Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum
Topic: : Class A stocking proposal by the PFBC
Re: Class A stocking proposal by the PFBC
Author: : BrookieChaser
Date: : 2013/10/7 13:07:19
URL:

Off the top of my head, according to the use reports, those of us targeting only wild fish account for $18 million in revenue, where those only targeting pelletheads account for $65 million.

I figured I'd share my letter to the PFBC...

*I'm writing this to inform you I am against the proposed legislation to allow stocking in Class A Wild Trout waters. I find the idea of a department whose motto is "resource first" even proposing such a legislation preposterous and, quite frankly, idiotic.*

*Stocking over a sustaining population of wild trout can do nothing but harm the established wild trout population. I don't believe a resource as important as wild trout need any more interference from humans than they've already had in the past. Have we not learned anything from this state's history regarding the displacement of native brook trout due to the stocking of non-native trout? I'm not writing this from only a native brook trout standpoint; I don't think we need to hinder a wild brown trout population by introducing inferior genetics, and more competition for resources, by stocking. Did we not learn anything by the study on Montana's Madison River on the effects of stocking over wild fish? A study which ultimately led them to cease stocking over wild trout in 1974, and their wild trout recovered exponentially once stocking ceased.*

*If you are worried about a currently stocked stream that receives too much angling pressure for wild trout, being reclassified as Class A, why not put in catch and release regulations? Why not protect the wild trout instead of putting them in jeopardy?*

*Ultimately I have a sneaking suspicion this proposed legislation comes from an idea of a loss of license sales if the public does not receive their "instant fishery" provided by throwing stocked fish where the anglers can easily get to them. There is a flip side to that coin; how about the loss if myself, and like-minded anglers, would quit buying a trout stamp if we knew that our trout stamp money was going to fund stocked trout being used to inhibit naturally sustaining wild trout populations? Why not put in a wild trout stamp for those of us that want to support wild trout fisheries? This stamp could go to wild trout habitat management, further studies to determine wild trout fisheries, and to educate the public about the valuable resources that are wild trout.*

*Thank you for your time.*