Subject: : Conservation
Topic: : A question or two about Clarks Creek?
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Dear Board,

This post is going to sound very similar to one I made at this time last year, but it isn't a repeat.

I fished Clarks Creek today and I was wondering if anybody has any idea why the upper end of the creek is so filthy with silt and crud, for lack of a better word?

The water looked a little dingy in sections of the Catch and Release section, as if we had just received some heavy rain. It didn't seem to bother the fish much though.

Later in the afternoon I headed upstream to the parking area at the Appalachian Trail crossing. To put things bluntly, the water was filthy. It looked more like cedar bog water than Clarks Creek. Visibility was about 8 to 10 inches at most in areas where the stream bottom should have been clearly visible. Wading stirred up sediment from the bottom and some areas that are usually sand and gravel were actually muddy.

Does anybody have any idea where the silt and crud came from, or is coming from? Is it a result of the June Flood? I would think that by now the sediment would have been more widely distributed. Is it possible they are drawing down DeHart Dam and the sediment is coming from the dam?

Spawning season is just around the corner and I didn't see much clean gravel. I have caught many wild brook and brown trout from Clarks over the years and I'd like to see the fish have the opportunity to continue spawning succesfully.

Regards,
Tim Murphy