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Subject: : Stream Reports

Topic: : Cross Fork, Potter County, 9/5/11

Re: Cross Fork, Potter County, 9/5/11

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Date: : 2011/9/14 11:54:44

URL:

It's been a while since I've camped at Cherry Springs, but I used to do it often. So forgive me, something may have changed. But while none of this is a major hassle, there were some special considerations as it's not your typical state park. Here's some of what I remember.

1. Campsites are NOT reservable. First come, first served. That said, miss the major weekends (see below) and it's not crowded, lots of times I was the only one there.
2. It is tents only. No trailers or RV sites here.

There are 3 major events every year, and the place gets PACKED, we're talking thousands, it looks like the lots outside a PSU game. 2 star parties (cherry springs star party, and black forest star party), and the woodsmen's show. The woodsmen's show is in August. One of the star parties is in the fall, one in the spring, I think. Both always fall on a new moon weekend. So look up the dates of those and make sure to avoid em, and if the dates aren't posted yet, look at a moon chart and if you avoid new moons, all is well.

The campgrounds are across the road from the observing field, adjacent to the landing strip for the airport. On the observing field, no white lights. In the campground, they allow fires and lanterns and such. However, you're still not far from the observing field. So just to keep the peace, better to not run one of those super bright lanterns all night or something.

The bathrooms are on the observing field side of the road. So at night, either get a red filter for your flashlight or turn it off as you get close (there are red area lights around the restrooms). And if you drive in after dark, just make sure not to point the headlights towards the observing field. If I came back after dark, I think I just parked in a lot at the edge of the park and walked back to the site to avoid the disruption of my headlights. It wasn't that far, a hundred yards or something.

It is ideally situated for fishermen if you value having a lot of options. Kind of like the Jam was this year. It's not right next to anything, but it is centrally located so that in 15-30 minutes, you have a TON of options.