Survey Method

- The Peterson Creek trend site has been surveyed annually since 2005. This particular site is 2000 feet in length and is electrofished with a towed barge stream shocker. All captured trout are identified to species, measured for length, and examined for fin clips.

Metric Descriptions

- **Catch per effort (CPUE)** is an indirect method of measuring fish population relative abundance. For all trout surveys we typically quantify CPUE by the number and size of trout captured per mile of stream. CPUE indexes are compared to statewide streams by percentile (PCTL). 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 by 33rd (low density), 66th (moderate), 90th (high), and 95th (very high) benchmarks.

- **Length frequency distribution** describes size structure and is the number of trout captured and grouped by one inch size intervals.
Summary

- The 2016 survey indicated overall brown trout density has returned to average levels from the 2015 survey, where they were at a 10 year low.
- CPUEs for 12+ and 15+ inch brown trout increased 137% and 11% respectively but are still below the 10 year average for the stream.
- Young of year (YOY) relative abundance was still lower than the 10 year average for Peterson Creek.
- Peterson Creek has proven to produce good numbers of quality and trophy size trout, especially in areas with habitat development work. It is recommended that easement and/or land acquisition efforts focus on the lower Peterson Creek. In addition, habitat development should be continued.