

250415

April 13, 2015

To: Wisconsin DNR

From: Harry Turner

Re: Position Statement for 2016 Fishing Regulations for the Castle Rock Trout Stream

My name is Harry Turner, and I grew up in Montfort, Wisconsin. I have fished the Castle Rock trout stream for 65 years, and in so doing, I have introduced the sport to my daughters and grandchildren, especially during opening weekends and the months of June and July.

In 2003, the DNR expanded the artificial lures "catch and release" section to include an additional part of the stream from the Castle Rock town bridge to the County Q bridge west of the town. This action removed an additional one (1) mile of trout fishing area from those of us who fish with live bait and keep our trout.

During opening day/weekend of 2014, it was "wall to wall" with trout fishermen in the live bait "catch and keep" section due to a large number of campers, and I am sure it will be the same for 2015.

In contrast, there were about 6 or 7 fly fishermen in the artificial lures "catch and release" section which now covers about 3 miles of the stream. Why should a small group of elite fly fishermen, some of whom are from Illinois and Iowa, have 3 miles of prime trout stream all to themselves while the rest of us are crammed into a one (1) mile section of stream on opening day/weekend?

Gifford Pinchot, the first head of the US Forest Service, said: "You manage the resource to produce the greatest good for the greatest number of people for the longest period of time." This analogy also applies to trout fishing.

The Wisconsin DNR has strayed from this philosophy to benefit a small group of fly fishermen at the expense of the general public, rather than reaching a reasonable balance between the two groups of fishermen.

Resolution:

Therefore, it is my recommendation that, beginning with the 2016 trout fishing season, the DNR return the Castle Rock trout stream to its 2002 status and its 2002 regulations. This will restore the one (1) mile section of the stream, extending from the Castle Rock town bridge to the County Q bridge west of the town to "live bait-catch and keep" status.

To paraphrase Gifford Pinchot: "This action will provide the greater good for the greater number of trout fishermen." It will also achieve a reasonable balance between the 2 groups of fishermen.

Harry D. Turner
1402 South 20th Street
LaCrosse, WI 54601

608-785-0219
email: badgerharry@live.com