



# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## 2024 Wadable Streams Trout Population Report Buffalo, Jackson and Trempealeau Counties

### Survey Objectives

In 2024, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted electrofishing surveys on wadable trout streams in Buffalo, 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 2024. 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 fish biologist Zach Woiak.

### DNR Contact

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

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### 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 and measured for length. 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).

### 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.



Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR



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Table with 8 columns: Stream, Station, Total, YOY, ≥8", ≥10", ≥12", ≥14". Rows include streams like Borst Valley Creek, Eagle Creek, Elk (Bennett) Creek, etc., with associated CPUE values.