Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum
Topic: : Stocked or Wild?
Re: Stocked or Wild?
Author: : pcray1231
Date: : 2013/11/19 7:55:57
URL:

Quote:

> So, I think my philosophy about wild vs tocked is becoming something like: If it BEHAVES like a real trout, stocked vs wild doesn't matter.

Again, you are trying to steer yourself towards wild trout elitism there, by setting yourself up for the view that one fish is worth more than another. My view is this: You MANAGE a resource with an eye toward wild trout, if you can. It's better for everyone. And hence, knowing the difference allows you to learn more about the resource. It can also help you to be more successful. However, there's no difference from a fisherman's "pride" standpoint. One doesn't count any more than the other. There's nothing wrong with catching stockies, and it doesn't make the fisherman inferior in any way.

That said, yes, you are right, after stocked fish have been in the stream a while, the stocked trout experience becomes a little more natural. How quickly this happens depends on a lot of things. But the part I really dislike is the artificial congregations. This is less an issue with the fish and more an issue with the PFBC stocking practices, who always seem to want to spread fish out less. Part of it is workers trying to get out of a little work; they have busy schedules and skipping a stocking point and then doubling up on the next simply saves time. Likewise, telling guys they can't carry buckets too far, etc. Just a time saver. But part of it I think is the policy position that they want a higher % of the fish to get caught. IMO, that's the wrong way to go, because you do that by loading up a hole or two and encouraging everyone to fish shoulder to shoulder over them. I'd much rather spread the fish, and fishermen, out as much as feasible, even if it means a lower catch rate for the fishermen and the fish.

The situation is typically a little better on bigger water, as fish move a little more freely and spread out on their own better.