Wisconsin DNR Trout Trends
2008–2019 Southwest Region
The Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Management staff conduct annual monitoring of trout populations at 43 locations distributed throughout 17 watersheds in Southwest Wisconsin. These surveys allow for the tracking and evaluation of changes in trout population abundance and size structure through time.

The following data is displayed as the number of trout collected per mile of electrofishing. Each line on the graph represents a different length category, so >8 inches indicates all trout above 8 inches that were captured. Each chart also includes typical catch rates for the entire Driftless region (shown as the median value for each length class) for each species. These values are shown to the right of each chart, and as dotted horizontal lines. In some cases, the lines may not be visible within the range of catch rates on the chart. The following slide indicates how to interpret each chart.

Because a trout's length corresponds to its age early in life, we can also use this data to estimate year class strength of age 0 and age 1 trout. The difference between the all trout value and trout greater than 4 inches value is the amount of age 0 trout. The difference between the trout greater than 4 inches and the trout greater than 8 inches (7 inches for brook trout) is the amount of age 1 trout. At age 2 the growth slows, and length alone cannot be used to infer age.

Having trend sites spread throughout the watersheds allows us to detect regional trends that can help explain variation that may be driven by climate and weather. Stream temperature and stream discharge (flow) are also measured at these locations to help explain variation and trends.
Species

How the stream/site compares with other regional streams/sites

Connected lines mean surveys were conducted in consecutive years

Total annual catch rates (number fish/mile) by length class

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- > 12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- > 12 in.: 33/mile

How the stream/site compares with other regional streams/sites
Columbia County
Map Key
- Trend Monitoring Locations

**Classified Trout Water**
- CLASS I
- CLASS II
- CLASS III
- Watershed Planning Group

**Trend Monitoring Locations**
- Wisconsin River
- Lake Delton
- Portage
- Sun Prairie
- Waterloo
- Columbus
- Lake Wisconsin
- Lake Columbia
- Hinkson Cr.
- Rowan Cr.
- Mud Lk.
- No. Br. Duck Cr.
- Jennings Cr.
- Roelke Cr.
Hinkson Creek

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- > 12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018
Hinkson Creek

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile
Rowan Creek (East of Poynette)

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018

0 500 1000 1500 2000 2500 3000 3500
Rowan Creek (East of Poynette)

Brook Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing
Rowan Creek (Lower Rowan)

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- > 12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- > 12 in.: 33/mile

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018
Rowan Creek (Lower Rowan)

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

Brook Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile
Spring Creek

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile
Dane County
Black Earth Creek (Jovina St.)

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.
Black Earth Creek (Park St. Bridge)

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile
Black Earth Creek (South Valley Rd.)

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- > 12 in.

Driftless Medians:
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- > 12 in.: 33/mile

Brown Trout

Length Class

- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- > 12 in.
Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

Deer Creek

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile

Brook Trout

2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018

0 50 100 150

15
Deer Creek

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile
Elvers Creek

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018

0 500 1000 1500 2000
Elvers Creek

Brook Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile
Kittleson Valley Creek

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile
Mt. Vernon Creek

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile
Primrose Branch

Brook Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- > 10 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- > 10 in.: 0/mile

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018
Story Creek

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

Brook Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile
Story Creek

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile

Brown Trout

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing
Brown Trout

**Length Class**
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- > 12 in.

**Driftless Medians**
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- > 12 in.: 33/mile
West Branch Sugar River

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile
West Branch Sugar River

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Brook Trout

West Branch Sugar River

2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018

0 20 40 60 80

Total: 123/mile
> 4 in.: 100/mile
> 7 in.: 50/mile
>10 in.: 0/mile
Grant County
**Big Green River (Green River Rd.)**

**Brown Trout**

**Length Class**
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

**Driftless Medians**
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile

**Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing** (2008-2018)
Big Green River (Highway K)

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Length Class
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile

Driftless Medians

Brown Trout
Big Green River (Highway K)

Brook Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile
Big Spring Branch

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile
Big Spring Branch

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Driftless Medians

- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile
Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.
Green County
Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.
Story Creek

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- > 12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- > 12 in.: 33/mile
Iowa County
Gordon Creek (County Hwy A)

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile
Gordon Creek (Sandy Rock Rd.)

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing
Gordon Creek (Sandy Rock Rd.)

Brook Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing
Pompey Pillar Creek

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile
Pompey Pillar Creek

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

Brook Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile
Trout Creek (at Arneson Creek)

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Length Class

- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile
Trout Creek (at Arneson Creek)

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018
Trout Creek (downstream from Arneson Creek)

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile
Trout Creek (downstream from Arneson Creek)

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.
Trout Creek (downstream from Knudson Branch)

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile
Trout Creek (downstream from Knudson Branch)

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile
Lafayette County
Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile
Steiner Branch

Brook Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018
Richland County
Fancy Creek

Brook Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018
Melanchton Creek

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile
Mill Creek (downstream from Alison Ln.)

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile
Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile

Mill Creek (English Hollow Rd.)

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018

0 500 1000 1500
Pine River

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile
West Branch Mill Creek

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018
West Branch Mill Creek

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

200 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018

0 200 400 600 800 1000

2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018

Total: 338/mile
> 4 in.: 300/mile
> 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
>12 in.: 33/mile
Willow Creek (250 m upstream from Smyth Hollow Rd.)

**Brown Trout**

**Length Class**
- **Total**
- **> 4 in.**
- **> 8 in. (Adults)**
- **>12 in.**

**Driftless Medians**
- **Total:** 338/mile
- **> 4 in.:** 300/mile
- **> 8 in. (Adults):** 173/mile
- **>12 in.:** 33/mile
Willow Creek (400 m upstream from Smyth Hollow Rd.)

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile
Rock County
Map Key
- Trend Monitoring Locations

Classified Trout Water
- CLASS I
- CLASS II
- CLASS III
- Watershed Planning Group

Watershed Planning Group

Trend Monitoring Locations
East Fork Raccoon Creek

Brook Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing
Sauk County
Bear Creek (1.2 mi up Hwy 130 from Cty Rd. N)

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile
Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.
Honey Creek (Hickory Rd.)

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile
Honey Creek (Hickory Rd.)

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile
Honey Creek (Leland Rd.)

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

- 2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018
- 0 500 1000 1500 2000
Honey Creek (Valley View Rd.)

Brown Trout

Length Class
- **Total**: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile

Driftless Medians

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

Year:
- 2008
- 2010
- 2012
- 2014
- 2016
- 2018

Data Source: Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
Manley Creek (at Parfreys Glen Creek)

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile

2008 2010 2012 2014 2016 2018
Manley Creek (Hwy 113)

Brook Trout

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing
Shannahan Valley Creek

Brown Trout

Length Class
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile

Driftless Medians
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile
Upper Bear Creek (Hwy 130)

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

Driftless Medians
- Total: 123/mile
- > 4 in.: 100/mile
- > 7 in.: 50/mile
- >10 in.: 0/mile

Length Class
- Total
- > 4 in.
- > 7 in.
- >10 in.

Brook Trout
Upper Bear Creek (Hwy 130)

**Brown Trout**

**Length Class**
- **Total**
- > 4 in.
- > 8 in. (Adults)
- >12 in.

**Driftless Medians**
- Total: 338/mile
- > 4 in.: 300/mile
- > 8 in. (Adults): 173/mile
- >12 in.: 33/mile

Number of Trout per mile of electrofishing

- 2008
- 2010
- 2012
- 2014
- 2016
- 2018