

EASTERN SIERRA FOCUS

By CJ Webb - June 2023

My newsletter has taken on a different look from the usual summer faire for May and June due to our inability to open as originally scheduled and provide detailed fishing information on the Eastern slope. July should provide a better report on a lot of waters.

Mule Deer Summer Migration started mid May which is about two months later than normal due to the **heavy winter** so please stay alert. Look for white butts and/or eyes in your headlights when driving. Early morning and dusk are the worst times so please be vigilant and stay alive. Glance left and right along the road edges as they browse the brush along the roadside and cross the road to get to water. Deer are spotted in places along the roadside that they normally don't travel, so please be alert to their new habits.

Mule Deer Seasonal Migration - Many eastern Sierra animals and bird species migrate to and from their feeding grounds during their summer and winter ranges. Visitors and vacationers have a greater probability of seeing birds, large and small mammals, especially mule deer, near the roadways and adjacent forests. Specific areas along the US Highway 395 are known for their migratory areas. Deer are the top game animals, and their role as prey species contribute to the health of the top carnivores, especially the mountain lion, black bear, and coyote.

FISHING TIP: High water alert has been posted for all rivers the week of the 26th so stay clear of areas that have "flooding" signs and watch for CalTrans illuminated information signs. Temperatures are to increase over the next few days sending more snow melt (runoff) into all waterways.

EXTREME caution should be taken should you decide to enter the water. This is not pretty, it's VERY dangerous. A wading staff will not be helpful, unless you are tied to a 2 foot tree on both sides of the stream or river. Stay safe and find a nice ice free lake to exercise your casting arm.

Inland Water Fishing Regulations have changed since 2020, so download the app to see if there are any changes to the waters you enjoy fishing.

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/regulations>. - Go to Notices: and click on "Quick Guide" to download the app. 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.

Legislative News: UPDATE of AB-817

AB-817: Sport fishing licenses: electronic display: 12-consecutive-month licenses was Approved by the Governor October 7, 2021. Implementation started January 1, 2023.

This bill would (until January 1, 2030), authorize the Director of Fish and Wildlife to allow 12-consecutive-month sport fishing licenses to be issued in addition to certain calendar year licenses. The bill would require the director to provide the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2025, recommendations for increasing fees for all sport fishing licenses to levels that provide adequate resources to fund sport fishing, including all necessary supporting activities, at the department. The bill would require the director, on or before July 1, 2028, to submit a report to the Legislature evaluating all sport fishing licenses, as provided.

Unable to talk to anyone in Jim Wood's office to check on the status of their "technological infrastructure revisions". Hopefully after the 4th it will be easier to get an update. As of today, the information as posted stands. **Side-note:** Much was made of Assembly Bill 817 authored by Assembly member Jim Wood (D-Santa Rosa) this past legislative session and signed into law by Governor Newsom. AB 817 made it possible for CDFW to provide an electronic display option for sport fishing license items and sell a sport fishing license that will be valid for 365 days from the purchase date rather than the calendar year. In true California fashion, a new law was created that has no way to be enacted. The state announced that implementation of this new law requires "technological infrastructure revisions", so neither provision will be available during the 2022 license year. Given the fact that California's EDD Employment Development Department) and just about every other department system are also in need of "technological infrastructure revisions" has many wondering if the aspects of this new law will ever be realized.

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: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/wardenstamp>

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 Desert at 855.887.1275).

"OUTDOOR CALIFORNIA MAGAZINE" - A publication of the Department of Fish and Wildlife has terminated the printing of the magazine and it will be

available online later this summer. It's a great read and very informative and has been available since before 1990.

January 6, 2023 - DFW awards \$11 million for fisheries restoration projects

The department announced the selection of 25 projects that will receive funding for the restoration, enhancement and protection of anadromous salmonid habitat in California watersheds.

The grants were awarded through CDFW's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP). FRGP was first established in 1981 and since 2000 has included funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, established by Congress to reverse the declines of Pacific salmon and steelhead throughout California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska.

"As California continually feels the effects of climate change, rising sea levels, prolonged drought, more extreme temperatures and extreme precipitation events, restoring degraded river ecosystems is more important than ever before," CDFW Director Charlton H. Bonham said. "These FRGP funded projects will help restore the refugia salmonids need."

In response to the 2022 Fisheries Habitat Restoration Grant Solicitation, CDFW received 50 proposals requesting more than \$38 million in funding. As a competitive grant program, proposals underwent a rigorous technical review process which included CDFW and NOAA scientists.

AT THE BENCH: Tying with Foam

We use a few types of plastic foams for fly tying, all are closed-cell - meaning gas, or air, is trapped in the foam cells. These foams come in a few forms, foam sheets, blocks, sheets and rods, Booby cord or detached bodies.

The two most common types are closed cell foam from Veniard in 2mm sheets which are fine grain, slightly rubbery, with a great range of color and are very tough, buoyant and ties well. The other is Upavon Premium HD Foam Sheet: Larger cells, less rubbery, more restricted color range than Veniard and ties fairly well. It's very buoyant, great detached bodies, 2mm diameter foam tubes or plugs.

Both foams lend well to fly tying; threads can crush them without cutting through, and cut clean and accurately. The Veniard is a bit denser of the two, so identical flies float differently, all being equal.

Foam cuts easily with scissors, craft knives, razor blades etc, but beware as foam punishes fine scissors, and it blunts the edges and can even bend the tips. Heavy duty scissors survive fairly well, simple razor blades are cheap and while sharp they cut exceptionally clean.

Recently a few foam-cutting tools have appeared: Upavon Flyfishing has provided Gunville Foam Cutters, and a couple of Hareline Cutters, Chernobyl Ant and

Hopper. Gunville Cutters fit a drill and cut a plug from a block of foam, the set includes five cutter from 3 to 8mm (2 is the best). Hareline cutters are sort of stamps, a shaped blade set in a wood handle. Press the cutter onto the foam sheet to get a very clean cut shape and it cuts the best curved foam shapes too!



Threads seem to handle tying down foam with a fair amount of pressure without slicing through the foam. Making a couple of medium-pull wraps to crush the foam with the normal thread used for day to day tying.

It has some disadvantages as you will see when tying foam on a bed of thread or on a bare hook which is prone to slipping around the hook and tends to slip along the shank toward the bend. The solution is a touch of Superglue on the hook and on the thread and some materials can fix the foam in place most of the time.

Dry fly hooks seem to work the best but slightly stronger hooks with wider gapes is ideal so the fly is likely to sit hook down when landing on water. Foam floats due to its density and untreated will sit lower in the water. You can treat foam flies with floatants to help them sit higher.

Los Angeles DWP - Please take all warning signs and barricades seriously. High water levels with strong currents pose potential safety hazards that could result in personal injury and property damage. LADWP personnel will monitor the area. For more information on current conditions please visit ladwpeasternsierra.com/runoff2023

LOWER OWENS – Flows are at 799.1cfs as of 6/28. ATTENTION: PLEASANT VALLEY RESERVOIR IS OPEN, BUT ONLY FROM GORGE ROAD AT THE UPPER END.

There is Gorge access to the middle and upper power plants as well as the reservoir. The flows are double the average and the gorge was closed 6/6-6/25. Pleasant Valley Dam Road is once again blocked off at the turnoff for the Pit Campground with the campground expected to be flooded in the near future.

There's virtually no access above the cement plant and even downstream most of the dirt roads are blocked off. LADWP is trying to make room for this record snowpack, especially considering that the snowpack from the Rock Creek drainage all the way to Lone Pine is even further above average than the drainages to the north. LADWP is starting to releasing water out onto the Owens Valley floor which in the future will be very beneficial but for right now be very careful where you drive.

Fishing conditions and hatches is good to Poor.

ALERT: The gauges coming out of PVR are not accurate, see report above. The hatches have been very weak; midges are the only ones coming off. The river above Five Bridges Road is a lot less murky but flows are still very high with little access. With the warming conditions a lot of the guides are switching over to bass on the ponds, canals and lower river. If you are coming up be very careful, respect the closures and be happily surprised if you catch fish until things quiet down.

DRIES: Stillborn Midge #20-22, Griffith's Gnat #22-24 | CDC Transition midge #20-22, No Mercy Midge #18-24, Boroff F/Homie #20, 24, Para CDC Baetis #16-22, Para Adams #14-22 and Stimulators #8-10.

NYMPH: Pheasant Tail #14-2, | Hares Ear #16-20, Caddis Cased #12, Zebra Midge #18-22, Weiss BP light or dark #18-20, Bottom Roller Phsyco Rhyco #10-14, Pearl & Orange #16, Chamois caddis #16-20, TB Millers +1 Lt #16-1, 12, Lexi Girdle Bug Tan/Black #6, HDA Fav. Variant #12. STREAMERS: Woolly Bugger Olive & Black #10-12 and Mini Sculpin Olive & Black #10-12.

ROCK CREEK LAKE – No Report -

UPPER OWENS – Flows are 133cfs as of 6/28.

Water is clearing up and improving. With the cooler weather the river has cleared up considerably but still very high, the conditions above Hot Creek are better, even with Deadman Creek flowing through to Big Springs. Deadman and Glass creeks run over very porous ground so even in normal years by late fall large stretches above Big Springs are dry. With the water now flowing all the way through there's a lot of debris to be flushed out.

The stretch of river above Benton Crossing Road is artificial, barbless, catch and release only.

Fishing conditions and hatches are poor to fair.

With all that's going on in most years the first couple of weeks in June is the **WORST** fishing of

the season! Most of the spawners are back in the lake, the lake isn't choked with algae yet and the water is still cold. The water is high but fairly clean and some better reports both below and above Benton Crossing are starting to come in. The banks are snow free but now that Deadman's Creek has reached Big Springs who knows. Not much in the way of hatches and certainly nothing consistent so attractor nymphs including egg patterns are doing as well as anything else. We haven't seen any Cutthroat but there are still some big rainbows heading back to the lake. I have heard a few reports below Benton Crossing with occasional big fish headed back to the lake.

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. 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:

NYMPHS: Zebra Midge #16-22, Copper John #14-16, B/H Pheasant tail #14-18, Bling Midge #22-24, San Juan worms assorted colors, Birds Nest Natural #16-20, Prince Nymph #12-18, Egg Patterns #12-16, Western Coachman #12-16 and Pheasant Tail #12-16 combo flash and or bead.

STREAMERS: Shock Collar Leech #10, Woolly Bugger White or Olive #6-14, Punk Perch light or dark #10-16 and Baby Fat Minnow |.

EURO Streamers: GD UV P/Jig White #12 and Kaslar M/G/S Olive #12.

CROWLEY LAKE - 6763.5 (lake elevation) as of 6/28 and was 16 feet below full as of 6/23.

The lake is pretty low right now due to DWP making room for the run-off but it's starting to fill and is up over 4 feet in the last couple of weeks.

Fishing conditions and hatches are good.

Fishing has picked up and getting more consistent over the last week. The best areas have been moving around. Sandy Point has slowed down with the fish moving more towards McGee, Alligator to Christmas Bay and around Hilton Bay-Pelican Point and are still holding fish. Fish have also been moving deeper, now it's 20'-30'+. Also the Callibaetis hatch is picking up; the damsels shouldn't be far behind. Generally the flashier flies should be on the bottom with more realistic patterns 1'-3' up.

Callibaetis go 3'+ feet off the bottom. The best fishing has been late morning so when the wind comes up has been the deciding factor. Dries: 0

Nymphs: Balanced Hares Ear Tan or Olive #12-16, Janssen's Emerging Callibaetis #14-16, Albino Baron, Zebra red/Gold or Black/Silver, Copper Clown, Copper Tiger, Tungsten F/B Black Beauty #16-18 and Double Bead Zebra. Streamers: Marabou Leech Burgundy or Brown #12, Hornberg #8-14, Punk Perch #14-16 and Cheech Leech #1. Algae Bloom - Google it for Crowley.

HOT CREEK - Flow is 188cfs of 6/28. Conditions are fair, and remember, these are the flows just below Highway 395 on Mammoth Creek. Flows are up 100 cfs in the last 3 days but still clear. As long as Mammoth Creek stays relatively clear the creek should be worth fishing. The road is open into the Hot Creek canyon parking lots. Fishing has picked up, with the canyon fishing better than the interpretive site. Midges in the morning with Tricos emerging fairly heavily between 8 and 9:30 with the spinner fall around an hour later. If you can find some calm water there's some good surface activity. Baetis midday but they are getting smaller, #18-22 and the hatch seems to be tapering off. Unfortunately, with the increased flows the surface action is pretty much over. It's the time of year to throw everything big, ugly, realistic, and gaudy, besides the big flows there are a lot of terrestrials active this time of year. Ant and robber fly swarms with a promising hopper season starting. In the past, during runoff I have seen some much localized surface activity so make sure you have a selection of dry flies whenever you head down. Generally the midges will be hatching until early afternoon and then egg laying and spent adults in the afternoon. Scuds, egg patterns and especially San Juan Worms will work all day. With the increases in flows the streamer fishing has picked up. It's important to key in on any slack water. Really study the water as a slick spot (flat water behind invisible rock) as small as a dinner plate might be the key to your day.

Guides hint: That a 4 second drift is average and finish with an aggressive pickup, you will hook fish you never knew existed. DRIES: R.P. Emerger #22, Mother Shucker #24, Griffith's Gnat #20-24, Stillborn Midge Black #20-22 and Hi-Vis Baetis #18-20. NYMPHS: T Midge #24, Zebra Midge #18-22, Buckskin Caddis #16-20, JuJu Baetis #18-20, Psycho Baetis #16-18, Scuds grey #14-18, Tailwater Sowbug Rainbow #16-18, Bling Midge Brown #24, TB Millers Lt. #16-18, Egg Patterns, B/H Pheasant Tail #16-20 and San Juan Worms #12-14. STREAMERS: Mini Sculpin Orange #6, Slumpbuster Natural #10, and Hornberg #10-14.

CONVICT LAKE – No report.

MAMMOTH LAKES - No report. The County probably has not finished plowing yet.

SAN JOAQUIN - Flow is 890cfs as of 6/28.
Road is closed no date set for reopening.

JUNE LOOP - County planted their first load of fish for the season. **No report.**

RUSH CREEK ANNUAL CLEANUP was June 10th.
Phone 760 648 7525 for details if you wish to help in the future.

LUNDY LAKE – Resort may open this summer as far as the rumor mill goes. Lake is ice free and very full and was stocked by the County Enhancement Program.

VIRGINIA LAKES - Road was plowed as of June 14th and Little Virginia and Trumbull lakes are ice free. Big Virginia should be ice free in about a week if the temperature stays above 40 degrees. County stocked both Little Virginia and Big Virginia at stocking ramp which was ice free at the time of stocking.

TRUMBULL LAKE - Ice Free but the campground is not open, reports say around mid July or a bit later if Westrek can get in there and check on the conditions of the sites and clear any trees if necessary.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR – The Reservoir has really livened up over the past couple weeks, lots of good action both trolling and still fishing. They're still catching good numbers of fish from the shore and the boat fishing has gotten much better lately. There are lots of smaller fish being caught with some good fish up to nearly 6 pounds in the mix. Trolling has been good with Speedy Shiners, Rapalas, Thomas Bouyants, Crawlers and Tazmanian Devils. The bait anglers are having success with inflated crawlers, power bait, mice tails and pinched crawlers. The level of the lake has come up considerably and the folks down at Bridgeport Marina have been able to get their docks in the water and are fully operational with boat rentals, launching and slips available! Things are really looking up for the Reservoir and I think it's going to have a pretty good run for a while!

EAST WALKER –Flow is 1080cfs as of 6/28, no report and it will probably be 2-3 weeks before the flow comes down to a fishable level. Water condition is Dangerous-Poor - Fishing conditions/Hatches: Don't Go! Yes, the East Walker is open and no you don't want to go there. With the flows over 1,000 cfs and water clarity actually it's getting cleaner. WATER IS UP TO ABOUT 2' OF CLARITY. WARNING, AT THESE FLOWS WADERS ARE USED FOR GETTING TO THE RIVER. BUT GETTING IN THE RIVER IS MORE LIKE A SUICIDE PACT. I AM NOT TRYING TO SOUND DRAMATIC, YOU GET IN THE

RIVER...GOOD LUCK. The fish are there and they're eating but the presentations are somewhere between brutal and impossible. Most of the big fish are in the "impossible" spots, tucked up under the overhanging and drowned brush.

READ THE WATER CONDITION DESCRIPTION, AND THEN READ IT AGAIN. WE ARE NOT KIDDING. IT SOUNDS EXCITING BUT IT CAN GO FROM EXCITING TO OVER IN A MOMENT. FISH REPORTS AREN'T JUST ABOUT THE FISHING THEY'RE ALSO ABOUT REMINDING YOU THAT THE GUY ON THE INTERNET BRAGGING ABOUT THE FISHING IS QUITE LIKELY MORE CONCERNED ABOUT HIS EGO THAN YOUR SAFETY. Most of the fish getting caught appear to be planted fish that were flushed out of the reservoir, 10"-14". You may see bigger fish but they are tucked up in impossible lies and they seem to know it. TFTF.

HONEYWELL POND – The pond fished excellent this week! We had several clients on the water this week that all had a great time; most of the action was on leech patterns like Mayers Mini Leeches, Simi Seal Leeches, Zach Attack Damsels, as well as soft hackles and pt droppers. We didn't hear any reports of Stillwater nymphing but that technique should still be in the playbook. Below is a drone photo from yesterday of the pond courtesy of Travis Rice, it's a pretty awesome and unique spot! Give is a call if you want to book some time on the pond, have your float tube and fly rod ready for some good action! Kenssport

SCEIRINE RANCH - We haven't had anyone on the ranch lately, hopefully when the flows come down at some point we will have good reports for you.

KIRMAN - We didn't hear much news from Kirman this week, I know there have been some anglers heading up there but they're just not talking! I believe the fishing is probably still pretty good up there, scud and leech patterns should do the trick, as well as some Stillwater nymphing with a scud, Zebra Midges, Rojo midges and the like. Kenssports

WEST WALKER –The flow is 1700cfs and the water is dirty, looks like agitated hot chocolate with whipped cream. No report this week. The water is very high and off color and it will likely be difficult to fish for a while. Check Ken's Sporting goods for current conditions. Don't be the next fatality.

CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife

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 "Apps, \$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 - Tioga Road Update from Yosemite National Park 6-22-23

Yosemite had record snowpack (over 240% of average) as of April 1, 2023. In the previous snowiest years, Tioga Road opened in late June or early July. There is no way to provide a more precise estimate for this year. Tioga Road is typically open to vehicles from late May or June until sometime in November. Plowing typically begins around April 15.

June 22 2023 Tioga Road Updated every Friday

The Roads Crew continues to work in the Olmsted Point area. The "thick blue ice" in this area is exceptionally challenging: dozers are ineffective and excavators are being used to break up the ice for the blowers. Avalanche danger at Olmsted Point is a significant concern for employee safety. NPS is in close contact with Mono County Public Works regarding possible assistance.

There is road damage at Olmsted Point, 10 miles west of Olmsted Point, and near Tamarack Flat Campground. The visible damage in each of these locations appears to be limited to one lane; however the roadbed between Olmsted Point and Tioga Pass is not visible due to snow/ice.

Crews are unable to access Tuolumne Meadows: previous damage assessments indicate 80% of facilities are damaged and high groundwater levels will affect the operation of the wastewater treatment plant. Further assessments will be conducted and updates provided when road access allows.

Bathrooms must be available before the Tioga Road can open to the public: bathrooms are necessary to protect public health, water quality, and other park resources. NPS is exploring contracting for temporary sanitation facilities (e.g. portable toilets, hand washing stations) and pumping of vault toilets.

Due to this year's exceptional winter, availability of facilities will be a significant limiting factor this summer in the operation of the Tioga Road and high visitor use areas such as Tuolumne Meadows.

Any questions? Please reach out. Have a safe weekend, Mark Krebs

Mather District Ranger (Canyon Ranch, Crane Flat, and Tuolumne Meadows Sub-Districts)

Yosemite National Park 209-379-1898 (Office)

Nat'l Park 209-379-1898 (Off.) 209-347-9919 (G Cell)

MONO COUNTY - Caltrans opened State Route 1008 (Sonora Pass) from its winter closure today, June 9, at 1:00 pm. The highway was originally closed for the season on November 10, 2022. The reopening of Sonora Pass is a joint operation between Caltrans District 9 and Caltrans District 10 and follows weeks of snow and debris removal from the highway. At 211 days, this is the longest closure of Sonora Pass since the 2004/2005 season, when it was closed for 220 days.

While the highway is open, vehicles traveling over Sonora Pass may encounter water on the highway from the seasonal runoff. Drivers should reduce their speed to travel safely through these areas.

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. Here is a link for more information. D9PublicInfo@dot.ca.gov

Mono County:

The Conway Ranch Shoulder Widening project proposes to widen the existing paved shoulders on U.S Highway 395 from the junction with State Route 167 to 0.4 miles north of Conway Ranch Road in Mono County. It also proposes to install shoulder rumble strips, correct a substandard compound curve and lengthen the chain control area at postmile 59.2 by 500 feet. Culverts will be extended or replaced as needed. Project start-date is June 2023.

TIDBIT'S - Meteor Shower Calendar 2023

Date	Name	(no. per hour/from)
July 28-29	Delta Aquarid predawn	10 south
Aug 11-13	Perseid predawn	50 NE
Oct 8-10	Draconid late evening	6 NW

Oct 20-21	Orionid predawn	15 south
Nov 16-18	Leonid predawn	10 south
Nov 5-22	Andromedid	5 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 by one or two days.

See you on the water CJ! (6.23)

General County News

Great news - Sonora Pass (SR 108) reopened on June 9th. With Sonora and Monitor Pass now open, you have two out of three mountain pass options to get you here. Summer is creeping up in elevation in Mono County. June had cooler temperatures in Mono County with numerous thunderstorms. All of these showers have brought an abundance of beautiful wildflowers in Mono County.

While many campgrounds, hiking trails, lakes and streams are starting to open up, many are inaccessible due to existing snow and damaged roads that are in need of repair. Please, check the status of your destination or activity before traveling to Mono County.

CalTrans

Olancho-Cartago Project - The traffic alignment on the existing U.S. Highway 395 north of Cartago has shifted between Willow Dip and Ash Creek Bridge. Traffic speeds are reduced to 45 MPH through the alignment shift for driver safety. The new alignment will remain in place for approximately 6 - 8 weeks as the contractor constructs the north-bound lane connection to the new highway alignment. Drivers may experience minimal delays. There will be one-way traffic control with a pilot car and drivers may experience 20-minute delays.

Mono County -State Route 158 Emergency Work on State Route 158 S (South June Lake Loop) between Powerhouse Road and U.S. Highway 395, crews will repair winter storm damage by grinding out potholes and repaving with asphalt. Work is scheduled for Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. There will be one-way traffic control with a pilot car and drivers may experience 20-minute delays.

Bridgeport Emergency Work on U.S. Highway 395 between Buckeye Road and Twin Lakes Road, crews will repair winter storm damage by grinding out potholes and repaving with asphalt. Work is scheduled for Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. There will be one-way traffic control with a pilot car and drivers may experience 20-minute delays.

Topaz Lake Emergency Work on U.S. Highway 395 approximately 1.9 miles south of the Nevada State Line, there is one-way traffic control with a traffic signal due to storm damage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Conway Ranch Shoulders Project on U.S. Highway 395 between State Route 167 and just north of Conway Ranch Road near Mono City, crews will be widening the shoulders, lengthening chain-up areas, installing lighting, and rehabilitating drainage infrastructure. Work is scheduled for Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. There will be one-way traffic control and drivers may experience 20-minute delays.

· Cemetery CAP on U.S. Highway 395 between Cemetery Road and State Route 167 near Mono City, crews will be rehabilitating the pavement Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. There will be single-lane closures and one-way traffic control, and drivers may experience 20-minute delays.

MONO COUNTY Construction on the Topaz Lake Emergency Repair Project is anticipated to begin Monday, July 10, to repair a section of U.S. 395 in northern Mono County. This project will realign a half-mile-long portion of the highway that sustained heavy winter storm damage. Once the repair project is complete, the pavement through this section will shift away from the lake, straightening out the current curve of the road.

Construction is expected to last throughout summer and into fall. U.S. 395 will remain open with traffic control measures for the duration of the project. Starting July 6, crews will perform a minor realignment of the current traffic control area before construction begins. During construction hours, there will be one-way traffic control with flaggers. Outside construction hours, the traffic control signal currently in place along Topaz Lake will conduct the one-way traffic control.

Drivers should be aware that traffic may be temporarily stopped due to construction, and crews may need to shift from one-way traffic control to pilot car-led traffic escorts. When traffic escorts are in place, drivers may experience 20-minute delays.

Travelers are asked to be attentive of workers on the highway, slow for the cone zone, and move over whenever possible to give additional clearance. Be Safe and Be Work Zone Alert!

Construction on the Virginia Creek-Benton Chipseal Project is expected to begin on July 5 on two Mono County highways. The project will cover U.S. 395 from the junction with State Route 270 (Bodie Road) to State Route 182 in Bridgeport, and State Route 120 E from Benton Hot Springs to the junction with U.S. 6 in Benton. During construction, there will be one-way traffic control with a pilot car during work hours. Work is scheduled Monday through Thursday from 6:30 am to 8:00 pm and on Fridays from 6:30 am to 3:00 pm. Drivers may experience 20-minute delays. The Virginia Creek-Benton Chipseal Project is scheduled for 25 working days. Work schedules are subject to change due to traffic incidents, weather, availability of equipment and/or materials, and/or construction-related issues.