



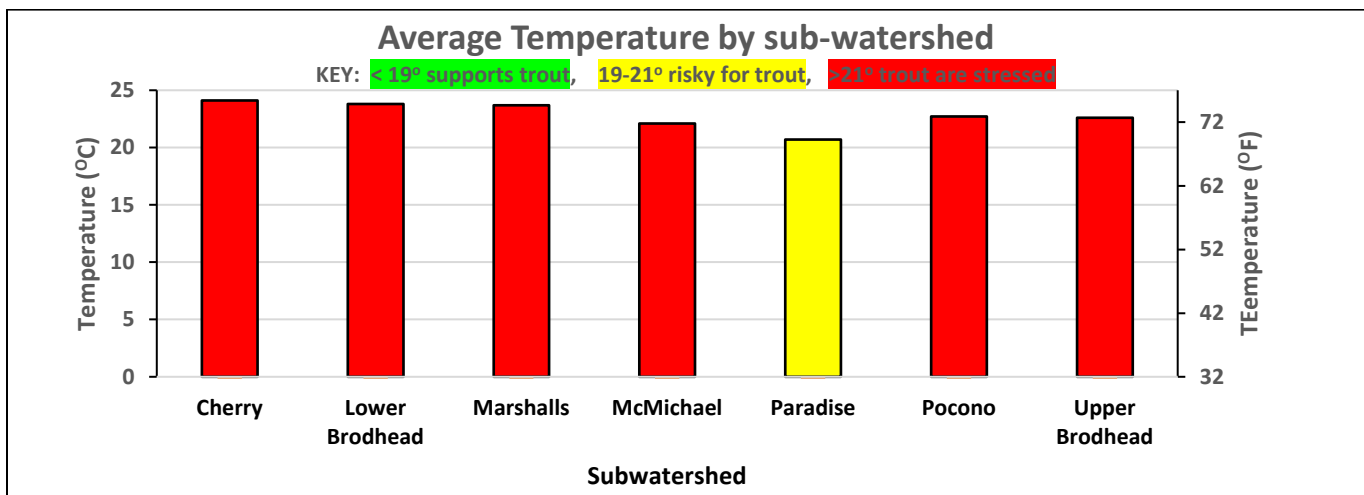
STREAMWATCH SNAPSHOT

August 1, 2024

On a hot dry August afternoon, 16 BWA volunteers collected temperature and conductivity measurements at 66 sites on streams throughout the Watershed.

Both temperature and conductivity/salinity impact aquatic life. Trout, particularly brook trout, are sensitive to temperature, and may not survive at temperatures above 23° C (73.4° F). The best temperature for growth & feeding is 12 - 18° C (53.6 - 64.4° F).

A summary of temperature data collected on August 1 shows that at almost every site, stream temperature was stressful to trout. The average of all temperatures collected this year, 22.7° C, more than a degree higher than average temperature for all sites (44) in 2023, 21.6° C.



Conductivity measures the ability of water to conduct electricity, and rises when salts are present in water. Peer reviewed studies in other states suggest that deicing materials - road salt or sodium chloride, magnesium chloride or calcium chloride - are possible sources of salts. Studies show that mayflies and caddis flies, important food for trout, are particularly sensitive to increases in chloride in streams that have naturally low levels of conductivity, such as streams in the Brodhead watershed.

