highway work along US 395 – Check the District 9 CalTrans web-site for current status. There is a

huge list of work that will be ongoing until the snow flies. Here is a link for more information.

D9PublicInfo@dot.ca.gov

Mono County

HWY 270 Bodie Road Closure

The unpaved road connecting HWY 270 to Bodie State Historic Park will be **closed to the public from 6:00AM to 6:00PM from Monday 8/1/22 through Friday 8/5/22** as State Parks staff perform much needed road repairs.

The park will not be accessible from HWY 270 during these times. In order to access the park, visitors are asked to use HWY 167 East and Cottonwood Canyon Road North (unpaved but graded). The park will remain open to the public throughout this process. It's a bit tricky to get directions online, so we recommend stopping by a [ranger station/visitor center](#) in Bridgeport or Lee Vining before you head out that way.

TIDBIT'S - Meteor Shower Calendar 2022

Date	Name	(no. per/hour)
Aug 11-12	Perseid	50 NE
Oct 8-10	Draconid late evening	6 NW
Oct 20-21	Orionid Predawn	15 south
Dec 13-14	Geminid all night	75 NE

Predawn means between midnight and an hour before morning (twilight). BOLD - Most prominent

*Strong moonlight will interfere with these showers.

Dates will vary slightly.

See you on the water CJ! (7/22)