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Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Big Springs Need help

Re: Big Springs Need help

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URL:

Why was my prior post deleted? It wasn't a personal attack but rather pointing out that observations made by others who have credibility on this stream were the same observations I made a year later yet my observations were then dismissed as not credible.

I don't know, the deletion of my prior post just further confirms that the agenda of the PFBC and CVTU is to make the period of 2001 to 2010 vanish from history.

The one major big gripe I have with CVTU and the PFBC is the apparent misinformation campaign. An example is with the average stream channel velocity. The CVTU and PFBC are promoting that the stream's average channel velocity has been reduced and how slower velocities favor brook trout so obviously the work favors the brook trout. At face value this is absolutely true however it is completely false and misleading and the design contributes to the reason why the bows are outpacing the brooks in the restored area.

The reason is simple - the brook trout in Big Spring did not live in the main current but well off on the sides under the weed beds and inside the rock walls in almost stagnant water utilizing upwellings and downwellings. And this is exactly why most folks who fished Big Spring pre-restoration swore there were no fish because the trout didn't live in the open water they were hiding 30 feet off the main current under the weeds.

So what the work did was take an "ugly looking stream" that was 50-75 feet wide with a small 20 foot wide main and somewhat shallow channel that flowed with an average velocity of say 4 mph with the brooks lived well off the main channel on the sides in the slow stagnant water and then filled in these slow stagnant waters in order to narrow and deepen the stream to a 30-40 feet wide uniform channel that now "looks good" and now flows at an average velocity of say 2mph and people say it helps the brook trout because the average channel velocity has slowed from 4mph to 2mph.

Sorry but that is completely wrong and misleading because the brook trout in Big Spring didn't live in the main channel so they ARE NOT experiencing a reduction from 4mph to 2mph, which would help, but rather experiencing AN INCREASE from an ideal 1mph or less to 2mph and this increase now puts them at a competitive disadvantage against the bows and the data is supporting this. It is as simple as that yet nobody will admit it.

The bottom line is a small group of people with the CVTU simply wanted to make Big Spring a more easily fishable stream and the redesign has nothing to do with creating favorable habitat for the brook trout. That goal has been accomplished, as the stream is now a cascading series of artificial plunge pools with each plunge pool holding several trout, the water is turbulent, so it is easy to walk up and drop a weighted red SJW on a thingamabobber and wait for it to go under.

As for removing the bows from Big Spring, while helping the brook trout to a certain degree because it will eliminate competition, it does not reverse the habitat back to the ideal habitat that previously existed. Unless you create optimum habitat for any species, you will not get optimum growth even if removing all competition for habitat. Until people realize that, any efforts at Big Spring to do anything will be a failure.

It's time to leave the damn stream alone and let it be what it is going to be. History continues to show that the more people screw with this stream to "fix" one problem, they create others and the solution is to "fix" that problem, and it just keeps going. If the wild bows are removed from Big Spring who knows if the brook trout would even make it as a sustainable wild trout fishery. Wouldn't that be just beautiful if the bows were removed and 5 years from now the brook trout fishery collapses because the stream's new designed doesn't support them and the solution is Big Spring becomes the heavily stocked fishing park that CVTU wanted 12 years ago. How ironic would that be?

And it's also time for people to stop screwing with streams in general.