

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Brook Trout Management Study in Western Maryland

Re: Brook Trout Management Study in Western Maryland

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Looking ahead to a middle-distant future that's entirely possible, I've been wondering about how native and wild trout habitat might be maintained in the face of increasing extremes of flood and drought.

A few things that come to mind: finding ways to divert and/or impound water from headwaters streamflows at times of high flowage, and then using the stored water later on during the summer to augment stream flows, perhaps by controlled releases. I'm imagining small reservoirs and cisterns akin to beaver dams, perhaps covered from sunlight or even built underground.

I've also thought about the possibility of simply covering over stretches of stream footage in order to offer more shade- either partially, or completely from bank to bank.

I initially started thinking about this in relation to Western headwaters streams, like those in the California Sierra. If there's a long-term trend toward a big drop in snowpack that's replaced by a large increase in rainfall there, it may become necessary to do some human-constructed alterations to compensate for the effects. Ones that work, and aren't stupid. Lots of little projects, instead of massive channelization and impoundment schemes.