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Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Fishing access: A story of people, property and profits

Re: Fishing access: A story of people, property and profits

Author: : jbomb

Date: : 2013/3/9 3:17:45

URL:

This reminds me of a thread asking if fly fishermen were elitists. I'd point to these clubs as proof that we are. I try to give people the benefit of the doubt, but sometimes it's not that easy.

My grandfather went in on a piece of land with some fellow vets when he got home from WWII. The lots were up against a mountain with state game lands and our camp hunted there for 50 years. Then some guys got themselves a lease and cut off the access... so there's a nice strip of "public" land that is for all intents and purposes inaccessible to the public.

I can't be convinced that it's fair to rope off a section of land or water that's subsidized with public license fees for the benefit of a few guys with a lot of money regardless of how hard they worked for it. Calling it a surrogate for class warfare is a weak argument at best, and it's more the pot calling the kettle black than anything else.

I hear a lot of "it is what it is" arguments from my retired friends, but that doesn't work for me because I feel a duty to stick up for my buddies kids who may or may not be blessed with the means to build up a disposable income of tens of thousands of dollars to put toward fishing the few remaining areas where fish have a chance to exist without us putting them there two or three times a year.

As far as private clubs doing what is best for the area I think that's debatable. Like any organization, TU included, they do what's best for their major stake holders as long as it resembles their mission statement.

So here I am pondering my own statements, do I think the public should have access to real fisheries? yup. Do I think the majority of the public will leave it in the same condition as they found it? nope. Does that make me an elitist? probably. Do I think that a group with a lot of money is better suited for stewardship? not necessarily. Are these clubs buying up access rights to keep me and you out? absolutely.