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Little Kern Golden



## East Fork Carson River (Wild Trout)

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East Fork Carson River

Suggested Flies for East Carson River:  
Eastern Sierra Hatch Selection

**Drys:**

Humpy  
 Royal Wulff #14-16  
 Griffith Gnat #18  
 Chernobyl Ant #8  
 Goddard Caddis, #14-16  
 Elk Hair Caddis, yellow #12-16

**Nymphs:**

Gold Ribbed Hares Ear #8-14  
 Zug Bug #8-10  
 BH Flashback Pheasant Tail #12-18  
 BH Deep Sparkle Pupa #14-20  
 Fox Poopah #14, tan or olive  
 Poxback Green Drake #12-14  
 A.P. Nymph, Black #12-14

**Stonefly Nymphs:**

Golden Stone Nymph, #10  
 Kaufmann Stonefly #10  
 BH Twenty Incher #10

**Stoneflies:**

Parachute Madam X, #10-14  
 Clark's Stonefly, #8-10  
 Clark's Little Yellow Stonefly, #12-16  
 Royal Trude #6-12  
 Golden Stimulator #6-8

**Directions:**

From Meyers, at junction of Highways 50-89, take Hwy 89 South for 11 miles to junction of Highways 88-89. Turn East and go 6 miles to Woodfords. Turn South and go 7 miles on Highway 89 (past Markleeville) to Hangman's Bridge.

 Hope Valley Directions

**Notes:**

In 1989, the **East Fork of the Carson River** was selected by the State as a "Wild and Scenic River". The East Fork Carson River became a State designated Wild Trout Stream in 1992. Local Guide, **Ralph Cutter** and DFG biologist, **Chuck Von Geldern**, were instrumental in getting "Wild Trout" recognition to this section of the stream as many thought of the East Carson as being more of a Mountain whitefish habitat. The "trophy trout" sections of the river starts at Hangman's Bridge about 1.5 miles south of Markleeville and continues for 14.5 miles to the CA/NV border. Most of the trout reside below Hangman's Bridge within deep pools. The river is generally flat between Hangman's Bridge and Markleeville Creek but then drops off into canyon water onto the Nevada border. The best access to the river is from a trail at Hangman's Bridge or from the campground at Markleeville Creek. Trophy-size trout include **Browns** up to 7 lbs. and **Rainbows**, in the 22 inch range, as well as a few **Lahontan Cutthroats** that have exceeded 10 lbs. The Mountain Whitefish also frequent the river and can reach up to 20 inches. This is not an abundant trout fishery as it contains the fewest trout of any of the state designated Wild Trout Streams but can be very rewarding for those that fish it. The Rainbows tend to be in the meadow areas of Hangman's Bridge while the Browns tend to inhabit the Canyon waters below Markleeville Creek. Since river rafters use this section of the river during the early summer months, the flyfishing is better during the later summer and fall periods. You can wade most of the river with many cross-over areas less than 2 feet deep. Scattered pools can be over 8 feet deep with runs in between the pools. The season is open year round and is allowing a 2 trout limit with a 14 inch smaller age classes.

Early in the season, subsurface patterns such as Golden Stonefly Nymphs with a Prince Nymph dropper work well. Try the edges and slow water as the limit the trout's movement. The Spring Hatches generally start in June, so prior to the hatch try Streamer patterns such as Buggers and Matukus. Use a fly cast across the stream to allow a downward drift and swing. Let the streamer pause at the end of the swing before retrieving. Retrieve with some sporadic the water warms up a bit, the salmonflies become active and a Clark's Stonefly or Stimulator size #6-8 works well. Fish these salmonflies in the moderate particularly near bank vegetation. June is also a good month for Green Drake nymphs (Green Drake Poxback, Black A.P., Prince Nymph) with a caddis will also encounter a Green Drake spinner fall in the evening. PMD's will show up around midday and the late afternoon brings on a flight of Yellow Sallies; combination that works well here is a dropper from a Chernobyl Ant. Caddis patterns work well throughout the season, especially during the evening, as prolific. The most common colorations are yellow to tan. A yellow Elk Hair Caddis pattern in size 12-16 is a good pick. Some Brown Sedge and slate sled late spring to mid-July. Try using a Goddard Caddis #14-16 to match this fly. As an Attractor Dry, the Royal Wulff #14-16 is the most popular on the river. A Caddis hatch occurs for excellent dry fly opportunities. Nymphing works well with Hare's Ear Nymphs in sizes 8-14 or Zug Bugs in size 8-10. The most used on the river during the early part of the season is the Muddler Minnow #10-12. Larger muddlers in sizes 6-8 are used later in the summer. These streamers are particularly effective on the large Browns in the Canyon section.

**Indian Creek Reservoir** (elev. 5,600 feet) is a trophy fishery containing large **Rainbows** (up to 5-7 lbs.), **Lahontan cutthroats**, **Brookies**, and **Kamloops** actively planted here along with many holdovers. The 160 acre lake is best fished from either canoe or float tube. Many will troll with bugger patterns but a popular choice in tactics. The reservoir is open year-round. Spring and Fall months are popular for fishing. Summers can get quite weedy due to the shallow lake. Winter Ice Fishing is often good. The lake has a high growth rate due to the rich forage base. Snails are especially prevalent. A damsel hatch in July around the weedbeds that are starting to develop. There is even a good Blood Midge hatch that will allow for some dry fly action at times. The BLM main area composed of Jeffrey and Pinon Pines with campsites along the western shore near the dam. Picnic sites are located on the southwestern side of the lake. A trailhead is located at the northern end of the lake with access to the EF Carson Wild Trout waters.

## Fishing Regulations (Effective March 1st, 2021)

### Carson River, East Fork (Alpine Co.) from Hangman's Bridge downstream to Nevada State Line:

All year. Artificial Lures, 14 inch minimum, 2 trout per day

### All other Lakes and Reservoirs:

Open all year. No restrictions. 5 trout per day. 10 trout in possession.

### All other creeks and tributaries:

From the last Saturday in April through November 15, 5 trout daily bag limit, 10 trout in possession; and, from November 16 through the Friday preceding the last day of the season, 10 trout daily bag limit, artificial lures with barbless hooks only and trout must be released unharmed and not removed from the water.

Covers the watershed areas of the Carson River within the Sierra. Shows topographic relief, GPS Long./Lat., camping areas, road access, and Trailheads. Special Features are Suggested Flies, Nymphing Rigs, Fishing Season and Regulations, Fish Identification, Catch & Release Procedures, and Stream Etiquette guidelines. Printed on Rite-in-the-Rain Paper that will allow you to write those special notes. Waterproof and Durable.



Carson River Drainage

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#### East Fork Carson 1, Hangman's Bridge to Ruhenstroth Dam

Covers the Carson River between Hangman's Bridge on Hwy 89 and Ruhenstroth Dam near Gardner, NV. Topographic relief showing features surrounding the river. Shows camping areas, GPS Long./Lat., road access, trails, and property boundaries. Special Features are the Hatch Chart, Fishing Season and Regulations, Fish Identification, Historic Flow Chart, Nymphing Rigs, and Stream Etiquette guidelines. Printed on Rite-in-the-Rain Paper that will allow you to write those special notes. Waterproof and Durable.



East Fork Carson 1

**\$12.95 pkg**

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