Subject: : Fly Fishing Locations
Topic: : South Holston River
Re: South Holston River
Author: : Cincivol
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URL:

East Tennessee is my old stomping grounds. The South Holston Tailwater is an absolutely incredible fishery and you will certainly have an enjoyable time. The first few miles below the weir dam have the biggest, most reliable hatches and the most public access (mostly via trails) and the most crowds. However, don't discount the 10 miles or so below that (i.e. below Hickory Tree bridge). There are tremondous numbers of trout all the way down to Bluff City and you can find just about any type of water you like to fish and fewer crowds. Check out the Big Springs road area. TONS of roadside access. That said, even if the river is crowded, there are so many trout that you only need a small section to work and have a days worth of trout to cast to.

If they are generating at the dam you usually have several hours of fishing in the mid and lower river before the water comes up. Otherwise, as others have mentioned, floating is your only option during a long generation. The fishing is just as good or better during generation.

My last tidbit of advice is try to hit the upper river (i.e. just below the weir dam) just as the water is falling after generation or a pulse. The trout seem the most aggressive and drifts are easier if the water is a bit high.