Eagle Creek is a tributary stream that enters the Peshtigo River system between Caldron and High Falls Reservoirs. The watershed is primarily forested with many feeder streams located within Marinette County forest lands. Eagle Creek has a total length of 12.3 miles, an approximate surface area of 11.9 acres and an average width of 8 feet.

Brook trout were stocked annually from 1938 to 1974. Brown trout were stocked periodically between 1943 to 1950 and annually from 1959 to 1972. Since 1974 no trout have been stocked into Eagle Creek. Historically, natural reproduction of brook trout has occurred but brown trout natural reproduction has been minimal.

Extensive habitat work was completed along a 1,320 foot segment of Eagle Creek downstream of the Eagle River Road crossing. In 1988, a sand trap 5 feet deep and 100 feet long was constructed at the downstream section of the habitat rehabilitation area. Routine maintenance of the sand trap is required and was last completed in 2005. In 1989 and 1990, additional habitat work was completed on Eagle Creek above the sand trap. This work included the placement of 12 prefabricated bank covers and 150 large boulder retards. Rip rap was also placed along 360 feet of the bank covers.

Eagle Creek was sampled on July 25, 2016 to assess the brook trout fishery. A 0.50 mile section of the creek was sampled both upstream and downstream of the bridge crossing on Eagle River Road in the Town of Silver Cliff (T.34N. -R.18E. Section14) (Figure 2).

**Brook Trout**

A total of 147 brook trout was collected and ranged in length from 2.1 to 11.5 inches (Figure 1). The average length of brook trout collected in 2016 was 5.6 inches and decreased from the 2014 average of 6.6 inches. The number of brook trout per mile decreased from 671 in 2012 to 303 per mile in 2016.
Summary
Brook trout reproduction and recruitment have been relatively consistent since 2006. Between 2012 & 2014, the proportion of harvestable sized brook trout (8 inches and larger) increased 10% however, since 2014, the proportion of harvestable sized brook trout declined from 17% to 11% in 2016. While it might appear that brook trout abundance in this stretch is extremely low, it is comparable to what was observed in 2008 when only 154 brook trout were collected. Therefore, anglers should not be alarmed by the recent decline in brook trout numbers. Often recruitment and sampling conditions fluctuate between years which affect our survey results.

Anglers may also catch brown trout however, their numbers have historically been extremely low in this stretch of Eagle Creek. A single brown trout (7.5 inches) was collected in 2016. The last time a brown trout was collected in this section of Eagle Creek was in 2010.

The general open season for inland trout streams is from the first Saturday in May at 5:00 A.M. through October 15 except as listed in the specific waters listed by county. New inland trout regulations were implemented during the 2016-2017 fishing season. The current fishing regulation (2016) for Eagle Creek is an 8-inch minimum size limit for all trout and the daily bag limit is 3 trout total.

Many road crossings serve as access points along Eagle Creek. The most popular access points are located on Eagle River Road, County Highway C and Eagle Road. A parking area owned by the State of Wisconsin is located on Eagle River Road which provides anglers access to the Rehabilitated Fishery Area.

Anglers are encouraged to obtain and review a current copy of the trout fishing regulations. Trout fishing regulations can be downloaded from the DNR’s website at: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/regulations/TROUTReg.html

Questions regarding fisheries management activities for Eagle Creek, Marinette County, Wisconsin should be directed to:

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Figure 2. Sampling location on Eagle Creek, Marinette County, Wisconsin July 25, 2016.