

EASTERN SIERRA FOCUS

By CJ Webb - April 2025

Mother Nature provided a load cold temps and blowing snow as April "showers bring May flowers"- really? This winter was counting the many small storms and two normal plus the largest being three feet. The West Walker levels have shown a large increase in flows the week prior to Easter. Necessity creates an awareness of safety on the streams during high "run-off". Be safe if you cross streams and remember the water is exceedingly cold this time of year. Don't take unnecessary chances, keep a solar blanket in your fly/tackle vest and be realistic about your physical ability to handle high water flows. A wading staff IS NOW a consideration, as much as I hate to admit it.

NOTICE: Opening of Trout Season was disastrous for some traveling over Conway Summit due to the 5 or 6 inches of snow that fell most of Saturday the 26th. Virginia Lakes received over 12" of snow and the ice is about 7-8 feet thick after you dig down to start your auger and drill down to water.

Mule Deer Summer Migration started mid April which is normal due to the **light 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.

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 animal, and their role as prey species contribute to the health of the top carnivores, especially the mountain lion, black bear, and coyote.

FISHING TIP: No report on some areas due to ice on many high elevation lakes.

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.

OF NOTE: FILM - MENDING THE LINE

The *Los Angeles Times* wrote that *Mending the Line* is "A stirring tale of remedy and redemption. Worth a look for it's lovely and magical fly-fishing sequences and stirring Big Sky vistas (shout out to cinematographer Eve Cohen), as well as it's strong cast, authentic depictions, vital messaging and stirring excerpts from Steve Ramirez's poetic, Texas-set fly-fishing book, *Castling Forward*." book plays a key role in the narrative of the film, and Ramirez is also the author of the Seasonable Angler column on the last pages of every issue of *Fly Fisherman*.

On June 8, 2024, Warriors and Quiet Waters had their own screening at a special event in Bozeman, and on June 9 the film enjoyed a widespread theatrical release in 400 locations and in 43 states.

RogerEbert.com commented, "Mending the Line is a sensitively directed drama about fly fishing as therapy for PTSD."

Tribute to John Gierach - BEST-SELLING AUTHOR JOHN GIERACH DIES AT 77

Beloved fly-fishing author and original "trout bum" John Gierach died from a massive heart attack Oct. 3, 2024, in Longmont Colorado. He was 77 years old.

"Some people seem timeless. . . until they're not," said longtime friend and fishing art Bob White. "I imagine John is sitting in a wonderful coffee shop, perched over a river, surrounded by all the friendly dogs in the neighborhood. That'd be heaven for him"

Gierach was one of the most popular fly-fishing essayists of all time, and best-selling author of 20 books including *Trout Bum; All Fisherman are Liars; Death, Taxes, and Leaky Waders; Sex, Death and fly Fishing; No Shortage of Good Days; Even Brook Trout Get the Blues; The View from Rat Lake; Still Life with Brook Trout; and Fool's Paradise*. His down-to-earth prose, easy -reading style, and serious-fishing, but light-hearted approach endeared him to generations of anglers, and made him feel like everyone's fishing buddy.

He was born in Illinois and raised in a Twin Cities (Minnesota) suburb. As an adult, he established himself in Lyons, Colorado where he frequented St. Vrain Creek and the Big Thompson River. According to his Wikipedia entry: "Gierach began writing professionally because he needed money. Start out, he wrote contributory notes and features for *Fly Fisherman* to pay his monthly rent."

In all, he wrote 18 articles for *Fly Fisherman* between 1978-2017, and also wrote for *Sports Illustrated, the Wall Street Journal, and The New York Times*. From 1992 until 2017 he wrote the back-page column in each issue of *Fly Rod & Reel*. His columns were illustrated by artist Bob White. When *Fly Rod & Reel* stopped publishing, Gierach and White continued their partnership at *Trout* magazine.

"John and I met back in the '80's and we spent hundreds of miles on Colorado roads in pickup trucks that we hoped would get us to the stream and back," said longtime friend A.K. Best, who was a prominent figure in many of Gierach's stories. "It was a perfect pairing in that we had identical ideas on the value of bamboo fly rods and catching trout on a dry fly. We slept on the ground in pup tents and guzzled early morning coffee so strong that we joked it could probably float a spoon. Those days with a good friend are priceless. I'm 91 years old now but it seems like only a couple of days ago that we fished the St. Vrain River. I will miss one of the best friends I have ever had."

Gierach was the prototype of today's ubiquitous "trout bum" made famous in his book of the same name: a big dirty, sometimes cranky, and staunchly protective of his spots. He was true to the character he portrayed in his book, warts and all.

"I knew John Gierach way before he ever knew me," said friend Mike Dvorak. "I met him on a free-book table during a tour of the Middle East; I was there in support of Desert Storm. That book sits on my bookshelf to this day. Many years later I would meet John for real at Bob White's 'Musky Madness' in northern Wisconsin.

"Long story short we hit it off, and I took a photo of him holding a coffee cup on the bank of the river which he then used as his author photo in his book, *A Fly Rod of Your Own*. Since then I have traveled with, fished with, and photographed John in many different locations. Sadly John passed away yesterday morning, October 3, 2024. I won't go into details, but no he wasn't wearing waders . . . One of the most endearing things to me about John was his ability to find humor in seemingly serious situations. He'd deliver a zinger matter-of-factly and then he'd watch your face waiting for you to get it, and laugh with you when you did. He was witty, humble, a true friend, a great fly fisherman and a fantastic writer. I am gutted and said that I will never sit on the bank of a river with him again. We all are."

One of his book titles, *All the Time in the World*, has sadly proven false. Rest in peace, John, We're better off for having your words. Ross Purnell

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.

I wrote the DFW Director of Communications in Sacramento about the restructuring of fees as written.

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.

Again, I was unable to get a reply from the office to check on the status of their "technological infrastructure revisions. After this holiday it will be easier to get an update. As of today, the information as posted stands.

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)

AT THE BENCH:

Upavon UV Resin - Clear Coat

Comes in a small black bottle with a simple dispenser nozzle inside. It's easy to squeeze out a drop or coat a hook-shank, straight from the bottle. Simple and easy to work with, cleaner working than most of my bottles.

The resin is clear and has a low viscosity. It is a bit runny but not watery. It's easy to use by placing a drop on a Post-it as it hardly soaks in. You can pick up a small drop on a needle and exactly coat the head of a small fly. For larger flies you can apply the resin directly to the fly from the bottle and spread it with a needle. But a generous coating of this resin does run, so rotate the vice and it flows and levels out. Bubble will vanish in given time so if you cure it too soon the bubbles will become trapped. A few seconds of UV exposure and it sets hard and fully dry. Upavon \$20. For a 10 oz bottle.

Sybai Mono Thread - This thread bites!

This fine supple monofilament spooled for fly tying is 0.12mm diameter which is fairly fine. It's clearer and glossier than the Uni Mono I've used.

Mono thread is pretty much always coated with epoxy resin or UV-resin when it's on a fly, so the gloss finish is not an issue and almost invisible. Mono had become unpopular when Dyneema or Nano Silk came out but it has seemed to make a resurgence and probably here to stay. It works well on bucktail with its hollow fibers.

It's a 160 meter bobbin, and a generous quantity at a great price. Its conventional size fits in most holders and handles well and has a thread-trap plugged in the end so no mess when packed away. \$3.00 from Sybai.

Kindale Crimp Ice Dubbing

This stuff is similar to other stuff I've used and crimps in the strands are different and also looks good.

This synthetic is a long staple length and extremely reflective. The brighter/lighter colors add an exceptional gleam as a fly moves. Crimp is a little too long for simple twist-dubbing, but the fibers break easily so I can get the dubbing length I need for a simple dubbed body, head color, etc. The fiber length suits dubbing brushes well and is best for medium width brushes but can be used for a wider brush.

The crimp in this fiber means the strands are twisted and turned. Tied in longish as a wing or as a dubbing brush, and the crimped, crinkled texture adds a little volume and a load of flash. It's available in Black, Gold, Silver, Metallic Red, Peacock, Pearl, UV. \$4.69 per pack from Kindaleflyfishing.co.uk

LOWER OWENS – Flows are at 188.3cfs as of 4.26.

Report not available but the following flies worked last summer on and around opening weekend.

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. Stimulators #8-10. **NYMPH:** Pheasant Tail #14-20. Hares Ear #16-20. Caddis Cased #12, Zebra Midge #18-22, Weiss BP light or dark #18-20, Bottom Roller Physco Rhyco #10-14, Pearl & Orange #16, Chamois caddis #16-20, TB Millers +1 Lt #16-18, Lexi Girdle Bug Tan/Black #6, HDA Fav. Variant #12-16. **STREAMERS:** Woolly Bugger Olive & Black #10-12 and Mini Sculpin Olive & Black #10-12.

ROCK CREEK LAKE – No Report and not sure if the lake is thawed as yet.

LADWP Regarding runoff.
ladwpeasternsierra.com/runoff2025

UPPER OWENS – Flows are 71cfs as of 4/27. 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.

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 gauge, it lost its funding and has been shut down. If you're not familiar with it, to get to the upper most branches 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.

The Owens River below Benton Crossing is closed until April 26th. Snow is melting and access is improving. However with the melting snow we are approaching

mud season on the Upper Owens. Be mindful of where you park and drive if you head out early. You might drive out on frozen mud, only to find your vehicle sitting on the frame in the mud in the afternoon when the temps get above freezing. Avoid taking fish out of the water in freezing temperatures to prevent eye and gill damage. Fishing is best between 11 AM - 3 PM when water temperatures are ideal. Many anglers lose prime fishing time by stopping for lunch—fish through mid-day for best success. With little in the way of hatches the bigger fish are eating larger attractor patterns, especially egg and worm patterns. Dries: Para Caddis #16-22, Adult Midge patterns #20-24, BH flashback pheasant tail #14-22, HAD Fav Variant #12-16, Chamois Caddis #16-20, M Pardi FB Olive or Brown #18-20, Weiss BP light #18-20, Slush Egg Apricot #14, EZ Fl S Burst #20, Squirmy Wormy #12-14 and Zebra Midges #16-24. Streamers: Keslars HBG Olive, Punk Perch #16 and Crostons MRS Natural #14,

CROWLEY LAKE – 6773.6 feet below full as of 4/26.

The lake looks low but is higher than last year same time. DWP is probably making some room for the runoff. As usual, early season the fish are scattered, might be why trolling at times are more consistent than the fly dunkers. The fish aren't just spread out around the lake but also depth wise so be ready to move up and down, covering more of the water column. It's quite common for the fish to be less picky and more attracted to flash early in the season so flashy and larger flies can be effective.

Flies to try: **Dries:** Don't bother. **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, Double Bead Zebra. **Streamers:** Marabou Leech Burgundy or Brown #12, Hornberg #8-14, Punk Perch #14-16, Cheech Leech #1.

HOT CREEK - Flow is 23cfs of 4/25.

Remember, these are the flows just below Highway 395 on Mammoth Creek. 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. Try Midges in the morning and Baetis midday but they are getting smaller, #18-22 but still the most productive hatch. 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 slow increase in flows the streamer fishing will pickup.

DRIES: R.P. Emerger #22, Mother Shucker #24, Griffith's Gnat #20-24, Stillborn Midge Black #20-22, 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 #2, TB Millers+1LT #16-18, Egg Patterns, B/H Pheasant Tail #16-20, San Juan Worms #12-14. **STREAMERS:** Mini Sculpin Orange #6, Slumpbuster Natural #10, Hornberg #10-14, Mini Sculpin Orange #6, Slumpbuster Natural #10, Hornberg #10-14, Mice.

CONVICT LAKE – No report.

MAMMOTH LAKES - Road not open yet. They started to plow earlier last week

SAN JOAQUIN - Flow is 240cfs as of 4/25.

Road is closed no date set for reopening due to restructuring the road

JUNE LOOP –Silver Lake would be the best bet this early even Rush Creek. Last week was warm on and off with lots of bugs showed up for the dance without partners on the water to give them a spin.

RUSH CREEK ANNUAL CLEANUP is September Phone 760 648 7525 for details if you wish to help.

LUNDY LAKE – Resort will reopen on May 15th and close October 15th. Lake is ice free and no report. Early is usually loads of metal.

VIRGINIA LAKES - Road was plowed as of April 21st and lakes are all frozen. Snowed all day Saturday leaving about 10-12" of snow on the frozen lake. There were about 20 ice fishermen braving the cold and snow with some fish caught. Road was a bit icy very early.

TRUMBULL LAKE - Road is plowed as of April 21st and lake is frozen but will be the first lake to thaw in the drainage, second will be Little V and last will be Big V.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR – All of the action was boats and bait. A guide I know will keep me posted on any fly action.

EAST WALKER – The East is currently running at about 90cfs. We had lots of mixed reports yesterday from the EW with some anglers doing very well and others not doing well at all. It sounds like the "Miracle Mile" section hasn't fully recovered from the fish kill last year as most of the reports we received from that section were pretty poor. There were some fish caught in the upper section but there were definitely better reports coming in from the section below the bridge on down to Murphy's Pond. Hopefully we'll get some higher flows when the run-off starts and there will be more fish move up to the mile. Of the more successful reports we had most of them were drifting nymphs with just a few coming in on streamers. Some patterns that worked well yesterday: rainbow warrior, San Juan worm, squirmy wormy, worm jig, perdigon, copper John, flashback emerger, drag queen, dead drift crayfish and sculpzilla. Report from Ken's Sporting goods.

HONEYWELL POND –.We didn't get any reports back from the pond this week but I'm confident it's still fishing very well. We have some bookings coming up and I'll pass on any information we get from that. Provided by Ken's Sporting Goods.

SCEIRINE RANCH - The ranch fished very well again this week with most of the anglers reporting in doing great. Lots of nice fish in the 14 to 18 inch range with a few taping over 20 for most anglers. The streamer action has been good early in the day with the nymph action picking up as the day goes on. Most of the same patterns that are working on the CA side are also working on the ranch.

The trespass fees for the ranch have been updated as of April 24, 2025 to \$100 for a half day per angler and \$125 for a full day per angler. Anglers are still limited to 4 per day. Anglers who booked time on the ranch calendar prior to April 24, 2025 will still be charged at the old price of \$75 per half day and \$100 per full day. 100% of the trespass fees go directly to the ranch, cash is preferred. If you need to use a credit/debit card a 3% administration fee will be charged. Give us a call if you want to book some time out there.

KIRMAN - We haven't heard anything back from Kirman so far for the first day of the season but we'll let you know when we hear anything. I saw a few cars parked along the road so there is some action there. cj

WEST WALKER –The flow is 440cfs and the water is dirty, looks like mud soup. Unfortunately we haven't received any reports from the West yet. Again, there were quite a few anglers parked along the side of the road at my favorite spots, so there is some action there.

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.

Eel River Restoration - A new agreement promises to resolve decades of conflict over water use on California's third largest watershed—and a legendary salmon and steelhead river.



California's mighty Eel River once produced so many salmon and steelhead that it sustained a commercial canning operation. But for over a century, conflicts over water use have plagued the basin. The Eel River's salmon and steelhead runs have paid a steep price and are today a fraction of their former glory.

This week, after years of negotiations, a stakeholder group comprised of the Round Valley Indian Tribes, Russian River water interests, salmon and steelhead advocates and the State of California announced a new agreement in principle that clears the way for fish recovery and sustainable water sharing in the wake of the Pacific Gas & Electric Company's decision to decommission and remove its Potter Valley Project.

This project's two dams completely blocked fish passage to the Eel River's headwaters for more than a century and diverted water through a tunnel to the Russian River. In dry years such as 1977, the dams took virtually the entire flow during summer.

Today's agreement outlines a shared solution that addresses the interests of all. It allows for Russian River

water users to construct a new, dam-free pump station that will allow continued diversion to the Russian at greatly reduced rates, subject to scientifically derived limits to protect the Eel River fishery.

Those users will make annual payments to the Round Valley Indian Tribes, which will hold the underlying water rights and will use part of the revenue to implement watershed-wide habitat restoration in the Eel basin, in coordination with non-profit conservation organizations including TU. All the parties will cooperate to raise additional federal, state and private funds to pay in equal measure for constructing the diversion and watershed restoration.

The water sales will generate \$1 million per year for the Round Valley Indian Tribes, in recognition of its senior water right, plus \$750,000-\$1 million per year for Eel River restoration, both indexed to inflation.

Today, the State of California announced that it will commit an initial \$18 million to support the agreement—\$9 million for the pump station and \$9 million for Eel River restoration.

Eel River salmon and steelhead have been blocked for years from prime spawning and rearing habitat.

“This is a good deal for the Eel River as well as the Russian River and the people who depend on both,” explains Brian Johnson, TU’s senior policy advisor for western water and climate. “The agreement includes science-based, enforceable terms to provide crucial flows for the Eel’s salmon and steelhead populations. Under the agreement, all water rights will be held by the Round Valley Indian Tribes, water sales will fund restoration of the Eel River and water not meant for diversion will remain in the Eel. On behalf of Trout Unlimited, and all the partners who worked to build this comprehensive plan, we thank the State of California for their commitment to the Eel River, its salmon and steelhead and the communities who depend on its cold, clean water.”

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK - Tioga Road Update from Yosemite National Park 4-20-25

Caltrans has plowed the road all the way up to Tioga Lake. At that point E. Ljung parked her bike and stepped into her ski boots for the remaining 1.25 miles to the eastern entrance to Yosemite National Park.

Ellery Lake and Tioga Lake entirely frozen. Snow on the road ranges from almost none near Tioga Lake to several feet of drifts in other places. The road was covered by about 3.5 feet of snow at the west entrance gate to Yosemite.

"At the gate I met and chatted with one of the Tuolumne winter rangers, who was shuttling supplies and gear via snowmobile as the rangers move out for the year. (Public snowmobiles are not allowed in Yosemite.)"

Overall, snow conditions look similar to this time last year, which makes sense—the snowpack is just about the same.

Plows are currently working toward the west entrance to the park, if you have questions as to dates contact Mark Krebs Mather, District Ranger (Canyon Ranch, Crane Flat, and Tuolumne Meadows Sub-Districts), Yosemite National Park 209-379-1898 (Office) 209-347-9919 (G Cell)

CalTrans Crestview Rest Stop opened April 25th.

This made a lot of people and truckers very happy.

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 was June 2023. Project is expected to resume sometime in June 2025.

TIDBIT'S - Meteor Shower Calendar 2025

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>(no. per hour/from)</u>
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5-6 May	Eta Aquariid Meteor Shower Peak	
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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! (4.25)