

MEMORANDUM

TO: Trout Committee Members

FROM: Doug Peterson, Chairman

DATE: June 26, 1980

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Trout Committee Meeting, May 22-23, 1980

The first meeting of the Trout Committee in 1980 was held at the Buffalo Mountain Inn at Unicoi, Tennessee. On May 22 several members and guests went to Watauga Reservoir to inspect and sample the trout population there.

The meeting held on May 23 was attended by the following members: Monte Seehorn, USFS; Hal Boles, USFWS; Pat Hutson, Texas; Rich Fatora, Georgia; Ron Pasch, TVA; John Boaze, USFWS; Kerry Prather, KY; Tom Harshbarger, USFS; and Doug Peterson, Tenn., Chairman. Guests in attendance were: Hayden Ratledge, N.C.; Dean Elsen, USFS; Price Wilkins, Tenn.; Richard Eager, USFWS; Jane Fowler, USFWS; and Karen Bayliss, USFWS.

Old and Ongoing Projects

The first order of business was to discuss the introduction of wild and domestic rainbow and brown trout into selected streams. It was suggested that a preliminary report be written to summarize why we began this project, a history behind the various streams, what states and streams were involved, and the results from stream samplings. This preliminary report will cover the fingerling introduction and will explain why we recommended going to the sub-adults. Rich Fatora was selected sub-committee chairman to formulate this report. All states that took part in this project should send their reports to Rich, if they have not already done so, as soon as possible.

North Carolina, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Georgia received the sub-adult wild and domestic brown trout from North Carolina last fall for evaluation. In Tennessee, Monte Seehorn sampled Brushy Creek and Doug Peterson sampled North Indian Creek and were finding both groups that were showing good growth. The other states should sample their streams this spring and again this fall for a briefing at our next meeting.

New Project Discussions

It was suggested that due to the increased interest and concern regarding the brook trout that our committee should undertake to compile a brook trout bibliography of North America. This would be a major project and could take as long as 3 years to compile for submission to the Southeastern Proceedings. It was agreed by the members that we should begin this project. Ron Pasch was selected the sub-committee chairman with Hal Boles and Kerry Prather to assist him. They will begin to lay the foundation on how to go about collecting the bibliography and report at our next meeting.

John Boaze has been working on age and growth of rainbow trout on the Cherokee Indian Reservation and finding very few fish over 2 years of age. He has requested that anyone who might have any information on age and growth of rainbow, brown and brook trout send it to him even if it is only raw data. He will summarize the information and give us a report later. If more data is needed we might consider this as a new project at a later time.

Scheduled presentations began with Ron Pasch's work with instream flow determinations below Norris Dam. The methodology consists of: (1) simulation of stream, using a computer model; (2) determination of the distribution of combination of depths, velocity, and substrate by area; (3) determination of composite probability of use for each combination of depth, velocity, and substitute and (4) calculation of weighted usable area for each discharge. This exercise will show the flow required for optimum habitat for a particular life stage of a speices. What follows will include information on what a species at what stage are to be stocked and the flow conditions that provide desireable fishing (wading and floating) conditions.

Price Wilkins reviewed the history of Watauga Reservoir trout management from the mid 1950's to present. Presently, day and night creel censuses are used to evaluate the recovery from introductions of various rainbow strains. Some results are:

Strain	% by No. Recaptured	% by weight Recovered
Tasmanian	33	87
Doe Creek	62	116
Steelhead	18	82
Doe Creek	35	148
No Mark (Withville)	19	60

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Tom Harshbarger discussed the findings from two different methods of trout egg plantings to determine which method resulted in greater egg and fry survival. Eggs were either planted in box containers (Vibert) or deposited directly into the gravel. He found that sediment deposition and fungal growth on eggs were extensive using Vibert boxes. Entrapment by sediment was not observed at the intrabavel plant sites.

After the scheduled presentations each committee member briefly discussed what was going on in their area. Kerry Prather mentioned Kentucky's brook and brown trout introduction and enhancement program. Rainbow trout are reproducing naturally in Bark Camp Creek which is unusual for Kentucky. Pat Hutson talked about Texas' four put-and-take rainbow trout fisheries. They are finding striped bass preying on rainbows in tailwater. They will begin experimental brown trout introductions in the future. John Boaze has found 135 miles of trout water on the Cherokee Indian Reservation. It was previously estimated to be 70 miles. He said the Park Service has initiated a no size or creel limit for rainbow trout or Lynn Camp Prong. Artificial bait must be used, and all brook trout must be released and all rainbows must be kept. These regulations are to determine if rainbow trout can effectively be removed from this stream to reduce competition. Rich Fatora said that Georgia is classifying their trout waters. They found 6-7 inch rainbows stocked in Lanier Reservoir were not converting to a shad diet. They are now stocking 9-10 inch fish to eliminate this problem. Monte Seehorn discussed the development of spawning gravel cleaners that the USFS is working on in Montana. He asked if this type of equipment would have any possibilities for use in any of our southeastern streams. It was generally concluded that spawning gravel cleaners could be used only in very limited situations due to non-concentrated spawning areas. Tom Harshbarger says that at the USFS, Bent Creek Experimental Station will be studying flood damaged streams and population distribution during various seasons, especially during the winter. He suggested that stream sampling during the month of May be used for the best standing crop estimates. He also discussed freeze core removal of redds. Hal Boles explained the cooperative study regarding brown trout introduction into Norris Tailwater between USFWS, TVA and Tennessee. This study will be evaluated by creel census and population sampling to see if rainbows and brown trout can co-exist without problems. If successful, this tailwater could help take some of the pressure which once occurred on the Little Tennessee River. This project will also help to evaluate turbine venting at Norris Dam. Bud Ratledge told about North Carolina reclassification of streams which will result in new regulation changes. Three years after the steelhead introduction into Lake James, Fontana, Santeetlah and Nantahala, they have found no definite runs. They will

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continue to evaluate the run. They are still working with native trout stream evaluations. He mentioned they are changing the distribution of fish due to budget restrictions which will result in heavier stockings less often.