

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : Stocking Trout Over Wild Fish

Re: Stocking Trout Over Wild Fish

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URL:

Stocking over wild trout does hurt wild trout.

These reasons, not necessarily in this order:

1. Introduction of disease.
2. Timing of stocking is when wild trout are recovering from winter lethargy and energy depletion from spawning.
 - a. behavioral differences cause unnecessary additional loss of energy (if can extrapolate from Bob Bachman studies on Spruce circa 1980).
3. Inducement for increased angling pressure.

However,

I see nothing at all wrong with stocking strictly for recreational purposes, given:

1. it is in sections of streams or bodies of water not of suitable characteristics for spawning;
2. not nursery waters (where young grow);
3. not the over-wintering holding areas of the wild brood fish;
4. if stocked fish are adequately screened against carrying disease (not necessarily the case);
5. stocking is for put-and-take and/or the section of stream serves as high-attraction delayed harvest/C&R recreational facilities.

Otherwise, the stability of wild trout is compromised.

Without stocking, at greater risk is the loss of contiuum of angling opportunities and the loss of opportunity for the development of eventual wild trout supporters and defenders.

Fishing for stocked trout is similar to hunting for stocked birds:

It's recreational and fun, but the fisherman, the hunter and the hunter's dog never really get to develop the understanding and skills to play or appreciate the game when more variables (that's why it's wild) come into play.