



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2020 Wadable Streams Trout Population Report Buffalo, Clark, Jackson and Trempealeau Counties

Survey Objectives

In 2020, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted electrofishing surveys on wadable trout streams in Buffalo, Clark, Jackson and Trempealeau counties. The primary sampling objectives for these surveys were to characterize relative abundance and size structure for all trout and overall ecological integrity through an index of biological integrity (IBI) based on all fish species captured in the sampled survey sites. The following report is a summary of trout metrics for all streams and stations surveyed in 2020. Please refer to the Guide to Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations for applicable size and bag limit restrictions for the stream you fish. If you have any stream-specific questions, contact Zach Woiak.

DNR Contact

Zach Woiak
DNR Fish Biologist in Buffalo,
Clark, Jackson and Trempealeau
Counties

910 Hwy 54 East
Black River Falls, WI 54615
715-284-1428
Zachariah.Woiak@wisconsin.gov

Survey Methods

Trend survey sites are sampled annually while rotation survey sites are sampled every 3, 6 or 12 years. All sample sites are electrofished with either a backpack or stream barge electrofishing unit. Sampling distance is at least 35 times the mean stream width or a minimum of 330 feet (100 meters), whichever is greater. All gamefish are identified by species, measured for length, and in some cases identified for fin-clips. In at least one survey station per stream, all fish are captured and counted. Metrics used to describe fish populations include catch per unit effort (CPUE), length frequency and index of biotic integrity (IBI). All streams were sampled using a backpack electroshocker due to COVID-19 workplace restrictions.

Metric Descriptions

Catch per unit effort (CPUE) is an indirect method of measuring fish population relative abundance. For all trout surveys, we quantify CPUE by the number and size of trout captured per one mile of stream.

Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) is a rating of environmental quality based on fish assemblages at each station. Scores between 90 and 100 indicate excellent quality streams, while scores less than 30 indicate poor quality. Our analysis uses Wisconsin's coldwater IBI, where the maximum daily mean water temperature is typically less than 22°C.



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Survey and Station Information						
Stream	County	Survey Type	Station	Survey Date	Station Length (ft)	IBI Score
Armour Creek	Buffalo	12-Year Rotation	Station 1	8/17/2020	450	60 (Good)
Armour Creek	Buffalo	12-Year Rotation	Station 2	8/17/2020	450	30 (Fair)
Beltz Creek	Jackson	12-Year Rotation	Station 1	7/21/2020	450	90 (Excellent)
Big Slough Creek	Trempealeau	6-Year Rotation	Station 1	7/27/2020	630	60 (Good)
Big Slough Creek	Trempealeau	6-Year Rotation	Station 2	6/24/2020	450	10 (Poor)
Big Waumandee Creek	Buffalo	Trend	Station 1	8/27/2020	1000	50 (Fair)
Borst Valley Creek	Trempealeau	Trend	Station 1	6/25/2020	1000	70 (Good)
Borst Valley Creek	Trempealeau	Trend	Station 2	6/25/2020	860	30 (Fair)
Chimney Rock Creek	Trempealeau	6-Year Rotation	Station 1	9/14/2020	450	90 (Excellent)
Cisna Creek	Jackson	6-Year Rotation	Station 1	7/1/2020	425	40 (Fair)
Cisna Creek	Jackson	6-Year Rotation	Station 2	7/1/2020	450	40 (Fair)
Deer Creek	Buffalo	Potential Reclass	Station 1	8/17/2020	350	90 (Excellent)
Dickison Creek	Clark	6-Year Rotation	Station 1	7/6/2020	450	60 (Good)
Dickison Creek	Clark	6-Year Rotation	Station 2	7/6/2020	450	50 (Fair)
Dickison Creek	Clark	6-Year Rotation	Station 3	7/6/2020	450	40 (Fair)
Douglas Creek	Jackson	6-Year Rotation	Station 1	8/5/2020	495	100 (Excellent)
Eagle Valley Creek	Buffalo	Trend	Station 1	7/13/2020	1000	80 (Good)
Eagle Valley Creek	Buffalo	6-Year Rotation	Station 2	8/27/2020	450	50 (Fair)
Elk (Bennett) Creek	Buffalo	Trend	Station 1	7/13/2020	675	60 (Good)
Elk Creek	Trempealeau	Trend	Station 1	8/26/2020	1000	70 (Good)
French Creek	Trempealeau	Potential Reclass	Station 1	10/13/2020	810	90 (Excellent)
French Creek	Trempealeau	Potential Reclass	Station 2	10/13/2020	545	70 (Good)
French Creek	Jackson	6-Year Rotation	Station 1	7/8/2020	720	60 (Good)
Hoffman Creek	Jackson	12-Year Rotation	Station 1	7/16/2020	450	60 (Good)



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Stream	County	Survey Type	Station	Survey Date	Station Length (ft)	IBI Score
Hoffman Creek	Jackson	12-Year Rotation	Station 2	7/16/2020	450	90 (Excellent)
Holcomb Coulee Creek	Trempealeau	Potential Reclass	Station 1	9/2/2020	495	80 (Good)
Holcomb Coulee Creek	Trempealeau	Potential Reclass	Station 2	9/2/2020	450	80 (Good)
Johnson Valley Creek	Trempealeau	6-Year Rotation	Station 1	7/16/2020	540	80 (Good)
Johnson Valley Creek	Trempealeau	6-Year Rotation	Station 2	7/16/2020	495	80 (Good)
King Creek	Trempealeau	6-Year Rotation	Station 1	8/24/2020	720	60 (Good)
King Creek	Trempealeau	6-Year Rotation	Station 2	8/26/2020	450	50 (Fair)
King Creek	Trempealeau	6-Year Rotation	Station 3	8/26/2020	675	80 (Good)
Lindsay Creek	Trempealeau	6-Year Rotation	Station 1	7/27/2020	450	60 (Good)
Lindsay Creek	Eau Claire	6-Year Rotation	Station 2	7/27/2020	450	80 (Good)
Little Bear Creek	Buffalo	Trend	Station 1	9/3/2020	675	50 (Fair)
Little Waumandee Creek	Buffalo	Trend	Station 1	6/23/2020	1000	60 (Good)
Little Waumandee Creek	Buffalo	6-Year Rotation	Station 2	9/3/2020	450	50 (Fair)
North Branch Trempealeau River	Jackson	Trend	Station 1	7/28/2020	1000	80 (Good)
North Branch Trempealeau River	Jackson	Trend	Station 2	7/30/2020	800	80 (Good)
North Fork Beaver Creek	Trempealeau	Trend	Station 1	7/21/2020	1000	70 (Good)
North Fork Buffalo River	Trempealeau	Trend	Station 1	8/24/2020	1000	50 (Fair)
North Fork Buffalo River	Jackson	Trend	Station 2	8/24/2020	1000	70 (Good)
Pigeon Creek	Jackson	Trend	Station 1	8/4/2020	1000	60 (Good)
Pigeon Creek	Jackson	Trend	Station 2	8/4/2020	1000	80 (Good)
Pine Creek	Trempealeau	Trend	Station 1	7/7/2020	1000	50 (Fair)
Pine Creek	Trempealeau	Trend	Station 2	7/7/2020	1000	40 (Fair)



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Stream	County	Survey Type	Station	Survey Date	Station Length (ft)	IBI Score
South Fork Buffalo River	Trempealeau	Trend	Station 1	10/6/2020	1000	60 (Good)
South Fork Halls Creek	Jackson	6 Year Rotation	Station 1	7/28/2020	450	30 (Fair)
South Fork Halls Creek	Jackson	6 Year Rotation	Station 2	7/28/2020	595	20 (Poor)
Spring Creek	Buffalo	6 Year Rotation	Station 1	6/23/2020	450	90 (Excellent)
Spring Creek	Buffalo	6 Year Rotation	Station 2	6/23/2020	585	50 (Fair)
Stony Creek	Jackson	6 Year Rotation	Station 1	6/30/2020	690	70 (Good)
Tamarack Creek	Buffalo	Trend	Station 1	6/22/2020	1000	90 (Excellent)
Tamarack Creek	Buffalo	6 Year Rotation	Station 2	7/22/2020	630	40 (Fair)
Tamarack Creek	Buffalo	6 Year Rotation	Station 3	7/22/2020	450	90 (Excellent)
Tamarack Creek	Buffalo	6 Year Rotation	Station 4	7/22/2020	450	90 (Excellent)
Tank Creek	Jackson	Trend	Station 1	7/20/2020	600	100 (Excellent)
Tank Creek	Jackson	Trend	Station 2	7/29/2020	1000	70 (Good)
Trout Creek	Buffalo	Trend	Station 1	6/22/2020	450	90 (Excellent)
Trump Coulee Creek	Trempealeau	Potential Reclass	Station 1	8/20/2020	540	60 (Good)
Trump Coulee Creek	Trempealeau	Potential Reclass	Station 2	8/20/2020	450	40 (Fair)
Trump Coulee Creek	Trempealeau	Potential Reclass	Station 3	8/20/2020	585	60 (Good)
Trump Coulee Creek	Jackson	Potential Reclass	Station 4	10/13/2020	450	50 (Fair)
Turton Creek	Trempealeau	Trend	Station 2	7/2/2020	540	90 (Excellent)
Turton Creek	Trempealeau	Trend	Station 3	7/2/2020	450	80 (Good)
Turton Creek	Trempealeau	Trend	Station 4	7/2/2020	450	80 (Good)
Turton Creek	Trempealeau	Trend	Station 1	7/2/2020	615	90 (Excellent)
Unnamed Creek 15-13	Trempealeau	12 Year Rotation	Station 1	7/30/2020	450	90 (Excellent)
Unnamed Creek 15-4	Trempealeau	12 Year Rotation	Station 1	7/30/2020	450	100 (Excellent)



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Stream	County	Survey Type	Station	Survey Date	Station Length (ft)	IBI Score
Unnamed Creek 17-6	Trempealeau	Potential Reclass	Station 1	9/1/2020	350	90 (Excellent)
Unnamed Creek 17-6	Trempealeau	Potential Reclass	Station 2	9/1/2020	450	90 (Excellent)
Unnamed Creek 17-6	Trempealeau	Potential Reclass	Station 3	9/1/2020	350	90 (Excellent)
Unnamed Creek 26-7	Jackson	12 Year Rotation	Station 1	7/15/2020	390	70 (Good)
Unnamed Creek 34-6	Trempealeau	12 Year Rotation	Station 1	7/27/2020	450	100 (Excellent)
Unnamed Creek 34-6	Trempealeau	12 Year Rotation	Station 2	7/27/2020	450	80 (Good)
Unnamed Creek 5-11	Jackson	Potential Reclass	Station 2	9/28/2020	450	90 (Excellent)
Unnamed Creek 5-11	Jackson	Potential Reclass	Station 3	9/28/2020	450	40 (Fair)
Unnamed Creek 5-11	Jackson	Potential Reclass	Station 1	9/28/2020	450	40 (Fair)
Vosse Coulee Creek	Trempealeau	3 Year Rotation	Station 1	6/29/2020	450	100 (Excellent)
Vosse Coulee Creek	Trempealeau	3 Year Rotation	Station 2	6/29/2020	450	100 (Excellent)
Vosse Coulee Creek	Trempealeau	Potential Reclass	Station 3	6/25/2020	450	100 (Excellent)
Washington Coulee Creek	Trempealeau	3 Year Rotation	Station 1	7/21/2020	450	60 (Good)
Yaeger Valley Creek	Buffalo	Potential Reclass	Station 1	8/19/2020	350	90 (Excellent)
Yaeger Valley Creek	Buffalo	Potential Reclass	Station 2	8/19/2020	350	90 (Excellent)



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Brown Trout Summary							
Trend Stations CPUE (Catch per Mile) – Brown Trout							
Stream	Station	Total	YOY	>5"	≥10"	≥12"	≥15"
Big Waumandee Creek	Station 1	248	53	195	106	48	5
Eagle Valley Creek	Station 1	671	454	216	106	58	-
Elk (Bennett) Creek	Station 1	47	-	47	31	16	8
Elk Creek	Station 1	26	11	16	11	5	-
Little Waumandee Creek	Station 1	53	11	42	32	21	-
North Branch Trempealeau River	Station 1	158	58	100	90	63	11
North Branch Trempealeau River	Station 2	409	284	125	86	40	7
Pigeon Creek	Station 1	5	-	5	5	5	-
Pigeon Creek	Station 2	16	-	16	16	16	5
Pine Creek	Station 1	26	26	-	-	-	-
Tank Creek	Station 1	26	-	26	18	-	-
Tank Creek	Station 2	370	253	116	48	26	5
Turton Creek	Station 1	9	-	9	9	9	-
Turton Creek	Station 2	49	-	49	49	49	20
Turton Creek	Station 3	293	188	106	70	47	12
Turton Creek	Station 4	411	305	106	59	59	12
Rotation Stations CPUE (Catch per Mile) – Brown Trout							
Stream	Station	Total	YOY	>5"	≥10"	≥12"	≥15"
Cisna Creek	Station 2	82	23	59	-	-	-
Eagle Valley Creek	Station 2	563	551	12	12	12	-
French Creek	Station 1	7	-	7	7	7	-
Holcomb Coulee Creek	Station 1	1120	864	256	85	53	-
Holcomb Coulee Creek	Station 2	1150	903	246	59	47	-
Johnson Valley Creek	Station 1	10	10	-	-	-	-
Johnson Valley Creek	Station 2	11	11	-	-	-	-
King Creek	Station 1	44	37	7	7	7	-
King Creek	Station 3	8	8	-	-	-	-
Little Waumandee Creek	Station 2	59	-	59	59	35	12
South Fork Halls Creek	Station 1	117	23	94	-	-	-
South Fork Halls Creek	Station 2	133	89	44	18	-	-
Trump Coulee Creek	Station 2	12	-	12	-	-	-
Yaeger Valley Creek	Station 1	15	-	15	15	-	-
Yaeger Valley Creek	Station 2	15	-	15	15	15	-



Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR



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Brook Trout Summary							
Trend Stations CPUE (Catch per Mile) – Brook Trout							
Stream	Station	Total	YOY	>5"	≥8"	≥10"	≥12"
Big Waumandee Creek	Station 1	153	-	153	143	32	5
Borst Valley Creek	Station 1	264	153	111	79	26	21
Borst Valley Creek	Station 2	49	6	43	37	-	-
Eagle Valley Creek	Station 1	121	63	58	53	11	-
Elk (Bennett) Creek	Station 1	203	164	39	31	31	16
Elk Creek	Station 1	222	164	58	48	32	-
Little Bear Creek	Station 1	23	-	23	23	23	23
Little Waumandee Creek	Station 1	275	42	232	143	53	5
North Fork Beaver Creek	Station 1	317	-	317	190	58	5
North Fork Buffalo River	Station 1	90	-	90	48	26	-
North Fork Buffalo River	Station 2	243	37	206	121	32	-
North Branch Trempealeau River	Station 1	243	69	174	95	21	5
North Branch Trempealeau River	Station 2	574	363	211	46	13	-
Pigeon Creek	Station 1	148	11	137	121	69	21
Pigeon Creek	Station 2	132	26	106	69	11	5
Pine Creek	Station 1	53	21	32	26	26	-
Pine Creek	Station 2	74	26	48	42	32	21
South Fork Buffalo River	Station 1	354	168	186	112	6	6
Tamarack Creek	Station 1	528	58	470	285	106	5
Tank Creek	Station 1	757	123	634	141	-	-
Tank Creek	Station 2	248	37	211	111	37	5
Trout Creek	Station 1	270	59	211	106	-	-
Turton Creek	Station 1	266	26	240	240	197	120
Turton Creek	Station 2	391	10	381	323	235	59
Turton Creek	Station 3	176	47	129	129	59	-
Turton Creek	Station 4	1326	1115	211	129	35	-



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Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

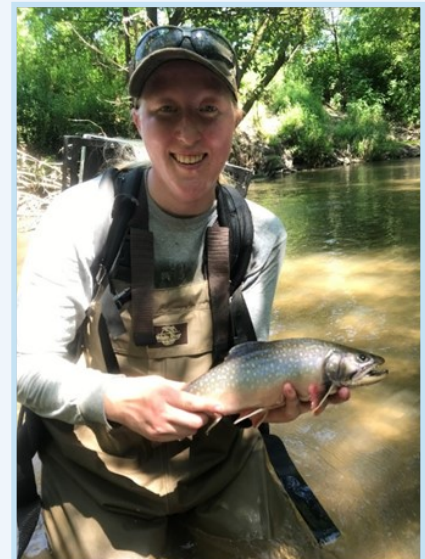


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Brook Trout Summary							
Rotation Stations CPUE (Catch per Mile) – Brook Trout							
Stream	Station	Total	YOY	>5"	≥8"	≥10"	≥12"
Armour Creek	Station 1	129	59	70	59	12	-
Beltz Creek	Station 1	47	47	-	-	-	-
Big Slough Creek	Station 1	302	210	92	42	8	-
Chimney Rock Creek	Station 1	622	352	270	129	-	-
Cisna Creek	Station 1	87	25	62	62	62	12
Deer Creek	Station 1	226	15	211	60	-	-
Dickison Creek	Station 1	282	176	106	-	-	-
Dickison Creek	Station 2	270	176	94	12	-	-
Dickison Creek	Station 3	153	-	153	-	-	-
Douglas Creek	Station 1	843	555	288	160	32	-
Eagle Valley Creek	Station 2	375	282	94	82	47	-
French Creek	Station 1	424	156	267	117	33	7
French Creek	Station 2	281	48	233	97	10	-
French Creek	Station 1	169	81	88	29	-	-
Hoffman Creek	Station 1	1009	868	141	35	-	-
Hoffman Creek	Station 2	106	70	35	-	-	-
Holcomb Coulee Creek	Station 1	384	107	277	139	32	11
Holcomb Coulee Creek	Station 2	422	-	422	293	59	12
Johnson Valley Creek	Station 1	440	293	147	78	10	-
Johnson Valley Creek	Station 2	512	437	75	21	11	-
King Creek	Station 1	367	117	249	66	15	-
King Creek	Station 2	223	35	188	106	23	-
King Creek	Station 3	962	594	368	133	23	-
Lindsay Creek	Station 1	106	23	82	35	12	-
Lindsay Creek	Station 2	446	82	364	141	23	-
Little Waumandee Creek	Station 2	94	23	70	70	-	-
Spring Creek	Station 1	258	211	47	47	35	35
Stony Creek	Station 1	344	84	260	62	31	8
Tamarack Creek	Station 2	243	117	126	117	84	25
Tamarack Creek	Station 3	199	94	106	106	59	12
Tamarack Creek	Station 4	458	188	270	176	35	-
Trump Coulee Creek	Station 1	176	-	176	166	78	78
Trump Coulee Creek	Station 2	106	-	106	106	12	12
Trump Coulee Creek	Station 3	253	90	162	162	117	63
Trump Coulee Creek	Station 4	106	59	47	35	-	-
Unnamed Creek 5-11	Station 1	282	164	117	59	23	-
Unnamed Creek 5-11	Station 2	669	634	35	23	12	-
Unnamed Creek 5-11	Station 3	129	129	-	-	-	-
Unnamed Creek 15-4	Station 1	1162	1021	141	-	-	-
Unnamed Creek 15-13	Station 1	422	317	106	35	-	-
Unnamed Creek 17-6	Station 1	151	106	45	-	-	-
Unnamed Creek 17-6	Station 2	117	94	23	-	-	-
Unnamed Creek 17-6	Station 3	679	528	151	15	-	-
Unnamed Creek 26-7	Station 1	271	95	176	54	14	-



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Rotation Stations CPUE (Catch per Mile) – Brook Trout							
Stream	Station	Total	YOY	>5"	≥8"	≥10"	≥12"
Unnamed Creek 34-6	Station 1	411	399	12	12	-	-
Unnamed Creek 34-6	Station 2	106	106	-	-	-	-
Vosse Coulee Creek	Station 1	857	59	798	235	12	-
Vosse Coulee Creek	Station 2	622	235	387	59	-	-
Vosse Coulee Creek	Station 3	622	35	587	270	23	-
Washington Coulee Creek	Station 1	106	12	94	35	12	-
Yaeger Valley Creek	Station 1	1116	845	271	60	30	-
Yaeger Valley Creek	Station 2	1312	558	754	497	211	60