

# Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

Being the fisherman that I am, constantly I find myself perusing water, wondering if there are fish in it only to return, fish it and finding NO fish! "These areas are as productive as a sand trap on the back nine". Trout prefer some locations and avoid others entirely, so just because it looks good to you, doesn't mean it's holding trout.

There are two basic types of water, stream (moving), and lake (still). Trout feeding in moving water position themselves near the calm areas of streams to conserve energy and wait for their food to arrive. When the buffet arrives they zip into the current, snatch it then retreat into the calm to lie in wait for more food. In lakes, trout prefer weed beds and large rocks and log clutter for food and for cover from predators during the day. The best calorie opportunities with the least outlay of energy mean survival to trout.

Pick up a pair of polarized sunglasses and you will be able to see water seams, current velocity and mainly the fish while protecting your baby blues.

## Weather Conditions

Typical Eastern Sierra low-pressure system moved into the area mid-month dropping the temperatures to near freezing but was short lived and gave temporary relief from mosquitoes and now it looks like a great summer at high elevation lakes is nearing. All rivers are running high and off color, and there is still snow above 9500', so come prepared for everything.

## Legislation

AB7 has been funded so that hatchery stocking will continue and Eastern Sierra Waters and we will get an increase in fish starting in 2007. Also, the Wild Trout Program is scheduled to get Biologists and a boost in their program to protect habitat and other issues.

New Zealand Mud Snail was not given a VISA and is still here, and I believe it is imperative that fishers help prevent the spread by NOT WADING.

LOWER OWENS ~ River is running at 783cfs and the drifting hasn't been sensational, but fishers are doing well in the wild trout section with caddis as a top and scud as a bottom or try an #18 crystal midge, Tiger midge, or WD40 in black.

ROCK CREEK LAKE has been good, and fish are still taking black woolly buggers, olive Matukas and large streamers. Mosquito Flats is running very high with difficult stream fishing, and the ski-parka mosquitoes are gearing up for some great meals.

CROWLEY LAKE has had a lot of windy days and the Daphnia has put a damper on the bite, try McGee Bay and go 3-4 feet off the bottom in gray, try everything and don't give up. Water temps are moving the fish around and up

and down, and don't forget the two fly rig is always a good choice. Try what you think won't work, maybe a nice surprise.

CONVICT LAKE has been producing nice Alpers on large woolly buggers in black and purple #6 or 8. Also the Marvel is truly a wonder fly for this lake, be sure and ask what color is working. Some standard midges for top water near the south bank where the party boats hang. The Marvel is a flash-body woolly bugger with a small prop at the head. Ok, maybe it's hardware but so is a bead head. MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN - Lake Mary has been producing on some small dries. George and Mamie are also doing well on dries, but try some Matukas, black leaches, and black or chocolate woolly buggers.. Water temperature is rising so floating will be comfortable. HOT CREEK (149cfs) is fishing well early and late on dries, scuds, WD40's, stones and SJ worms. Constant afternoon breezes.

SAN JOAQUIN – Access road open as they are getting the campgrounds ready for incoming campers and fishermen. Water is high and a bit off color, try a "careful" and anything will work, big bright fluffies with small beadhead dropper.

JUNE LOOP – Silver and Gull have been doing the best on black, and purple woolly's, grey ghosts, and spruce flies. Also try some stones, mayflies and caddis near Rush Creek for best results, and water is high. Also, near the bridge on the access road to Mono Lake, watch for snakes. They're gopher, water and king's, but rattles could be there.

LUNDY LAKE was the only game in town early on and has continued to produce some really nice fish on black woolly buggers with a lot of crystal flash in the tail #6 or 8, and the Marvel. Ponds behind the resort are fun and hitting small midges and dries.

VIRGINIA LAKES has been a hot ticket for tubers and waders using black woolly buggers with lots of tail flash. Scuds are very active along with midges by the thousands. The gnats are everywhere so wear a camo mask so you can breathe. Use sparse Griffith Gnats, small mosquitoes and Adams females all #18-20. Some emergers have worked over the past couple weeks, but will increase with the temps. Of course dragging a streamer always works. Booooooring!

EAST WALKER – Flow currently is at 735cfs and the mosquitoes are vicious. Blood transfusions might be required after an outing, so bring the "juice". Emerging Caddis will buy you the "beast", so anything resembling this "bug" should put you into poundage. Lots of blood midges going off for the hungry browns, so select your imitation with care.

WEST WALKER – Water is at 1530cfs, so look for flat water and fish the bottom, and try a two fly rig with large attractor as indicator and tiger, crystal or flashback Zug as the bottom fly.

TIOGA PASS is open See you on the water! CJ