



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

2025

Little Pine Creek, Oneida County

WBIC: 1566400

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Introduction And Objectives

Little Pine Creek is a Cool-Cold Headwater winding 2.90 miles within the Noisy and Pine Creeks watersheds in south-central Oneida County. The Little Pine Creek system is a Class 1 trout water recognized as an outstanding/exceptional resource with sufficient trout reproduction sustaining their population. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) survey sought to describe the trout population characteristics and assess the overall condition of the Little Pine Creek.

DNR Contact

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Regulations

Category: Yellow
Daily Bag and Size Limit:
3 daily bag, 8 inch minimum length

SURVEY INFORMATION

Station	GPS (Start/Finish)	Survey Date	Station Length (ft)	Mean Stream Width (ft)	Temperature (°F)	Gear	Dippers	Qualitative Habitat Score	IBI
400 ft ds camp 6 se-ne sec 19	45.50614, -89.4074 45.50567, -89.4081	7/31/2025	325	5	53.4	Backpack shocker	1	58	60
130m downstream camp 6 rd	45.5142, -89.3994 45.51349, -89.3987	7/31/2025	325	5	51.4	Backpack shocker	1	55	50
35m upstream confluence of noisy creek	45.52247, -89.39431 45.52246, -89.39508	7/31/2025	325	4	50.7	Backpack shocker	1	62	80



Little Pine Creek, Oneida Co., Wis



Figure 1. Stations sampled during 2025 within Little Pine Creek. Trout stream designation and stream regulations during 2025 are also displayed.

Survey Method

- All stations were sampled according to DNR wadable streams monitoring protocol.
- Trout were counted and measured. Other species were counted allowing an Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) score to be calculated.
- Metrics describing the trout population include average length, catch per unit effort (CPUE) and length frequency.
- Qualitative fish habitat rating for streams < 10 meters was used to index factors potentially influencing the fish community including riparian buffer, bank erosion, pool areas, width to depth, riffle areas and the amount of sediment.

Metric Descriptions

- Catch per unit effort (CPUE)** is a method of quantifying fish population relative abundance. For all trout surveys, CPUE is quantified as the number of a given size class of trout captured per mile of stream. CPUE indexes are compared to other trout streams throughout Wisconsin by what percentile (PCTL) they fall out in. For example, if a CPUE is in the 90th percentile, it is higher than 90% of the other CPUEs in the state. CPUE percentiles can also be used to categorize trout abundance as low density (<33rd percentile), moderate density (33rd - 66th percentile), high density (66th - 90th percentile) and very high density (>90th percentile).
- Length frequency distribution** is a graphical representation of the number or percentage of fish captured by half inch or one inch size intervals.
- Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI)** is a rating of environmental quality based on the fish assemblage. Scores of 90 - 100 indicate excellent stream quality, while scores less than 30 indicate poor stream quality. Our analysis utilizes the IBI for Wisconsin coldwater streams. Coldwater streams in Wisconsin are those in which the maximum daily mean water temperature is usually <22°C (71.6°F). A coolwater stream IBI may also be used when a stream doesn't fit the temperature criteria for a coldwater stream.
- Fish Habitat rating** is a scoring of the relative quality and quantity of aquatic habitat available to support a healthy fish community. Scores of 75 - 100 indicate excellent fish habitat, while scores less than 20 indicate poor fish habitat. Our analysis utilizes the fish habitat rating for systems < 10 meters or > 10 meters depending on the mean stream width.



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BROOK TROUT ABUNDANCE (CPUE) METRICS									
Station	Total Number Sampled	Average Length (inches)	Length Range (inches)	CPUE (No. per Mile)					
				Total CPUE	YOY CPUE	≥5" CPUE	≥8" CPUE	≥10" CPUE	≥12" CPUE
400 ft ds camp 6 se-ne sec 19	26	3.0	2.1-4.0	433.3	433.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
130m downstream camp 6 rd	30	2.8	2.1-3.8	500.0	500.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
35m upstream confluence of noisy creek	3	4.6	2.1-6.1	50.0	16.7	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0

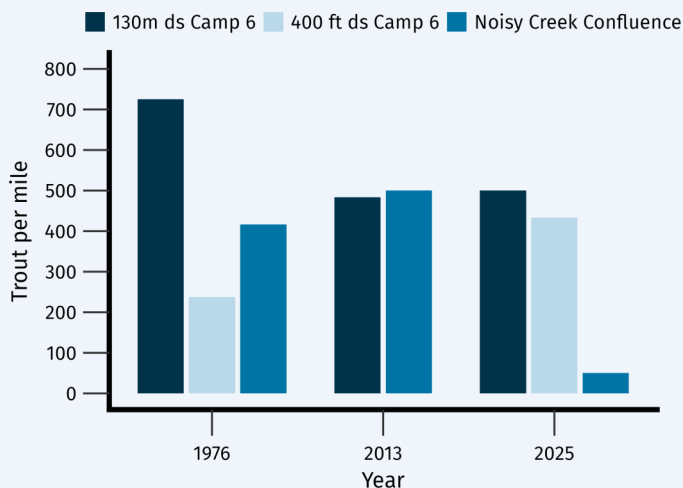


Figure 2. Brook trout catch per mile in Little Pine Creek among the sampling reaches during each survey year. Backpack electrofishing was used in 2013 and 2025. Long line shocking was used in 1976.

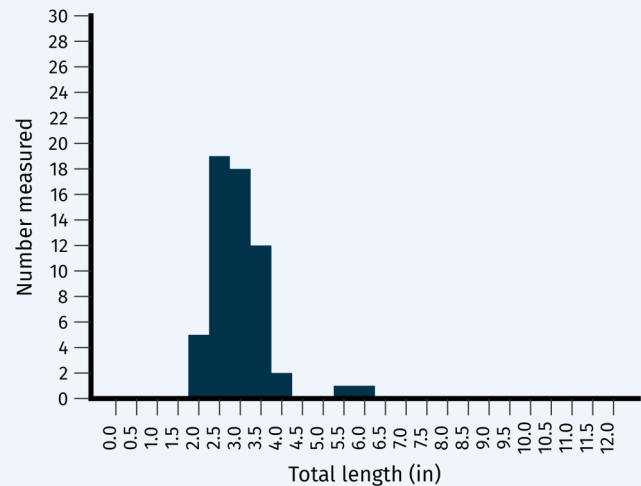


Figure 3. Brook trout stream wide size structure within Little Pine Creek in 2025. Length bins are every 0.5 inches.

Summary

- Little Pine Creek was found to be in good condition with IBI scores above 50.
- A simple fishery dominated by brook trout with brook stickleback, central mudminnows, mottled sculpin, western blacknose dace and white suckers represented was found in the Little Pine Creek.
- Brook trout catch rate has been relatively stable through time (Figure 2) and consistently around the 50th percentile indicative of a moderate abundance level in Little Pine Creek.
- Age-0 brook trout per mile was around the 75th percentile indicating a high abundance level of small trout in Little Pine Creek.
- Average brook trout length in Little Pine Creek was 3 inches smaller than the statewide average of 7.5 inches (Figure 3).
- High catches of small brook trout supports Little Pine Creek serving as a brook trout spawning tributary and nursery area for Noisy Creek fishery as indicated in previous surveys.
- Little Pine Creek was narrow (mostly < 6 feet) well buffered channel that is shallow (mostly < 2 feet) with a sand/gravel bottom with good fish habitat (scores of 55-62).
- The station by the confluence with Noisy Creek had a soft and mucky bottom and was extremely overgrown with overhanging grass on each bank limiting backpack shocker efficiency.

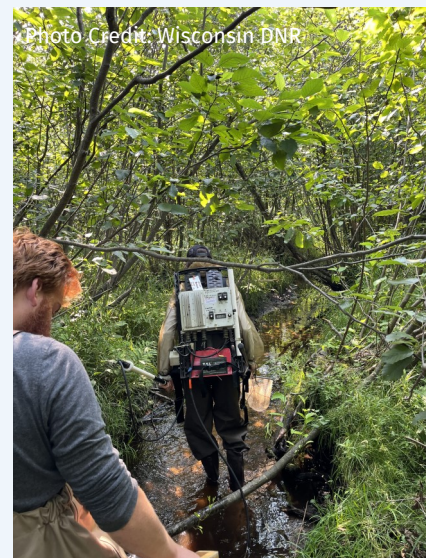


Figure 4. Field staff backpack electrofishing in Little Pine Creek.