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Subject: : Stream Reports

Topic: : Little Lehigh - PFBC Electro-Survey, Lehigh County 7/18/13

Re: Little Lehigh - PFBC Electro-Survey, Lehigh County 7/18/13

Author: : JeffK

Date: : 2013/8/16 9:54:59

URL:

I've only been fishing the LL for about 30 years, but I'm from the other side of the Lehigh Valley and have fished the Bushkill, Monocacy, and Musconetcong in NJ for 50 years. All had extensive weed beds back in the day and the weed beds were filled with scuds which the trout fed on 12 months a year. NJ used to stock culls in the fall and they grew at a good rate all winter in the Muskie. The frog water above the Binney and Smith dam was solid weeds and had plenty of freely rising, but awfully difficult to hook, trout. My guess is that the sediment load increased to the point where the unstable bottom didn't allow the plants to take hold. The Bushkill and Muskie both also have very fine gray sediment that coats plants and can't help. In the Bushkill drainage the fines from the cement quarries adds to the development issues.

Finally, development brings more hard surface and I have seen many springs disappear with resulting higher temperatures in the summer, fewer thermal refuges, and quicker response to a rainfall. Although, the Bushkill with much of its upper stretches on farmland with shale bedrock always muddied soon after a storm.