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Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Panfish invading a trout stream!

Re: Panfish invading a trout stream!

Author: : Swattie87

Date: : 2013/9/23 9:29:34

URL:

Although I've never fished it, I'm pretty sure I know what stream is being discussed here and its general topography. In this case, I think it's more likely the Sunfish and LMB are escapees from ponds or some other type of impoundment in the watershed, upstream from the mouth a ways. It's unlikely (if not impossible?) these fish navigated their way upstream from the larger receiving stream.

I've seen this on a few wild Trout streams in my area too, generally after flooding events. The fish that escape or are washed out of their pond/impoundment are generally pretty small and don't fare too well in the small stream environment. Sure, a few will figure it out and adapt to the current and the drop in Summer water temperature, but most will just continue to vacate downstream, or become food for the stream's resident fish.

Not sure if PatrickC was indicating they were banking the WW fish or not, but in either case, nature will sort this out pretty quickly. Any stream that holds a healthy population of wild Brown Trout, as I'm certain this one does, will not be suitable for growing and supporting Sunfish and LMB for an extended period of time. The water will not get warm enough, for long enough of a duration in the Summer to allow them to grow properly. In addition, this is a pretty steep stream...Sunfish and LMB are generally speaking not very fond of current, and will avoid it if at all possible. They'll do ok in the pools, but this is where the big Browns generally live and big Browns in my experience don't like to share their pool with anything that is small enough for them to eat. Eventually (over a couple of years) the cold or cool water species will win out and effectively eliminate the WW fish. You may end up with a couple of rogue fish that grow big enough to make it in the stream, but for the most part the WW fish will just disappear. For now, I'd just look at them as additional forage for the Browns. You probably will see some of the better fish in this stream (mid teens from what I've gathered in this thread and others) turn into upper teens fish for a couple of years thanks to the influx of "big fish" food.