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Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : "wild" rainbows

Re: "wild" rainbows

Author: : troutbert

Date: : 2009/6/24 9:19:48

URL:

Quote:

JackM wrote:

Quote:

pcray1231 wrote:

.... It is true that during the logging boom most of our streams were basically dead, the entire state was basically one big clearcut....

Once again, my skepticism is aroused.

Mine too. I've read the logging histories and seen the photos of the stripped and burnt over hillsides. And I know that only a trivial acreage was left uncut.

But, is there historical evidence that the brookies were wiped out as a result? I've read a lot on these topics and I've never found evidence of that.

It's easy to assume that if a watershed was all logged off and then burnt over that the brookies would disappear. But I don't think that is the case.

Supposing today that every single tree in the Kettle Creek drainage was cut down. And then a high intensity fire swept through the whole area. Would the brookies be eradicated? I don't think they would. Their numbers would likely be reduced, but they wouldn't be eradicated. They would still hang on in the headwater areas. The groundwater comes into the stream at around 50F. So even if all of the trees were removed, the fish could still survive in the headwater tribs.

Brookies survive today in some open meadow environments, where the vegetation is grassy, rather than forested.

After an area is logged or burned, if you come back even a year or two later, there is rapid growth of grasses and other vegetation.

Also, during the logging era, not everything was cut at one time. There were different landowners so different tracts were cut at different periods. So at the time one tract was being leveled, another tract was growing back in brush.