Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum
Topic: : Brookie versus Brownie habitat ?
Re: Brookie versus Brownie habitat ?
Author: : Chaz
Date: : 2013/9/7 7:09:57
URL:

It's mostly geological factors that determine where each species is. Freestone Streams are always more acidic then limestone streams, browns have a lower tolerance for acidity so they don't take over freestone streams to the extent that they do in limestone streams. Limestone Streams almost always have more silt, and brookies don't tolerate silt as much as browns.

Brookies do well anywhere there are no browns, even in places that there is no cover you'll find some brookies. Browns like cover, which can be something as simple as water depth, or big trees along streams. In many streams all browns need is a toe hold, ph above 6, but the closer to 7 the better, and cover, and browns can take over a stream.

The one anomaly is Big Spring, not many browns at all, and it has only had an abundance of browns when they were stocked. I believe this is a function of the very cold temperatures year round; On a 95° the creek can be in the fifties down as far as the dam at Newville.

Water temperature has an important role when it comes to spawning, the colder the water the more brookies are successful, if the water is warmer during the spawning period and during incubation, it will start at some point to favor browns.

Both will survive summer temperatures up to 78° well, but after that fish will start to die. High temperatures = lower oxygen which tends to favor browns if it's over a long periods. It all comes back to geology in the end, because geology pretty much determines what all the other factors are.