

KAWEAH FLYFISHERS ANNUAL BIG MEADOW PICNIC

Saturday July 14, 2012
Time: 10:00am until we leave



Anybody that wants to carpool can meet 8am at McDonald's parking lot 1401 E Noble Ave, Visalia

For directions to Big Meadow, Follow the generals highway once inside the park from the Kings Canyon Park entrance and the turn off is after the Quail Flats road to Hume Lake and before the turn off to the Monticello Resort. It is about 7 miles to the meadow after the turnoff from the generals highway. Maps are available at either park entrance. If you come through Sequoia Park (the longer way) just reverse the above directions. We will be visible from the parking lot. Overnight camping can be found in the campground beyond the parking lot.

Lunch will be at approximately 12:30
The club will provide the bread, meat, cheese, all the fixens, chips, salad, dessert and drinks.

Activities planned for this year's picnic will hopefully be as entertaining as last year's. There will be the *scavenger fly tying contest* and you will have to catch and release a fish prior to the fly before the judging.

Also there is plenty of opportunity for fishing in the Meadow and the streams in the area. So for this year's picnic, bring your fly fishing equipment and have fun.

During this time of the year the creek and meadow water flows will be low and the meadow may be a little swampy, bring your waders just in case.

So come join the fun!!!!

Contact Fred Naylor at fnaylo1@gmail.com
or 559-730 5504
RSVP or further information

Scavenger hunt fly tying



The Yellow Legged Frog

Rick Hartley

The article is not about fish or fishing, but frogs, the Yellow Legged Frogs. Frogs are fishes companions in the lakes, rivers, streams and creeks and are not only a possible food source but are early indicators of the waters health and well-being. This article is about what happened to these amphibians when trout were introduced into the frog's habitat that was not meant to be there.

The mountain yellow-legged frog was once the most abundant amphibian in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, especially the Sequoia and Kings Canyon Parks and Mountain Ranges of Southern California. Only a few decades ago, it was difficult to walk around many of California's higher elevation lakes without seeing lots of frogs and walking carefully so you didn't step on one. Today however, these hardy survivors of freezing, high-elevation winters are vulnerable to a host of man made threats, which have driven the frogs to near extinction in more than 93 percent of their old mountain homes. The mountain yellow-legged frog is a complex of two species (*Rana muscosa*, *Rana sierrae*) that has existed in the mountains of California and adjacent Nevada for millions of years, moving up and down in elevation as glaciers repeatedly advanced and retreated. Over these thousands of centuries, the mountain yellow-legged frog has developed numerous adaptations that allow it to thrive in even seemingly inhospitable alpine lakes, habitats too cold for any other amphibian. Ironically, the same adaptations that served the mountain yellow-legged frog so well for millions of years have also made it extraordinarily vulnerable to the nonnative trout that were stocked into many of these habitats during the past century



There are two different populations that have been declared separate subspecies: a northern and central Sierra Nevada population and a southern Sierra Nevada/ Southern California population. *Both are adapted to high-elevation habitats that are without natural aquatic predators.* So it's not surprising that the main reason for the frog's decline is the California Department of Fish and Game's introduction of nonnative trout to alpine lakes. These stocked fish prey upon tadpoles and juvenile frogs, and if the stocked fish are not removed scientists predict that the yellow-legged frog could be extinct within this century. The yellow-legged frogs have disappeared from the majority of their known historical locations, and most of the largest remaining populations have recently fallen to near-collapse.

Several conservation groups have filed a petition to add the Sierra Nevada population to the endangered species list in 2000, but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service instead placed this frog on the candidate list, a regulatory limbo that offers no substantive protections. A recent settlement agreement with several conservation these groups, requires the Service in 2013 to make a decision about whether to add the Sierra frog to the federal endangered list. Southern California mountain yellow-legged frogs have been protected under the Endangered Species Act for about a decade, *but the Service has yet to develop a recovery plan to guide their management.*

On February 2, 2012, the California Fish and Game Commission voted 5-0 to add both species of the mountain yellow-legged frog to the list of animals protected under the California Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be releasing its proposed rule related to listing under the U.S. Endangered Species Act in October 2012.

Yellow Legged Frog Facts

Reproduction in mountain yellow-legged frogs begins soon after lakes, ponds, and streams become ice-free, ranging from April at low elevations to June or July at high elevations. Females lay 40-300 eggs in a compact cluster that resembles a small bunch of grapes. Eggs are similar to those of other frogs, with the embryo being encased in a thick protective jelly coat. Individual eggs, including the embryo and jelly coat, are 3/8"-1/2" (10-13 mm) in diameter and the entire egg mass is often the size of a tennis ball. Eggs are often attached to submerged vegetation, undercut banks, or near-shore rocks. Lake-dwelling frogs often lay their eggs in small streams entering or leaving the lake. Eggs are often preyed on by invertebrates and mountain yellow-legged frog tadpoles. After 2-3 weeks when the embryos are approximately 1/4" (6 mm) long and are sufficiently developed to swim, they wriggle their way out of the egg mass and start life as a tadpole.



Mountain yellow-legged frog tadpoles are among the largest of any frog in North America, reaching sizes of more than 3". The frog's coloration varies from drab olive to dark chocolate brown, and the belly is black with gold flecks. One of the most unique aspects of the mountain yellow-legged frog is that tadpoles usually winter-over 2-3 times before transforming, or metamorphosing, into young frogs. Most frogs and toads complete the transformation from egg to froglet or toadlet in a single summer. However, habitats occupied by mountain yellow-legged frogs are typically at high elevations where water temperatures are cold. As a consequence, tadpoles grow very slowly and are not ready to metamorphose into young frogs by the end of their first summer. Instead, the tadpoles spend at least one winter beneath the ice and generally don't metamorphose until their third or fourth year when they are 2.5-3.7" in length.

Throughout the summer, tadpoles of all ages congregate in the warm shallows near shore where they feed on algae. In the months prior to metamorphosis, the tadpoles begin to grow legs and, during their final weeks as tadpoles, they reabsorb their tails, replace their gills with lungs, and finally hop onto land.



Following metamorphosis from the tadpole stage, frogs remain as juveniles for up to four years before reaching adulthood and maturity. Adult mountain yellow-legged frogs typically range in size from 2-3" and color patterns are highly variable. The top, of the body surfaces have a light- to medium-brown background color that is heavily flecked with tan and dark-brown spots. This color pattern provides excellent camouflage against a wide variety of backgrounds, the undersides of both species range in color from cream to brilliant yellow. Males can be distinguished from females by the large pads on the "thumbs" of front legs of males; males also tend to be smaller than females.

Juvenile and adult mountain yellow-legged frogs are rarely found more than a few hops from water. On warm days, they bask at the water's edge, often together in dense clumps that allow frogs to maximize heat intake while minimizing water loss. By selecting particular basking sites, frogs are able to raise their body temperatures well above the ambient air temperature to keep warm. Frogs feed opportunistically on aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates and occasionally on other amphibians.

With the arrival of cooler temperatures in the fall, frogs retreat into deep-water habitats where they spend the entire winter. Mountain yellow-legged frogs are long-lived with adults likely reaching ages of 15-20 years.

During the warmer spring and summer months the mountain yellow-legged frogs often move hundreds of feet between breeding, feeding, and overwintering habitats. When moving between these habitats, frogs often follow lake shores and streams, but will also move short distances across dry land. Over their lifetimes, individual frogs typically show high fidelity to particular lakes or ponds and moving away from their home water areas is characteristic only of juveniles.

The range of the mountain yellow-legged frog is restricted to mountain regions of California and adjacent Nevada. Throughout this range, mountain yellow-legged frogs historically were found in lakes, ponds, marshes, meadows, and streams at elevations of 4,500-12,000 feet and often existed at remarkably high densities.

The Sierra Nevada frogs were found from the Diamond Mountains in Plumas County, California in the north and south through the Sierra Nevada. On the west side of the Sierra Nevada, the southern limit of its range is the divide between the Middle Fork and South Fork of the Kings River (Monarch Divide, Cirque Crest, Mather Pass) in southern Tulare County. On the east side of the Sierra Nevada, *R. sierrae* was found at least as far south as Independence Creek. *Also*, found east of the Sierra Nevada at only a few localities, including a population on Mt. Rose (Nevada) and in the Glass Mountains south-east of Mono Lake (California). There are also reports that *the Sierra* populations existed in the White Mountains (on the California-Nevada border) and in Fish Lake Valley (Nevada). All known Sierran localities are on the west slope. An isolated population was present on Breckenridge Mountain in Kern County. In the Transverse and Peninsular Ranges, populations were found in the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Mountains, and on Palomar Mountain. In these ranges, *R. muscosa* was found primarily in fast-flowing streams.



CURRENT CONSERVATION EFFORTS

What can be done to reverse the decline of the mountain yellow-legged frog? Given that *both species* are being impacted by at least two factors, the answer to this question is more complicated than believed just a few years ago. However, results from recent research indicate that removal of nonnative trout from key locations remains the most important conservation measure.

Using the results from extensive amphibian and fish surveys and fish removal experiments, biologists in Sequoia-Kings Canyon and Yosemite National Parks, and from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) are developing amphibian restoration plans and implementing fish removal projects (using gill nets and electrofishers) designed to conserve particularly important mountain yellow-legged frog population. These projects have already been remarkably successful, increasing the total frog's population size by tens of thousands. Based on this success, Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park is currently planning more extensive fish eradication efforts. To date, much less conservation attention has been focused on the Transverse Ranges, but the CDFG is removing trout from a short section of stream in southern California in an effort to expand one of the last remaining populations in that area.

In addition to these conservation projects that are targeted at specific mountain yellow-legged frog populations, the CDFG is also beginning to make some important changes to its fish stocking program that are aimed at reducing the impacts of this program to amphibians in general. Under the revised program, stocking would occur only where (1) surveys for amphibians and fish have been completed, (2) stocking serves a valid fishery management purpose (e.g., no stocking of self-sustaining fisheries; and (3) sensitive amphibian species do not occur. These guidelines have led to significant reductions in the number of lakes being stocked, but have been only partially implemented. In 2007, environmental groups sued the CDFG over their fish stocking practices. The judge sided with the plaintiffs and required that the CDFG prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) detailing the impacts of the fish stocking program. The draft EIR is expected in late 2008.

BUT WHAT ABOUT IMPACTS CAUSED BY CHYTRIDIOMYCOSIS?

A commonly-voiced concern is that fish removal efforts may amount to nothing over the long-term if the amphibian chytrid fungus continues to spread through the range of the mountain yellow-legged frog. Given the extraordinary virulence of the fungus is a reasonable concern. The goal of mountain yellow-legged frog conservation must be to manage frog populations such that they are as resilient to natural and human-caused stressors as possible. Removing nonnative trout creates larger frog populations that are better connected with those in adjacent habitats. These restored populations should be considerably more resilient to a wide variety of impacts, including disease.



Current fish removal projects have targeted a small number of lakes within each of several watersheds. These projects have been very successful, but the targeted watersheds remain dominated by fish populations. Given the importance of *the fungus* in the decline of the mountain yellow-legged frog, it is more important than ever to return some entire watersheds to a fishless condition. Doing so will allow the development of frog populations at sites characterized by a wide variety of elevations, water temperatures, and habitat conditions, and some combination of these environmental conditions may well allow the persistence of frog populations despite *B. dendrobatidis* outbreaks.

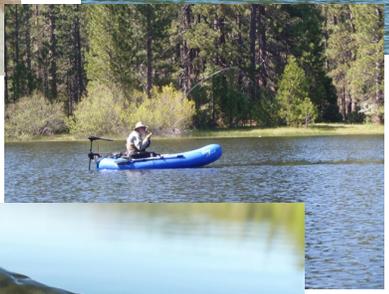
AND THERE IS ALWAYS THE QUESTION OF HOW WILL FROG CONSERVATION EFFORTS AFFECTS THE TROUT FISHERY?

Some anglers are understandably concerned that fish removal efforts aimed at restoring mountain yellow-legged frog populations will unduly impact trout fisheries in the Sierra Nevada. Given the ongoing and planned removal of trout populations, these impacts are undeniable but limited in scope. Even with the most ambitious fish removal program, trout fisheries will continue to exist in the majority of the thousands of lakes, streams, and rivers scattered across the Sierra Nevada. With careful planning, impacts to popular fisheries could be avoided and the quality of some fisheries could even be improved.

There are 560 lakes and ponds within the Parks that contain introduced trout, and removal of these non-native species from up to 15 percent of these sites will be considered and up to 82 lakes and 56 miles of rivers and streams. A preliminary project to eradicate trout from 11 lakes in the two parks since 2001 has allowed the recovery of yellow-legged frogs at these lakes. Now Park Service officials want to broaden the campaign to restore the frogs throughout the Sequoia and Kings Canyon Parks - while leaving the fish in many lakes that are popular with anglers.

Conservation first,
Fish and frogs go together like peanut butter and jelly.

On Saturday, May 19, 2012, fly fishermen/women from the Flyfishers for Conservation-Fresno and the Kaweah Flyfishers got together for what has become an annual Hume Lake fishing outing. Many thanks to Kaweah Flyfishers, Don Lieb and Fresno Conservation for Flyfishers Club, Jack and Sue Leveque for hosting the outing. There was lots of fish caught and released, great food and friends. Here are a few pictures of the event.



Kelsey Bass Pond has been one of the Club's all time favorite places to spend the Memorial Day Holiday. Four days of fishing and eating, what could be better. Each Memorial Day the club gets together at Kelsey Lake and either use float tubes, boats, canoes or just fish from the shore. There is always lots of BIG Bass and even a few Rainbow Trout caught and released to get bigger for the next years outing. Here are a few pictures provided by David of the outing. On an added note, Fred and I flew over Kelsey on our way to a Lance Gray guided float & fish outing on the lower Sacramento River. The sun was up but we didn't see any one fishing. Sleeping in??



Stimulator

Steps tied by Don Lieb

Photos by Chuck Wilcox

Randall Kaufman originated this adult stonefly pattern which has

Materials

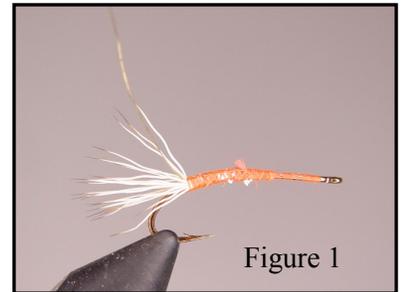
- Hook: Daiichi 1720 3XL or equiv.
- Thread: 6/0 Bright Orange
- Tail; Elk Hair
- Body: Lt. Yellow Polar Bear Dubbing or equiv.
- Rib: Lt Brown or Furnace Hackle & Fine Gold Wire; counter wound.
- Wing: Elk Hair
- Thorax: Bright Orange Polar Bear Dubbing or equiv.
- Hackle: Grizzle dry fly quality
- Head: Bright Orange Tying Thread



Tying Sequence

Figure 1

- A. Wind the thread from the eye to the bend of the hook and back to 1/4 the hook length behind from eye.
- B. At this point tie in and wrap down the tail creating a smooth under body to the beginning of the bend. The tail should extend one hook gap beyond the hook.



Tie in the gold wire.

Figure 2

- A. Dub the yellow body up to 1/4 hook length behind the eye.
- Tie in the brown hackle shiny side forward and let the bobbin hang.



Figure 3

- A. Palmer the hackle to the rear and secure with the wire which is then counter wrapped through the hackle to the bobbin. Secure and trim the remaining wire and hackle.
- B. Tie in the wing to extend to the back of the hook.



Tie in the grizzly hackle with the shiny side forward.

Figure 4

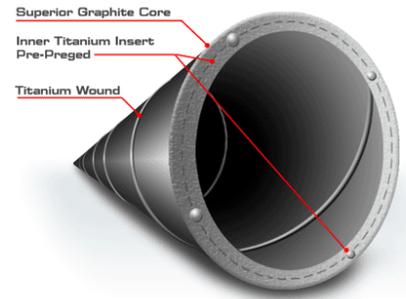
- A. Dub the orange thorax leaving room for the tie off point or head.
- Palmer the hackle forward over the thorax, secure by forming a head of red thread, whip finish, and cement. **(See finished fly at the top)**



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Sequoia Fishing Company

35559 Highway 190
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559-539-5626

Current hours are Thursday-Saturday 9:30am-5pm and Sunday 10:00am-2:00pm

www.sequoiafishingcompany.com

Sequoia Fishing Company opened on May 28, 2011. Their mission and goal is to provide the best selection of Fishing Tackle and Fly Fishing Equipment for fishing in the local Tule River System, Lake Success and the Upper Kern River and Tributaries, at a competitive price. In addition, they want to introduce any people who are interested in learning how to fish and enjoy this great sport!

They sell Fly Fishing supplies, float tubes and pontoon boats by Buck's Bag. Some of the items they sell are Temple Fork Outfitters Fly-Fishing rods in 3, 4, 5, and 6 wts., which include a lifetime warranty. Fly Fishing reels available are TFO, Ross, and Pflugor. Dry fly patterns, wet flies, nymphs and wooly buggers are priced at \$1.39 each, buy 12 flies @ \$1.19 or 24 flies @ .99 cents. They also carry float line, leader and tippet from Scientific Anglers, Climax, and Frog's Hair.

Their business is located at 35559 Hwy 190, Downtown Springville. Their hours are Thurs., Fri., and Sat., 9am to 6 pm and Sunday 10am to 4 pm. On off days call 559-539-5626 and they will come and open the shop for your needs.

Check out our website at www.sequoiafishingcompany.com or email us at flyfishnut@sequoiafishingcompany.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
For other Calendar Dates
 Visit the Clubs web-site at www.kaweahflyfishers.org

| <i>DAY</i> | <i>DATE</i> | <i>EVENT</i> | <i>INFORMATION</i> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| <i>Tues- day</i> | <i>June 19</i> | Fly Tying with Wayne Luallen | 7pm – 9pm, 4520 W Cypress Ave, Visalia. (corner Linwood St) Quail Park Retirement Village. Bring a few bucks to help with the materials. |
| Wed | June 20th | Kaweah Flyfishers Casting Classes | From 6pm – 7pm, Plaza Park pond 's west bank. the Kaweah Fly Fishers' Casting Class held each Wednesday evening from 6:00-7:00pm, March through mid October, at Plaza Park pond 's west bank. For more information or to reserve a spot contact mdcave@sbcglobal.net |
| Wed | June 27th | Kaweah Flyfishers Casting Classes | From 6pm – 7pm, Plaza Park pond 's west bank. the Kaweah Fly Fishers' Casting Class held each Wednesday evening from 6:00-7:00pm, March through mid October, at Plaza Park pond 's west bank. For more information or to reserve a spot contact mdcave@sbcglobal.net |
| <i>Tues- day</i> | <i>July 3rd</i> | <i>Fly Tying with Don Lieb</i> Dragon Bugger & Biot Para Spring Baetis | 7pm – 9pm, 4520 W Cypress Ave, Visalia. (corner Linwood St) Quail Park Retirement Village. Bring a few bucks to help with the materials. |
| Wed | July 4th | Kaweah Flyfishers Casting Classes | From 6pm – 7pm, Plaza Park pond 's west bank. the Kaweah Fly Fishers' Casting Class held each Wednesday evening from 6:00-7:00pm, March through mid October, at Plaza Park pond 's west bank. For more information or to reserve a spot contact mdcave@sbcglobal.net |
| <i>Friday Night</i> | <i>July 6th</i> | Club meeting - | 6:30—7:30pm fly tying with Don Lieb 7:30pm – 9:30pm Meeting at the LifeStyle Center, 5105 Cypress, Visalia . |
| <i>Mon- day</i> | <i>July 9th</i> | <i>Club Board Meeting</i> | 7:00pm – 9:00pm Meeting at the LifeStyle Center, 5105 Cypress, Visalia . |
| Wed | July 11th | Kaweah Flyfishers Casting Classes | From 6pm – 7pm, Plaza Park pond 's west bank. the Kaweah Fly Fishers' Casting Class held each Wednesday evening from 6:00-7:00pm, March through mid October, at Plaza Park pond 's west bank. For more information or to reserve a spot contact mdcave@sbcglobal.net |
| <i>Satur- day</i> | <i>July 14th</i> | <i>Club Picnic at Big Meadow</i> | |



Kaweah Flyfishers

Post Office Box 3704
Visalia, California 93278

We are proud to be affiliated with these organizations:

- CALIFORNIA SPORTFISHING PROTECTION ALLIANCE
- FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS, Southwest Council
- CALIFORNIA TROUT
- THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
- TROUT UNLIMITED

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | Phone | E-mail |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Past President: Fred Naylor | 559-730-5504 | fnaylo1@gmail.com |
| PRESIDENT: Wayne Thompson | 559-324-1410 | wayne@sawdustandflies.com |
| Vice President: Rick Hartley.. | 559-284-2521 | rhartley@dinuba.ca.gov |
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COMMITTEES

| | | |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| CONSERVATION: John Crane | 559-741-9216 | crane-j@att.net |
| FALL BANQUET: | pending | |
| FLY CASTING: Mark Cave..... | 559- 623-5338 | mdcave@sbcglobal.net |
| FLY ROD BUILDING: Fred Nave.. | 559-625-5294 | |
| FLY TYING: Don Lieb..... | 559-734-5153 | d.lieb@sbcglobal.net |
| LIBRARY David Harris | 559-625-0362 | david@dharrisusa.com |
| LOWER KINGS RIVER: | | |
| John Crane, | 559-741-9216 | crane-j@att.net |
| MEMBERSHIP: Fred Naylor | 559-730-5504 | fnaylo1@gmail.com, |
| | Mailing address is 222 S. Hilton CT, Visalia, CA. 93291 | |
| OUTINGS: Mark Cave | 559-623-5338 | mdcave@sbcglobal.net |
| SOUTHWEST COUNCIL FFF and CLUB WEBSITE: | | |
| Wayne Thompson | 559-324-1410 | wayne@sawdustandflies.com |
| TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM: George Pilling, | 559- 625-3662 - gppill- | |
| ing@gmail.com | | |
| NEWSLETTER: Rick Hartley..... | 559- 5859-1435 | rhartley@dinuba.ca.gov |

Submitting Newsletter Articles

Articles must be received by the 20th of the month for the following month's edition. A heads-up even before then is greatly appreciated. E-mail information or article to: rhartley@dinuba.ca.gov
 WEB SITE <http://www.kaweahflyfishers.org>
 Newsletter Editor: Rick Hartley
 rhartley@dinuba.ca.gov

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