

*Fly Fishers of Davis*<http://www.FlyFishersofDavis.org>

Volume 52 Issue 8

**The Fisherman's Line**

**August Meeting, Tuesday August 29, 2023**  
**7:30 pm @ Stonegate Country Club**  
**Dan LeCount presents:**  
**Seasons of the Truckee**

**T**his month, Tuesday August 29, 2023, the Fly Fishers of Davis will hear from Dan LeCount who will discuss Seasons of the Truckee. The presentation will cover a breakdown of the Truckee river basin, focused on the annual seasons, and hatches.

Dan LeCount is a fly fishing guide specializing in the Truckee and Yuba areas. Born with a passion for the natural world, he grew up on the California coast, spending his youth exploring the hills and streams near Half Moon Bay in the small town of LaHonda. He started fly fishing around 11 on an annual pilgrimage to the eastern Sierras with his father and brothers and hasn't stopped fly fishing since.



He's a contract fly designer with Umpqua Feather Merchants, a rod builder, published author, photographer, and artist. He has worked in the fly fishing industry over 20 years and has been active in many of the local watershed conservation programs, formerly sitting on the board of the local Trout Unlimited chapter for over a decade. He is a 4th generation fly fisher and he comes from a long line of teachers.



## THE PREZ SEZ

Howdy Y'all,

I know, I know...long time no see. I've missed a couple of meetings this summer. I retired the year of Covid and all my planned fishing trips were canceled, so I'm making up for lost time. I've recently had some chances to fish with a few new members and other longtime members that I hadn't fished with previously. It was a blast. It's great to fish with new people. I would encourage everyone to go on an outing or invite someone you meet at a meeting to go fishing. This is how to get the most out of the club. If see me at the meeting, come talk to me we'll see if we can make a trip happen.

PS This year the Yubafest will be Sat September 30th. We will have advertisements for it in September but you might want to calendar it now. There is the option to camp there as well.

August is hopper season—very under-fished IMHO. If you ever see a big Yuba rainbow eat a hopper, two things get hooked.

See you on the water!

Andan Bailey



## MEETING SCHEDULE

The meeting schedule has been tentatively set for the next few months. Peter Hawes is the program chair - let him know if you like the program speakers or if you have ideas for one at [programs@flyfishersofdavis.org](mailto:programs@flyfishersofdavis.org)

<b>Fly Fishers of Davis 2023 Meeting Schedule</b>			
<b>MONTH</b>	<b>SPEAKER</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
August	Dan LeCount	August 29	Seasons of the Truckee

## IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



### IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DETAILS

**Website Members:** If you signed up for membership on the new FFD website, you will get an email in the late December/early January timeframe with your renewal details. No need to go to the website before that, so please wait for your renewal information email.

**Website Non-members:** If you're an FFD member, but you did not sign up on the website and you wish to renew your Membership, please stop by the membership table at our next in-person general meeting, and pay your dues with check, cash, or credit card for 2022. You can also send a renewal check to Fly Fishers of Davis, P.O. box 525, Davis, CA, 95617.

**Note:** our preferred method is for website non-members to become website members, by signing up on the website!

Dues for adults and families are still \$30/year, and the student rate is \$15/year. Your dues help to fund almost all club activities — including our superb array of guest speakers, outings, the annual picnic, fly casting and fly tying clinics, our amazing FFD 101 classes, Salmon in the Classroom, and best of all, our contributions to numerous outreach, education And conservation organizations.

Thank you for your generosity and continuing support!



Fly Fishers of Davis is now on Facebook! Like Us and Follow Us to get the Latest updates on Club Events and other News.

[Facebook.com/FlyFishersOfDavis](https://www.facebook.com/FlyFishersOfDavis)



## FFD Website News

*By Bob Beverlin and Paul Berliner*

### New Classifieds Section



We've added a new **Classifieds** section to the website, under the “**Members**” menu, but you have to log in with your password to see the new menu item.

**For the Seller:** If you have a fly-fishing related item that you'd like to sell, please email the Webmaster ([webmaster@flyfishersofdavis.org](mailto:webmaster@flyfishersofdavis.org)) and include the following information:

Item name and price

1 (one) picture of the item

Short description of the item (100 words, tops)

Your name and phone number

We'll post your ad, but we will only post your first name and last initial. For security, we will not post email addresses or phone numbers. If you have more pictures of the item, you can share them with potential buyers when they contact you. It's up to you to let the Webmaster know immediately when an item sells, so that we can remove the ad. Remember, fly-fishing related items only.

**For the Buyer:** If you see an item that you wish to purchase or inquire about, and you know the seller, please contact them directly. Otherwise, if you don't recognize the seller, email the Webmaster and we'll fill you in.

Many thanks!

# CONSERVATION REPORT

*By Lowell Ashbaugh*

**Conservation Mailing List** Want to keep up on conservation issues in between newsletters? Join the FFD Conservation Google Group list. Click [here](#) for instructions on how to join, and search for “FFD-Conservation”. Or send an email to [Ashbaugh.lowell@gmail.com](mailto:Ashbaugh.lowell@gmail.com) with your request.

**Note:** If you’d like to try your hand at writing a conservation column, please let me know. I’d like to find someone to start taking over this role. I’ll help get you started.

**As I mentioned last month,** I was able to get permission to reprint a commentary on the Delta Tunnels that was published at [CalMatters](#). The authors are **Oscar Villegas**, chair of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors and chair of the Delta Counties Coalition, and **Patrick Kennedy**, a member of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and Delta Counties Coalition.

**The California Department of Water Resources** is [using the winter storms](#) to claim that the proposed [Delta Conveyance project](#) would help ensure a more reliable water supply for the State Water Project in light of how climate change will alter seasonal patterns of rain and drought.

In reality, the benefits of the [conveyance project](#) are speculative.

The Delta Counties Coalition demonstrated for over 15 years that resources slated for the tunnel would be better spent on sustainable, resilient water infrastructure around the state (such as groundwater recharge, storage, recycled water expansion, desalination) instead of further increasing reliance on Sacramento River freshwater flows, which is in direct conflict with a [Delta Reform Act](#) requirement to reduce reliance on the Delta.

DWR proposes that water districts reliant on the Delta for a portion of their water supplies invest more than \$16 billion to sporadically convey water from large storms. Tunnel proponents claim that when California experiences large precipitation events, [the tunnel could capture and move much of that water to other areas](#).

This is only true if we ignore the assumptions being made.

First, there is an assumption that large rainstorms would occur frequently enough to make the construction and maintenance costs of the tunnel worthwhile. This assumption has not been supported by any cost-benefit analysis, or the [unpredictable weather patterns](#) over the last 10 years. While the tunnel could help convey water during certain scenarios, this does not mean it can capture significant amounts of water as purported, or be a sustainable and reliable water source.

Over the past two decades, the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys experienced very few to no large precipitation events several times. In 2016, for example, Sacramento River flows were 32% lower than average. In 2018, it was 20% below average and 66% below in 2020. The drastic precipitation swings demonstrate that the Sacramento River cannot be a reliable source of water, undermining the notion that the tunnel project would somehow increase overall water supply reliability.

Additionally, the tunnel’s operational criteria assumes that storage space would be available. However, as the Public Policy Institute of California recently noted in a [policy brief](#), in 2011, 2017 and 2019, “the San Joaquin River was flooding, protections for salmon and steelhead were suspended, and the two water projects – Central Valley Project and State Water Project – could pump without restrictions. But the major reservoir south of the Delta – San Luis – was full, and there was simply no place to put the additional water.”

Therefore, not only would tunnel operations be virtually useless during long-term

droughts, but it could have limited usefulness during wetter periods, too.

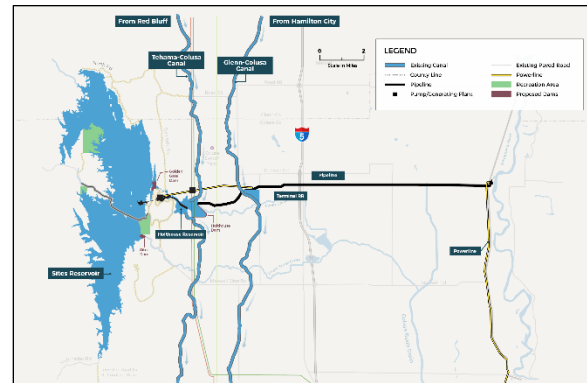
Another unfounded assumption is that the tunnel would operate exactly as assumed in the draft environmental impact report. However, the proposed operational criteria, which also would allow diversions in low flow periods, have not been given a final approval. The initial feedback from wildlife agencies, for instance, suggests that the potential impacts to anadromous fish would require modifications to the final plan. This means DWR's examples of how much water could be captured or conveyed during any specific period can't be relied upon yet. Ultimately, there are far better approaches to meet the state's water supply needs. The state should be promoting and funding projects to reduce demand, restore groundwater levels, expand water recycling and increase stormwater capture. These types of projects provide both increased water supply reliability and sustainability while avoiding the pitfalls of the Delta tunnel.

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**The Sites Reservoir** is proposed to be built in a valley about 10 miles west of Maxwell in the Sacramento Valley. It would be an offstream reservoir that would be filled by pumping water from the Sacramento River, ostensibly during times of high flow. The water would be returned to the Sacramento River when needed for irrigation. The proposed reservoir's conveyance facilities would include the use of existing Tehama Colusa Canal and Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Canal diversion and conveyance facilities, plus a proposed new diversion and discharge pipeline. Sources of water would be Funks Creek and Stone Coral Creek, which would be impounded by the proposed reservoir, and the Sacramento River. Operation of the proposed reservoir would be in cooperation with the operations of

existing Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) system facilities.



The proponents of the project argue that it would be operated to accommodate climate change and improve water supply system resilience. They further argue that it would significantly improve the state's water management system in drier periods and would give water resource managers more flexibility to meet customer demands and environmental needs. They contend the project would provide:

- Reliable dry-year water supply for California communities, farms and businesses
- Improved water quality
- Groundwater recharge
- Flood management
- Contribution to California's renewable energy goals
- Environmental water in drier periods for native fish and Pacific Flyway habitat for migratory birds and other native species
- Recreational opportunities
- Creation and protection of middle class jobs, including a large skilled work force during seven-year construction

The State Water Resources Control Board recently approved the application for the project, and also extended the protest period to August 31. Friends of the River is organizing a protest of the project. Dan Bacher has an excellent commentary on it at [Daily Kos](#). Friends of the River (FOR) also has an excellent commentary at <https://www.friendsoftheriver.org>. I'll excerpt parts of these comments here, but you should go to both sites to read them yourself.

There are a number of problems with the Sites project that the proponents gloss over.

Friends of the River noted that the Sites Project Authority wants to build two massive dams and nine other dams, combined to flood the Antelope Valley in the Northern Sacramento Valley and “forever alter a picturesque landscape and habitat.”

“More than 78 miles of the Sacramento River would see reduced or altered water flows. Millions of Californians would see their communities forever altered and livelihoods jeopardized,” the group stated. According to FOR, in some months, Sites could reduce flows in the Delta by 11%; Trinity River by up to 17%; Feather River by up to 18%; American River by up to 16%; Sutter Bypass by up to 21%; and Yolo Bypass by up to 36%.

If constructed, according to the Sites Project Authority preferred model, Sites Reservoir would only expand overall water availability in California by less than 1% — just 0.657% on average — and during long drought spells, it would sit useless. Yet the harm caused to waterways throughout California would be permanent and irreversible.

The reality is California has over-allocated water from the Sacramento River by 151%—*that means that there are more rights to divert water out of the river than the river can provide in an average water year*. Sites would allow its investors to divert and sell even more of the over-allocated water, further diminishing Spring flows in the Sacramento River and the Delta. The reservoir itself would drown thousands of acres of grassland, oak woodland, and riparian habitat, further imperiling threatened and endangered species throughout the Sacramento River watershed. Sites would not be operated in the public interest, but instead would be operated to benefit wealthy agricultural water users. Water should be considered under the reasonable use doctrine and public trust doctrine, but Sites would treat it as a commodity to benefit those who have financial resources without regard to the public.

Sites would be a strong incentive to complete the Delta Tunnel, and vice versa. Past experience has shown that water projects are not operated to benefit the environment. The Trinity River was promised at least 50% of the flow from Trinity Dam, but received only 10% until recently. Despite legal requirements to maintain Delta flows to limit salinity, the flow requirements are routinely lowered to benefit major agricultural water users.

We don’t need to destroy the environment to increase water availability. Many viable alternatives exist – if we fund and prioritize them –and they’re often cheaper and more reliable, while also being more sustainable.

While prolonged periods of drought and infrequent but severe episodes of precipitation will, without a doubt, impact California’s water security, FOR rejects the notion that there is one golden-ticket solution to securing our water future. FOR endorses a portfolio of viable alternatives to Sites Reservoir and other proposed large-scale damming projects:

1. **Agricultural land use diversification** – California’s agricultural industry represents 2% of California’s economy yet 80% of its water use. We celebrate the contributions of California farmers, but California has not sufficiently disincentivized the growing of water-intensive crops such as alfalfa, almonds, and pistachios, primarily for foreign exports. Reservoir projects like Sites are expected to primarily provide more water to large-scale farms so they can continue growing these wasteful crops.
2. **Improving agricultural water management and efficiency** – Many of California’s extremely water-strained farmlands still do not implement the latest methods of water conservation. More efficient modes of irrigation like drip and micro irrigation have the potential to save 5.6 to 6.6 million acre-feet of water annually in the state.
3. **Urban water recycling and conservation** – Approximately 400

billion gallons of treated water are discarded into the ocean or California estuaries annually (1.2 million acre-feet/year). Potable and onsite water reuse are significantly under tapped sources for water supply in California. Additionally, researchers have estimated that, with investments in water efficiency, California could decrease urban water use by 30%–48%.

We can achieve water security for California with a water distribution system that prioritizes the ecological health of the Bay-

Delta Watershed, and the human right to water.

We can prioritize food security and equitable allocation of agricultural water along with urban conservation and utilization of local supplies. We must transition away from large storage and conveyance projects, and toward conservation, efficiency, and ecological restoration.

Here's the notice inviting individuals and organizations to file protests:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/applications/notices/docs/a025517x01.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/notices/docs/a025517x01.pdf)





## **FFD OUTINGS: Umpqua River Oregon** **Small Mouth Bass Slam!**

*Photos by Paul Berliner and Bob Beverlin, and Summary by Gene Gantt*

Another great FFD trip to the Umpqua River in Oregon for the crazy small mouth bass fish. A total of 9 members went on the trip with two new anglers this year. Six of us fished Monday and Tuesday with our fabulous guides from the Wolfe Pack Guide Service. The second group to fish did so Thursday and Friday with the same great results. Great accommodations for all were at the Elkton RV Park. Wonderful food and fellowship every evening. Even though everyone caught LOTS of smallies there were plenty left in the river for our trip next year.

Anglers: Gene Gantt, Carl Lusted, Tom Burton, Bob Beverlin , Jim Lawson, Sean Berry, Andan Bailey, Ron Rabun, Paul Berliner.



Wolfe Pack Towing Service



Big one on the line for Sean, with guide Kam



Down the chute



Gene Gantt pulls one in



Ospreys get lunch too



Paul Berliner got another



Sunset music from Sean Berry



The prettiest Bluegills



The Smallies ain't so small



Tom Burton lands a beauty



Tom, guide Scott, in the drift boat, Gene, Sean guide Kai



Umpqua Sunset



Bob Beverlin showing off his average size bass



Umpqua View from our window



New state record caught on a gurgler with size 2 hook using trusty 7wt



Adnan Bailey showing off his average size bass

# Northern California Council, Fly Fishers International News

*By Mark Rockwell, President, August 2023*



## Join Us for a Celebration of Fly Fishing and Protecting our Rivers - Yuba Fest 2023!

**On Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>** we will hold the fly fishing event of the year in Northern California! We're calling it the **Gathering of the Clan** - bringing like-minded people together for Yuba Fest. If you fly fish, love rivers, recreate on the water, or have an interest in conservation - **This event is for you!**



Saturday will offer a full day of fly fishing learning, casting with certified casters, fly tying with experts, and the opportunity to learn what is happening in Conservation from numerous organizations. A great lunch will be available for purchase during the day, along with drinks (more details on food service coming soon), and you'll enjoy live music in the afternoon. In addition, there will be a raffle, silent auction for fly boxes and other great items & a live auction for selected high value items. Be sure to stick around for the Social Event from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM.



There is a lot to do in and around the Grass Valley/Nevada City/Yuba City area and it is a great place to spend a delightful full weekend. For more information about Yuba Fest (and things to do in the area), go to the NCCFFI Website at <https://www.nccffi.org> to get all the information you will need and register to join us for this great celebration at Sycamore Ranch County Park on the Lower Yuba River.

More details to follow soon. We look forward to seeing you there!

Nor Calif. Council, Fly Fishers Int'l (NCCFFI) Traditions

Gold Country Fly Fishers

Fly Fishing





Welcome to Sycamore Ranch Park – Yuba Fest 2023



Areas where Yuba Fest will be held

Also, consider joining in the fun, camping on Friday & Saturday at Sycamore Ranch Campground, with a planned social event in the campground on Saturday night from 7 PM on for storytelling & just visiting! Be sure to make your reservations at the Sycamore Valley Campground in advance!





# OUTINGS & EVENTS FFD

## 2023-2024

### Proposed FFD Outings & Events

<u>Trip 2023</u>	<u>Fish</u>		<u>Dates</u>	<u>Fishmeister</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Manzanita Lake Trip	Trout		August	Dana Hooper	<a href="mailto:trouthookup1@gmail.com">trouthookup1@gmail.com</a>	Floatation Device / Camping
Lake Davis	Trout	Boat	TBD	Need Fishmeister		Camping
Lewiston Lake	Trout		TBD	Need Fishmeister		Camping
Lower Sac Float (Fall)	Trout	Guide	TBD	Dana Hooper	<a href="mailto:trouthookup1@gmail.com">trouthookup1@gmail.com</a>	Fee + Tip
Delta Striper Fest 2023	Stripers	Boat	TBD	Dana Hooper	<a href="mailto:trouthookup1@gmail.com">trouthookup1@gmail.com</a>	Boater pair with non boater
Luke Lake	Mult. Sp.	Boat	December	Dana Hooper	<a href="mailto:trouthookup1@gmail.com">trouthookup1@gmail.com</a>	Fee
<u>Trip 2024</u>	<u>Fish</u>		<u>Dates</u>	<u>Fishmeister</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Pyramid Lake	Trout		TBD	Dana Hooper	<a href="mailto:trouthookup1@gmail.com">trouthookup1@gmail.com</a>	Lodge/Hotel
Lower Yuba Walk Wade	Trout		TBD Feb	Dana Hooper	<a href="mailto:trouthookup1@gmail.com">trouthookup1@gmail.com</a>	Day trip
Baum Lake	Trout		TBD March	Dana Hooper	<a href="mailto:trouthookup1@gmail.com">trouthookup1@gmail.com</a>	
FFD Casting Clinic			TBD	Bob Zasoski	<a href="mailto:rzasoski@sbcglobal.net">rzasoski@sbcglobal.net</a>	
Hat Creek 101	Trout		May TBD	Dana Hooper	<a href="mailto:trouthookup1@gmail.com">trouthookup1@gmail.com</a>	Camping
Lake Berryessa	Mult. Sp.	Boat	May TBD	Peter Hawes	<a href="mailto:hawsheatair@gmail.com">hawsheatair@gmail.com</a>	Boater pair with non boater
Putah Creek	Trout		April/May	Son Chong	<a href="mailto:vsonkilchong@gmail.com">vsonkilchong@gmail.com</a>	Day trip
Lake Berryessa	Mult. Sp.	Boat	May	Peter Hawes	<a href="mailto:hawsheatair@gmail.com">hawsheatair@gmail.com</a>	Boater pair with non boater
Delta Bass N Fly Tourn	Black Bass	Boat	TBD	Dana Hooper	<a href="mailto:trouthookup1@gmail.com">trouthookup1@gmail.com</a>	Boater pair with non boater
Lower Sac Float (Spring)	Trout	Guide	TBD	Dana Hooper	<a href="mailto:trouthookup1@gmail.com">trouthookup1@gmail.com</a>	Fee + Tip
Shad Sac or Feather River	Shad	Boat	May	Peter Hawes	<a href="mailto:hawsheatair@gmail.com">hawsheatair@gmail.com</a>	Boater pair with non boater
<b>FFD Annual Picnic</b>			June			
Fuller Lake	Trout		TBD	Shawn DeArmond	<a href="mailto:dearmond@gmail.com">dearmond@gmail.com</a>	Floatation Device, Day trip
McCloud River	Trout		TBD	Peter Hawes	<a href="mailto:hawsheatair@gmail.com">hawsheatair@gmail.com</a>	Camping
Umpqua River	Smallmouth	Guide	TBD	Gene Gantt	<a href="mailto:fishinggantt@comcast.net">fishinggantt@comcast.net</a>	Fee + Tip

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Newsletter	Tom Robinson
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Youth FishCamp	Tom Robinson
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**The Fly Fishers of Davis**

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The Fly Fishers of Davis (FFD) is a non-Profit 501.C.4 charitable organization dedicated to the education, participation, conservation and enhancement of fly fishing. FFD meets monthly. Our regular monthly meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month except for December, and other exceptions are noted in our newsletter. December meetings are held the second Tuesday to accommodate holiday schedules.

FFD is an affiliate club of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF), an international nonprofit organization, and its Northern California Council (NCCFFF) affiliate. FFD meetings and membership are opened to the public. The Fly Fishers of Davis provide equal opportunity membership without discrimination on sex, race, origin, age or religious orientation.

**E-Newsletter Policy**

Each month, the e-newsletter will be posted to our website and emailed about one week before the meeting.

You may need to download Acrobat reader at:

<https://get.adobe.com/reader/> to view our PDF newsletter.

Members are urged to maintain their current email address and other important personal data by logging in, and visiting:

<https://flyfishersofdavis.org/account/>. This ensures accurate communication and notification of our monthly newsletter, which is also downloadable at:

<https://flyfishersofdavis.org/media/newsletters/>.

**Fly Fishers of Davis**  
**PO Box 525**  
**Davis, CA 95617-0525**

## How to become a member of the Fly Fishers of Davis

FFD collects annual dues for adults (\$30), students (\$15) and families (\$30). Family membership may include a spouse and children living with named member up to maximum age of 25. All family members will share one membership and username. Please be sure to provide a valid email address. For insurance reasons, you must be a current club member or registered family member to attend any of our fishing outings.

- **[Membership Benefits:](https://flyfishersofdavis.org/about/membership-benefits/)** For more information about the many benefits of FFD membership, please go to <https://flyfishersofdavis.org/about/membership-benefits/>
- **[New Members ONLY:](https://flyfishersofdavis.org/memberships/)** To join FFD, please go to <https://flyfishersofdavis.org/memberships/>
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