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Subject: : Fly Fishing Locations

Topic: : Donegal creek wild rainbow?

Re: Donegal creek wild rainbow?

Author: : Swattie87

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URL:

My vote would be regular wild Rainbow. I fished a stream that had a small co-op hatchery that flooded in the floods of 2011. There were some Golden fingerlings in there that made it in to the stream at a size only slightly bigger than the fish pictured...maybe 5-6". They had much more obvious banana-like features than this fish.

I agree with Maurice on the fish's origins, and I've noticed the same thing on streams that are stocked with Rainbows but are capable of holding fish over. Many of these are actually viable wild Brown Trout streams (as is Donegal). Some smallish wild Rainbows will show up for a year or two, usually immediately following a year with good Summer flows and temps. Then they disappear and you don't see any for a few years. Get a year with conditions conducive to holding stockers over, and they show up again. Rainbows just seem to struggle to sustain a wild population in our streams in comparison to Brooks and Browns (thankfully in most cases).