Subject: : Stream Reports
Topic: : Donegal Ck CRFFO Area, Lancaster Co, 7/16/13
Re: Donegal Ck CRFFO Area, Lancaster Co, 7/16/13
Author: : Fishidiot
Date: : 2013/7/18 9:25:55
URL:

Quote:

> Mike wrote:
> With respect to the adult trout stocking reduction that I mentioned took place some years ago in an effort to benefit the forage base and possibly benefit young wild trout survival, I should add that with reductions in the PFBC statewide stocking program over time, it is likely that not only was private stocking in Donegal's special reg area reduced or discontinued, but PFBC stocking numbers were also likely reduced. So, whether the wild trout population response was to habitat work, including increasing shade upstream, stocking number reductions, or a combination of both, we will never know for sure. The habitat project was quite large and quite impressive, however.

Was stocking reduced outside the special reg section as well?
If so, perhaps the wild trout were also beneficiaries of reduced angling pressure outside the reg section as well?
Although I tend to believe that habitat and water quality are primary drivers of trout population rather than angling pressure.....it does seem to me that a reduction (or better yet complete elimination) of stocking often results in a steep drop in angling pressure by traditional anglers and - following this drop in pressure - a subsequent increase in wild BT population. Valley Creek, although it saw a complete cessation of stocking, is an example of a degraded stream that, when stocking stopped, saw rapid rise in its wild BT in the years that followed.
To be sure, I wouldn't overemphasize this trend as I can think of a good few exceptions - but it's plausible.