

Report of the Subcommittee on Trout Streams
of the Forest Game Committee
Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society
Tulsa, Oklahoma
1965

The Subcommittee reported in Clearwater, Florida last year at which time their objectives were outlined and submitted for your approval. Their immediate objectives were as follows:

1. Enlargement of Subcommittee for representation from each state having trout water.
2. Report to Southeastern Directors in April soliciting their aid and cooperation.
3. Preparation of standards for classification.
4. Review of classification by Subcommittee.
5. Each state classify its streams according to standards agreed upon.
6. Presentation of a report to Southeastern Directors at fall meeting in Tulsa.

The first four objectives have largely been accomplished. (Note: Arkansas, Maryland, and South Carolina are not represented on the Subcommittee, but Chairman Miller plans to ask the Directors of these three states for representation.)

The Subcommittee met in Atlanta on September 17, 1965 to prepare the standards of classification. It soon became apparent that this posed some difficulty but the following methods should make a classification possible which would apply to each state represented.

First, all trout streams should be placed in categories of preservation according to their importance as follows:

Category I. Streams of outstanding potential which, regardless of the cost, should be retained as natural streams, inviolate of channelization, impoundment, and other flood control or site development.

Category II. Streams of excellent to outstanding potential which should be retained in a natural condition as long as possible but which subsequently may be modified in accordance with over-all land management plans for the watershed concerned.

Category III. Less important streams, many of which are of marginal value for trout fishing, the modifications of which will have little effect on the trout resource; or streams on which modification is inevitable.

Secondly, trout streams should be classified according to their degree of excellence. These classifications should be constant and based on the same factors in each state. The following classes are recommended by your Subcommittee.

Class I. Flowing streams or portions of streams capable of sustaining a natural trout fishery without hatchery supplementations.

Class II. Flowing streams or portions of streams capable of sustaining a trout fishery if natural reproduction is supplemented by hatchery fishes.

Class III. All other flowing streams capable of holding trout long enough to support a fishery.

Class IV. Tailwaters which have the physical, chemical, and biological properties required by trout.

Mr. Chairman, your Subcommittee hopes to be able to present to the Directors in the spring of 1966 both a categorizing and a classification of all the trout streams in the southeast.

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