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Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Who owns the trout?

Re: Who owns the trout?

Author: : pcray1231

Date: : 2013/3/5 9:44:59

URL:

Quote:

What is the difference between everybody owning something and nobody owning it? In either case, people have to have a mechanism to make decisions about resource management.

It is about authority to make decisions about a resource. If nobody owns it, nobody has that authority, so no decisions could ever be made. So early in the days of the Commonwealth, we asserted that the "people" collectively have ownership, and thus can collectively make decisions via a government agency.

Difference between the Native American philosophy (nobody owns it. We can all do as we choose, no seasons, no bag limits. But the golden rule applies, be kind to your neighbor). And the European philosophy (everything has to have an owner, the owner makes the decisions regarding their property).

I completely sympathize with Native Americans regarding how us Europeans took advantage of them over this philosophical difference. The land is unclaimed, so we just stuck a flag in it and claimed it as our own. When they asked how we can do this being as they were already there, we asked them where their flag was. Do you have a flag? lol. But in today's age, with the population density being what it is, I think the European model is the only one that is feasible.

Either you assign ownership and can have a decision maker with some sort of authority. Or nobody owns it and nobody can make any rules, we just leave it up to individuals to do as they choose, who will hopefully respect the resource. Those are the only two philosophical options that I see.

Quote:

One person making the wrong decision can ruin an entire watershed. Does a person have the right to ruin a whole watershed just because they own part of it?

That's where regulation comes in. You can do whatever you want to your property, so long as it doesn't affect someone else's. If it will affect their property, then they have a say in your actions. Water is public property, so the public has a say.