

Eastern Sierra Focus

By CJ Webb

STAY ALERT DEER MIGRATION started about a month ago and continues as deer move back into their summer environment.

Fly-Fishing Apps

FishHead (Nervous Water Apps LLC, \$6.99, iPhone, 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.

Yampa411 (High Bar Digital, \$6.99, iPhone, Android)

Yampa411 provides seriously specific details for a single fishery. The app was developed by a Colorado fly fisher Ben Russell who put a lot of time and effort into seeing that every detail is accurate and relevant. If you fish Colorado or plan to this might be the best guide around.

Orvis Fly Fishing (Green Mountain digital, \$5.99, iPhone, Android)

- This is the grand-daddy of fly-fishing apps that is 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 of appearance, weight, natural habitat, and its average length.

Weather Conditions - Spring storms continue

Winter in the high country just keeps hanging on with scattered spring showers and light dusting of snow at the upper elevations. The Sierra motto is wait 10 minutes and it will change. Memorial weekend was a mixed bag of snow, light rain with blue sky in and out most of the 4 days leading up to it and through it. Looks as though we might be in for nicer weather this coming week.

Most lakes above 9500 foot elevation still wear a collar of ice and large dark gems of open water around the edges. Stay alert and stay safe.

Bernard "Lefty" Kreh - American fly fishing legend died from heart failure on March 14 in his home in

Maryland. Kreh wrote extensively on the art of fly fishing, hosted *Buccaneers and Bones* on the Outdoor Channel and remained an in-demand casting instructor even in his later years. His obituary in the New York Times said he was known to fish with famous fly fishermen and Montana residents like Thomas Mcguane, Huey Lewis and Michael Keaton. He wrote numerous books including "Advanced Fly Fishing Techniques" and "Fly Fishing in Salt Water". Kreh is credited with playing a significant role in pioneering saltwater fly fishing. A saltwater fly of his own design, known as Lefty's Deceiver, was immortalized on a United States Postal Service stamp in 1991. He will be truly missed.



Legislative News:

April 18, 2018 AB-986 (Gallagher) 12-Month Fishing License/Veterans Discount. No change in the status of the bill but wording in the bill changed.

AB2465 (Gallagher) Position: Support (CSL is the sponsor) This bill would require the department, on or before February 1, 2019, to convene a sport fishing industry group, to be known as the R3 Group, with "R3" standing for "Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation." Under the bill, the purpose of the R3 Group would be to collaborate with the department to identify barriers to sport fishing that contribute to the decline in sales of sport fishing licenses. The bill would specify the membership of the R3 Group and provide for the R3 Group to identify the above-described barriers to sport fishing and develop and approve recommendations for removal of those barriers, and submit to the Legislature, as provided, a report containing the approved recommendations.

Anglers have a voice in the political process, so please make sure your state Assembly Member and State Senator hear from you.

AB 986 (Gallagher) POSITION: Support, and recommend amendments. This legislation aims to increase fishing license sales and revenue by making available an additional annual fishing license valid for a

full 12-months from the date of purchase at a premium of 130% of the price of the calendar-year annual license (\$62.86). Today, California has an antiquated licensing system whereby annual fishing licenses expire on December 31st of every year, regardless of when it was purchased. This bill also discounts annual fishing licenses for American veterans by 25% and by 50% for veterans that have a 50% or greater service-connected disability.

Status: Passed out of the Assembly, is in the Senate and has been double referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and Water and the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

SB 518 (Berryhill) (Formally SB187) 12-Month Fishing License POSITION: Support Today, California has an antiquated and costly licensing system whereby annual fishing licenses expire on December 31st of every year, regardless of when it was purchased. This has contributed, in part, to significant declines in fishing participation rates and license sales. This legislation aims to increase fishing participation rates, license sales and state revenue by making annual fishing license valid for a full 12-months from the date of purchase at a premium of 130% of the annual calendar-year license (\$62.86). This provision is also included in AB 986, introduced by Assembly Member Gallagher.

Status: SB 518 is awaiting a hearing in the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources.

CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

No update on the CDFW public meetings held around the state for trout anglers to voice their interest, needs, and novel ideas about the statewide management of trout resources regarding: 1. the revision of the Strategic Plan for Trout Management (last plan was in 2003), 2. The creation of a new Strategic Plan for Trout Hatcheries, and 3. Simplification of inland trout angling regulations. Once CDFW compiles public comments they will send out notices to interested parties. For additional information contact Andrew Hughsan at andrew.hughan@wildlife.ca.gov or (916)322.8944.

Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW):

Updated trout releases will be on their web-site (<http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FishPlants/>) or call their specific region (Inland Deserts 855.887.1275)

CDFW has an updated free downloadable app for

Freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations application at <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.

CDFW's License Sales Office along the Silverado Trail in Napa will close permanently on Wednesday, June 13 at 4:30 p.m. CDFW's new License Sales Office in Fairfield will open to the public Friday, June 15 at 8 a.m. Licenses can also be purchased anytime online at www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/InternetSales.

The new address is 2825 Cordelia Road, Suite 100, Fairfield, CA 94534. The public service hours will remain the same, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with license sales ending at 4:30 p.m. The main office phone number will change to (707) 428-2002 beginning June 15.

AB 1337 (Patterson) Government Transparency/Fish and Game Commission - POSITION: Support

This bill will ensure greater government transparency by requiring the commission to provide a live video broadcast on its website of every commission meeting and subcommittee meeting that is open to the public.

Status: Vetoed by the Governor.

NOTEWORTHY - CDFW Stocking starting May 24th, 2018 from Conway Summit to the north will be stocked by Black Rock Hatchery near Independence due to the Walker drainage. They plan to stock a total of 15 waters including rivers and creeks with triploids. From Conway south trout will be stocked from Fish Springs Hatchery with diploid trout. Please click on the link to read to get a better understand why the situation of water and the EIR lawsuit.

<http://www.ovcweb.org/item/OneNews.asp?qitemid=273>

Fishing Report

LOWER OWENS is at **313.2 as of 5/27**. The flow should taper when DWP turns down the wheel.

ROCK CREEK LAKE is ice free and lots of fish being caught with few takers on streamers, black, olive or deep purple with some flash. No bugs out yet, but they will arrive in the next couple weeks.

UPPER OWENS – Flows are at 112cfs as of 5/27

Above the Confluence and 171 below. Closed to all fishing from Benton Crossing down to the monument.

This section will open the Saturday May 26th. Fishing Conditions and Hatches: Fair - Fishing is pretty slow, most decent sized fish are eating under the cut banks.

Please leave paired up fish alone, these fish are the future of our fisheries. DRIES: Stimulator #16, Extended Body BWO #16, Elk Hair Caddis #16-18, Parachute Adams #16-20. NYMPHS: #12-16 Bead Head Prince Nymph, #16-18 Pheasant Tail, Flashback Hares Ear #14-16, Anderson's Bird of Prey #14-16. STREAMERS: Meat Whistle, D's Hoover Mover, and Big and ugly. Dead drifted on strip under the banks on a type 3 sinking line.

CROWLEY LAKE – The lake is really, really jugged now. DWP has not taken the level down an inch and it is higher now than Opening Day. The level is only about 5 ft below the spillway. The lake should be nice and full for the foreseeable future. The fish are very spread out and you'll get a few any place but no real hot spots the last few days. Sandy has a few on the edge of the drop off on the north side. McGee has a few fish still out deep in about 21-23 ft of water. Alligator is also spotty. Hilton has been producing a few big fish but no real body count. Some fish in north arm off Green Banks Bay, some in 13 ft, but most out in 20+ft. Albino Barons, Red Barons early and later in the morning go to Copper Tigers, Red/Black dubbed head Optimidges, then Flashback Gray/Black Optimidges, Shaft Emergers when sun is overhead - all small.

HOT CREEK - Water is clear and cold. Flows are at **57cfs as of 5/27**, but might increase this week with warmer weather. (Note: flows include water from the springs, not just the gauging station at the highway so this is what is really flowing through the canyon). Gate is open, and fishing is good. Streamers: Doc's Twin Lakes Special #10-12, Crystal Bugger #10-12, Beldar Bugger #10-12, and Pops Bugger #8-12. Nymphs: Barr's Copper John #12-18, Zebra Midge #14-18, Lightning Bug #16-18

CONVICT LAKE – Action has been mainly at the southwest corner and the outlet. Resort has stocked consistently with larger fish and they are coming out but not to flies. Weather will again produce a change in the action which should occur later this week. It's still early in the season to expect super hot action unless you really know every inch of this lake. Suggested flies would be dark buggers, light Spruce Flies on thin wire, or even a crystal flash bugger in dark purple or burgundy and black size 8 or 10 and even try a point fly to search around 15 feet or so.

MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN - Lakes have been stocked to the brim. Holdover fish are still hungry as well. Desert Springs Fish Hatchery in Oregon has been putting in huge hen rainbows into all of the lakes.

SAN JOAQUIN – Road is closed due to excessive damage. Check with Mammoth Visitor Center for updates. If you hike in, don't be surprised if the Devils Postpile Ranger Station is closed. Road will probably open by 4th of July.

JUNE LOOP - Not too many reports of fly action but that will probably change as the temperature rises all around the loop. Grant Lake is rising steadily but I haven't noticed any change as the power that be must be sending it down south as fast as it comes in. The horse-tail over the rocks above Silver Lake is huge so the run-off is in full swing. Rush Creek is still flowing heavy and may be above its bank in many areas. But if you

wish to fish in the creeks the streamers and buggers or nymph rigs including San Juan worms and egg patterns will do the job.

June Lake Marina is scheduled to release more trophy trout from the stock pens.

LUNDY LAKE – Resort is open and reports of anglers getting into some nice rainbows on dark woolly buggers size 10, Flash a Bou's size 10, Carey Specials (peacock body) size 10, Squirmy Worms size 12 and Olive Hornberg's with a prince nymph on point. Back ponds are full and bugs get lively during the warmest part of the day. Lake was stocked again with lots of surface dimpling; stealth is your friend along with silence as they are a bit spooky.

VIRGINIA LAKES – Big Virginia Lake still have about 50% of very thin ice that moving around as tubers stay in the open water trying to avoid a collision. Large dark streamers with crystal flash will get some attention if you cruise 80 feet from the shore perimeter trying different retrieves and see what clicks.

Both Trumble and Little Virginia lakes have been ice free since the 12th of May, and had some great action earlier in the month before the weather, but as the weather moved in the fish moved down. With the full moon overhead it might bring the fish up to feed. If it warms up later this week, maybe a few bugs might venture from their security blanket and stimulate some action.

BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR - Fuller than I've seen in many years, it might seem the airport runway might be a bit too close to the water, just kidding. But it will be lowered anticipating run-off especially with the amount of rain and snow that's been hitting the high country for a few days. I'm still looking for some size to the 1 pound browns that were stocked late in 2016 from Desert Springs Hatchery in hope they might hit 3 pounds plus during the next few weeks. Weather predictions have been inconsistent for comfortable angling in a tube just about everywhere with clouds, wind, and rain.

KEN'S SPORTING GOODS - Nevada Licenses
Unfortunately Nevada does not have the new license terminal on-line, and Ken's will post it when it is up and running.

EAST WALKER – Report from Jim Reid. Of course with these high flows we are getting skunk reports but the anglers who are getting their flies down near the bottom have been able to get into some nice browns up to around 20 inches and rainbows up to 18 or so this week. Nymphs and streamers have still been the best, they've been getting away with some larger sized nymphs lately probably due to the higher flows and this is also helping get them down near the bottom where they need to be. The main thing to remember with these higher flows is to be sure to add as much weight as it takes to get your bugs down to the bottom" Listed are

the flies currently working: WD-40, Silver Streak, San Juan worm, Micro Mayfly, Rainbow Warrior, Prince Nymph or BH #12-14, pheasant tail, Dark Lord, Moal leech, Sculpzilla, double bunny, Slump Buster, Zuddler, Radiation Baetis #16, Copper Zebra #16, Olive Birds Nest #10-14, Caddis Larva #10-16, Nitro Caddis #14-18, Meat Whistle #2, D's Hoover Mover Rust #4, and Hornbergs #10-12.

HONEYWELL POND - The pond has been fishing excellent this week, mostly on streamers but nymph action has picked up. Leech patterns to try: Mayer's mini leech, Simi Seal leech, Twin Lakes Special and Seal Buggers have been doing well, also running a dry/dropper has been successful with a Parachute Adams or small Stimulator on top with a Zebra midge on point, Rojo Midge, soft hackle or soft emerger underneath has also been productive.

SCEIRINE RANCH – Not many anglers fishing the ranch this past week but as with the California side the fishing should be pretty good if you are able to get your bugs down to the bottom, there's lots of fish hanging out on the ranch so add some weight and get way down. Don't forget to call Ken's Sporting Goods if you want to book some time on the ranch.

TIOGA PASS ~ opened May 21st to vehicle traffic.

KIRMAN LAKE - No reports as yet, will update as they come in.

WEST WALKER – is running at 819cfs as of 5/17 with flat water just below the bridge for about one mile starting at the BRIDGE with a lot of rough water then flat water near Chris Flat campground. I drove along the river on recently with only a couple anglers trying their luck. With all the rain, snow and light hail this past week the West is again high and dirty right now, if you want to give it a try you should be able to hook into some fish in the Pickel Meadows area or any of the calmer areas through the canyon. For flies try prince nymphs, pheasant tails and soft hackles. **The Sierra District general regulations (5 fish limit/10 in possession) are now in affect.**

Tioga Pass (SR 120 West) opened Monday, May 21st

Roads that are currently open:

SR 270 to Bodie State Historic Park is open

Lake Mary road to the Mammoth Lakes Basin

SR 120 East from Mono Lake to Benton is open (watch out for deer and wild horses!)

Saddlebag Lake road is open to the parking area at the lake. No services are currently available.

Burcham Flat road is open

Green Creek road is open

Mill Creek road is open

Golden Gate Mine road is open

Dunderberg Meadows road is open

Roads that are currently closed:

Reds Meadow road to Devils Postpile opening has been delayed due to significant road damage
Aurora Canyon road to Masonic to Bodie
Burcham Flat road to Lobdell Lake

The return of the latest fly tying "stuff", and a great new fly pattern will start in June.

LEFT TURN SLEEVE--CONWAY SUMMIT & US 395

CalTrans received funding that will widen shoulders and add a northbound left turn pocket on US Highway 395 at the intersection of Virginia Lakes Road (Conway Summit). Construction is expected to begin in spring and is considered a "minor project". To check other construction for 2018 along US395 go to (www.dot.ca.gov/d9/projmgmt/projects.html)
See you on the water, keep 'em wet CJ