



LADWP's Aqueduct Manager

This past Saturday, 4/22/23, Orvis held a lecture given by LADWP Aqueduct Manager, Adam Perez (right). Adam is also an avid fly fisherman and fly tier as well. He lives in Bishop.

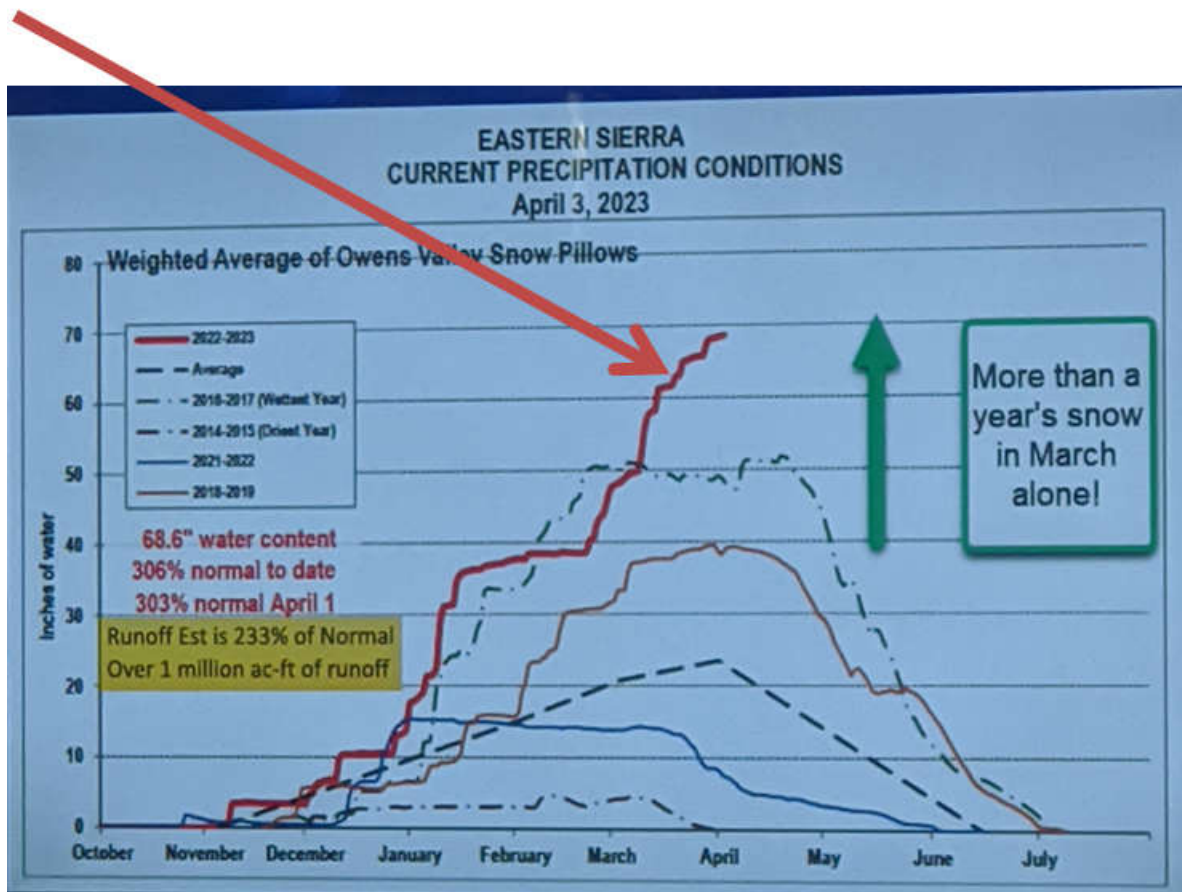
Adam spoke about the LADWP in the Eastern Sierra, current precipitation conditions and what to expect this year in terms of runoff and it's impact.



Record-Breaking Snowpack:

So much snow fell during the month of March alone, it was equal to some recent years' snowfall for the entire season (see chart below).

To date, we have 306% above normal snow levels.



Runoff Expectations:

Runoff is currently estimated at 233% above normal, which is over 1 million acr-ft of water! Owens Dry Lake bed has been filled from the overflowing LA Aqueduct through Pleasant Valley Dam. The amount of water now present in the Owens (Dry) Lake is = FIVE Crowley Lakes. Keep in mind, Crowley Lake is 12 miles long x 5 miles wide, 45 miles of shoreline!

But wait! Isn't water overflowing into the Owens Dry Lake a good thing?
"Yes" and "No" says Adam.

"Yes", that's what it's there for and "No" because over \$2 billion in dust mitigation projects are now under water. Once the flows settle, the LADWP plans to assess allowing access to and recreation on the lake. Once thing for sure, the refilling of the lake will eradicate the dust problem and increase the air quality dramatically.

Good video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbkACznLlxA>

Owens Lake Flooded for First Time in 110 Years



Lower Owens:

Lower Owens is currently exceeding 700gps and will reach in excess of 1,000gps during peak outflows estimated from May-July. No estimation as to when safe fishing conditions may return.

Chalk Bluff Road is now washed out, and according to Adam, will not be returning due to water surging over the banks and spreading throughout the area. It MAY be possible to venture by 4x4 at a later date, according to Adam, yet that depends on how much earth is removed by the coming peak flows predicted from May to July. He is confident in saying that future fishing along the Lower Owens will require a "good hike."

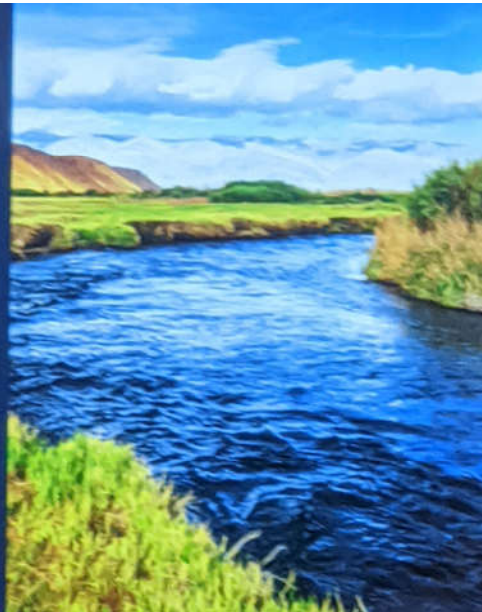
Pleasant Valley (PV) campgrounds will be closed for the duration. Considering campsites are located on the river bank, a total washout of the recreation area is expected.

Possible 395 Flooding:

Adam mentioned he recently had a meeting with the head of CALTRANS regarding flood management. After updating CALTRANS on the volume of water expected, they stated they were totally UNPREPARED to manage the flooding. As of this date, Adam said to expect lower lying sections of Highway 395 to get flooded at some point.

Runoff Expectations

- Estimate of Runoff is approximately 1 million acre-feet of water
- Peak Flow expected mid May to mid July
- Max flow out of Long Valley for much of early spring
- Once southern end begins to flow, we will dial off Long Valley outflow
- Water spreading throughout valley. Dirt roads maybe impacted
- High Elevation Access limited for much of summer



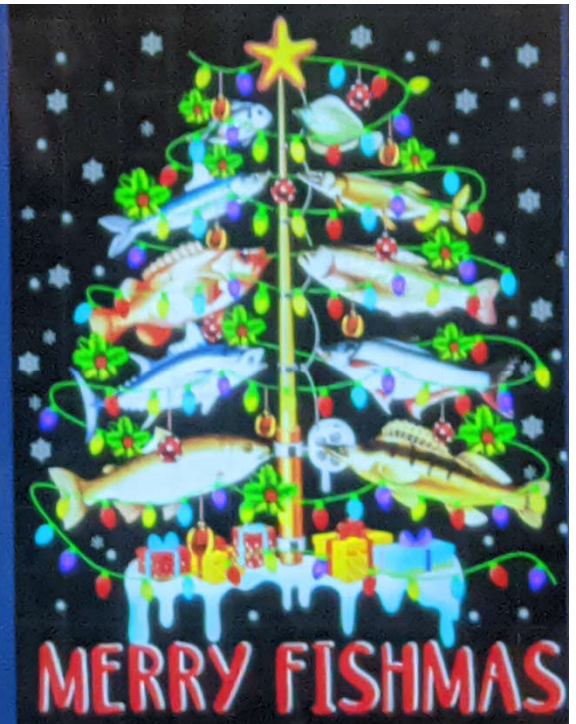
Runoff Expectations (Cont.)

- Lower Owens - Peak Flow expected to be over 1000 cfs
- Upper Owens River - Access limited by snow and wet conditions for much of early spring
- Campgrounds adjacent to waterways may shutdown due to flooding - check before you go
- Roadways - Check Caltrans Website for all major roadways (culverts and bridges maybe impacted)
- Safety - swift water and bank stability



A Very Grinch-Y Fishmas

- Delayed Crowley Opener (Next Slide)
- Upper Elevation Lakes Closed - Mammoth Lakes, June Lake Loop, Bishop Creek etc
- Owens River - High Flows
- Options
 - Owens Valley Ponds, Lakes and Canals
 - Pleasant Valley Reservoir (hopefully)
 - Gorge
 - Intake II
 - Bridgeport Reservoir
 - With effort - Hot Creek and Upper O



Where to find Adam Fishing in 2023:

AP Fish Schedule (2023)

Early Spring

- Canals (Trout), Buckley Ponds, Diaz Lake Millpond, Pleasant Valley Reservoir, Gorge

• Spring

- Canals, Ponds, Carp, Crowley, Bridgeport, PV, Gorge

• Summer

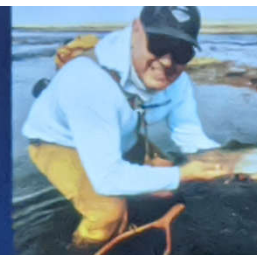
- Canals (Trout), Upper O, Bass ponds and Lake, Carp

Late Summer

- High Elevation lakes and streams

• Fall

- Bring it!



(Below) Photo of Frozen Crowley Lake taken on 4.18.23 by cross country skier

Crowley Lake

Fish Camp was aiming to Open for Fishmas 4/29

- Check crowleylakefishcamp.com

Opener for Crowley Delayed due to ice and boating safety

The lake elevation will rise dramatically throughout the season

- Expect full pool by mid July 184,000 ac-ft

Expect full lake conditions throughout much of season

Indicator Fishing the Sage Brush



Know Before you Go

Read and follow warning signs - these signs are there for your safety!

Keep a safe distance from rivers and stream banks - extreme erosion can compromise rivers and stream banks

Stay on established trails or developed areas.

Please keep children close and dogs leashed while near moving water.

Stay up to date on local conditions

LADWP

CalTrans

BLM

Forest Service

Follow Adam Perez :

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Instagram: @LADWP1

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For More Information

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