



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2025 Wadable Streams Trout Population Report La Crosse, Monroe, Crawford and Vernon Counties

Page 1

Annual Trout Survey Objectives

Every year the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources La Crosse area inland fisheries unit conducts electrofishing surveys to monitor local trout stream populations. Surveys aim to estimate stream trout abundance, size structure and condition. A total of eight streams function as annual trend sites, while the rest of the trout streams are surveyed on an eight-year rotational watersheds basis. Survey results help support fisheries management decisions and provide historical records. The making of species distribution maps, evaluation of fisheries management regulations and habitat project prioritization are just a few of the important processes trout population survey results can be utilized for. These surveys also indicate productive fishing destinations for a wide variety of angler preferences. Please refer to the Wisconsin Trout Fishing Guide for more specific regulations or contact your local fisheries biologists for stream specific questions.

Survey Methods

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 100 meters, whichever is greater. All fish species are collected to be counted. Gamefish are measured and weighed.

Metric Descriptions

Average Trout per Mile is an indirect method of measuring fish population relative abundance. For all trout surveys we quantify by the number of brook and or brown trout captured over a certain length (inches) per one mile of stream.

Senior Fish Biologist:

Kirk Olson
La Crosse Fish Biologist
3550 Mormon Coulee Road
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-799-4920
Kirk.Olson@wisconsin.gov

Assistant Fish Biologist :

Tommy Hill
La Crosse Fish Biologist
3550 Mormon Coulee Road
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-871-2472
Thompson.Hill@wisconsin.gov



Photo Credit: DNR



Photo Credit: DNR



Photo Credit: DNR



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2025 Wadable Streams Trout Population Report La Crosse, Monroe, Crawford and Vernon Counties

Page 2

2025 Annual Trend Stream Surveys

Stream Name	County	Harvest Regulations (May Change Along County Boundaries)	Avg. Brook Trout (fish/mile)			Avg. Brown Trout (fish/mile)			
			Total	≥ 8	≥ 11	Total	≥ 8	≥ 11	≥ 14
Mormon Coulee Creek	La Crosse	10 trout in total	0	0	0	2038	765	105	3
Little La Crosse River	Monroe	10 trout in total	0	0	0	2003	543	84	7
Timber Coulee Creek	Vernon	catch & release only	2	0	0	2055	1043	260	17
Bohemian Valley	Vernon	10 trout in total	53	6	0	1734	1127	269	6
North Fork Bad Axe River	Vernon	5 trout in total	35	2	0	1697	792	201	16
South Fork Bad Axe River	Vernon	10 trout in total	0	0	0	606	366	115	7
Rush Creek	Crawford	5 trout in total	39	2	0	527	246	56	11
Plum Creek	Crawford	5 trout (brook trout must be released)	136	56	0	2006	445	61	11

2025 Rotational Watersheds Stream Surveys

Major Watershed Surveyed: Coon Creek

Stream Name	County	Harvest Regulations (May Change Along County Boundaries)	Avg. Brook Trout (fish/mile)			Avg. Brown Trout (fish/mile)			
			Total	≥ 8	≥ 11	Total	≥ 8	≥ 11	≥ 14
Berge Coulee Creek	Vernon	5 trout in total	13	0	0	1120	627	107	0
Creek 7-3	Vernon	5 trout in total	100	20	0	540	120	20	0
Fishback Coulee Creek	Vernon	5 trout in total	0	0	0	968	254	0	0
Hasley Creek	Vernon	5 trout in total	22	7	0	211	42	7	0
Hohlfeld Coulee Creek	Vernon	5 trout in total	60	0	0	431	174	37	0
Korn Coulee Creek	Vernon	5 trout in total	141	0	0	366	127	28	0
Larson Coulee Creek	La Crosse	5 trout in total	940	101	0	76	59	5	0
Lindahl Creek	Vernon	5 trout in total	0	0	0	284	119	0	0
Lower Coon Creek	Vernon	5 trout in total	0	0	0	140	113	46	10
Poplar Coulee Creek	Vernon	5 trout in total	7	7	0	1728	736	70	7
Rullands Coulee Creek	Vernon	5 trout under 12"	0	0	0	1704	1050	367	10
Rundahl Coulee Creek	Vernon	5 trout in total	8	0	0	965	141	16	0
Spring Coulee Creek	Vernon	5 trout in total	2	0	0	1379	753	149	16
Wing Hollow Creek	Vernon	5 trout in total	0	0	0	99	37	12	0

