

= Hammersley Fork =

Hammersley Fork (also known as Hammersley Fork Creek) is a tributary of Kettle Creek in Potter County and Clinton County , Pennsylvania , in the United States . It is approximately 10 @. @ 0 miles (16 @. @ 1 km) long and flows through Warton Township in Potter County and Leidy Township in Clinton County . The watershed of the stream has an area of 32 @. @ 7 square miles (85 km²) . The main rock formation in the watershed is the Pottsville Formation . A number of bridges cross the stream .

There are no state roads and virtually no township roads in the watershed of Hammersley Fork . However , there are dirt roads and gravel roads , and several stream crossings in the watershed . The first settlers arrived in the watershed in 1827 and the first roads in the area were constructed several years later . Industrial activities such as logging were common in the watershed in the early 20th century , but there is currently virtually no such activity there . Wild trout naturally reproduce in the stream throughout its entire length . Most of the creek has a substantial riparian buffer .

= = Course = =

Hammersley Fork begins in central Eulalia Township , Potter County , near the Sinnemahoning Creek watershed . It flows southeast to Elk Lick Knob , where it receives the tributary Black Mark Hollow . The stream then turns south and flows into a valley , passing Bunnell Ridge . The valley gets deeper and the stream receives several small tributaries . It turns southwest shortly downstream of the mouth of Elkhorn Run . In the southern reaches of the township , the stream receives the tributary Bell Branch and turns south @-@ southeast , exiting Eulalia Township .

Upon leaving Eulalia Township , Potter County , Hammersley Fork enters Leidy Township , Clinton County and continues south , passing by Susquehannock State Forest . The stream continues south for some distance and crosses Pennsylvania Route 144 . Immediately after crossing Pennsylvania Route 144 , the stream reaches its confluence with Kettle Creek . Hammersley Fork joins Kettle Creek 19 @. @ 90 miles (32 @. @ 03 km) upstream of its mouth .

= = Hydrology = =

The concentration of alkalinity in Hammersley Fork ranges from 0 @. @ 011 to 0 @. @ 015 ounces per cubic foot (11 to 15 mg / l) . Particles in the stream include coarse sand and fine gravel . The stream experiences relatively high water temperatures and in July 2003 , its temperature between Dry Hollow and Bunnell Run ranges from 68 to 72 ° F (20 to 22 ° C) . Between Dry Hollow and Nelson Branch , the temperature ranged from 70 to 73 ° F (21 to 23 ° C) .

The sediment load in Hammersley Fork is 0 @. @ 27 pounds per acre (0 @. @ 30 kg / ha) per year . The nitrogen load is 1 @. @ 55 pounds per acre (1 @. @ 74 kg / ha) per year , while the phosphorus load is less than half a pound per acre per year .

Between the mouth of Dry Hollow and the mouth of Bunnell Run , the waters of Hammersley Fork are a Rosgen type F and a Rosgen type C stream . The upper part of the stretch of the stream between Dry Hollow and Nelson Branch is a Rosgen type C stream . The middle part of the stretch is a Rosgen type B stream and the lower part is a Rosgen type F to D stream .

= = Geography and geology = =

The elevation near the mouth of Hammersley Fork is 968 feet (295 m) above sea level . The elevation of the stream 's source is between 1 @, @ 800 and 1 @, @ 820 feet (549 and 555 m) above sea level .

The Pottsville Formation is the main rock formation in the watershed of Hammersley Fork . The highlands northwest of the Hammersley Fork watershed range from 2 @, @ 000 feet (610 m) to 2 @, @ 200 feet (670 m) and the highest elevation in the watershed is 2 @, @ 365 feet (721 m) above sea level . The elevation range in the watershed is 1 @, @ 374 feet (419 m) . At its mouth ,

the stream is 54 feet (16 @. @ 5 m) wide . The average basin slope is 16 @. @ 24 degrees . There are numerous gravel bars in the lower reaches of the stream . This width is maintained because deposition in the area is often removed . There is also a headcut in the lower reaches of the stream . At the headcut , it splits three ways for 69 feet (21 m) . A spot on Hammersley Fork near its mouth is the only location in the Kettle Creek watershed that has been channelized .

Hammersley Fork flows over bedrock or large cobbles for much of the stretch between Dry Hollow and Nelson Branch . From the mouth of Nelson Branch to 2 miles (3 @. @ 2 km) downstream , the stream mostly flows in the central part of its valley . The tributary Nelson Branch has a patch of erosion that is 26 feet (8 m) high and 59 feet (18 m) long . There is a floodplain at the mouth of Hammersley Fork . Two bridges cross Hammersley Fork near its mouth . One carries Pennsylvania Route 144 and the other carries Hammersley Avenue .

= = Watershed = =

The watershed of Hammersley Fork has an area of 32 @. @ 7 square miles (85 km²) , making it the second @-@ largest sub @-@ watershed of Kettle Creek after Cross Fork . There are 57 @. @ 42 miles (92 @. @ 41 km) of streams in the watershed . The mouth of the stream is in the United States Geological Survey quadrangle of Tamarack . However , its source is in the quadrangle of Short Run . The stream also passes through the quadrangle of Hammersley Fork .

A number of camps and residences are on the left bank of Hammersley Fork 0 @. @ 2 miles (0 @. @ 32 km) upstream of the mouth . There are a number of dirt roads and gravel roads on the edge of the upper reaches of the stream 's watershed . However , there are no state routes and almost no township roads in the watershed . However , much of the upper part of the watershed can only be accessed on foot . There are five road crossings of the stream and its tributaries . There is some agricultural land along the stream .

= = History and recreation = =

Hammersley Fork was entered into the Geographic Names Information System on August 2 , 1979 and its identifier is 1199877 . It is named after J. P. Hammersley .

Jacob " Old Jake " Hammersley and Archie Stewart settled at the mouth of Hammersley Fork in 1827 , with Hammersley settling on the east bank of the stream and Stewart settling on the west bank . They were the first settlers to come that far upstream in the Kettle Creek watershed . Additionally , the two constructed a gristmill on the west bank of the stream . There were no roads in the watershed by 1833 . Later in the 1800s , Nathan Tuttle operated a gang mill on the stream . A settlement , also called Hammersley Fork , was created on the stream by 1852 . In 1902 , John Gartsee started a village called Hammersley in the middle reaches of Hammersley Fork . Its intended purpose was as a supply point for logging camps in the area . By 1902 to 1910 , there was a network of railroads in the watershed .

Logging was a large industry in the watershed of Hammersley Fork in the early 1900s , but there have been almost no industrial activities in the area since then . An old railroad grade is located on Hammersley Fork . Fish have been stocked in the stream since the 1930s or 1940s .

A two @-@ span steel stringer / multi @-@ beam or girder bridge carrying T545 over Hammersley Fork was built in 1933 and repaired in 2010 . The bridge is 64 @. @ 0 feet (19 @. @ 5 m) long . A two @-@ span bridge was built over the stream in 1962 and repaired in 2011 . This bridge is 107 @. @ 0 feet (32 @. @ 6 m) long and carries Pennsylvania Route 144 .

The Cherry Springs Civilian Conservation Corps camp was built near the headwaters of Hammersley Fork in 1933 . The Hammersley Trail , which is part of the Susquehannock Trail System , passes by the mouth of Hammersley Fork .

= = Biology = =

Wild trout naturally reproduce in Hammersley Fork from its headwaters downstream to its mouth .

Great blue herons have been observed at the headwaters of Hammersley Fork , despite the fact that they are more commonly found in large river valleys . Little yellow stoneflies also inhabit it . Brown trout first appeared in the stream in the 1920s after being stocked in Cross Fork and in the 1940s the brown trout populations significantly increased .

The Forrest H. Duttlinger Natural Area is located on Hammersley Fork . Most of the stream flows through this natural area . It is a 1521 @-@ acre area that includes a 158 @-@ acre area of old @-@ growth hemlock trees . The Hammersley Wild Area is also located in the watershed . The stream 's watershed is a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory Biological Diversity Area . The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection also classifies the watershed as an exceptional @-@ value area .

From the mouth of Hammersley Fork to 0 @.@ 75 miles (1 @.@ 21 km) upstream of the mouth , the canopy cover ranges from 0 to 50 percent . Much of the creek , however , has a significant riparian buffer .

The canopy coverage of the section of Hammersley Fork between Dry Hollow and Bunnell Run is 62 percent on average . However , the lower part of this section has 86 percent canopy coverage . The upper part of the stretch of the stream between Nelson Branch and Dry Hollow has a canopy coverage of 93 percent . The middle part of this section has a coverage of 58 percent and the lowest part has a canopy coverage of 89 percent . The tree coverage at the confluence of Nelson Branch with Hammersley Fork is 70 percent . The canopy coverage up to 2 miles (3 @.@ 2 km) downstream of the confluence averages 40 percent . Tree species in this stretch include hemlock , red maple , river birch , sycamore , and willow .