

SBP offset repeal

Repeal of the SBP/DIC widows tax was deleted by the 2010 NDAA Joint Committee.

The SBP DIC Offset Elimination bill S.535 introduced 5 MAR 09 by Sen. Bill Nelson would repeal the SBP/DIC offset which impacts some 61,000 widows whose military spouse died of service connected causes.

According to the latest available data from the Dept of Defense Actuary on the Military Retirement System, these offset survivors receive an average of \$1145/month DIC which offsets their average \$892/month SBP. Unused SBP premiums, although paid by the disabled vet over many years, are returned to widows as a lump sum and incur a greater tax burden on the survivor because they then count as taxable income in the year it was refunded. Disabled retiree's/veteran's support is solicited to contact their senators and urge them to pass this bill and eliminate the offset. S.535 completes the cycle begun in 2004 with the repeal of the Social Security Offset, which was completely restored in April 2008. The bill has these additional provisions:

Prohibits retroactive benefits. Prohibits recoupment of certain amounts previously refunded to SBP recipients. Repeals authority for optional annuity for dependent children. Restores eligibility for previously eligible spouses who elected to transfer their SBP to a surviving child or children.

The Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act, currently has only 298 cosponsors.

Lower Stanislaus River

Multitude of angling adventures

By Marvin Mitchum

The Lower Stanislaus River starts its journey beneath Goodwin Dam. The river flows for 59 miles to the confluence of the San Joaquin River. This expedition will offer the angler a multitude of angling adventures.

Angling laws are imposed on the river. Designated a "Wild Trout Catch and Release" fishery, only barbless hooks may be used. All fish must be released and "No Bait" is allowed! You must carry a California fishing license and have a Bay Delta Tag and Steelhead Report Card in possession.

The first sector from Goodwin Dam to Knights Ferry is a rugged, steep, narrow canyon which holds a lot of sizeable hard line rainbow trout year round. When the fish become obliging in this section, crowds will get extremely heavy. Dry fly fishing in this section can be amazing when using size 18-20 Blue Wing Olives or Parachute Adams. Most anglers have a preference to nymph this section with midges and at times find it very productive.

Just below the rugged Goodwin Canyon lies Two Mile Bar, a beautiful scenic section of the river. The river travels below extreme vertical cliffs through sections of large deep pools, riffles, and runs. Running streamers on fast 150 and 250 grain wet tip express lines is very productive in the deep pools and runs. Another technique would be running a two fly indicator rig in the riffles. You must keep all the

slack out of your line as these fish are very aggressive.

Angling in this section at times gets very crowded. Patience will pay off with some exceptional fishing. The steep canyon walls make for some extraordinary photo shots in this section.

The next section starts in the historic town of Knights Ferry. There is a small primitive launch area here where you can put your rafts or pontoon boats in.

I feel this section, from the bridge down to the horseshoe take

out, is the best fishing on the river. If you take your time, step out of the boat, and fish the runs and riffles correctly, you will take some large trout. I usually spend eight to ten hours floating this four mile section.

Nymphing small midges under an indicator will produce a lot of sizeable trout in the riffles. Swinging flies on a 150 or 250 grain wet tip express lines with streamers in the deeper runs will also produce some healthy fish. Hold on to your rod at the end of the swing, as these fish slam these flies.

Historic Covered Bridge in Knights Ferry.



PHOTO BY MARVIN MITCHUM



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