

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Acid Rain and Un-surveyed streams

Re: Acid Rain and Un-surveyed streams

Author: : PAgeologist

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URL:

@troutbert...Regarding AMD causing the streambed to be orange. Actually that is a misconception. I deal with AMD for a living. In fact, that area is one of my watersheds that I oversee. The worst AMD is water that doesn't look like AMD because all the acidity, iron, aluminum, and other chemical species are still in solution and impacting more miles of stream until it begins to drop out. I have collected numerous water samples from springs and seeps which appeared to be clean water that ends up being loaded with iron, aluminum, a host of other metals, and has a pH of less than 3. As you raise the pH of water, the rate at which iron drops out of solution increases exponentially.

One of the worst sources of AMD in northwestern PA (aside from mining) is the old oil/gas wells that dot the landscape. Many of the old wells casings have deteriorated and failed, causing AMD to be released through artesian flow.

@JackM...You are correct AMD and acid rain will remain and impact streams until the water contacts either a rock/soil formation or another water body that can raise the pH.