WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2025 Wadable Streams Trout Population Report
Buffalo, Jackson and Trempealeau Counties

Survey Objectives

In 2025, 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 2025. 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

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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.

Stream Survey Locations and Station Information					
Stream	**County**	**Station**	**Survey Date**	**Station Length (ft)**	**IBI Score**
Borst Valley Creek	Trempealeau	1	8/27/25	630	40
Danuser Creek	Buffalo	1	7/15/25	400	80
Eagle Creek	Buffalo	1	6/30/25	1000	70
Elk (Bennett) Creek	Buffalo	1	7/14/25	675	50
Halls Creek	Jackson	1	7/30/25	1000	40
Levis Creek	Jackson	1	7/29/25	1125	60
Little Waumandee Creek	Buffalo	1	7/15/25	1000	20
North Fork Beaver Creek	Trempealeau	1	8/13/25	765	40
North Fork Beaver Creek	Trempealeau	2	8/27/25	1260	40
North Fork Buffalo River	Trempealeau	1	8/6/25	1000	40
North Fork Buffalo River	Trempealeau	2	8/6/25	875	50
North Branch Trempealeau River	Jackson	1	7/30/25	1000	70
Pigeon Creek	Trempealeau	1	8/5/25	1710	50
Pigeon Creek	Jackson	2	7/30/25	1000	40
Pigeon Creek	Jackson	3	8/6/25	810	60
Pine Creek (Osseo)	Trempealeau	1	6/17/25	1000	40
Pine Creek (Osseo)	Trempealeau	2	6/17/25	750	30
South Fork Beaver Creek	Trempealeau	1	8/27/25	805	40
South Fork Buffalo River	Jackson	1	6/17/25	730	70
Tamarack Creek (Modena)	Buffalo	1	7/1/25	1000	90
Tank Creek	Jackson	1	7/29/25	1000	70
Trempealeau River	Jackson	1	8/5/25	1555	60
Turton Creek	Trempealeau	1	9/2/25	540	80
Turton Creek	Trempealeau	2	9/2/25	200	80
Waumandee Creek	Buffalo	1	7/15/25	1000	60

Brook and Brown Trout Summaries

Trend Stations CPUE (Catch per Mile) – Brown Trout

Stream	Station	Total	YOY	≥8”	≥12”	≥14”	≥16”
Borst Valley Creek	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Danuser Creek	1	554	53	356	40	26	13
Eagle Creek	1	903	322	259	32	0	0
Elk (Bennett) Creek	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Halls Creek	1	48	0	21	11	11	5
Levis Creek	1	300	52	94	9	5	0
Little Waumandee Creek	1	180	42	121	5	0	0
North Fork Beaver Creek	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Fork Beaver Creek	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Fork Buffalo River	1	5	0	5	0	0	0
North Fork Buffalo River	2	42	6	30	24	18	0
North Branch Trempealeau River	1	671	100	306	84	32	0
Pigeon Creek	1	22	0	19	9	6	6
Pigeon Creek	2	58	0	58	37	0	0
Pigeon Creek	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pine Creek (Osseo)	1	5	0	0	0	0	0
Pine Creek (Osseo)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Fork Beaver Creek	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Fork Buffalo River	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tamarack Creek (Modena)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tank Creek	1	549	143	185	84	21	5
Trempealeau River	1	149	0	95	48	37	24
Turton Creek	1	176	29	108	0	0	0
Turton Creek	2	106	0	106	0	0	0
Waumandee Creek	1	987	53	797	180	26	0

Brook and Brown Trout Summaries

Trend Stations CPUE (Catch per Mile) – Brook Trout

Stream	Station	Total	YOY	≥8”	≥10”	≥12”	≥14”
Borst Valley Creek	1	176	8	142	75	8	0
Danuser Creek	1	792	40	330	26	0	0
Eagle Creek	1	21	5	5	0	0	0
Elk (Bennett) Creek	1	579	211	266	55	0	0
Halls Creek	1	285	42	95	21	0	0
Levis Creek	1	75	61	9	5	0	0
Little Waumandee Creek	1	100	37	32	0	0	0
North Fork Beaver Creek	1	193	0	83	0	0	0
North Fork Beaver Creek	2	113	0	46	25	8	4
North Fork Buffalo River	1	121	5	84	37	11	0
North Fork Buffalo River	2	410	48	151	66	12	6
North Branch Trempealeau River	1	702	491	106	21	0	0
Pigeon Creek	1	253	12	176	105	52	19
Pigeon Creek	2	264	5	190	84	11	0
Pigeon Creek	3	215	52	111	46	7	0
Pine Creek (Osseo)	1	227	5	116	42	11	0
Pine Creek (Osseo)	2	106	21	35	7	0	0
South Fork Beaver Creek	1	184	0	112	7	0	0
South Fork Buffalo River	1	311	101	58	22	0	0
Tamarack Creek (Modena)	1	676	454	132	16	0	0
Tank Creek	1	121	42	53	5	0	0
Trempealeau River	1	292	44	126	51	10	0
Turton Creek	1	518	147	235	88	10	0
Turton Creek	2	132	0	26	0	0	0
Waumandee Creek	1	153	5	79	11	0	0