

# How To Read the Gage at Creamton

Members - After a number of years as a member of the Creamton Fly Fishing Club, I have found that the best way to predict fishing conditions and whether I'm going to make the trip is to read the USGS gage, which is housed in the small green building by the bridge at Mead's. Go to <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/monitoring-location/01428750> (I keep it on my phone at all times so I can just refresh the page and check the water level, which updates in real-time).

Our river goes up and down quickly. Within a day or two after high water, it could be back down to normal. Watching the gage and interpreting the water level, in my opinion, is the key to productive fishing at our club. During the hot weather, you can also check the temperature. Best to fish in the mornings and evenings when the water warms up.

Here is what I've found over a number of years' experience.

**>2.5 feet** - High water, basically unfishable.

**2.0-2.4 feet** - Still high but you can catch fish in unexpected places (like along the banks) and using a lot of weight. Be careful wading.

**1.5-2.0 feet** - Water is up and moving but fishable

**1.5 feet** - **THE SWEET SPOT!** The water is perfect height and usually a bit muddy, and the fish are fearless. Plus, a lot more areas hold fish. I've had some amazing days when the water is around this level on the gage.

**1.0-1.4 feet** - Very good but the water starts clearing up and the fish start getting more and more spooky as you approach the 1.0 mark. The number of areas holding fish shrinks, and the fish start moving into the deeper holes/runs and shady areas.

**0.8-1.0 feet** - Low and clear. Lots of runs are low, fish are spooky and the bigger fish move into deeper, safer water. Seek out the deeper holes and runs.

**<0.5 feet** - Very challenging but fish can be caught in the deeper holes, under banks, next to logs etc. Put on your camo and stay low.

I hope this information is helpful to some of our newer members. The best advice I've ever been given as a new member is to get in the water and walk. We have 6 miles of water, so do yourself a favor and explore between the popular spots. You will find some amazing fishing.

Good luck and tight lines everyone!

Paul Lyon  
Vice President  
Creamton Fly Fishing Club

10/17/2023