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Subject: : Fly Fishing Locations

Topic: : Spring Creek Allegheny NF Fishing Info

Re: Spring Creek Allegheny NF Fishing Info

Author: : pcray1231

Date: : 2013/2/22 10:14:53

URL:

Quote:

If there are wild trout in the headwaters and the tribs, then the reason for lack of wild trout further downstream is not geologic infertility. That possible cause is eliminated. The real causes are something else.

Not true at all. I'm in dangerous water here as I don't know enough to give an accurate picture. But the geologic situation is not constant throughout the watershed, and of that I am certain.

1. There are tribs which enter. As was said, quite common that some streams are better than other, nearby ones. There are a few cases I know of where the cutoff from "good" to "poor" wild fisheries is pretty abrupt and obvious, and occurs where a tributary flows in. I've seen it the other way too, where a GOOD stream flows in, and apparently dilutes the bad water enough that the fishery improves. There seem to be certain areas, where all streams that originate are pretty bad, but streams originating from other, relatively close area's aren't so bad. An example is the S side of the Tionesta, which we mentioned, the streams tend to be pretty poor. There are exceptions. The very short watersheds, or those that turn parallel to the Tionesta, are often pretty good. Perhaps they do not reach far enough south to encounter the bad area?

2. The valleys were cut by streams, unlike central PA, where the valleys pre-existed and the streams fell into them. Thus, the uppermost headwaters flow through higher elevation rock, which is fundamentally different than it is lower in the valleys/watershed. It could be that the "buffering" is added at the source, but not continuously added after you reach a certain point. With more and more acid being added as you go downstream, you eventually exhaust the buffering capability and the stream turns more acidic.

2b. To the point of the previous one, the uppermost part of watersheds have a much greater % of their flow from springs. As you go downstream, runoff makes up a greater and greater % of the flow. Also, large runoff events, which correspond to the worst water chemistry issues, are much more severe the farther you go downstream. That is magnified by the fact that the snowpack generally melts much more abruptly in the valleys, and hangs around for a long time in the high areas.

3. It is obviously a combination of factors. Water chemistry only being one of them. And perhaps you cannot look at them as independent variables. If water chem is borderline, perhaps a fishery can be sustained as all other factors are nearly perfect. But as other factors become more borderline, the borderline water chemistry is more damaging.