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Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Species specific stocked trout residency revision

Re: Species specific stocked trout residency revision

Author: : salmonoid

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URL:

I used to leverage the fact that stocked brookies and brownies moved to put up some phenomenal opening day weekend numbers. My brother and I discovered this fact about ten years ago on Kinzua Creek. After the crowds thinned out, we found dozens of brookies and brownies in log jams half a mile from the nearest stocking point. It was like fishing in a hatchery (almost). I pulled three citation brookies out of these log jam setups over the years and always looked forward to fishing them. They were the type of holding water that most people would toss to once or twice and move on, but if you worked the whole thing and dunked your line in all the nooks and crannies and climbed over the whole thing, you could wrack up the numbers. The only way that the fish got there was they moved - half a mile or more. About four years ago, the lower section on Kinzua transitioned to a rainbow only preseason stocking regime. Now, the rainbows lay in the hole they are dumped in, and we don't walk as much. There are few fish outside the stocking area, unlike in years past. Some of the logjams are gone because of hurricanes a few years back.

The other data point is the year I fished a trib in the ANF of a stocked trout stream. It had at least a bucket of stocked brook trout that had made their way into it; a year later, I pulled an almost black stocked brook trout out of a hole below a waterfall that would have impeded most upstream progress of fish. I'm pretty sure it was from that initial meandering batch.

Both sets of data are purely anecdotal, but definitely support the 50% (+/-) of brookies and browns, and 80% retention of rainbows.