

Subject: : Fly Fishing Locations

Topic: : Spring Creek Allegheny NF Fishing Info

Re: Spring Creek Allegheny NF Fishing Info

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URL:

Geology does play a huge role. The Allegheny Plateau sweeps across the entire Commonwealth from SW to NE PA and it is very different in the NE than it is in the SW or NW. The biggest difference is glaciations, much of the Plateau in the NE was covered by glaciers during the last ice age and you see this everywhere from the Upper Delaware Valley to the NB Susquehanna River.

There are large boulders in the woods, the plant life is very different; there are glacial bogs everywhere, along with Northern forests. The cap rock is very hard so water doesn't penetrate readily, but gathers in the wetlands, bogs, marshes on the top of the Plateau. At the top the water is not very fertile, but where it is flowing there are trout. As the streams start to drop they pass through a more fertile layer of rock and suddenly become very fertile and you find excellent macro-invertebrate life as well as bigger healthier trout.

The vegetation also changes because the soils are also more fertile. On the top you find spruces, and northern conifers, further down you find more hardwoods. Also up on the plateau the trees are shorter, much shorter than the trees below as the topography drops indicating more fertile soils and warmer temperatures. It's very complex.

I have the impression that by the time the streams get to the better geology in the ANF they are already too warm for trout to survive either that or everything is harvested that moves. I'm not sure if the acid rain problem is as bad as it once was up that way, it's hard to tell because some streams have so few trout.