

Now that I think of it, I was in Trinity County. Maybe that mitigates my misjudgment. I'd decided to indulge myself in a little fishing. The next destination on my itinerary was a campground on the Mad River, some seventy miles north of Covelo. There's a direct route on the map that I'd never tried, a thin red squiggle in my California atlas-gazetteer unbroken by significant towns and mostly bisecting topographic contour lines—meaning ups and downs, twists and turns, exactly the kind of driving challenge I relish....



David Ollier Weber is an award-winning journalist whose fiction includes the novels *Vanity* and *Baja*, and the short story collection *Family Fun*. He lives in California's Motherlode.

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