

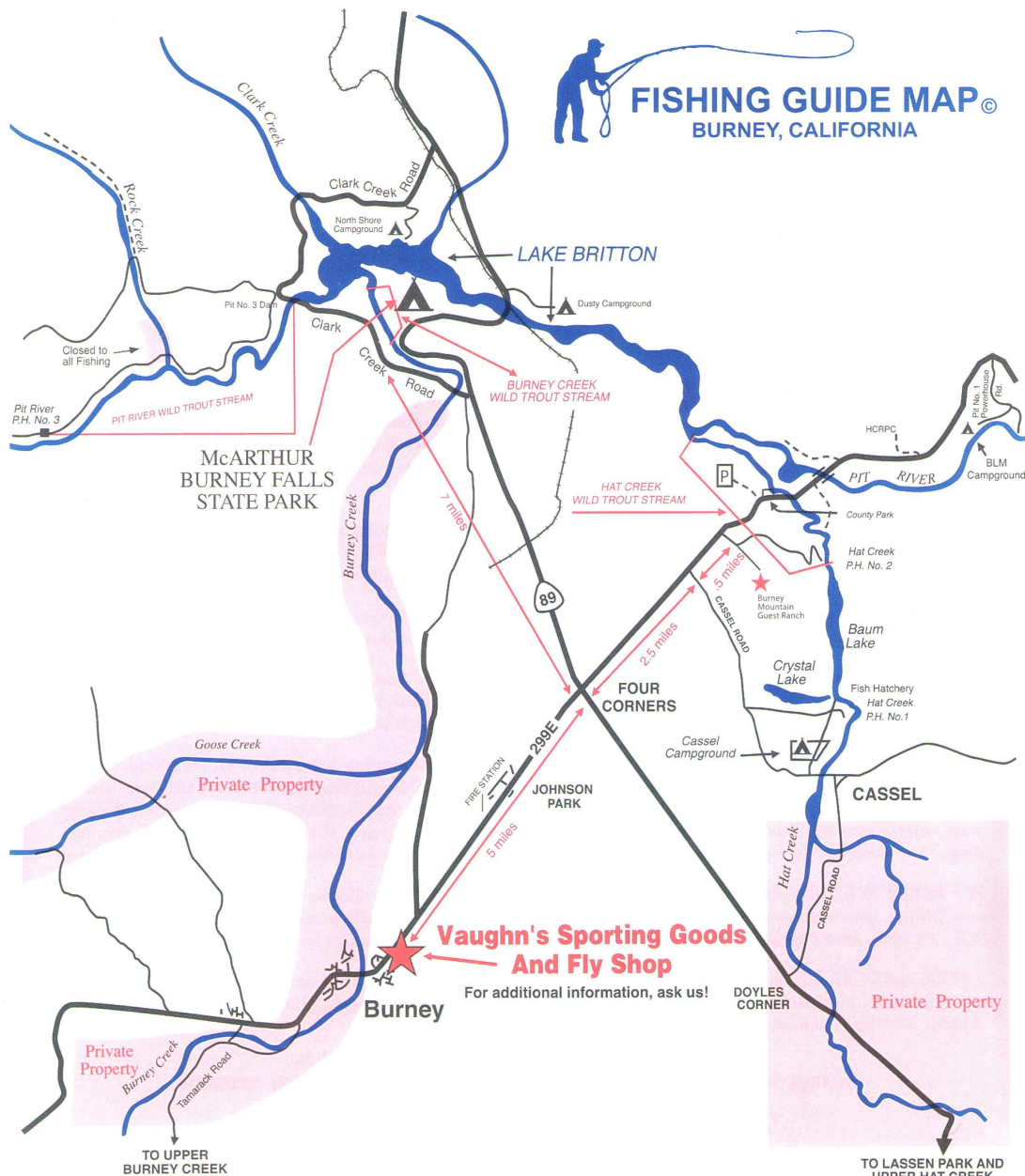
**GPFF - Burney Trip 1-4 June, 2023** – Eric Larson, Fishmaster; [ericlarson87@gmail.com](mailto:ericlarson87@gmail.com), (cell) 925-895-8058. (Updated 11/29/2022).

## RENDEZVOUS AND CAMPING

?? Campsites are booked for June 1-3, Thursday, Friday, Saturday nights, McArthur-Burney Falls Campground (530-335-2777). 4.5 hrs. from Berkeley. Take HWY 80 east to 505 North, to 5 North, to 299 East. The park is northeast of Redding, six miles north of Highway 299 on Highway 89 near Burney, CA. Campsites **XXX**. 3 cars max per site/ must register and pay, 8 Anglers max per site. Elev. 3100'. **Potluck Saturday well after dark. Bring something to share!**

## VAUGHN'S SPORTING GOODS AND FLY SHOP

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presents



## MAPS, BOOKS, ETC

Above is the map from the defunct Vaughn's Fly Shop. The classic maps of Dewayne Hight are available at [Fish Sniffer](#). In particular check out (Upper) Hat Creek, Baum Lake, and Britton Lake. "Flyfisher's Guide to Northern California", Seth Norman, Wilderness Adventures Press has a chapter devoted to Hat Creek and the Pit River.

## REPORTS AND ONLINE GUIDES

Perfect Fly gives a really fine description of the [Hat Creek fishery and current conditions](#). The Fly Shop in Redding also has a [short description](#).

## WATERS AND FLOWS

DreamFlows gives Pit River flows: [below Pit 3 Dam](#), [below Pit 4 Dam](#), and at [Big Bend](#) (below Pit 5 Dam). The USGS has temperature, flow and gauge height for [Upper Hat Creek](#) high on the slopes of Mt Lassen (station HCN, 4274'), where CA-44 finally leaves the creek. Also [Hat Creek just above Cassel](#) (station HCB, 3284').

### Burney Creek

**below Falls** -- Wild Trout regs. Falls View path. Huge pool below Falls, riffles and flats downstream to Lake Britton. Much more water than above Falls!

**above Falls** -- District regs. Upper campground footbridge. Pocket water and riffles. Entirely spring fed; absolutely clear, peters out remarkably soon upstream.

### Hat Creek

**below Hwy 299** -- Wild Trout regs. Dirt road to north 200 m west of Hwy 299 Bridge. Riffles and flats down to fish barrier pool above Lake Britton. This and next one are the stretches that made Hat Creek famous.

**below #2 Powerhouse** -- Wild Trout regs. Powerhouse road south off Hwy 299 0.5 mi. west of Hat Creek Bridge. Powerhouse pool and riffles, then (hard, to fish) spring creek flats to the bridge. Lots of fishers line up along the prime slot below the last riffle.

**below #1 Powerhouse and Baum Lake** -- Cassel Road south off Hwy 299 east of Hwy 89 junction. Follow signs to Fish Hatchery. Pool and riffles below powerhouse down to the lake. Fish the lake from shore or float tube.

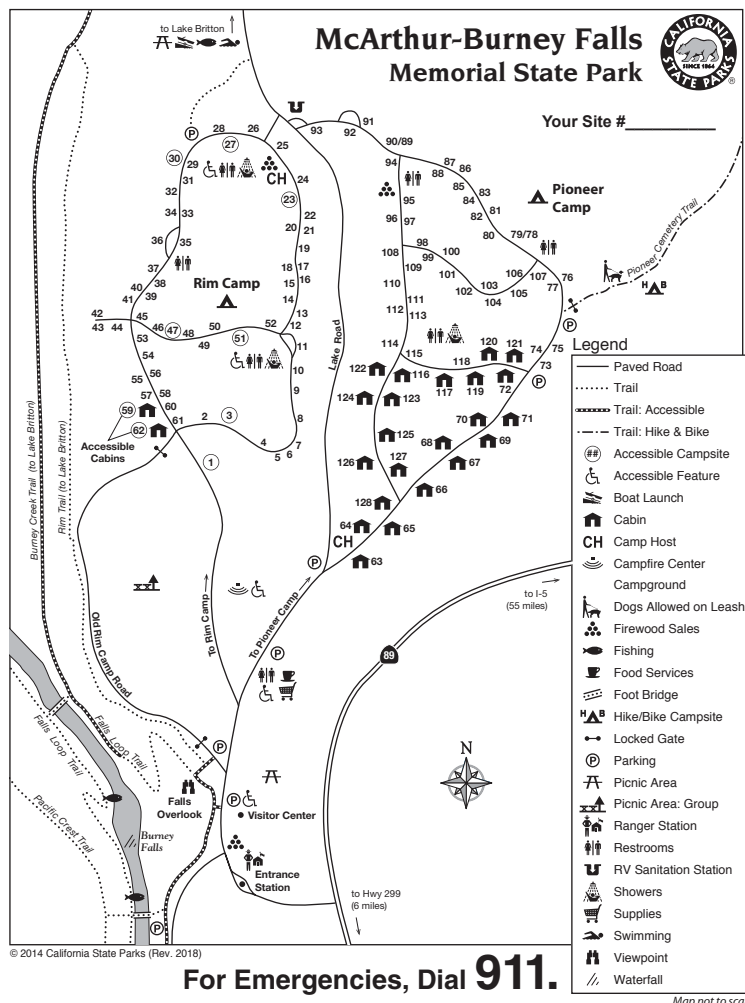
**Cassel** -- Road to Cassel. Public access in town and a little upstream, with paved path on west bank. Lots of bait fishers, but often good dry fly fishing in the evening.

**Upper Creek** -- Off Hwy 89. Private land in the flats above Cassel, but public access on Federal Land further upstream. Numerous Forest Service campgrounds. The creek is rather small here.

**Pit River** -- Wild Trout regs. Clark Creek Road west off Hwy 89 south of the Falls Campground, to Lake Britton Dam. Cross the dam (Powerhouse #3) and take Forest Route 37N06. This section of the Pit River is a tailwater flowing out of Lake Britton, known for being one of the best fisheries in the state, but is **very tough to wade**. It was hard to wade in the past when flows were steady around 150cfs. New negotiation from PG&E have increased the flows to 280- 350cfs! This is not water for novices. The river has a dense population of well-fed native rainbows. Flow information at [http://cdec.water.ca.gov/dynamicapp/staMeta?station\\_id=P35](http://cdec.water.ca.gov/dynamicapp/staMeta?station_id=P35)

**Lost Creek** -- So. on Hwy 89 10 mi past Hwy 299, left onto Wilcox Rd. A tiny, pretty flat, stream ending in a pond above a small dam. Mostly tiny fish, but nice.

**Rock Creek** -- Access as the Pit River. This very small stream enters the Pit from the north 2 mi below Lake Britton.



For Emergencies, Dial **911.**

Follow FR37N06 to where it crosses the creek. Fish the bridge pool or up or downstream from there, or drive up the dirt road to the east of the stream. Pockets, pools and riffles.

**Fall River** -- Hwy 299 east. A whole trip of its own.

**HATCHES & SPECIALS** See, eg, the online hatch chart from the [Fly Shop](#), and "Fly Fisher's Guide to Northern California, S. Norman, pp 47-8. See also "R's **SHORT GUIDE to Feeding Trout**" available on the club Resources page. **There should be lots of activity! Plan on fishing until you can't see what you're doing.**

**OCTOBER CADDIS LARVAE!** (*Dicosmoecus*). Uncased larvae are unusually prone to behavioral drift during the daytime in June and July, peaking around 4 PM (big **cream Buckskin Caddis**).

**SPOTTED SEDGE** (*Hydropsyche*, net-spinning caddis, **10-15mm**, also **LITTLE SISTER SEDGE**, *Cheumatopsyche*, **a bit smaller**, but otherwise similar). Shallow, moderate to fast riffles and runs in most trout streams, large populations in plankton-rich waters (like Hat Creek!). Pherates emerge late PM *en masse* (**yellow, tan, brown Sparkle Caddis, EC Caddis**). Before emerging, *Hydropsychidae* pherates drift along the bottom or just under the surface, sometimes for hours. They then take unusually long to struggle out through the film. Adults oviposit late PM on the bottom in riffles or runs by diving, or possibly on the surface by dipping (**olive Deer Hair Caddis, Lead Wing Coachman, Missing Link**).

**LITTLE WESTERN WEEDY-WATER SEDGE** (*Amiocentrus*, long, slender, round-section tapered plant-material cased caddis, **8-10mm**). Large populations in weedy, plankton-rich slow to moderate runs. Available as pherates emerge PM to late PM often *en masse* after long drift and slow pushing through the surface film (**green Emergent Sparkle Caddis, EC Caddis**), and as adults oviposit late PM on the surface or by diving or crawling below (**dark green Deer Hair Caddis, Lead Wing Coachman, Missing Link**).

**PALE MORNING DUN** (*Ephemerella*, smooth crawler, **7-9mm**). Nymphs live among rocks and debris in riffles, runs and flats that have moderate water flows. Nymphs are available if they come free any time of the day, during concentrated behavioral drift in the evenings, and during heightened activity, including swimming, before a hatch (**tiny light olive brown Bird's Nest**). The nymphs, like many other *Ephemerellidae*, sometimes engage in up and down "practice runs" exposing the them to trout during extended pre-hatch periods. During emergence, fish the nymph as a dropper below a cripple (**pale yellow to olive tan Shucked Cripple**), whose husk makes it a bit more supporting, and useful in its own right. The duns are classic surface emergers with long sedate floats in optimal weather (**pale yellow to olive tan parachute dun**). Duns have been reported to emerge subsurface in faster flows. Despite name, hatches any time the weather is temperate. Spinners return to the water within 2 days of emergence. Females often, but not always, drop their eggs from the air above the stream, preferably into riffles. Some females end up on the water with egg sacs still attached. These females are often active and far from spent. True spent spinners usually cause the most feeding activity (**brownish red spinner, eg Trusty Rusty**). Though often seen in the late PM, mid-AM spinner falls have achieved legendary status at many locations.

**WESTERN GREEN DRAKE** (*Drunella*, horny squat crawler, *D. grandis*, **11-15mm**, *D. flavilinea*, "FLAV", **7-9mm**). Nymphs inhabit medium to fast water, but spring creeks (eg. Hat Creek) as well. Behavior generally like PMD. Imitate nymph (**medium to dark brown, olive Hare's Ear, Mercer's Poxback Green Drake**). Emergence occurs when the air is temperate, in slow water adjacent faster nymphal habitat. The duns often emerge subsurface (within 12") as well surface. This is given testimony by the frequent success of wet emerger imitations (**bright green Soft-Hackles**). *Ephemerellidae* are classic surface emergers with long sedate floats in optimal weather (**bright Green Drake Natural Dun**), but the large *Drunella* take an exceptionally long time to get airborne once they break through the surface, and they may make several clumsy attempts. Good hatches can last several hours. The spinner fall may be at night, but if you see it, imitate (**Trusty Rusty**).

**LITTLE WESTERN IRON BLUE QUILL** (*Acentrella turbida*, tiny swimmer mayfly, **4-5mm**). In almost all trout streams, but especially in cold, unpolluted, alkaline waters. They inhabit almost every microhabitat in the stream except for silt beds, gravel and vegetation are especially suitable. Near constant availability, both as fast-swimming nymphs (**Pheasant Tail Nymph**) and as surface emergers (PTN as dropper, **Quigley Cripple, parachute dun, in olive, with blue-gray wings**). During emergence, nymphs may drift just under the surface for a while before breaking through. They have trouble escaping their shucks in the film, taking a long time and often becoming stuck in the process. Those which do escape may ride the water for quite a distance before taking flight. Dismal weather invites the best hatches of *Baetis* mayflies; look for them on overcast, rainy days, as long as the water temperature is above 40°F. Timing the return of these mayflies as spinners after they hatch is difficult; some may come back within a few hours, while others take a few days. *Baetis* females are among the only mayflies to lay their eggs underwater. The females land near the water after mating and crawl down to lay rows of eggs on the downstream side of rocks, sticks, and other objects. They may slip loose during the process or let go after they finish, and wet fly imitations (**dun winged, olive Soft-hackle**) are effective during this time.

**Starting** - **TINY WESTERN OLIVE** (*Apobaetis futilis*). For us, same as **LITTLE WESTERN IRON BLUE QUILL**

above.

**Starting** - TRICO (*Tricorythodes*, crawler, **3-6mm**). Cool clean streams with slow to medium flow, best in alkaline spring creeks, over silty bottoms. Nymphs become available during emergence. They are terrible swimmers and are extremely vulnerable as they swim up to the surface (**tiny dark WD-40, w/wo bead**). Males emerge at night, females (**tiny Cripples, Klinkhammers, olive abdomen, dark brown thorax**) in the early, AM, but as late as noon in cool weather (water temperature 52-56 F). Mating spinners gather in very tight swarms rather than roaming the full width of the river. The gravid females return to lay their eggs within minutes or hours of emerging. Spinner falls (**Ellis Triple Wing, Polywing Trico Spinner**) may provide the best Trico fishing. In general, it is very important to get the hook size right. With such tiny insects, being off by a single size makes the imitation look like a freak! When fishing dries, microdrag is a serious problem. Avoid it by using short casts and keeping most of the line off the water.

**Starting** - LITTLE YELLOW SALLY (*Isoperla*, **7-16mm**). Like Golden Stone (see below). Imitate nymph (**Mercer's Little Yellow Stonefly Nymph**) and adult (**Clark's Little Yellow Stonefly**).

**Ending** - GOLDEN STONE (*Calineuria*, **25-40mm**). Rocky riffles and runs of small to large streams with moderate to fast currents. Naturals are yellow with dark brown vermiculations. When the water warms in the spring, mature nymphs migrate toward shore, where they crawl out at night and emerge as adults. During migration, fish the banks with slow, shoreward swings (**black AP Nymphs, Kaufmann's Black Stone, big Rubberlegs Nymph**). Adults mate in stream-side vegetation. They become available again when they wriggle on the surface during oviposition, and when spent (**yellow, poss. peacock Stimulator, Madame X**).

**Probably done** - SALMON FLY (*Pteronarcys*, **30-60mm!**).

MIDGE (*Chironomid*, **3-8mm** in temperate latitudes). Available all year in nearly all waters, but most important in fertile spring creeks where the current is so slow that it's efficient for trout to surface feed on very tiny insects. Larvae that inhabit oxygen-poor water contain hemoglobin, which makes them red; these are "bloodworms". The other midges are usually habitat colored. Pherates (**black, olive, gray, tan, poss. red, Zebra Midge, WD-40**) frequently emerge *en masse*. Pherates rise to the surface and slowly struggle to pass the back of the thorax through the surface film while the rest of the body dangles vertically below (**Klinkhammer**). The thorax skin breaks open and the adult emerges onto the surface (**Griffith's Gnat**). Sometimes on streams midges emerge so densely that they clump up (**Cluster Midge**). Midge pherates account for much of the mystifying midsummer spring creek action on evenings when no bugs seem to be in the air or on the water, yet trout are rising everywhere and ignoring one's flies. Despite the tiny size of midges, trout can be very selective to size and color. Remember that a difference of a single hook size in the tiny sizes is a very large percentage difference and very noticeable by the trout.

## RESIDENT BUGS If no hatch-related fishing is working, you can try imitating residents, or just exciting the trout.

**Big stoneflies** have multiyear life cycles, so *pteronarcys* and *calineuria* nymphs in all sizes up to, and possibly including, terminal will be resident in the riffles.

The larvae of the hatching caddis families will be pupating or gone --don't bother with them

**Swimmer mayflies** are always available, and **crawlers** drift, sometimes inadvertently, and sometimes behaviorally in great numbers, especially in low light. **Clingers** essentially never lose their grip, so if no behavioral drift, forget them.

Tiny fish in tiny streams eat anything and will always come to the surface, so dead-drift the standard dries (**Elk-Hair Caddis, Parachute or Catskill Adams**).

Finally, keep the classical subsurface searching patterns in mind (**Prince, Zug Bug, Bird's Nest, and Pheasant Tail nymphs, olive, dead-drifted under an indicator, black Wooley Buggers, swung**).

## REGULATIONS

### Statewide Trout Regulations

#### 5.85. TROUT.

As used in this section, daily bag and possession limits, unless otherwise noted, mean the total number of trout in combination, including but not limited to rainbow, golden, brown, and cutthroat.

(a) General Statewide Regulations:

- (1) All inland lakes and reservoirs; and ponds entirely on private lands, except those listed in Section 7.50(b), are open to fishing all year with a five-trout daily bag limit, and 10 trout possession limit.
- (2) All inland streams, rivers, and canals, except those listed in Section 7.50(b), are open to fishing from the last Sat. in Apr. through Nov. 15, with a five trout daily bag limit, and ten trout possession limit, with no gear restrictions. From Nov. 16 through the Fri. preceding the last Sat. in Apr., a zero trout bag limit applies, and only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. In waters where the bag limit for trout is zero, trout must be released unharmed,

and should not be removed from the water.

(3) Exceptions:

(A) All waters in Section 7.50(b), Alphabetical List of Trout Waters with Special Fishing Regulations, are those having regulations different from the General Statewide Regulations for trout.

(B) Brook Trout bag and possession limits may be taken in addition to the statewide trout daily bag and possession limits. See Section 5.84.

#### **5.84. BROOK TROUT.**

(a) Open season: All year.

(b) Limit: Ten.

(c) Size limit: Less than 10 inches total length.

(d) Brook Trout bag limits may be taken in addition to the statewide trout daily bag and possession limits specified in Section 5.85.

(1) Exceptions:

(A) Red Lake in Alpine Co.

(B) All waters in Section 7.50(b), Alphabetical List of Trout Waters with Special Fishing Regulations.

#### **7.00(b) Sierra District Rules**

(2) Anadromous waters of Tehama and Shasta counties not listed in the Special Regulations. (Section 7.40). (See subsections (b)(80) of Section 7.40, regarding the Sacramento River.)

Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures and barbless hooks may be used.

2 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead\* 4 hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead\* in possession. Closed to the take of salmon.

#### **7.50(b) Special Regulations**

(18) **Burney Creek** (Shasta Co.). From Burney Creek Falls downstream to Lake Britton.

All year. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. 0 trout.

(55) **Hat Creek** (Shasta Co.) from Lake Britton upstream to Baum Lake, exclusive of the concrete Hat No. 2 intake canal between Baum Lake and the Hat No. 2 Powerhouse.

All year. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. 0 trout.

**Hat Creek No. 1 and Cassel Forebays** (Shasta Co.). Those portions of Hat Creek known as No. 1 Forebay and Cassel Forebay.

Covered under Statewide regulation subsection 5.85(a)(2).

(109) **Pit River** (Shasta and Modoc Cos.).

(C) From Pit No. 3 (Britton Dam) downstream to the outlet of the Pit No. 3 Powerhouse.

All year. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. 0 trout.

(D) Pit River, from Pit No. 3 Powerhouse downstream to Shasta Lake.

All year. 2 trout, 4 in possession.

(47) **Fall River Complex** (Shasta Co.).

(A) Fall River from its origin at Thousand Springs downstream to the PG&E Pit #1 Diversion Dam, excluding Bear Creek.

(B) Lava Creek

(C) Little Tule River

(D) Tule River

(E) Horr Pond

(F) Ja She Creek

(G) Big Lake

(H) Thousand Springs

(I) Spring Creek

(J) Ahjumawi Lava Springs

(K) Eastman Lake

Sat. preceding Memorial Day through Sep. 30. Only artificial lures may be used. 2 trout.

Oct. 1 through the Fri. preceding Memorial Day. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. 0 trout.