

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Class A Wild Trout, Wilderness & WBT Enhancement Streams

Re: Class A Wild Trout, Wilderness & WBT Enhancement Streams

Author: : JackM

Date: : 2009/3/10 15:17:49

URL:

Note to RLeep: the Smokies study touches on the issue you raise. Those "habitat" factors did their damage many years ago. The current state of our mountain freestones is stable or improving (as I think pcray mentioned). What the few good studies seem to suggest is that harvest is not effecting the new (admittedly reduced) carrying capacity of these streams.

While it may be true that turning hundreds of anglers loose on a small mountain freestoner with emerald shiners and redworms with instructions to keep anything over 7 inches would probably effect the stream for a year or two, as Mike (our PFBC mole) would likely remind us, harvest just does not happen to this extent under current regulations. I don't doubt that there might be an isolated brookie stream or dozen that actually have been impacted by harvest; however, this would not make the stream or the fish "fragile" any more than the allowing 10 lumberjacks to hack away with axes at a mature oak tree would make such a tree "fragile" because it finally succumbs and falls to the ground.