

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : could we, would we and should we?

Re: could we, would we and should we?

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URL:

There's a lot that could be done to improve wild trout populations. End stocking on top of wild trout. Low or no harvest regulations on all wild trout waters. 5 fish per day is not an effective limitation on harvest. There is very extensive stocking on top of native brook trout populations in PA, which is an outrage.

Many streams have habitat problems, particularly a lack of pools and cover, because of past alterations. Restoring streams to a more normal physical condition would allow streams to support wild trout populations at a higher level than they do now, and at a level closer to what they held originally.

A lot of people think that freestone streams just naturally hold a low population because of infertility and "flashy" stream flows. 40 kg/ha is considered Class A. Most freestoners are below that and many are far below that. But there are some freestoners that have 80 kg/ha and even over 100 kg/ha. Those streams have good physical habitat. That's the key.

Restoring physical conditions on streams wouldn't be easy or cheap.

Sal, are you a member of Trout Unlimited? Conserving and restoring streams and improving trout management isn't a wholly original idea.  TU has been trying to work on these things for years.