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Subject: : Fly Fishing Locations

Topic: : FEW Lehigh dam capacity question for those who may know

Re: FEW Lehigh dam capacity question for those who may know

Author: : LehighRegular

Date: : 2013/7/3 10:38:21

URL:

Beast

The water in the reservoir doesn't really "cool down" because of depth. The water from the spring run off/snow melt when its coming into the lake at 40F, needs to be reserved and held for use during the summer time.

Unfortunately, FEW can't do that because it can only release the water off the bottom. A new control tower with gates at various elevations in the lake is needed. Then the Corps can discharge water from the surface during the spring at higher elevations when the lake surface water is "cool" enough for the trout. Then as summer warms the water in the lake, the Corps would begin to use the gates lower/deeper in the tower/lake to discharge the cooler water below the thermocline.

If the Corps had a tower that has multiple gates at different elevations (Like Beltzville Reservoir), they could discharge warmer water during Flood control events or Whitewater releases and not "waste" the coldwater from the depths of the lake.

Right now the Corps can't do that. They are basically handcuffed. The only way to preserve the coldwater in the lake is what I described above. Once the coldwater is gone, its gone till the Fall time when inflow water temps into the lake drop because of the cooler weather.

Tell the boys at the PFBC this is what you want to improve the fishery. Stay on them, don't let them "weasel" their way out of it because it will be "too expensive" or "not pay for itself" or "angler use is low" .....which is an entirely different story..

Did I answer your question? More storage would allow for more coldwater in the lake, but the WW releases and high flood control releases (like now) deplete that coldwater quickly and even at 1390 feet the lake would still run out of coldwater.