
Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : NW PA Stocking Over Wild Trout Survey Results

Re: NW PA Stocking Over Wild Trout Survey Results

Author: : OhioOutdoorsman

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Salvineus -

As bamboozle points out this process is very tedious, i only had the patience to survey my section of the state.

I think to have a supply of fishing opprotunities to meet the demand, stocking is a necessary evil. If stocking of "wild" trout streams of any class was intututed I think you'd have atituation much like trout stocking in Ohio.....a springtime put and take affair. It would dramatically lower coldwater fishing opprotunities. Would people stop fishing for trout? No. They would hit the wild streams all the harder unless more regs were passed, which would further limit fishing opprotunities. This would upset a lot of fisherman, which is the group (not the fish) that the PFBC has to serve. I don't think that the class B-D fisheries would "rebound" to the degree to provide a quality, sustainable sportfishery that is equivalent to the stocked fishery. So I think class B-D wild trout fisheries (at least brown and rainbow fisheries) need to be stocked in some fashion.....these lesser quality fisheries are able to support a large population of holdeover trout and make economic sense to stock from a resource management perspective.

What I think is that stocking should be done in a way that is least intrusive to wild fisheries, in particular, brook trout fisheries.

What I propose as a plan of action that I think we could all agree on is asking the PFGC to alter their practices of stocking browns next to brook trout streams that have no natural barrier. This would be a good place to start and I think has the best evedence behind it. We could lobby to stop stocking at some streams and ask them to study the effects on the adjacent brook trout fishery. If there was an improvement, this could then be used as evidence to alter the policy of stocking adjacent sections statewide.

I would also be interested in the effects of stocking brook trout next to wild brook trout populations. Maybe this could be an alternative to stopping stocking all together. Maybe this is what we could lobby for if the PFBC says they absolutely need to stock next to a given section of stream. This practice would also need to be studied.

I think working with a regional manager on a few targeted streams would be the best way to start the process.....