

## EASTERN SIERRA FOCUS

By CJ Webb

***CalTrans has had their "STAY ALERT DEER MIGRATION"*** on their overhead Guide Signs off for about a week as the winter migration is just about over, but please be watchful for any roadside animal movement.

NOTE: A fast moving storm front moved through with daytime high to drop over 30 degrees Sunday and was 23 degrees at 7am on the 27th. Cool sunny days in the forecast all next week.

***Weather Conditions*** – Early September weather was cool but warmed up until the morning of September 11th we awoke to 21 degrees with ice on our windshield and a dusting of snow. The aspens just started to turn a very light yellow and gold up and down the Virginia Lakes road above 9300 foot elevation and it happened on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Color change continued to pop new colors daily until they were weakened through the lack of chlorophyll and the wind did the rest. Aspens were fully blown by normal full-out color in late September and early October. In fact, there are still brilliant gold trees around the 5000 to 6000 foot elevation. Most everyone viewing the Mono County Tourism site fall color photos were disappointed as the photos were not recent. I tried to explain to everyone why they would post photos from another year when most of the color hadn't even gone off except for very high elevation aspens. It didn't seem to help their attitudes.

October's weather was a mix of cold-hot-windy-cold-hot-windy then turned into a marvelous Indian summer. The mornings were crisp and cool with pleasant afternoons that cooled off as the sun started its descent. Fish and Wildlife continued to stock right up the 14th of October, but very few anglers were around to take advantage of the stocking which means there will be more fish on opening day in 2020. The only thing that was working was a "special salmon egg". Fly anglers were doing a bit better with their October flies and even better if they figured out the secret.

### ***Winter Predictions Anyone?***

The seasonal guessing game begins with deciphering squirrel hoarding habits, pine nut harvesting and the thickness of Woolly Bear caterpillar bands.



The reasons for the greater than normal uncertainty are complex; a series of confusing big picture patterns and weather signals that do not point to any signal that might allow forecasters to even make a good guess. The Climate Prediction Center is saying above normal temps in the West and it's giving us equal chances of a wet or a dry winter, so that's not even giving us a signal in any one direction.

The current dry pattern will last at least into the early part of November, with some storms possible by the middle of November at least according to some long-range models.

There is one good big picture pattern that might benefit California this winter; the dreaded "blob" of warm water that has created a high pressure ridge off the coast of California in past years, blocking most incoming storms, has moved. That means at least, should storms arrive, the ridge won't be in place to block them as it was in some of the worst drought years in the past. By Thanksgiving, we should have a better handle on what's going to happen. Most forecasters are showing the same caution.

"So far this fall I have stayed away from any seasonal snowfall forecasting," said Bryan Allegretto, a forecaster based in the Tahoe area, who works for OpenSnow. "We are not big fans of seasonal forecasts since they are very hard to predict. We know that the forecast models lose a lot of accuracy over a two week period, so how can they predict anything beyond that? So, you can see why we aren't big fans of seasonal forecasts. However, each fall I do take a look at analog seasons based on the ENSO (El Nino/La Nina), the PDO, and the QBO. These are longer-term sea surface temps and wind patterns that can affect the weather pattern during the winter season."

"Even through this season matches up with patterns seen historically, the ocean temperatures are never exactly the same," he said. "But the water along the equator was warmer last season and colder in 2016/17. The water in the western Indian Ocean is also warmer this year. I'm going with 80-90 percent of average snowfall for my initial guesstimate for this season," he said. That seems to line up with the drier California forecasts, but how mild, maybe a colder winter with colder storms when we do get them?" stated Bryan.

### ***Fishing Tip: When to change flies!***

Should you wait until you turn into a pillar of salt before you change flies or do you change too soon? It depends on the time of day to determine any bug activity on a lake surface or near the water's edge if it happens to be bushy. If there is zero activity in either place, then I always try my favorite searching pattern which is an Adams parachute (I prefer calftail) to see if there are any takes. I work the shoreline first to determine if the action is on dries, or subsurface. Sight fishing is easier, but if conditions don't warrant it, then it's time to go beneath and of course this is on lakes rather than streams. If you know your rig is correctly set up (tippet size, fly size, or

indicator placement) for the specific water you're on and you're making good presentations, the switch in your head should go off telling you to change fly patterns if you're not getting bites. Don't be lazy and stick with the patterns that aren't producing and remember that anglers should always be ready for the trout menu to change throughout the day. The next time you're on the water and not getting bites, change flies until you find a pattern that works. It may be just as simple as that, but if that doesn't work, continue covering water until you find fish.

**Legislation:**

**AB1387** - Assembly member Jim Wood of Santa Rosa authored Assembly Bill 1387 that will transition California's calendar-based fishing license to one that is valid a full 365 days from the date of purchase. The bill, sponsored by the California Sportfishing League (CSL), is co-authored by Assembly member James Gallagher of Yuba City and a bipartisan group of 12 other legislators.

SACRAMENTO—Legislative efforts to reform California's fishing licensing system from a calendar-based scheme to 365-day classification won't be finalized until 2020, at the earliest, according to the author of the bill and the California Sportfishing League (CSL).

Assembly member Jim Wood, D-Santa Rosa, will continue to work with his colleagues in Sacramento to get his 365-day fishing license proposal passed and signed into law – but nothing will happen this year. The proposal – Assembly Bill 1387 (AB 1387) – will be refined and (possibly) voted on in 2020, the second year of the current two-year legislative cycle.

Wood's proposal also includes an auto-renewal provision, according to the most recent legislative analysis out of the Assembly. Wood, who took the torch from State Sen. Tom Berryhill to change California's fishing licensing system from a rigid calendar system to a more flexible 365-day plan, said he will work with CDFW and the governor's office to ensure AB 1387 is passed and signed before the end of the 2019-2020 legislative session. Changing the state's fishing license regime to the more flexible 365-day plan, according to Wood, would help bring more anglers to California's waterways.

**LADWP and the Owens River Gorge latest chapter**

in the saga unfolded this month with the brief burst of water known as a "Channel Maintenance Flow" down the 10-mile stretch of river between the Upper gorge Power Plant and Pleasant Valley Reservoir to benefit fish habitat. The high flows are intended to replicate seasonal scouring that occurred naturally in the Gorge long before dams, power plants and water diversions were constructed in the last century. In fact, these alterations dried up the Owens River Gorge from 1953 to 1991 until years of litigation restored some minimal flows and attempts to restart a once-fabled brown trout

fishery. CDFW fisheries biologists expect the pulse flows to provide just that by dramatically altering the ecosystem. The big burst of water will scour pools and restore the deep-water holding and ambush habitat needed by large brown trout. The flows will flush out years of accumulated sediment, exposing gravel beds critical for trout breeding while fostering a broader diversity of aquatic life than what's present in the Gorge today.

Mayflies and stoneflies are largely absent from the ecosystem, and caddisflies—safely encased and underneath rocks in their larval stages—provide a limited food source. Small populations of native Owens suckers exist in the Gorge. Their numbers are expected to grow with an increase in aquatic insect life following the pulse flows, incidentally providing important forage for growing brown trout.

The high will waters will inundate and benefit riverside riparian growth, offering shade and cover and additional insect habitat. The flows are expected to flush out invasive New Zealand mud snails that have infested the Gorge over time. The snails provide little benefit to fish and are a source of competition for other macro-invertebrate life.

Environmental scientist Nick Buckmasters said biologists could see positive changes in the Gorge as quickly as three months after the flows. And larger brown trout could start turning up in Buckmaster's electrofishing surveys—and at the end of anglers' lines – as early as next year.

The flow reached 649.0cfs as of September 22nd then dropped to 256.9cfs on October 1st, and is currently 634.9 as of October 25th.



<http://wsoweb.ladwp.com/Aqueduct/realtime/lvrealtime.htm>

**CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

**Sept. 8, 2019** - The DFW is in the process of transplanting some brook trout from Silver Creek to Kirman Lake like they did last year, as of today they had transplanted over 500 fish and they still have 4 or 5 days to go. Unfortunately it sounds like Kirman will not get

an allotment of fingerling brooks this year but we did hear that there was a load of cutthroat put in there last October, and maybe they'll get some more this year. We'll let you know if we hear anything.

**Sept. 15, 2019** - The DFW is done with this round of transplanting; sounds like their totals were right around 850 brookies from Silver Creek to Kirman, nothing over 6 or 7 inches. They're coming back later next month for another go-around so hopefully there will be another good batch of brookies making the trip.

### **PAIUTE CUTTHROAT TROUT RELEASED!**



A small native range, habitat degraded by historic sheep and cattle grazing, and competition from and hybridization with non-native trout introduced into Silver King Creek threatened the species with extinction.

Wildlife officials prevailed over a decade of legal challenges to treat Silver King Creek and its tributaries with rotenone, a natural fish poison, to eliminate non-native trout and prepare Silver King Creek for the eventual return of Paiute cutthroats.

The fish reintroduced into Silver King Creek were collected from a source population in Coyote Valley Creek about 2 miles away and transported by mules to the banks of Silver King Creek. The fish were deposited into buckets filled with water from the creek to acclimate for several minutes before being released among cheers and applause by biologists and others, some of whom have spent decades working toward the historic homecoming.

Monitoring of the reintroduced fish and additional restocking of Paiute cutthroat trout into Silver King Creek from other refuge populations is planned in future to aid genetic diversity and introduce different age classes into the creek to help natural reproduction.

### **2020 Proposed Fishing Regulations - UPDATE**

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Inland/Trout-Plan/Regulation-Simplification>). No change.

### **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: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/wardenstamp](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/wardenstamp)

### **DFW Fishing and Hunting Regulation Booklets**

Anglers, hunters concerned with DFW plan to phase out printed regulation booklets.

Their plans to eventually phase out printed fishing and hunting regulation booklets in favor of online and downloadable versions are causing concern among the state's anglers and hunters. This might be ok for the tech savvy generation, but what about mature, paper-based generations?

DFW is banking on anglers and hunters turning to digital versions of the booklets that are available on the DFW website in PDF form, and it takes just seconds to download a copy to a Smartphone where it can be accessed even off the grid.

The 35% reduction will amount to approximately 162,000 booklets and a further 35% reduction will set the following year's print run at 105,000. "The goal for 2021 is to print 50,000 copies or fewer," Peter Tira stated. "It costs \$400,000 a year to print all the regulation booklets and most of that money comes from the Fish and Game Preservation Fund, a fund used to directly benefit wildlife management and fisheries protection."

And after? "With the goal of going paperless at some time we'll see how it goes," Tira said.

A lot of negative comments are coming out of Bishop and other communities around the state saying that it's very short-sighted of the Department as a lot of senior citizens don't have Smartphones and they may even see a decrease in license sales.

### **CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION**

The next meeting is November 5, 2019 in Sacramento for the Marine Resources Committee.

Earlier this past week, the Commission sent out a survey via e-mail to their mailing list in order to compile information for their 150th Anniversary regarding their Strategic Planning. If anyone is interested, you can go on their web-site and see if it is still listed and make your comments regarding the above.

### **The California Fish and Game Commission**

announced that Melissa Miller-Henson has been selected to serve as its Executive Director. Ms. Miller-Henson has worked for the Commission for the last seven years as the program manager, deputy executive director and, over the last year, acting executive director.

"We're very pleased that Ms. Miller-Henson is willing to serve this historic Commission in a new capacity," said Commission President Eric Sklar. "She has a passion for the work of the Commission and brings a forward-thinking, innovative and collaborative approach to the job. She has demonstrated skill in working with

diverse groups of stakeholders to address complex issues that she will continue to apply to the benefit of the state."

Prior to the Commission, Ms. Miller-Henson directed the California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Project, managed the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative and served under five secretaries of the California Natural Resources Agency.

"We look forward to Ms. Miller-Henson's continuing guidance at the dais," said California Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Charlton H. Bonham. "She has the trust of many stakeholders and understands the Commission's vast authorities. She brings expertise in collaborative problem-solving and has a strong vision for the future of the Commission."

Ms. Miller-Henson officially begins in her new capacity on September 10.

### **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 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. Take a look, it's very handy.

### **News: Annual Fly Fishing Faire 2019**

Southwest Council Fly Fishers International hosted the Annual Fly Fishing Faire on October 5 and 6th at the Glendale Civic Auditorium.

The event had their normal 100 or so volunteers with about 500 in attendance. Unfortunately there was not a lot of support for the event and looks like it will not happen in 2020. Vendors didn't get the bang they expected either. This information was provided by an important attendee.

### **AT THE BENCH:**

Tying foam body hoppers and crickets has just become something I'm playing around with since I found a set of foam cutter's by Tomsu. The blades are really sharp and easy to use. Several places carry them, Google cricket and hopper foam cutters and you'll be able to get a nice set. I'm particularly fond of the HC hopper pattern and have found some amazing things to do with foam. I'm still working on the glue part and will get it down once I'm done with all my end of season reports and blow-off this early pneumonia. I've been a dry-fly tier with leanings for certain streamers like little brown trout or rainbow trout, but the foam flies are a lot of fun to tie and really simple once you get the hang of it. Or, once you catch a nice fish on your foam fly, you'll be sold.

**ICE DUB by Hareline** has a new color called Midnight Haze and you can mix it with the red/black or even dark olive. There are about 57 different colors and also UV for every type fish you pursue. It's easy to use and if you want a great tutorial, go to Kelly Gallup's video on YouTube, he'll break it down to the basics.

### ***Fishing Report***



**LOWER OWENS** – Water, fishing and hatches are fair to poor. The flows are steady at **624.9cfs** as of **10/27/19**. The flush has begun and the water is high and dirty. No reports until there's something good to report, DRIES: Para Adams #14-16, Spent Partridge Caddis #16-18, Yellow and Tan Stimulators #14-16, Brooks Hot Creek Caddis #20-24, Emerging Female Trico #20-22. NYMPHS: Pheasant Tail #14-18, Tungsten Psycho #16-18, Barr's Trico Emerger Black #20-22. STREAMERS: Woolly Bugger Olive & Black #10-12, Mini Sculpin Olive & Black #10-12.

**UPPER OWENS** - Water conditions are good. Flow is at **112.0cfs** as of **10/27**. We are into the fall pattern with tails of storms passing through every couple of days. With nighttime hard freeze over this last week the hoppers are gone and we're starting to see the start of the fall BWO emergence. PMD mayflies have disappeared being replaced by the tiny BWO that are hatching and egg laying midday. If you see fish sipping invisible food off the surface midday it's probably the tiny mayflies. Caddis are hatching in the evening but we'll see how long that lasts. Fishing seems to shut down in the late afternoon, but picks up again around sunset. This may all change with the recent drop in am temperatures. DRIES: Stimulator #16-18, Elk Hair Caddis #14-18, Extended Body BWO #16-18, Parachute Adams #22-26, Hi-Vis Parachute # 24. NYMPHS: Hares Ear #14-18, Radiation Baetis #18-20, Barr's Uncased Caddis #14-16, Zebra Midge #16-18, WD-40 black #18-20. STREAMERS: Shock Collar Leech #10, Olive & brown Woolly Bugger #12-10.

**CROWLEY LAKE** - Water conditions are good. We have gone from "why is it so inconsistent" to "it's inconsistent in the fall, live with it". The

damsels and Callibaetis are only emerging in a few inlets now so we are back to midges and perch fry .The north end in 14'-18' has been the most consistent, but closer to the mouth of the Owens, McGee Bay, Hilton Bay and Crooked Creek have also had their moments. There are fish showing inconsistently all around the lake so with a little exploring you might find the next hot spot and have it to yourself for a while. **No boats on Crowley Lake now.** Check with the store for current fly patterns if they are still open. Please have your boats, trailers etc. off the property by that time as you will not be able to access the property after October 31st. Their office will be closed during November and December, however you may email: crowleylakefishcamp@gmail.com for information.

**HOT CREEK** – Water and fishing conditions are good. Flows are now stable and after the last week the hoppers are gone. Latest news, the Baetis are now hatching 11 to around 2pm. Caddis are hatching in numbers all morning along with Craneflies. Tie on a dry Cranefly or a small stimulator and skitter it across the surface, you might get some splashy takes. Evenings are Midges with plenty of Caddis if the wind dies down. **DRIES:** Ants #12-16, CDC Baetis Dun #22-24, Parachute Extended Body BWO #18-22, Spent Partridge Caddis #16-18, Stimulators #16-18, Parachute Ant #16-18, RP #18-22, Grey/Olive Scud #16-18, Graphic Caddis #16-18. **NYMPHS:** Harroup's Surface Emerger #18-20, Barr's Uncased Caddis #14-20, Juju Baetis #18-22, Zebra Midge. **STREAMERS:** BH Bopp Leech Olive & Brown #12-10, Wooly Bugger Olive & Brown.

**CONVICT LAKE** – Same report. Marvel wet flies are perfect for catching the big ones in the lake. The best way to use the fly is to thread your line through a 1 1/2 in. plastic bubble and a swivel large enough not to be pulled through the bubble. Attach a 5-6 ft. leader to the swivel using 4 to 6 lb. test line. Tie your fly to the leader and fill the bubble completely with water. Cast your fly out into the water. The bubble will sink about 3 inches per second. Reel the fly in slowly with a twitch from time to time. Strike at any unusual pull or drag as fish sometimes bite softly. Marvel flies are available for purchase in the general store. This is a good method for that fly, but standard streamers should also work. The resort is consistently loading the lake up with nice trophies so don't miss out on the action. Check with the store for the latest report for flies and their last stocking of trophy trout. It's a large lake and 75-80% of the anglers use bait this time of year.

**MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN** – Both water and fishing conditions are good. Over the next month the Browns and Brookies will be staging at stream mouths for the

spawning runs and fishing the drop-offs near streams will be effective. Midge, streamer and attractor patterns will all be effective. A lot of larger fish have been planted this last week. **DRIES:** Yellow Sallies #12-14, Parachute Adams #16-18, and Griffiths Gnat #20-24. **NYMPHS:** Red Copper John #14-16, Zebra Midge #16-18, Everson's Filo-Swimming Scuds #14-16, San Juan worm #12, Prince Nymph #14-20. **STREAMERS:** Docs Twin Lakes Special, Brown, Olive, & Black #10-12,| Hornberg #8-12.

**SAN JOAQUIN** – Flow is 10.8cfs as of **10/25**. Water conditions is good, fishing is fair to good. Road is now closed to vehicle traffic.

**JUNE LAKE** - June Lake Marina and Big Rock Resort will be closing on the 28th. Mitch at June Lake Marina says the fishing and catching has been excellent. CDFW release about 1000 pounds of brood-stock from the jointly managed pens in the 4 to 12 lb. range. Stop in at Ernie's for the latest info on all lakes as far as flies and if they are working and the best location to fish on the lake.

**SILVER LAKE** - Resort is closed but the public ramp will remain open. No report.

**GRANT LAKE** - Marina and campground along with the boat ramp are closed for the season. Dan the best guide on Grant has seen some nice browns up to 20" trolling in the evening, with Rainbow Hornberg's seeing some action for the fly-rodgers. Remember these fish are going into their spawning, so think catch and release if you want to see more browns in the future.

**RUSH CREEK** - Rush Creek has been seeing some good action on rainbows coming down from Silver Lake including a 2lb4 using a grasshopper fly pattern. Hoppers are still around the 8000 foot elevation as the afternoons are comfortable and currently we have a grayish brown with yellow wings and a dark brown with tan.

**LUNDY LAKE** – Similar report as last month's. Water level is holding at the current level and no update if they plan to do more work in the fall. The resort is closed for the season but there are still a lot of people fishing the inlet in tubes and the outlet in private boats. The road is still open, and Bob still has a lot of customers staying at the resort.

**BIG VIRGINIA** – DFW dumped some nice fish this last week again (last stock for the season) and BFEF's trophies are still being caught but it's been sparse on flies. The temperature continues to hit lows changing the dynamics of the lake once again. We've had our share of wind which is what drives the temperature down. If you're fishing at about 15-18 feet either go deeper or

stay within the 10-12 foot range. Rickard's callibaetis, seal buggers and AP nymphs in several colors have hit a high for the last 2 days. Other flies working are black, dark olive, white and dirty doc woolly buggers size 8 or 10. Olive Matuka's size 8, grey ghosts, callibaetis, black elk hair caddis, any moth pattern, Hale Bop leech in olive and a couple standard dries. Also try leech patterns, Matukas, and soft hackles. Road is open to the lake.

**TRUMBLE LAKE** has also been doing well on small streamers, so try Doc's olive Twin Lakes special, black BH crystal bugger or dark burgundy all size 12. Campgrounds are closed and gates are all up.

**LITTLE VIRGINIA** started to see more surface action in September due to the warmer water, but that changed in October. A bit of precipitation hit US395 just north of Mammoth creating a lot of thunder activity over the canyon. Flies working had been my Dirty Doc #10, Prince Nymph #16, hare's ear (no weight) under an olive bugger or leech but don't forget the Zebra midges, copper zebra and reverse. **DRIES:** One fly which will tell the tale, the para Adams size 14 just to search top water so if that is refused then try a salmon egg pattern, in red with a bit of gold as a tag. Caution is the best choice for fishing brook and brown trout this time of year, some are aggressive but they ARE SPAWNING. Resort is closed and the gate is up.

**BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR** – The fishing on the Reservoir has been up and down due to the inconsistent water temperature, but a good hearty strip and a tug should produce some fish. The fish are deeper than usual and scattered. There has been some pretty good action lately stripping leech patterns down near the dam has produced some nice browns this past week and there are some fly anglers doing well up in Buckeye Bay stillwater nymphing. Be careful with playing and releasing fish.

**EAST WALKER** – The East is still running at about 140cfs and is fishing very well. Things may change with the sudden drop in temperature on the 27th. It's been mostly nymphing though there has been some good streamer action as well. With the flows down it has made it much easier to get your flies to where the fish are hanging out. Most of the anglers have been doing well in the Miracle Mile section as well as the lower section from the bridge to Murphy's Pond. Also some good reports from the Rosachi section on the Nevada side as well. There has been a good amount of traffic this past week; the weather has been great and there's been quite a few anglers enjoying the good fishing. Patterns to try: Blow Torch, Rainbow Warrior, rainbow Assassin, Zebra midge, flashback emerger, WD-40, Micro mayfly, San Juan worms, squirmy wormy's, Top Secret midge,

pheasant tail, Copper John, Zuddler, Dali Lama, Sculpzilla, JJ special, Moal leech, and double bunny.

### **TWIN LAKES BRIDGEPORT**

The Twins have been producing a few fish lately, and similar to the other lake, it's not red hot but if you work it you should be able to get a nice fish here and there. Most of the action has been on hardware and bait.

**HONEYWELL POND** – Not many anglers on the pond this week but with the colder weather the weeds should disappear and the fishing should be pretty good. The fishing should be great with small leeches like a Mayer's mini leech as well as slow stripping some soft hackles or small damsel patterns. Give Ken's a call if you want to book some time on the pond!

**SCEIRINE RANCH** - The ranch has also been fishing very well, most of the bugs listed for the East Walker have been doing well and they're still eating some Rubberlegs and other stonefly patterns too. Reservations have been solid on the weekends but there's been availability on the weekdays if you want to book some time down there. Contact Ken's for your spot.

**KIRMAN LAKE** – We talked to one angler who make the hike up to Kirman this week, he was able to catch 3 fish while he was there. 2 brooks in the 14" range and one cutthroat in the 22" range. He spend over 8 hours working it hard for these three fish, all caught on seal bugger patterns. This is pretty good news even though the fishing isn't red hot, at least it's good to know there are some quality fish starting to show up!

**WEST WALKER** – The flow is 46.5cfs as of 10/27. Not many reports from the West this week but the water is surely low and clear and fly anglers should still be able to get some hits in the afternoon with hopper/dropper rigs, at least as long as it's still warm that time of the day. There were a few anglers according to Ken's that caught some fish using prince nymphs, soft hackles, copper johns and dark lords the last couple days.

**Pyramid Lake, NV** - Water conditions: The Lake has seen some turnover in the last week, but the clarity is still about 90%. Water temps are running 60 degrees in the a.m. and getting up to about 63 degrees later in the day. Fishing conditions: Early and late in the day are still the top two times to put in your time. As we get into Nov. and the water starts to cool off, then the mid day bite will get better. We are hooking fish off the shore when there is some clouds and breeze, but if it is slick and bluebird then you had better be able to get to the deeper water. **RECOMMENDED FLIES:** The Chewy Tui, Balanced Minnows and Leeches in white, olive and bruised as well as Popcorn Beetles and Buggers in olive and midnight cowboy. **GUIDES TIP:** Only use flies

that are tied on 2X-3X heavy wire hooks, or you have a 50/50 chance of straightening out a hook on a 10lb. or larger fish. I have seen this over and over from people buying commercially tied flies on standard wire! The report came from Chris Wharton and he is super helpful in getting your game on. I hear you could not do better than getting the same treatment before you try your hand at Pyramid. He even has ladders and custom stands for his clients. - Kent Stillwater Guide Service - 775-851-1558 or [chris@out4trout.com](mailto:chris@out4trout.com).

**TRAFFIC ADVISORY from Caltrans:**

Lane closure for the week of 9/23 – 9/27/19  
Conway Guardrail Project is finished.

**Aspen/Walker Shoulder Project** – On US Highway 395, from the junction of State Route 108 to 2 miles north of State Route 108 is finished.

Wishing everyone a wonderful winter and see you in April for my first report of 2020. Have a wonderful holiday season, stay happy and healthy in 2020!

See you on the water and keep 'em wet. CJ 19/10