

# Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

## *Fishing tip:*

*Getting better “those annoying little things”, reminding us that anglers aren’t perfect. Occasionally we make mistakes, and many of us make them over and over again. If we learn to avoid them, we’ll be listening to our reels sing more and not wondering what happened. We think like humans and not like trout. Can you imagine laying in a streambed and looking up through the current or “looking through their eyes”? Predators, shadows and vibrations are their major problems and the moment trout detect any of these, their defense takes over. Wear subdued clothing by matching your ensemble with your surroundings, fish with the sun on your side or in your face early and late in the day. Keep a low profile, no acrobatics and try not to impress everyone with your ability to cast into your backing as your success depends on our stealthy not how much time you spend on your bow-flex biceps.*

## *Legislation*

*Assembly Bill 7 was fully funded by the Governor’s Budget, it was announced last week, and hatcheries will be up and running close to full speed within 3 years, thanks to the efforts of Dave Cogdill and Bill Maze and staff for all their hard work in getting the sport fishing license funds back to the anglers that provide the money for the resource.*

## *Weather Report:*

*The weather has been sensational since opening weekend with temperatures increasing daily putting the big melt on the “polar-cap” areas, with a few thunderstorms around the latter part of May. June is reported to be the same. Never trust Mother Nature, come prepared with 1 gallon of D E E T!*

## *Fishing Report:*

*Remember to check the regulations prior to fishing unfamiliar water if you are unsure of limits, size, etc.*

ROCK CREEK road is clear and the lake is almost ice free.

Hard to maneuver around the stream as there is a lot of snow at the upper reaches. Lake has done well on streamers “deep”. HOT CREEK – water is high and somewhat clear, and temperatures are perfect for bugs. Bring “tons” of flies and be prepared. Flashback PT #18-20, San Juan worms, and tiny zebra midges should get tugs. The breezy afternoons may prevail on and off so come prepared for everything. Please stay out of the water to prevent the spread of the New Zealand mud snail. Cary Kutzke took a 28” brown (released it) that was estimated just over 10 pounds on a #20 flashback PT with a guide. Cary has my deepest respect.

CROWLEY has been on fire due to the great weather since just before opening. Fish are holding in 10-14 feet along the drops offs with Leighton, Alligator and Sandy Point being the hot spots. Weed situation is not a consideration.

CONVICT was also stocked with some heavyweights and water is up and south shore is always the hot ticket for those seeking behemoths on olive Matukas, wooly buggers and leeches.

MAMMOTH BASIN still under snow and ice and the Lake Mary Road plowing started the 23rd. Lake Mary is ice free except for a few floes around the edge and streamers are the ticket for the goal line.

SAN JOAQUIN ROAD should be open by the 24<sup>th</sup> of June due to heavier snow pack.

JUNE LAKE ~ June Lake marina cage culture program has been releasing cutthroats this month. Tubing has been good now that the water is warmer and a lot of nice fish are being taken on Matukas, olive spruce flies, red throat olive Matukas and olive wooly buggers.

SILVER LAKE ~ Most of the action is on the shore.

RUSH CREEK has been good using birds nest (olive) or gold ribbed hair’s ear just below the lake. It’s tough, but if you have patience and work it, you’ll see some nice browns.

GRANT LAKE is the fullest I’ve seen in many years. Tubers are doing well on the south shore and around the south end of Alligator point with olive Matukas, olive wooly buggers and some rainbow Hornbergs. Water is warming nicely.

TIOGA PASS ~ More CalTrans equipment was taken in so don’t look for them to get this finished too soon, but The Park Service is working from their side, and watching conditions. County will start on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June and progress will be noticeable.

LUNDY ~ Road is open, water is the highest I’ve ever seen, and the anglers are shoulder to shoulder, so tubers take a number and grab your favorite wooly bugger and don’t forget the long underwear. Brrrr, that water looks cold.

VIRGINIA LAKES road is open to the Trumbull Lake campground and ice is rotten on all waters and Little V and Trumbull, will be the first to go. Lots of water with great temps for the sleeveless t-shirts types.

EAST WALKER is slated to get fingerling browns this summer in the 3” range so there will be enough food for those hungry “boys” with the hopes that a majority of them live to grow up and hit your fly.. Flows hit the 832 mark, and weighted nymphs are your best bet with the heavy flows, and use a San Juan worm over a crystal tiger midge. Invest in Repel and bring tons of the stuff, these blood suckers are relentless.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR water is high and off color due to run-off. Season started off slow but those willing to endure the breezy conditions found great results near Buckeye Bay. WEST WALKER flows were 3220 and now at 1500cfs and great conditions for white water kayaking, and it will get higher in late May when night temperatures really start to crank. Use the same strategy in getting your bugs down to the bottom; they are getting gorged with food so your best skills are needed to entice them to your offering.

SONORA PASS road opened on the 24<sup>th</sup> with fanfare.

CARMEN (Kirman) was stocked last fall with 5000-8000 fingerling brookies to help revive the brook population.

MONITOR PASS is open and very little snow at the top. Heenan is ice free and waiting for the September crowd.

See you on the water, CJ