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Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Acid Rain and Un-surveyed streams

Re: Acid Rain and Un-surveyed streams

Author: : FarmerDave

Date: : 2013/8/6 14:06:59

URL:

Quote:

PAgeologist wrote:

@pcray-I am not arguing against acid rain being the cause, or that acid rain doesn't exist. I am also well aware of the lack of good extensive buffering formations in western PA. The limestones in western PA are generally freshwater formations and have far less buffering capacity than the marine limestones in central/eastern PA. My problem with the article was that it didn't eliminate the other causes of a dead stream and jumped to the conclusion that it was acid rain. Perhaps he did his investigation correctly and didn't publish the data? It's poor science at best if he didn't at least explore other possibilities.

I have no doubt that acid rain is a contributing factor on those streams, but being a little bit familiar with those watersheds from years back, I had my doubts that the author was being thorough. It seemed to me like we were testing for a preconceived conclusion. IMO Salmon Creek watershed better fit his conclusions based on my own observations.

But I'm not a biologist and it was a long time ago, so I didn't speak up on that. Acid rain is still a problem. Thanks for speaking up PA geologist.

One thing to note is that his stream PH readings were lower than his own average acid rain PH readings. That threw up a flag right away. IMO, you can't contribute all that to concentration due to evap.

I've explored some of those streams, and anyone who says Millstone headwaters doesn't look a little bit red is color blind. Or was that Little Millstone. Doesn't matter, same geology.

I used to explore that area looking for native streams and found more than 1 that looked completely dead. Dead enough that I didn't bother wetting a line. They didn't have that crisp look that I am used to in a mountain freestone. It looked like everything was coated with crud.

I also saw places where red nasty stuff was seeping out of the ground where the entire bank is red and nothing growing on it. When I was a kid, we called it bog ore, and usually we assumed it was the site of an old well where the casing rotted away. Often it was, but some are likely natural seeps.

