



President's Message

Isn't this heat something? Then again, it's pretty typical for this time of year here in our beautiful San Joaquin Valley. When you look at what's happening across the rest of the country—torrential rains, flooding, tornadoes, wildfires, and smoke—we're fortunate in many ways. While California certainly has its share of wildfire concerns, I'd like to give a well-deserved shout-out to our Cal Fire crews. They do an incredible job responding quickly and containing fires before they grow into something much worse. It still amazes me how so many fires get started, especially when there haven't been any lightning storms. Every now and then the news reports someone being responsible, but it's a reminder that we all need to do our part to help prevent wildfires.

Even with the summer heat, we live in a remarkable place. Within just two or three hours, we can head west to the coast or east to the Sierra and enjoy much cooler temperatures. I recently spent a week on the coast with my family, where the average temperature was a pleasant 68 degrees. Unfortunately, the tides weren't cooperating, and the surf and wind made fishing less than ideal. Head east into the Sierra, however, gain a little elevation, and the temperatures drop while the fishing opportunities improve. Several club members have reported enjoyable fishing on both dry flies and midges. You really can't beat having those options. So load up your vehicle of choice, turn on the air conditioner, and get out there and enjoy some fishing.

I'd also like to talk about **club outings**. While our conservation and community service efforts are an important part of who we are, fly fishing remains at the heart of our club. Outings give us the opportunity to learn from one another, introduce newer anglers to the sport, improve our skills, and enjoy the camaraderie that comes with spending time on the water together.

Lately, however, we've noticed that participation has been lower than we'd like. We'd love to hear from you. What kinds of outings would encourage you to attend? Would you prefer destinations that are closer to home or are you willing to travel? Weekdays or weekends? Rivers, lakes, or streams? Early season or fall? Whatever your preferences, we want your input so we can plan outings that better reflect the interests of our membership.

Until next month, stay cool, stay safe, and as always...

Go catch 'em!

Bob

Club News

Featured Program – Guide Lance Gray



Our featured speaker this month is renowned guide and fly-fishing educator **Lance Gray**.

Lance was introduced to fly fishing at an early age by his father and brother. By his teenage years, he was already tying flies for fly shops throughout Northern California. At just 17, he began working at Powell's Fly Shop in Chico, where he built custom rods, guided anglers, taught fly-fishing and fly-tying schools, and traveled extensively, sharing his knowledge with others.

Today, **Lance Gray & Company** is a full-service outfitter offering guided fly-fishing trips, destination travel, workshops, and educational programs. Lance is widely respected for his practical teaching style and wealth of experience on the water.

This month's presentation, "**Streamer Fishing: The When, Why, and How**," will explore everything you need to know to become a more effective streamer angler. Lance will discuss the gear and tackle needed, when streamer fishing is most productive, why it works, and the techniques that consistently produce fish.

The program will also examine the prey species that streamers imitate—from minnows and sculpins to crayfish—and explain how understanding fish behavior can improve your success. Whether you're new to streamer fishing or looking to refine your approach, you'll leave with updated tactics, proven fly patterns, and practical tips that will add another valuable tool to your fly-fishing arsenal.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn from one of Northern California's most accomplished fly-fishing guides!

Sáttítla Highlands National Monument

The Sáttítla Highlands National Monument is a federal designation protecting the lava fields that collect water, which eventually flows out of springs to become the Fall River.

President Trump has suggested he may want to remove this designation to allow geothermal development in the area.

Our Club has signed the following letter to voice our support for this important Trout resource.

Please don't hesitate to contact Paul or another board member if you would like to discuss any position our club takes. Whether you have an environmental concern you think we should address, or if you have concerns about this letter.

Support for Sáttítla Highlands National Monument

March 23, 2026

The Honorable Brooke L. Rollins
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Mr. Tom Schultz
Chief, U.S. Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins and Chief Schultz:

The undersigned angling and hunting businesses and organizations write to convey our strong support for the Sáttítla Highlands National Monument, and to urge that this designation be preserved.

The Sáttítla Highlands are a complex of public lands with unique geologic, hydrologic, and habitat values that provide exceptional fishing and hunting. Even among California's diverse landscapes and ecosystems, the Sáttítla Highlands stand out, in large part due to their function as an enormous hydrological recharge and storage resource (some studies estimate the aquifer under the Sáttítla Highlands absorbs and holds as much water as California's 200 largest reservoirs combined). This aquifer discharges over 1.2 million acre-feet of snowmelt annually -- most of it working its way underground to a huge system of springs at the head of the Fall River Valley, where it surfaces to form the Fall River.

The Fall River is California's largest spring-fed stream system and one of the most famous trout

fisheries in the West. This river supports one of California's largest and most unique populations of wild native trout. Thanks to the singular water quality and hydrology of this system, Fall River rainbow trout have evolved to spawn in both spring and fall, in different parts of the river (no other population of native rainbow trout in California exhibits this life history). The Fall River's exceptional trout fishery is managed as a designated Wild and Heritage Trout Water by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. All but one of the complexes of springs, streams and lakes that feed into the Fall River get their water from the underground storage provided by the S  ttitla Highlands.

The S  ttitla Highlands are part of the X-1 deer hunting zone in California, prized by hunters for its mule deer. The X zones offer limited tag, lottery draw hunting opportunities for some of the biggest mule deer and elk in the state. The S  ttitla Highlands also provide important habitat for game species such as wild turkey, Rocky Mountain elk, pronghorn antelope and black bear. Altogether, some 300 wildlife species call this area home.

There is no sporting opportunity without a productive habitat. We have to better protect the lands and waters that still consistently provide healthy habitat and clean water and air for people and wildlife. The S  ttitla Highlands provide some of the finest habitat for native trout and popular game species, and world-class fishing and hunting opportunities, we have left in California.

We respectfully request that no changes be made to the status of the S  ttitla Highlands as a national monument, and that all of the protections afforded under this designation for the extraordinary habitat and sporting values of this region be kept intact.

Sincerely,

Stanislaus Fly Fishers

Hot Creek in the Eastern Sierras

Sometime this fall our club and Central Sierra Trout Unlimited will be hosting an outing to Hot Creek in the Eastern Sierra. We'll have some fishing and a presentation by Trout Unlimited on the proposal to create a gold mine next to Hot Creek.

Hot Creek is an outstanding and unique trout fishery, and has a place on many bucket lists. It also sits next to a large reserve of gold. With the recent increases in gold price, there is renewed interest in creating a cyanide leaching mine. Cyanide is poisonous, and this site is right next to both a spectacular trout fishery, and the Owens River which provides drinking water to LA. Interestingly there is also a concern that just drilling test wells could pollute Hot Creek with high temperature geothermal water that might make the creek too hot for trout.

There will be more information in the future like a date and travel suggestions. Please let Paul know if you have any questions. Especially if you either support this conservation effort or have concerns.

pwallace@stanislausflyfishers.org

Link's Lines

By the time you read this, I will be ensconced at Wente Scout Reservation in Willits, CA, getting ready to teach for a week! Yup, that time again, my yearly trek to Scout Camp to teach the Fly Fishing Merit Badge. This will be my 12th year! I started with the inaugural program in 2014, and then got involved with running the logistic/sign up side of the program when one of the founders had to step back for a bit. For many years I spent 2 weeks at Camp (separate weeks, which means 4 ½ hours up and back, twice!) WOW! 20+ weeks spent at Camp, plus Work Weekends and running logistics for the program. I have hundreds of hours dedicated to the program, and you know what? I wouldn't change a thing! I will keep doing this as long as I am able!

There is something about passing this sport on to youth, it is immensely satisfying.

Yeah, I know, most of the kids that pass through the class may never pick up a fly rod again. But, every year there has been one or two kids who get it! Usually accomplished fisher folk to start with, but they take to fly fishing immediately! Does my heart good!

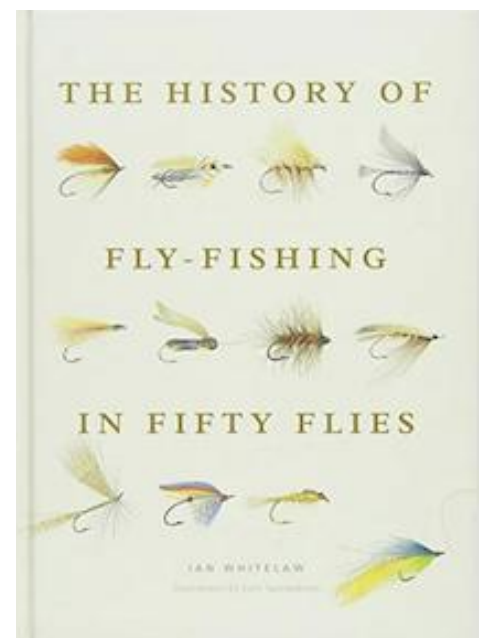
And because I have been doing this so long, in class I have seen the brothers, the sisters, the parents, all who have heard of the Fly Fishing program from their troops, their kids or from someone who attended the class. I have had parents who have come back years later with a younger kid, that had sat in on the class years ago, tell me they bought fly gear after that experience and now fish regularly. Fantastic! One more convert to the cause!

Why do I bring this up? We are all ambassadors for our sport. Keep on talking it up! Bring your friends, family, neighbors out to a meeting. We are not going to hook all of them, but maybe, just maybe, we will get 1 or 2.

Tight Lines!
LINK

Flytyers' Corner - Michael Hewitt

We're taking a little different look this month. Instead of your usual tying book, this month's entry is *The History of Fly-Fishing in Fifty Flies*. Written by Ian Whitelaw with illustrations by his sister Julie Spyropoulos, it covers the history of fly fishing starting in the 1500s and traces its development through the various phases of innovation, adaptation, popularity, and growth that came with a deeper understanding of fish feeding behavior and new material



availability. It begins with the concept of what constitutes a fly, recognizing that the term “artificial fly” was in use pre-1600s and included caterpillars and worms.

Since then, it now includes “larvae, nymphs, leeches, baitfish, frogs, and in the case of carp flies, even berries and seeds...” Of course, let’s not forget the flying insects. The authors chose to define a fly as “something that is too light to be cast any distance without a fly line, has nonfood-like scent or taste, and is designed to fool a fish into eating only by its appearance and behavior.” How they culled the list of flies to cover from the thousands of prospective possibilities down to fifty I’m not going to cover here for the sake of brevity.

The primary structure of the book falls into four “State of the Art” sections: 1500s, 1800s, 1900s, and 2000s, with each section represented by flies that were developed in that period. In addition to the flies, the development of adjunct materials and equipment used in fly fishing over the years and its impact on the sport are also explored. As you read you’ll learn about the contributions of significant innovators over the years, recognizing many names and learning a whole host of new ones. Each fly described is presented with its original recipe, a detailed description, and its use and presentation along with insight into the background of its development.

I’m still in the process of reading this one, but so far I’m enjoying it immensely. Not surprisingly, I’m learning something new with each fly presented. Ever wonder what early fish hooks were like? Early rods? Lines? When reels were developed? You’ll find many of the answers here. Reasonably priced at \$24.99, I snagged a pre-owned copy through Walmart and a reseller online for just over \$12 delivered. If this sort of thing interests you, you’ll probably really like this book.

Mike

Hiking Backcountry Trails to Fish in our National Forests

Damaged bridge over Highland Creek



My oldest son, two grandkids and I set out over July 4th an extended weekend to fish and hike in the Stanislaus National Forest and Carson Wilderness areas. We chose to hike to the back end of Spicer Meadow Reservoir, and fish Highland Creek. Contrary to what the maps showed and to our dismay, the state of the trails shows it has been years since the trails have been maintained. The conditions were and are really deplorable, with stretches almost impossible to identify the route, and places where brush has completely grown over the trail (often head high). The maps show these trails, but in reality there are places which are almost impassable. So, what is to be done? I believe the Forest Service needs appropriations that are required to maintain trails.

Large fallen logs to cross

It is incredibly frustrating to set out into a spectacular area like the Carson-Iceberg or the broader Stanislaus National Forest, expecting a classic backcountry route, only to find yourself fighting head-high whitethorn, clambering over endless blowdowns, or staring at a blank hillside where a trail is marked on the map. Many of these trails haven't seen a professional trail crew in fifteen years or more, and when you couple that with recent intense fire scars and subsequent brush regrowth, the high-country trails are facing a genuine crisis. This is not an isolated problem, but I have encountered it almost everywhere except in the most trafficked locations, like the Pacific Crest Trail.

Hunting the trail

The core of the problem comes down to structural funding, systemic staffing shortages, and strict wilderness regulations.

The Root of the Trail Crisis

- **The Appropriations Bottleneck:** Federal appropriations for the U.S. Forest Service have historically prioritized wildfire suppression over recreation and maintenance. When catastrophic fires consume the agency's budget, routine "deferred maintenance" is the first thing cut. While legislation like the Great American Outdoors Act was designed to address the maintenance backlog, much of that funding is legally funneled toward front-country infrastructure (like failing water systems, bridges, and campgrounds) rather than remote wilderness single-track trails.
- **The Wilderness Tool Constraint:** Because areas like the Carson-Iceberg are designated wilderness, law strictly prohibits motorized or mechanized equipment. Trail crews cannot use chainsaws to clear massive old-growth blowdowns or brush-cutters to knock back head-high manzanita; everything must be done by hand with crosscut saws, axes, and loppers. This multiplies the manual hours required to clear even a single mile of trail.
- **The "Grown-In" Burn Scars:** Recent major fires in the region destroyed the forest canopy. Without shade, sunlight hits the forest floor directly, triggering explosive, rapid growth of aggressive brush species like whitethorn and deer brush. A trail cleared one summer can become completely choked and impassable just two seasons later.

What Is Being Done — And What You Can Do

Because federal budgets are slow to move, the survival of the Sierra trail system has increasingly shifted into the hands of non-profit partners, volunteer stewardship groups, and citizen advocates.

1. Advocate for Direct Federal Appropriations

If you want to see long-term systemic change, targeting federal recreation budgets is essential. You can contact your congressional representatives to advocate specifically for increased, dedicated funding for USFS Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Management appropriations. Pointing out that "deferred maintenance" funding needs to reach deep backcountry trails—not just front-country campgrounds—is a crucial distinction lawmakers need to hear from hikers who see the reality on the ground.

2. **Lean Into Partner Organizations**

The Forest Service currently relies heavily on specialized nonprofits to supply the skilled labor required for technical wilderness trail work. Organizations operating in and around the Stanislaus include:

3. **Practice "Citizen Maintenance" on the Go**

While major clearing requires coordinated crews, everyday trail users play a significant role in keeping faint routes alive. Simply choosing to hike more obscure, faint trails helps stomp down the tread and prevents them from completely vanishing into the landscape. On a smaller scale, backcountry hikers may carry a reliable pair of lightweight hand loppers or a compact folding pull-saw in their packs to prune back encroaching branches, clear small deadfall, and place rock cairns or high-visibility ribbon to mark ambiguous trails before the path is lost entirely. (I have a plan to reestablish a route to the North Fork of the Stanislaus River which in the past had trails, which have now disappeared).

It is a tough reality on the ground right now, but we need to advocate, keeping the pressure on budget appropriators while actively supporting the volunteer groups. These historic trail need to be preserved for the next generation of hikers, and access to fishing locations.

We did have a great time, but what was supposed to be a 5-mile destination turned into a 7-mile marathon. The kids did great (with some complaints), caught some small fish, and I was happy that this old man "still has it"!

John Driver



NCCFFI's President's Newsletter



It has been a busy summer already with lots of NCCFFI activity, starting with the Putah Creek Cleanup on June 13 and the FFI push for new FFI members, along with planning for upcoming events, including FlyFest in Redding September 24–26 and the NCCFFI Hall of Fame on October 24 in Lafayette, California.

In the last few months' issues of the River Mouth, we noted that FFI had extended the "Show Special" offer, allowing new FFI members to save **\$20 on their first year of membership**. If you are not currently an FFI member, **now is the perfect time to join for only \$25 for your first year** (see the FFI article in this newsletter for details). To sign up as a new member, go to <https://qrco.de/bffDpE>. To renew an existing membership, go to <https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Support-FFI/Join-Renew/Join>.

We are asking fly fishing clubs throughout California and Nevada to encourage club members who are not currently FFI members to take advantage of this limited-time offer. If you need information to present to your local club, please contact me at rjbeltamo@aol.com.

Now is the time to register for the upcoming **FFI FlyFest event in Redding, September 24–26, 2026**. **Please review the article in this newsletter and register using the included link.** This will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow fly fishers during a three-day celebration of fly fishing, community, and hands-on learning. Whether you're a lifelong angler or new to the sport, FlyFest offers the chance to connect, learn, and be inspired.

Think of this year's FlyFest as The Fly Fishing Show, with the added bonus of having a wide variety of outstanding fishing destinations all within an hour's drive of Redding. We encourage you to plan a memorable fishing trip while attending the event.

We are also looking for volunteers to support NCCFFI and FFI activities during FlyFest. Volunteers receive a **\$50 discount on registration**. Visit the FFI website to sign up as a volunteer today at <https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/FlyFest>.

Please also note that **Council and Club Day will be held on Thursday, September 24**, at the event site. NCCFFI club leaders are invited to participate in a series of workshops and collaborative discussions on topics important to fly fishing clubs. Invitations and additional information will be sent directly to all club presidents and leaders.

The NCCFFI Hall of Fame event is scheduled for October 24. This year's Hall of Fame inductee will be **Mark Rockwell**—well deserved, Mark! Please review the Hall of Fame article in this newsletter for additional details.

The event will be held at the Veterans Memorial Center on Mount Diablo Boulevard in Lafayette and will feature a catered dinner, silent and live auctions, and the Hall of Fame induction ceremony. This annual event attracts attendees from throughout California and the western United States, with approximately 150 people participating each year. Additional details will be shared next month, so be sure **to save the date**.

We look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events.

In the meantime, get out on the water and enjoy a beautiful day of fly fishing!

Ron Beltramo NCCFFI President

Feel free to contact me at rjbeltramo@aol.com or 415-999-8348.

NOTES FROM THE SFF INVENTORY MEISTER

Not much to report on Inventory this month, too dang hot!

I have been making some progress with hooks, sorting by size. If you need hooks, let me know.

Still trying to figure out a way to provide an updated list for the larger items, any ideas? More than happy to listen!

Swaggin' it with Janice



Have you been looking for a way to show your Stanislaus Fly Fishers pride both on and off the water? Rustic Embroidery Barn is now offering a selection of SFF apparel and merchandise featuring our club logo.

Whether you're looking for a new hat for your next fishing trip, a UV-resistant decal for your vehicle or boat, or an embroidered shirt to wear at club events, there are several options available. A complete price sheet and product catalog are included with this newsletter for your review.

Since my website is still under construction, the easiest way to place an order is to call or text me directly at (209) 535-6302. You can also place orders at our monthly Stanislaus Fly Fishers meetings, held on the second Tuesday of each month. I'll have samples available at the meetings so you can see the products firsthand, compare colors and styles, and decide what works best for you. Already have a favorite fishing shirt, vest, jacket, or other garment? Bring it to a meeting and I can embroider the Stanislaus Fly Fishers logo on your item. Simply drop it off at one meeting, and I'll have it ready for pickup at the next meeting.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide quality club merchandise for our members and look forward to helping you represent Stanislaus Fly Fishers wherever your fishing adventures take you.

Janice Rinehart
Rustic Embroidery Barn
(209) 535-6302

Did you get yours yet?



Item	Cost	Picture of Item
Embroidery Logo on either the right or left chest	\$ 15.00	
Embroidery name on shirt	\$ 8.00	
Embroidery Logo on hats	\$ 15.00	
Leather Patch for Hat (Olive Green or Sand)	\$ 8.00	 

Hat with Flies (Tan or Olive Green) 100% recycled polyester, performance fabric Sublimated print fabric with moisture-management Mesh sides and back Structured, six-panel, mid-profile Slightly curved visor, Deep Olive Green undervisor Moisture-management sweatband Imperial woven label by rubberized hook-and-loop closure, fabric wrapped back opening	\$ 32.00				
DRI DUCK Territory Trucker Cap (Khaki) 100% polyester, camo print Tonal print overlay of topographical pattern 100% polyester, classic trucker mesh back Modern fit Structured, six-panel, low-profile Slightly curved bill, contrasting underbill NO Sweat moisture-management sweatband Snapback closure Responsible Supplier: this product was made in a facility that is FLA certified.	\$ 15.00				

Ultralight Booney (Olive Green or Red) 100% polyester Unstructured Performance sweatband UPF 30 Ultra-violet protection (White is UPF 25) Sewn eyelets Adjustable drawcord and toggle at back The decoration of any caps from The Game® using any of their proprietary marks including, but not limited to, their 2-bar design, their bar (3-bar) design, their split bar, or their circle design is expressly prohibited.	\$ 32.00	   
Stickers - Perment UV printed on clear vinyl and are perment on what you apply them to. They will hold up under all types of weather conditions. 2 different sizes 3" and 5"	\$3.00 \$5.00	 

[Click here for a link to our Google Calendar.](#)

Upcoming Outings and Events

- White Pines Outing - July 18, 2026 - 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM - White Pines Park, Lyons Park Road
- Fence Creek Outing - August 21-23 - Contact Gus Link if interested
- Kings Canyon Outing - Tentative date first week in October - Tuesday - Thursday
- FFI FlyFest - September 24-26 - Redding, CA
- Owens and Crowley outing - Tentative date November 11 -12
- Salmon Fest - November 14, 2026 - Knights Ferry
- Holiday Dinner Party - December 8, 2026 - Tuolumne River Lodge

Other potential outings include: Stanislaus River Float, Eastern Sierras, Kings Canyon, McConnell State Park, LaGrange Tuolumne River. Consider stepping up and taking the lead as the "Fish Meister". There are seasoned trip leaders in the club who would be happy to help you.

SFF 2026 Board of Directors

President: Bob Bullock • Vice-President: John Driver • Secretary: Monica Bourke • Webmaster: Michael Hewitt •
 Treasurer: Paul Wallace • Outings: John Driver • Membership: Barry Kutz
 • F3T Chair/Outings: Derek Coelho • Hospitality Coordinator: Janice Rinehart • Inventory Chair: Gus Link •
 Learning Coordinator - Cristie Crawford • Past President: Paul Wallace

[SFF Membership Information](#)

Membership Update
Barry Kutz

We had 14 members who attended our July meeting on the 14th. We had 1 visitor, and 1 new member for a total of 16 people. Not including the June picnic, our year-to-date attendance average is 20, so we had a pretty good number for the middle of the summer, with many people vacationing.

As of 7/23/26, we have 46 paid memberships. Including additional family members, this brings our number of members to 52. This is pretty much the same number of members that we had in 2024 and 2025. We had around 30 paid members in 2023.

Concerning signing of the club's liability waiver, only 4 of our paid members still need to sign the waiver. Generally, these members have not attended any meetings this year.

Venmo or Mail Membership Dues to:

Paul Wallace
722 Mt Rushmore Dr
Newman CA 95360

Paul Stan Fly Fish Wallace
@Paul-StanFlyFish



[SFF Membership Form](#)

[FFI Membership Link](#)

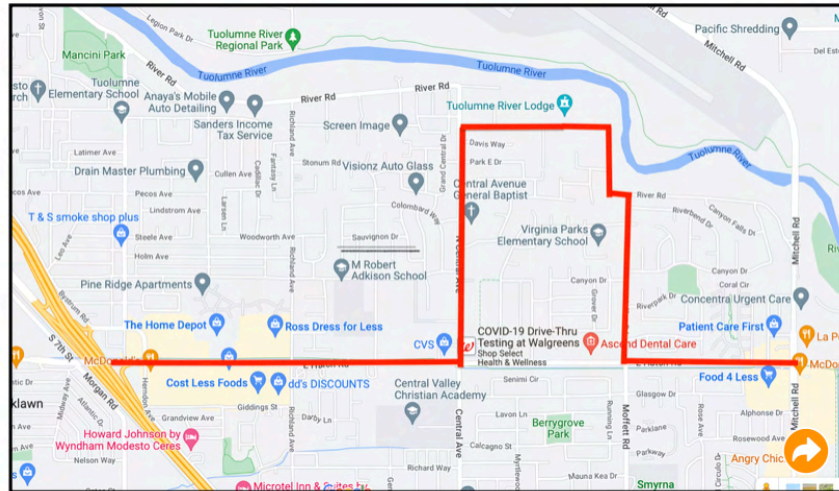
[SFF Liability Waiver](#)

Directions to Tuolumne River Lodge

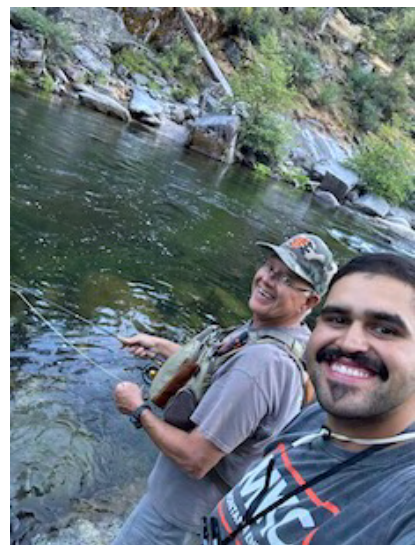
2429 River Rd, Modesto, CA

From 99 take Hatch Rd east to Central. Left on Central to River Rd. Right on River Rd.

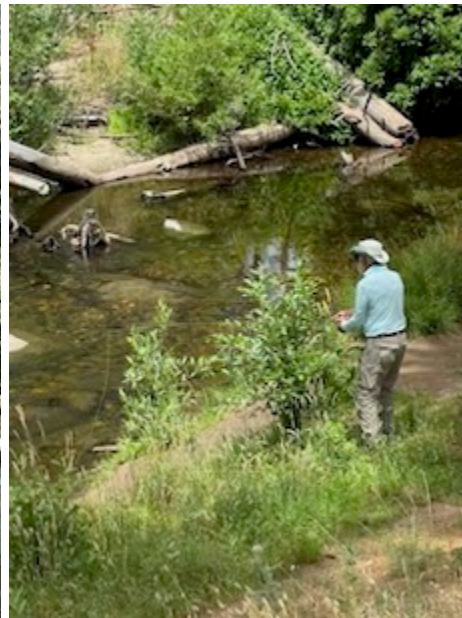
From Mitchell Rd take Hatch Rd west to Moffett Rd. Right on Moffett to River Rd. Left on River Rd.



Fishing Yosemite



Middle Fork



Happy Fishing!