
Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum
Topic: : Class A stocking proposal by the PFBC
Re: Class A stocking proposal by the PFBC
Author: : pcray1231
Date: : 2013/10/7 13:34:18
URL:

Quote:

We're the minority - angler surveys have shown that we're a SMALL minority. You'd be surprised how many people think that trout in our streams only come from the white truck fleet. The concept of a wild, naturally reproducing, self sustaining trout population is a concept not understood by many anglers.

This is true. IMO, it is THE problem. I'm not overly concerned about 1 particular stream. I mean, I'd like to manage it right and all. But in a bigger picture sort of way, it's not as important as we'd like to think. What is important is educating the public on the angling opportunities this state has to offer. i.e. getting rid of a truck chasing mentality and into a mentality more akin to many western and some eastern states.

We live in one of the best wild trout states in the east. Though many of the streams are small, by pure wild trout miles, we rank up there with many of the more famous western states. And we have plenty of medium and large stream opportunities as well, as most of these particular streams show. It's a GREAT state for trout fishermen even without trucks. In an ideal world, the trucks would serve to supplement the trout opportunities by providing trout fisheries in additional waters, beyond what nature is able to provide.

But somewhere along the line we lost our way. The trucks became the primary source of trout opportunities, not merely supplemental, and many actual fishermen don't even realize wild trout exist. What a shame!

To make things worse, in the face of declining hatchery space, we're wasting a huge gift. Many streams are recovering from pollution. Acid rain is decreasing. Anglers of all types are releasing more fish than ever. Various industries have better standards. Stream protection is better. And as a result of all of this, wild trout streams are generally improving. Many of which are traditionally stocked. They are an opportunity to highlight wild trout fishing to the public by REMOVING them from the stocking list and showing that they do indeed still have quality fishing. Meanwhile, those extra fish can be used to stem the tide of stocking reductions on the streams that need stocked.

What an opportunity to show that fairly large, heavily used streams can be fishing destinations without white trucks!