Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum
Topic: : Class A Wild Trout, Wilderness & WBT Enhancement Streams
Re: Class A Wild Trout, Wilderness & WBT Enhancement Streams
Author: : pcray1231
Date: : 2009/3/10 14:21:40
URL:

First,

BFC is hardly a representative case of wild brook trout streams. It is far different than your run of the mill brookie stream, and faces different pressures. Big Spring fits in the same "exceptional" category. They are not what brook trout regs should be about, because these types of streams represent an extreme minority compared to the thousands of small mountain freestoners that carry brookies. Now, separate regulations on these streams are fine.

But I somewhat agree with Jack. The things affecting MOST brookie streams are not harvest related. The population is mostly limited by habitat and other issues like temperature, siltation, availability of food, acidity, etc. Unlike BFC and other limestoners, the population is at its carrying capacity. So harvest regs are indeed separate from trying to increase the carrying capacity, its not all "part of the whole". If a given hole supports 5 fish, and somebody keeps two, the remaining fish still produce 100 young per year, of which 2 live to replace the ones that were taken. The population is in no way limited by the number of breeding adults, as long as there's a few, there's enough young ones to fully replenish the population.

Increasing the carrying capacity should be the focus. In the exceptional cases where harvest or pressure actually does limit the population, like BFC, then you can consider harvest or tackle restrictions.