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Subject: : Stream Reports

Topic: : Thompson Run, Centre County, 10-20-13

Re: Thompson Run, Centre County, 10-20-13

Author: : pcray1231

Date: : 2013/12/9 9:26:17

URL:

If the fish was born in the stream, it is a wild fish, period.

Wild fish can occur without a "permanent, established" population. It would just mean, if left to it's own devices, the population would not sustain its numbers over multiple generations.

FWIW, rainbows in upper Spring are NOT new. As I said, I do not trust myself in judging the wildness of rainbows based on pics alone (unless freshly stocked, of course). There is indeed an established, wild population in Spring Creek proper, centered around the mouth of Slab Cabin, Thompson, and the like. I don't doubt that a stocked fish from below, could, on occasion, get up there. But I'd say the majority up there are indeed wild. So, an established, wild population with the occasional stocker thrown in for good measure.

On the other hand, I've also caught rainbows at Benner, Paradise, and all the way down to the mouth. It is clear that fair numbers of fish escape from the hatcheries, often at a young age, and they grow up, color up, and take on some traits of wild fish just like a fingerling stocked fish would. Further, they stock fish in the city of Bellefonte. From Benner down, I've always believed the majority of the rainbows have hatchery origins. That said, I do not doubt that those hatchery fish occasionally reproduce, meaning there are a few wild ones mixed in. i.e. a hatchery population with the occasional wild one thrown in for good measure.

What I question is whether there is a stable, established population down there, or if that population is dependent on being continuously "re-seeded". i.e. if the hatcheries were to shut down and they were to stop stocking in Bellefonte, would that population die out in a generation or two? I lean towards this being the case, but don't pretend to be sure of it.