



Kiss me, Baby!!

**San Juan Adventure:
Going small on the San Juan River equals
quality trout and lots of them.**

Gilbert J. Rowe

My fishing buddy, Steve Roach, and I had planned a trip to the San Juan last year in the spring. Due to my back problems we never made it together. Steve's wife Elsbeth went in my place and they both had a great trip. This year I felt I could manage the drift trips since there was little walking or wading involved. I could just plunk my posterior in the boat seat for the three days of fishing. I called Steve, he agreed to babysit me, and we began to set up the trip on April 4th through 8th, 2011.

We used FISHEADS SAN JUAN RIVER LODGE, which is an Orvis endorsed operation, owned and operated by Chris Taylor. We selected this outfitter as I had been to his presentation at the Deep Creek club two years ago and the Roach's fished with them last year. We selected the 4 night stay + 3 full days on the river package. We requested and were lucky enough to get the owner, Chris and his dog, Cloie, as our guides for the three days of fishing. Chris had purchased another operation two years ago and has combined it with his own to create a one stop shopping guide service.

The fly shop is full service and carries a complete line of Orvis products plus an extensive selection of flies. They also have rental equipment available, however all equipment except boots and waders are furnished for their trips. They have remodeled the lodge rooms, which we found very large and comfortable. Fresh

paint, 2 full beds, microwave, small refrigerator, and free Wi-Fi. The restaurant is open every day and has a full menu. They are working on getting their liquor license and should have it in place by June of 2011. We found the food very good with some local specials, the enchiladas with red sauce being a hit with both of us. You can also place special orders with the restaurant if you are on a special diet. One tip here is to buy the Fishead coffee mug in the fly shop, bring the mug in anytime and you get free coffee.

The lodge is located about 18 miles from Aztec, NM, the closest town and about 735 miles from Victorville. Cell phone service is spotty since you're in a canyon like area close to the river. A few of the other guide operations are also located in this area along with a few restaurants and small store both of which have limited hours. We left from Victorville at 5:00 am and arrived at the lodge at 5:00 pm. Plan on about 12 hours of driving time since there is a time change. Be cautious driving in the construction zones and watch your speed.

Day one was our time to get programmed to the river. We walked out our door at 8:00 am. The weather was clear and warm. Chris was waiting in the parking lot, we loaded up and after a short drive launched on the river. Chris took us downstream about 1/4 mile and anchored up on a large flat. He started rigging up rods, using size 22 or 24 midge larva and emergers. The flies we fished during the three days were in this size range with red and grey being top colors for the midges and chocolate brown the top color for the baetis emergers we used in the afternoons. We used two fly rigs with a small shot under an indicator for the whole trip.



Steve's Cutbow

Chris rigged me up first, while he started rigging Steve I shot a cast out upstream. The indicator went about 5 feet, went under and I was hooked up. The first cast, first fish hit the net and was about a 16" rainbow. Once Steve was rigged we started drifting down river catching fish on a steady basis. Around 1:00 pm we pulled out to the bank for lunch.



Gil and the Largest Rainbow

During the lunch stop the flies were changed to BWO emergers. The boat was anchored to the bank in a great run, Steve waded upstream and I fished from the boat on the side run. We began catching fish almost immediately. Steve hooked a 18" Cut bow in this spot. It was a beautiful fish. I hooked an 19" rainbow that almost spooled me, Chris ran down the bank and netted my fish after jumping in the river.

We continued the rest of the day fishing the BWO hatch, catching fish while drifting or short anchoring and fishing small runs. We called it a day around 4:00 pm. Our first day total was 30 trout. We had Rainbows, Browns and a few Cut-bows. Steve was top dog the first day with 18 fish to my 12. Our first day fish were from 12 to 21 inches and all very healthy.

Day two was cold and cloudy in the morning and very nice but windy in the afternoon. We followed the same pattern as the first day but the fish were really on the chew today. Fishing the midge patterns in the slower water produced take-downs or hook-ups every few minutes. The afternoon BWO hatch held up as we hammered these fish on the emergers in deep riffle water. We caught 60 fish total. Many of these were Browns and Rainbows over 18".

Day three was cold and raining. A front had moved in the night before and dropped the temperature down close to freezing. The fish didn't care. We had a little slower midge fishing but the best BWO emerger fishing of the trip. While Steve waded one spot Chris moved the boat out to a good looking run and anchored me up. Chris spent the next hour running between us with the net. Again we had very good fishing. I got the largest Rainbow off the trip, a 23" fish, in the morning on a midge. We ended up with 49 fish for the day with most over the 16" mark.

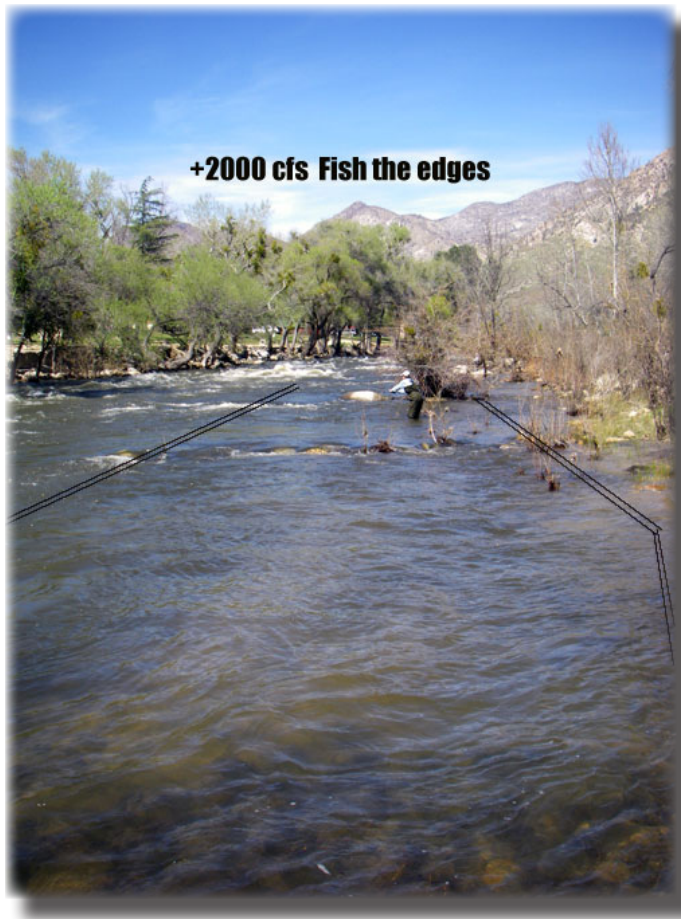


Steve and a Rainbow

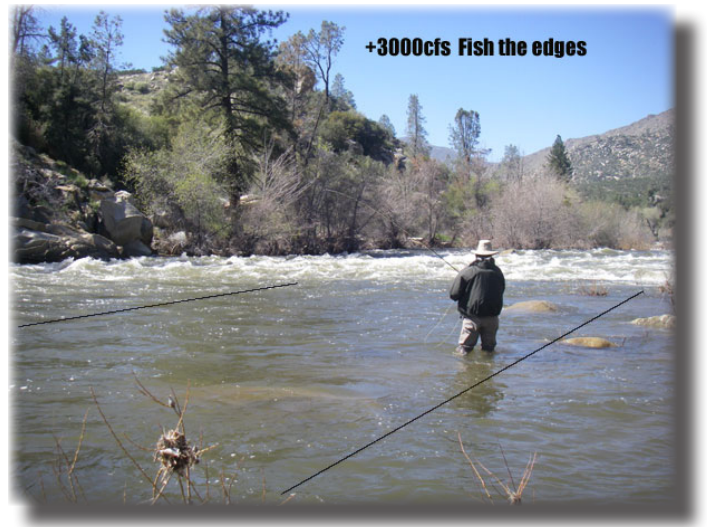
I don't know how you could have a better experience. 139 trout caught and released over three days. Better than half the fish over 16". A great guide, terrific shore lunches, and excellent accommodations. In the summer months they have 22 guides on the water. If you are interested in a trip that is not physically taxing, where you have the opportunity to catch loads of quality trout, this trip is for you. FISHEADS may be reached at FISHEADSOFTHESANJUAN.COM or 505-634-0463.



Gil and Another Rainbow



**Fishing the Kern at 3000 cfs
Guy Jeans**



ED. This morning I checked the flows on the Kern River. They were above 3200 csf and have been for over three weeks. This article Guy sent out in early April. If you go good luck and becareful.

SWIFT WATER AWARENESS

By Hans Hansen, DFG and FRVC

A recent drowning of a young hiker in the East Fork San Gabriel River is a reminder to all of us of the hazards of river crossing. Generally the East Fork for most of the year is a river that can be crossed without too much problem. However, in the spring crossings can become quite hazardous as the snowmelt feeds the river with cold, rushing water. If there is a warm spell or rain at elevation than river flow will increase quite rapidly.

This event and an email from a colleague reminded me that I have an early FRVC Training manual that covers "Swift Water Awareness". This is a four page section so I'll just highlight some sections.

"WATER VELOCITY vs. SURFACE AREA"

| <u>Water Velocity</u> | | <u>Force Expended (Lbs)</u> | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <u>M.P.H.</u> | <u>Feet/Second</u> | <u>Waist Deep</u> | <u>Chest Deep</u> |
| 1 | 1.47 | 4.3 | 10.75 |
| 3 | 4.39 | 33.0 | 82.5 |
| 5 | 7.33 | 103. | 257.0 |
| 7 | 10.26 | 179.0 | 447.0 |
| 10 | 14.66 | 336.0 | 915.0 |
| 15 | 21.99 | 926.0 | 2315.0 |

The 20 mile roadside section of the upper Kern Big fish are being caught! The fishing on the upper river is fair as of today. Water temps are 50 degrees around 1pm and the river is a 2300 cfs and a little murky but fishable. There are some big fish being caught up and down the upper river. Major March brown and BWO hatch at 2:30 and fishing emerging mayfly nymphs around size 12-14 on the swing are producing. Other flies producing are Baetis nymphs size 20-22. Recent stomach samples show that rainbows are focusing on Baetis nymphs and emergers mostly. Other flies are Squirrel nymphs size 12 and BH Royal Flush size 12. Also try caddis larvae (Bottom Rollers) size 14-18 Great attractor flies are the Kern Kandy size 10 or the BH Lifter size 8. Most of the fish are focusing on stoneflies and Baetis patterns. Some other attractor patterns that are working good right now are the Robo Pt's 18-12 and Prince Nymphs size 12-18.

Great tip: Fish the edges. When rivers come up, fish will be found near the banks and in eddies. Fish bigger, flashy flies with heavier tippet. Also, fish sinking lines or tips and get those streamers near the bottom.

“Obviously, one cannot hope to wade a stream waist deep which flows faster than 3 MPH without seriously jeopardizing their stability and their safety. Characteristically, water, which is flowing at 10 mph when entered, tends to splash upward against an object as well as around it. Accordingly, if one stands knee deep in water flowing a 10 MPH it would splash up to the waist. This is roughly the limit for wading with even practiced expert technique.

The second factor, usually considered quite thoroughly, is the depth of the water. Since one becomes buoyant with increasing immersion, concern must be given to remaining firmly in contact with the bottom to wade successfully, or alternately, break contact with the bottom and swim.”

This is just a brief view of the total article, around 1997, from the Angeles Volunteer Academy, Chapter 3, Health and Safety.

There are other factors that need to be addressed in whether a crossing is safe or not. From my experience after working and fishing in rivers are some of the things to consider. Along with the depth and velocity of the river are, the temperature of the air and water, the physical condition of the person crossing the river, bottom structure (boulders, moss covering), clarity of the water to see if there are any holes or obstructions, etc.

Summer salmon fishing OK'd; first time in four years for Sacramento River

By Dylan Darling

Posted April 21, 2011 at 10:56 p.m.

For the first time in four years, salmon fishing will be allowed this summer on the Sacramento River between Anderson and Red Bluff.

The California Fish and Game Commission Thursday laid out the guidelines for the season. “It’s a terrific season,” said Harry Morse, spokesman for the California Department of Fish and Game.

On the Sacramento salmon season will be:

- From Aug. 1 to Dec. 18 between the Deschutes Road bridge in Anderson and 500 feet upstream of the Red Bluff Diversion Dam.
- From July 16 to Dec. 18 between 150 feet downstream of the Lower Red Bluff Boat Ramp to Knights Landing northwest of Sacramento.

Low salmon returns in 2007, 2008 and 2009 prompted the Fish and Game Commission to cancel salmon season on the Sacramento, said Doug Killam, a DFG biologist. A rebound last year and projected healthy returns this year brought its revival.

“What we are expecting is enough fish back for everyone to fish for them again,” Killam said.

Scientists have said poor ocean food conditions caused the crash in salmon returns and predict that more food available in the ocean should mean more salmon in the Sacramento.

The river will remain closed to salmon fishing through Redding throughout the year, he said.

“If you catch a salmon up there you’re supposed to cut the line and let it go,” Killam said.

For the last 25 years or so that’s been standard, said Dave Jacobs, who runs Dave Jacobs Professional Guide Service out of Redding. He and Killam said the closure upstream of the Deschutes Road Bridge helps protect salmon spawning beds.

The timing of the salmon season is also designed to help spring-run and winter-run chinook salmon, which are both protected under the Endangered Species Act, Jacobs said. The Fish and Game Commission opened a window for salmon fishing that focuses on the fall-run chinook, which typically has more fish than the other runs.

Jacobs said the dates announced by the Fish and Game Commission Thursday are close to what was a “normal season” on the Sacramento River before the crash in salmon returns. While the start is the same, the season will end about a month earlier than it did before the crash.

Jacobs said the earlier end is to prevent anglers from catching winter-run chinook.

North state guides, who over the last three years took clients to rivers as far away as Oregon to fish for salmon, are glad to return to their home waters, said Gary Manies, co-owner at Strickly Fishin' Guide & Tackle in Redding.

“There’s a lot of excitement,” he said. And when people come from other parts of the state to fish, they pay for other things as well. “It will be an economic boost all around for the whole community,” Manies said.

Last year the Fish and Game Commission allowed a 22-day salmon season on the Sacramento River in October and Manies said his shop was busy. He expects it to be busy again this summer once the season starts.

“Even in the recession people want to catch salmon,” he said.

A Crossroads For American Hunters and Anglers: What’s At Stake

**by Hal Herring
April 05, 2011**

Although I cannot match Bob Marshall’s deeply researched story from two weeks ago concerning House Resolution 1, the US House of Representatives proposal to cut our crushing federal deficit, I just took part in a teleconference on the budget bill that left me so unnerved that I have to address the same topic. I’m not trying to beat readers over the head with this, but we are at a crossroads for American hunters and fishermen.

The situation goes far beyond political parties. It is about representatives who may be well-meaning, but are ignorant of the very basics of conservation and how it affects our economy, our quality of life, and our access to basic resources like clean water, not to mention fish to catch and wild game to hunt. There are times when those who know what is at stake must inform the decision makers. In this case, it is sportsmen who know the facts on the ground, and now is such a time.

Let’s look, again, at what is at stake. And please remember, the part of the federal budget that is devoted to conservation and land and water protection makes

up about **.5%** of the entire budget. You could kill our entire legacy of conservation, ensure the loss of most of our wildlife and fisheries, allow the poisoning of our air and waters, and do nothing whatsoever to actually address the national debt. (And, although it is beyond my scope here, please apprise yourself, as a taxpayer, or just a citizen, of all that has NOT been targeted for cutting. According to these elected representatives, what we can do without as a nation, first, are mostly the things that we hunters and fishermen understand to have great value. WE are the low-hanging fruit.)

A few outtakes from the teleconference:

Bill Geer of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership: “HR 1 cuts \$398 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. These are not taxpayer funds- they come from offshore oil and gas royalties, and the money is already there for conservation projects. The bill just takes the money away and directs it elsewhere...”

At stake: just one example out of hundreds- acquisitions like the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation’s years-long effort to obtain public access and protect elk range on over 8200 acres along Tenderfoot Creek, a tributary of Montana’s famed Smith River.

Scott Yaich of Ducks Unlimited: “HR 1 zeroes out the budget for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), even as we are losing an estimated 80,000 acres of wetlands annually in the US...”

“We are talking about the loss of \$200 million in worker’s earnings from the restoration and other projects that will be halted by these cuts. These are projects that pay for themselves, and then some, for year after year....and we are talking about this even while the snowmelt this spring is already causing flooding in the upper Midwest due to the filling of wetlands...huge costs, directly related to the loss of wetlands... NAWCA has always been an investment with a high return...”

Mark Humpert of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies: “We see the loss of state and tribal wildlife grant funding, the loss of funding matches from revenues like the Pittman-Robertson tax on firearms and ammunition...program like Teaming for wildlife, which has been one huge success in protecting non-game and at-risk wildlife species. This has been the core federal program for proactive, non-regulatory species

protection, keeping species from becoming endangered and subject to federal regulation.

Examples: Work throughout the Big Hole River basin to restore populations of native Arctic Grayling.

Milk River initiative: restoring riverbottom habitats and riparian areas in northern Montana

1000's of other projects across the US."

Humpert: "If we want a future for our birds, with abundant wildlife and fishing, this (Teaming for Wildlife) is one of the programs that we cannot lose."

Steve Moyers, Trout Unlimited: "HR 1 will halt funding for the EPA to assess what waters are covered by the Clean Water Act. Since the two Supreme Court decisions limiting the scope of the Clean Water Act, what waters are covered and what are not has been in question. HR 1 proposes to stop the EPA from assessing those waters..."

The 404c program of the Clean Water Act is a veto power used by the EPA to halt projects that are deemed to be extraordinarily wasteful, unnecessary, or destructive. "It's only been used 13 times," Moyers said, "but it has stopped some of the most destructive and wasteful projects ever proposed."

Among those projects: the public-money and fisheries squandering Yazoo Area Backwater Pumps Project in Mississippi, and the Two Forks Dam on the South Platte River of Colorado, a project that would have drowned a thirteen-mile long gold medal trout fishery and thousands of acres of bighorn sheep, elk, deer and bear habitat near Denver, all to boost real estate development in sprawling Denver.

"HR 1 zeroes the budget for the 404c program," Moyers says, noting also that it zeroes the budget for further work on the Cheapeake Bay clean-up and restoration.

Dave Nomsen of Pheasants Forever: "We are coming off a 20 year success story with wetlands conservation, with 232,000 acres enrolled, and more landowners waiting for enrollment. HR 1 cuts \$119 million from that. Cuts \$130 million from our Conservation Stewardship Plan. Cuts the Conservation Incentives Plan. I know we are all looking for cuts to the budget, but we have to fund these critical and successful programs."

I have written here before about how so many of our citizens seem to have no idea why we have the resources that we have. We no longer seem to know why you can

turn on your faucet and, for pennies or less, enjoy a drink of cold, refreshing water--even though that's a luxury unheard of throughout most of the world. Why you can breathe clean air, and have supper in an old rural tavern that makes all its money during deer season. Cast for rainbows in the city limits of Missoula, Montana, or shoot a limit of ducks in the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge, hunt turkeys on the Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area in Tennessee, and so on, where ever it is that you love, where you take your kids or grandkids fishing or swimming or hunting. We've had it good, based on the hard work of those who came before us. The reason we have had it good (and one of the reasons that we live in a truly exceptional nation) is because of programs like the ones that will be cut under HR1.

The short-sighted drafters of HR 1 offer us a future that looks a lot like contemporary Mexico or India, or China, a future where most of the gains of our past have been lost, and where the pressures of population growth and the loss of a conservation ethic will produce losses that are unimaginable from where we stand today. These losses will cost billions of dollars to reverse if they can be reversed at all. HR 1 is not yet the law of the land. There is still time for citizens who know what is at stake to contact their representatives, and help them understand what we as sportsmen know by heart.

ED. This article came out the day after I printed the last newsletter. Other things in conservation is that Oregon legislation is trying to pass a bill HR2873. What House Bill 2873 does: HB 2873 prohibits the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife from requiring fish passage, screening or bypass devices when an "in-conduit" hydroelectric project is developed on manmade canal or diversion structure.

Go to: <http://oregonflyfishingblog.com/2011/04/29/oregon-house-attacks-fish-again/>

Randy has and I'll bring a printed copy of the California Golden Trout Restoration Project summer schedule.

Howard E. Kern, Volunteer Project Coordinator
California Golden Trout Restoration Project
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2011 Golden Trout Project

Mulkey Meadow Fence Maintenance July 5-8 (Tuesday – Friday)

Activity: Help the Inyo National Forest maintain a new electric fence in upper Mulkey Meadow to protect the stream from cattle damage. Volunteers will backpack, bringing all of their own food and gear, 3.5 miles from Horseshoe Meadow at 9942' elevation, over Mulkey Pass at 10380' to the campsite at 9500'. Volunteers should meet USFS personnel at the Horseshoe Meadow Parking Lot at 9 am on Tuesday July 5th (start hiking around 10am).

What to bring: All of your own food, backpacking, camping and fishing gear, and work clothing including gloves. Some pack mule support may be available. A detailed list and trip itinerary will be provided to confirmed participants.

Volunteers: 6 volunteers needed.

Monache Meadow Fence Maintenance July 8-10 (Saturday and Sunday)

Activity: Help maintain the fence at the DFG wildlife area and the USFS Olivas pasture to keep the cattle out and protect the habitat along the South Fork of the Kern River and Monache Creek. Pot luck and barbecue Saturday night (meat and homemade ice cream provided by the CDFG). Plan on driving into the meadow Friday evening, work a full workday and potluck dinner on Saturday, and a half day of work on Sunday. Early morning and afternoon fishing for golden trout and brown trout on the South Fork of the Kern.

What to bring: Volunteers need to bring their own food, including a contribution for the potluck, and your own camping equipment. Be prepared for cold nights and warm days. Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and eye protection (sunglasses). Bring leather work gloves, pliers, and a VHF radio, if you have them. All other tools will be provided.

The road into Monache requires 4-wheel drive with high clearance. We will coordinate car pooling in an effort to minimize the number of vehicles needed. Car-pool space is often limited so if you have an appropriate

four wheel drive vehicle, please offer to drive.

Volunteers: 12 person limit. Volunteers with 4-wheel drive vehicles will receive preference due to the high clearance driving requirements.

Ed. This last page was the mailing page for the printed copies. Paul sent me this email he received from the PHW leader. The day after I printed and this email is only in the online version of the newsletter. I added the Golden Trout Projects to fill up the page. It only made sense to put them behind Howard Kerns contact numbers.

Thank You, High Desert Fly Fishers

Hello Paul,

Jus' wanna THANK you and all of your group for hosting us last Friday. The vets really had fun.

ANYDAY that these guys can be distracted & forget the pain that they are constantly in, even for a little while is a GREAT DAY ! Thanks for that. On the way home they were like little kids after a fun filled day, everyone grabbed some snacks and within 20 of being on the freeway most of them were asleep.

Thanks for the advise on Big Bear. We visited Boulder Bay & put the "Water Skeeter" in near the Observatory. But by the time we blew up the Water Skeeters (by mouth,CZ I had forgotten the hand pump at home) the water had gotten really choppy. We put in the water anyways, but kept on being blown back to the shore. Even though we didn't catch anything we saw people who did, so we know that there are big fish in there. All in all, it was great to just get away from everyday therapy and doctor appointments.

How is the Fawnskin - Grout Bay area ? We liked it there, fish were jumping out of the water and it seemed like a calm safe place to learn how to use the " Water Skeeters ", as this was the first time using them, and I think we still have whole lot to learn.

THANKS AGAIN,

Feliz & Jerry Ramirez