Subject: : Beginner Forum
Topic: : High water effect trout?
Re: High water effect trout?
Author: : salmonoid
Date: : 2014/4/14 13:43:47
URL:

Quote:

> BTRobertson wrote:
> That advice is crucial. I've been reading a lot of recommended books on fly-fishing while the season kicks off slowly here in SW PA, and one of the most overlooked aspects is the stream's temperature. I believe my success this past Friday in Gettysburg was due to the temps being almost perfect for such an early day in the season. When I dipped my thermometer into the water, it read about 52 degrees, a little on the cooler side, but combined with the overcast sky it made for a pretty good combination for this first-timer. :) They wouldn't take the dries I presented even though I thought I had a pretty good match for what they were smacking on the surface right above me, but the nymph got 'em. :)

For early season, 52 is a good temp. I wouldn't say that is cold at all. The one stream I was fishing was 42 on Saturday. Tribs I fished the two previous days before were 45 (warming to 48 by late afternoon, with bright sun) and 46 (in all day rain shower), respectively. Fishing was pretty good in the 45 degree, warming stream, and slow in the 46 degree stream. The trend of the temperature is often what matters.

Also, when factoring in color, it helps to know some of the local disturbances as well. For instance, I was fishing in the ANoF (Allegheny National oil Field) for the opener. Every stream there should run clear, even with a substantial amount of rain. None of them were, because of all the new shallow well pads and all the access roads built to them over the past 10-15 years. The main stream remained cloudy for several days. If you're fishing in pristine, undisturbed forest, high water is your friend. But if agriculture, or energy extraction is occurring, it can really throw off the color of the water for a much longer time, and you have to budget that into your estimate on when the stream will be fishable.