

Subject: : Conservation

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

Re: could we, would we and should we?

Author: : Fishidiot

Date: : 2006/12/2 12:34:07

URL:

afish,

I posted a thread on this topic on the "old" site but it's worth revisiting. As Tim pointed out, probably the best example here in southcentral PA is Stoney Creek. I think there may still be some damage from Hurricane Ivan but DFTU may have already repaired this. My own personal experience with lime dosing involves a smaller stream that is being assisted by Cumberland Valley TU and Adams Co TU. In this particular case, the high acidity is likely a soil composition issue as there isn't AMD involved. For the last few years we have been hand shoveling lime sand into the headwaters - typically early in the year when acidity tends to spike. During the year we test ph and the results below the lime site are consistently higher (better). Rates fluctuate but I am convinced the data supports the conclusion that this liming is effective. Back in the 80's I almost never caught wild fish in this section but recently things have improved and I am getting wild brook trout, including a 9" early this year. I have not seen or caught any trout above the liming site yet. I am currently conducting a survey sample of macroinvertebrates both above and below the liming site to see if insects are returning. At this point the results look promising. The larger picture statewide is only just getting clearer. In areas with high degradation and AMD the process will likely take longer and be more expensive. More study is needed but I am optimistic. The main downside I think, is that the work is labor intensive and requires repeated treatments or structures that "filter" the water which are more expensive.