

THE CALIFORNIA HERITAGE TROUT CHALLENGE

BY

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HERITAGE TROUT CHALLENGE AWARDEE #234

And

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THE CHALLENGE

**CATCH SIX (6) OF CALIFORNIA'S 11 HERITAGE
TROUT TO COMPLETE THE CALIFORNIA
HERITAGE TROUT CHALLENGE.**

QUALIFYING TROUT

A. CUTTHROAT TROUT

1. COASTAL CUTTHROAT TROUT
2. LAHONTAN CUTTHROAT TROUT
3. PAIUTE CUTTHROAT TROUT

B. RAINBOW TROUT

1. COASTAL RAINBOW TROUT
2. EAGLE LAKE RAINBOW TROUT
3. McCLOUD RIVER REDBAND TROUT
4. GOOSE LAKE RAINBOW TROUT
5. WARNER LAKES RAINBOW TROUT
6. KERN RIVER RAINBOW TROUT
7. CALIFORNIA GOLDEN TROUT
8. LITTLE KERN GOLDEN TROUT

THE PLAN

1. Coastal Rainbow

Option #1: Upper East Fork of San Gabriel River or Upper Piru Creek Drainage

Option #2: The Upper Sac River and/or Steelhead Fishing on the Trinity.

2. McCloud River Red Band Rainbow Trout: Trout Creek at the foot of Mt. Shasta

3. Goose Lake Red Band Rainbow Trout: Lassen Creek (from the campground upstream as far as you wish to walk.).

4. Little Kern Golden Trout:

Option #1: Click's Creek (from the roadside entrance down to its confluence with the Little Kern). This is A genetically pure Little Kern Golden Trout.

Option #2: Hike from Forks of the Kern Trailhead down to the Little Kern River. Hike upstream for about ten minutes and start casting.

5. Kern River Rainbow Trout:

Option #1: Hike down to the Forks of the Kern and fish upstream as far as you wish to walk. Allow about two hours to hike back up hill to your car. Bring a water filter system.

Option #2: Fish Peppermint Creek from its headwaters down to the Kern River.

6. California Golden Trout

Option #1: Fish Creek at Rodeo Flats. Park outside the cattle gate, and then walk one minute to the stream and start fishing. Fish both down stream and upstream from the entry point.

Option #2: Fish Creek at Troy Meadows as far upstream as you wish.

Option #3: South Fork of the Kern River at Monache Meadows. Fish downstream for two-three miles in the meadows; or upstream into the canyon/forest stretch of the South Fork

DRY FLY PATTERNS THAT WORK

- ▣ **THESE PATTERNS WERE/ARE EFFECTIVE IN CATCHING THE CALIFORNIA GOLDEN TROUT, THE LITTLE KERN RIVER GOLDEN TROUT, AND THE REDBAND RAINBOWS.**
- ▣ **THE STEELHEAD TROUT CAUGHT ON THE TRINITY RIVER WERE HOOKED ON A NYMPH RIG ENTITLED "EGGS AND LEGS". A RUBBER LEGGED NYMPH WAS ON THE BOTTOM TAG OF THE 20' LEADER AND AN EGG PATTERN WAS ABOUT 12 "ABOVE THE NYMPH.**
- ▣ **THE KERN RIVER RAINBOWS WERE HOOKED ON PHEASANT TAIL AND COPPER JOHN NYMPHS PROVIDED BY THE GUIDE**

THIS GARCIA MINI-HOT VERSION OF THE STIMULATOR OR SOFA PILLOW WAS AGGRESSIVELY HIT BY GOLDEN TROUT AND REDBANDS. THIS IS ALSO AN EXCELLENT PATTERN FOR A YELLOW SALLY STONEFLY ON THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER.



RED CDC SMOKE JUMPER

THIS REPLACES THE SIERRA BRIGHT DOT. NOTE THE SEGMENTED BIOT BODY AND FLORESCENT RED RABBIT FUR THORAX THE BODY AND THORAX SIT JUST BELOW THE SURFACE FILM, AND THE CDC WING IS THE SURFACE FLOATER AND SIGHTER.



CDC BWO SMOKE JUMPER



BWO HACKLE STACKER

THIS PATTERN IS TIED
AND FISHED UPSIDE DOWN.



ADAMS HACKLE STACKER



WALLYWING HACKLE STACKER



**PMD HACKLE STACKER (SIZE 14)
(NOTE THE BIOT BODY SEGMENTATION)**



DIRECTIONS

1. FROM KERNVILLE TAKE M99 NORTH AND PASS THE JOHNSONDALE BRIDGE.
2. RIGHT (NORTH) TURN ON 22S82 AND TRAVEL ABOUT 20 WINDING MILES TO FORREST ROAD 20S67.
3. TURN RIGHT ON ROAD 20S67.
YOU WILL WIND YOUR WAY ON THIS ROAD THROUGH LOYD'S MEADOW UNTIL YOU SEE THE SIGN FOR THE FORKS OF THE KERN TAIL HEAD.
4. PARK YOUR CAR OFF OF THE ROAD AND WALK TO THE TRAIL HEAD'S STARTING POINT.
5. WALK ABOUT TWO MILES DOWN HILL UNTIL THE TRAIL FLATTENS OUT ALONG THE LITTLE KERN RIVER. WALK UPSTREAM FOR ABOUT FIVE MINUTES AND START FISHING FOR THE LITTLE KERN GOLDEN TROUT.
6. RETURN TO THE STARTING POINT AT THE LITTLE KERN AND WALK DOWN STREAM SOME 200-300 YARDS TO WHERE THE LITTLE KERN JOINS THE KERN. THIS IS WHERE THE BRIDGE SPANS THE KERN. FISH ANYWHERE YOU WANT FROM THAT POINT

THE TRAIL OF THE GIANTS

THIS SEQUOIA GROVE LEADS THE
WAY TO THE CLICKS CREEK TRAILHEAD AND THE
FORKS OF THE KERN TRAILHEAD.





STARTING THE DESCENT TO THE FORKS OF THE KERN



TRAILHEAD TO THE FORKS OF THE KERN RIVER





DUE TO THE NARROW TRAIL AND 2000' DEAD DROP IF YOU LOSE YOUR BALANCE, THIS HIKE CAN BE FREIGHTENING FOR PEOPLE LIKE ME WITH A FEAR OF HEIGHTS AND BALANCE ISSUES. MY GUIDE, GUY JEANS, QUICKLY FIGURED A WAY TO ASSIST ME DURING THE DESCENT.



AFTER A 45 MINUTE 3000' DESCENT, THE TRAIL ENDS AT THE LITTLE KERN RIVER. YOU HAVE TO ROLL CAST UNDER AND BETWEEN THE BRANCHES TO AVOID SNAGS. WE CAUGHT 25-PLUS LITTLE KERN GOLDENS IN ONE HOUR AT THIS SPOT. WE THEN WALKED DOWN TO THE KERN RIVER AND STARTED FISHING FOR KERN RIVER RAINBOWS.



THE LITTLE KERN GOLDEN

CAUGHT ON THE LITTLE KERN RIVER ABOVE THE FORKS OF THE KERN. THIS TROUT'S DULL COLORS REFLECTS HYBRIDIZATION.



THE DEEPER COLORS OF THIS LITTLE KERN
GOLDEN REFLECT THE GENETIC
PURITY OF THE CLICKS CREEK POPULATION.



HERITAGE TROUT #2: THE KERN RIVER RAINBOW



**OUR VIEW FROM ABOVE REVEALED 700-PLUS KERN RIVER
RAINBOWS UNDER THE FOAM LINE IN THE STRETCH BELOW.**



THEY'RE IN THE SEAM



TYPICAL KERN RIVER RAINBOW



THIS KERN RIVER RAINBOW WAS CAUGHT ON PEPPERMINT CREEK. THE FADED COLORS OF THIS FISH INDICATED HYBRIDIZATION. BUT IT STILL COUNTS FOR THE CHALLENGE. ACCESS TO THE STREAM IS A TWO MINUTE WALK FROM YOUR CAR. SO YOU CAN AVOID THE STEEP DROP OFF OF THE TRAIL TO THE FORKS OF THE KERN WITH THIS OPTION. ITT JUST AINT AS LOVELY A SPOT.





CLICKS CREEK LITTLE KERN RIVER GOLDEN

- ▣ **THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILD LIFE CLASSIFIES THE CLICKS CREEK LITTLE KERN RIVER GOLDEN TROUT AS GENETICALLY PURE.**
- ▣ **THIS IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE WEIR AT THE END OF CLICKS GREEK CANYON. THIS BARRIER PREVENTES ANY UPSTREAM MIGRATION OF HYBRIDIZED TROUT.**

CLICKS
TRAILHEAD
->>>



27



27



L1 K5
TRAILHEAD
←←←

PARKING LOT ACROSS THE ROAD FROM THE CLICKS CREEK TRAILHEAD.



HIKING IN AND OUT

IT IS AN EASY DOWNHILL WALK INTO THE START OF THE 8-9 MILE LENGTH OF THE STREAM AND CANYON. THERE ARE NO STEEP DROPOFFS IN THE HIKE. WITHIN 10 MINUTES OF THE DESCENT YOU HAVE DROPPED SOME 3000' TO THE CANYON FLOOR.

THE HIKE OUT IS ALL UPHILL. MOST OF THIS HIKE IS UP A GRADUALLY INCREASING INCLINE. WHEN YOU GET TO THE LAST 500 YARDS THE INCLINE RADICALLY INCREASES TO A STEEP ANGLE DURING WHICH YOU REGAIN THE 3000' IN ALTITUDE THAT OCCURRED DURING YOUR DESCENT TO THE CANYON FLOOR. THAT THINNER AIR IS A LUNG BUSTER.



CLICKS T. HEAD



NOTICE
Old Road
Vehicle Camp

CLICKS CREEK TRAIL
32E11
SEQUOIA National Forest

MILES TO CASCADLES
BEYOND THIS POINT





FIRST CREEK CROSSING

3-4 MINUTES DOWN THE TRAIL YOU COME TO THE FIRST CLICKS CREEK CROSSING POINT. YOU CAN CATCH LITTLE KERN GOLDENS ABOVE AND BELOW THIS POINT, AND THOSE DINKS QUALIFY FOR THE CHALLENGE.

YOU ARE AT 8000' AT THIS POINT. TEN MINUTES LATER YOU WILL BE AT 6500'.

AS YOU HIKE DEEPER INTO THIS CANYON, YOU ENCOUNTER MORE STREAM CROSSINGS AND SOME OF THE PRETTIEST SCENERY IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. THE STREAM BED WIDENS AND DEEPENS THROUGHOUT THE CANYON; AND THE PAN SIZE OF THE FISH ALSO INCREASE. 10"-12" LITTLE KERN GOLDENS AGGRESSIVELY RISE TO THE DRY FLY OR SUB-SURFACE EMERGER OR NYMPH TIED TO THE END OF YOUR LEADER.



THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE CANYON FLOOR. FOUR OF US FISHED THAT WIDEOUT FOR 20 MINUTES WITH CONSTANT HOOKUPS. OUR CONTINUAL DOWNSTREAM MOVEMENT PROVIDED ENDLESS HOOKUPS AND NEW ADVENTURES.



THE DEEP COLOR OF THIS CLICK'S CREEK LITTLE KERN RIVER
GOLDEN TROUT REFLECTS THEIR GENETIC PURITY.



FEW SITES CAN MATCH THE SPLENDOR OF CLICKS CREEK CANYON FLOOR AND DEEP FORESTATION





CALIFORNIA GOLDEN TROUT:

SECTION I: RODEO FLATS STRETCH OF FISH CREEK



DIRECTIONS

1. NORTH FROM KERNVILLE ON M99 TO THE SHERMAN PASS ROAD (ABOUT 200 FEET BEFORE THE JOHNSONDALE BRIDGE.).

2. GO RIGHT OR EAST ON THE SHERMAN PASS ROAD FOR 45-50 MILES TO THE RODEO FLAT TURN OUT ON SOUTH SIDE OF THE ROAD.

--PARK ABOUT 25 FEET FROM THE GATE TO THE CATLE FENCE. THEN WALK THROUGH THE GATE AND START FISHING UP OR DOWN STREAM.

--THE RODEO FLAT TURN OFF IS ABOUT 3-4 MINUTES EAST OF THE BLACK ROCK RANGER STATION; AND SOME 400 YARDS DOWN THE ROAD FROM THE TURN OFF TO THE FISH CREEK OVERFLOW CAMP.

3. YOU CAN ALSO ACCCESS THIS SITE FROM HIGHWAY 395.

--ABOUT 10 MINUTES PAST PEARASONVILLE YOU WILL SEE THE NINE MILE ROAD TURN OFF. GO WEST/LEFT ON THAT TURN OFF AND WIND YOU WAY UP HILL TO KENNEDY MEADOWS.

--THE RODEO FLAT TURNOUT IS ABOUT 10-12 MILES WEST OF THE KENNEDY MEADOWS TOWNSHIP ON THE SHERMAN PASS ROAD.

**HERITAGE TROUT #3: CALIFORNIA GOLDEN TROUT
(THE OFFICIAL FISH OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA)**

**THIS IS FISH CREEK WHICH FLOWS INTO THE SOUTH FORK OF THE KERN.
THE CALIFORNIA GOLDEN TROUT ARE HOLDING IN THE UNDERCUT BANKS
ON EACH SIDE OF THE STREAM**



**FISH ARE UNDER THE OVERHANGING FOLIAGE.
THE CAST IS PLACED RIGHT OFF THE EDGE OF THE FOLIAGE
WITHOUT SNAGGING THE RAPARIAN GROWTH**



50' CASTS WITH A SAGE TLX 00 WEIGHT ROD AND LINE



WHAT CUT THIS TREE?



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THE COMPOUND FRACTURE

THE FIFTH METATARSAL OF MY LEFT LITTLE TOE WAS RIPPED OUT OF ITS JOINT AFTER JUMPING OVER A CHASM ENCOUNTERED WHILE HIKING BACK TO THE CAR PARKED A HALF MILE AWAY. THE SURGICAL SCREW IN THE XRAY WAS SURGICALLY IMPLANTED TO RESET AND STABILIZE THE JOINT. AT THE TIME OF THE INJURY IT FELT LIKE THE FOOT WAS BROKEN IN HALF. ALTHOUGH FISH CREEK IS A GENTLY MEANDERING STREAM IN A LOVELY ALPINE MEADOW, THE SETTING HAS DANGEROUS HAZARDS THAT LEAVE YOU DISABLED. PLEASE DON'T REPEAT MY MISTAKE.

CALIFORNIA GOLDEN TROUT

SECTION II: TROY MEADOWS





**THIS STREAM IS 6" DEEP. THE CALIFORNIA
GOLDEN TROUT PICTURED ABOVE ARE
PACKED INTO THE UNDERCUT BANKS ON
BOTH SIDES OF THE STREAM. ART
STRAUSS IS CASTING TO THOSE
UNDERCUT BANKS WITH A DRY FLY. THE
CALIFORNIA GOLDENS READILY RISE TO
THAT DRY FLY. ART CAUGHT AND
RELEASED OVER 100 CALIFORNIA GOLDEN
TROUT IN OUR FIVE HOURS OF FISHING ON
THIS ALPINE STREAM.**



PLACE YOUR FLY ONE OR TWO FEET FROM THAT UNDERCUT BANK ON THE RIGHT AND THE GOLDEN TROUT RISE TO THE SURFACE AND HIT IT HARD. GOLDENS ARE GREAT FIGHTERS.



EVERY 50 STEPS UPSTREAM OFFERS NEW CONDITIONS AND CHALLENGES



**WORK THE UNDERCUT BANKS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE STREAM
AND BE READY FOR HARD HITS.**

SECTION III: MONACHE MEADOWS

STRETCH OF THE SOUTH FORK OF THE KERN RIVER



**THE CALIFORNIA GOLDEN TROUT
HERITAGE WATER: THE SOUTH FORK
OF THE KERN RIVER AT MONACHE MEADOWS**



DIRECTIONS

1. FROM KERNVILLE TAKE THE SHERMAN PASS ROAD EAST TO THE BLACK ROCK RANGER STATION.

--FROM 395 TAKE THE NINE MILE ROAD TURNOFF TO KENNEDY MEADOWS AND TRAVEL WEST FOR ANOTHER 15 MILES TO THE BLACK ROCK RANGER STATION.

2. GO NORTH ON BLACK ROCK ROAD FOR 7-8 MILES TO THE MONACHE MEADOWS FOUR WHEEL DRIVE ROAD. FOLLOW THAT ROAD TO WHERE IT ENDS AT THE SOUTH FORK OF THE KERN RIVER.

--ONLY FOUR WHEEL DRIVE WITH PLENTY OF CLEARANCE ON THIS ROAD.

**THIS GOLDEN TROUT FISHERY WAS
COMPROMISED BY A SELFISH ANGLER WHO
INTRODUCED BROWN TROUT.**



STAYING AWAY FROM THE EDGE TO AVOID SCARING RISING GOLDEN TROUT FEEDING ON THE HATCH



WHY THE FENCE? DON'T CATTLE GET THIRSTY?



CATTLE DESTROY THE BANKS AND THUS THE FISHERY.



THE CANYON STRETCH OF THE SOUTH FORK OF THE KERN RIVER



MANY 5LB-PLUS GERMAN BROWNS: WHO AGGRESSIVELY FEED ON SMALLER GOLDEN TROUT



HIT THAT GARCIA MINI-HOT STIMULATOR



HERITAGE TROUT #4:

**THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL RAINBOW/CALIFORNIA
STEELHEAD TROUT HERITAGE WATER:--THE TRINITY RIVER**



DIRECTIONS

- 1. 110 NORTH TO THE 105**
- 2. 105 NORTH UNTIL YOU COME TO THE I-5 TURNOFF BELOW THE GRAPEVINE.**
- 3. FOLLOW I-5 NORTH PAST SACRAMENTO TO REDDING.**
- 4. MERGE ONTO CA-44W VIA EXIT 678 TOWARDS EUREKA.**
- 5. TURN RIGHT ONTO PINE ST/CA-273 NORTH.**
- 6. EUREKA WAY BECOMES CA-299.**
- 7. FOLLOW THIS OVER THE RIDGE INTO WEAVERVILLE (ABOUT 45 MINUTES-ONE HOUR PAST REDDING).**
- 8. THIS RIVER IS BEST FISHED FROM A DRIFT BOAT WITH AN EXPERIENCED GUIDE.**

THE TRINITY RIVER COASTAL RAINBOW/STEELHEAD TROUT



STEELHEAD CAUGHT ON THE LOWER TRINITY



HERITAGE TROUT #5: THE GOOSE LAKE REDBAND RAINBOW
HERITAGE WATER: LASSEN CREEK (A TRIBUTARY TO GOOSE LAKE)
LOCATION: THE WARNER RANGE MOUNTAINS



GOOSE LAKE



DIRECTIONS

1. I-5 NORTH TOWARDS REDDING.
2. TAKE THE CA-299/LAKE BLVD EXIT
3. MERGE ONTO THE CA-299 E TOWARDS BURNEY/ALTURAS.
4. FOLLOW THIS ROUTE ALL THE WAY TO THE TOWN OF ALTURAS.
5. TAKE 395 NORTH TOWARDS GOOSE LAKE TO CO ROAD 133C (DRIVE PAST CO ROADS 133 AND 133 B).
6. MAKE A RIGHT TURN ON TO CO RD 133C AND FOLLOW IT TO THE LASSEN CREEK CAMPGROUND. PARK YOUR CAR IN THE UPPER END OF THIS CAMPGROUND, AND START WALKING UP LASSEN CREEK. THERE ARE GOOSE LAKE REDBANDS IN EVERY DEEP POOL. FISH YOUR WAY UPSTREAM FOR AROUND TWO MILES, AND YOU WILL HAVE REGULAR STRIKES.

KNOW YOUR A. B. C.'S



LASSEN CREEK PANORAMA

CLICK'S CREEK CANYON AND LASSEN CREEK CANYON ARE THE MOST ENCHANTING AND BEAUTIFULLY FORRESTED ALPINE MEADOWS IN CALIFORNIA.



AFTER CATHING AND RELEASING A FEW TROUT, YOU
MOVE 50'-75' UPSTREAM FOR A NEW CHALLENGE AND
INCREDIBLE SIGHT.



“SEEP”



THE SURROUNDING ALPINE MEADOW IS LACED WITH “SEEPS” THAT FLOW TO THE LASSEN CREEK. THE GROUND IS SOGGY.



TYPICAL GOOSE LAKE REDBAND



HERITAGE TROUT #6:
MCCLOUD RIVER REDBAND RAINBOW
CAUGHT ON TROUT CREEK AT THE BASE OF MOUNT SHASTA



DIRECTIONS

- 1. STAY OVERNIGHT IN THE TOWN OF MCCLOUD OR DUNSMUIR.**
- 2. GO EAST ON HIGHWAY 89 FOR ABOUT 17 MILES TO FR13.**
- 3. MAKE A LEFT TURN ON FR13 AND FOLLOW IT FOR 600-800 YARDS TO TROUT CREEK AND TROUT CREEK CAMPGROUND.**
--WALK ABOUT 50 FEET TO TROUT CREEK AND FISH UP AND DOWN STREAM FOR A FEW HOURS.

ALTHOUGH CUTTING MT. SHASTA'S MAJESTIC SEQUIAS IS ILLEGAL, WE SAW LOGGING TRUCKS LOADED WITH SEQUOIAS COMING DOWN THIS ROAD FROM THE FORREST AND HEADING DOWN THE HIGHWAY. ENFORCEMENT PERSONNAL WERE NOT AROUND.





THIS 250' STRETCH OF TROUT CREEK WAS THE ONLY PART THAT PROVIDED OPEN ACCESS TO FLYFISHING. THE REST WAS BLOCKED BY DENSE RIPARIAN GROWTH THAT COVERED THE STREAM.



THAT OPEN STRETCH WAS/IS LOADED WITH THE SHASTA REDBAND RAINBOW. MOST OF OUR CASTS RESULTED IN AGGRESSIVE STRIKES AND HOOKUPS. A QUICK TURN OF A BARBLESS HOOK FREES THE QUARY.



THIS BRIDGE SPANS A SMALL BREAK IN THE RIPARIAN COVER. THERE IS NOT ENOUGH SPACE TO CAST A LINE, BUT DAPPING A LENGTH OF TAPERED LEADER PLACES THE FLY IN FRONT OF THE BRANCHES. RED BANDS AGGRESSIVELY STRIKE YOUR FLY.



I CAUGHT MY SIXTH HERITAGE TROUT ON THIS STRETCH.



I CAUGHT HERITAGE TROUT #6 ON MY FIRST CAST. A QUICK PHOTO WAS FOLLOWED BY A QUICK TURN OF THE BARBLESS HOOK TO RELEASE THE TROUT. COMPLETING THE CHALLENGE IN A PICTURESQUE ALPINE MEADOW AT THE BASE OF MT. SHASTA IS THE PERFECT ENDING. TO MY HERITAGE TROUT CHALLENGE.

