



Bear Creek

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

Paul Winkle, Aquatic Biologist, Denver
 paul.winkle@state.co.us / 303-291-7232

General Information: Bear Creek, with its headwaters at the base of Mt. Evans, flows east through the towns of Evergreen and Morrison and eventually into the South Platte River. In the Mt. Evans State Wildlife Area, Bear Creek provides good fishing for wild brook trout. Between Mt. Evans SWA and the town of Evergreen the stream lies mostly on private property. From Evergreen Lake downstream to the town of Morrison Bear Creek provides good fishing for wild brown trout and stocked rainbow trout. There is good public access in this section, with parks managed by Denver Mountain Parks and Jeffco Open Space.

Location: Jefferson County, adjacent to State Route 74.

Fishery Management: Coldwater angling.

Amenities and General Info.

- Approximately seven miles of public access at numerous sites for shore or wade angling from Evergreen downstream to Morrison
- Seasonal restrooms at O'Fallon Park, Corwina Park, Lair O' the Bear Park, Morrison Park.

Fishing Regulations

- **From the base of Evergreen Lake dam downstream to Bear Creek Reservoir:**
- Artificial flies and lures only.
- Bag and possession limit for trout (except rainbow) is 2.
- All rainbows must be returned to the water immediately.

Previous Stocking

2014

Rainbow Trout

2013

Rainbow Trout

2012

Rainbow Trout

2011

Rainbow Trout

2010

Rainbow Trout

2009

Rainbow Trout

2008

Cuttbows

****No fish surveys were conducted on Bear Creek in 2012 due to low flows and in 2013 due to flooding.**

Sportfishing Notes

Brown Trout

- Historically, the most common species between Evergreen and Morrison, making up about 90 percent of the species present.
- These are wild, naturally reproducing fish.
- Spawn from October through November.

Rainbow Trout

- Although stocked annually, make up only about 5 percent of the species present between Evergreen and Morrison, due to the presence of whirling disease in Bear Cr.
- Beginning in 2009 a program to annually stock a WD resistant strain was begun, which will probably increasing survival and abundance.

Brook Trout

- Confined to the Mt. Evans State Wildlife Area, where they are abundant.

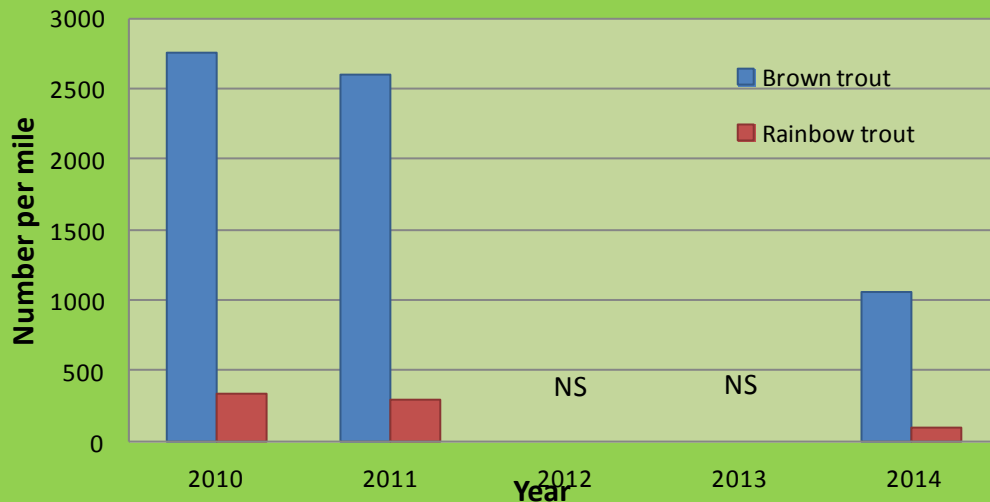


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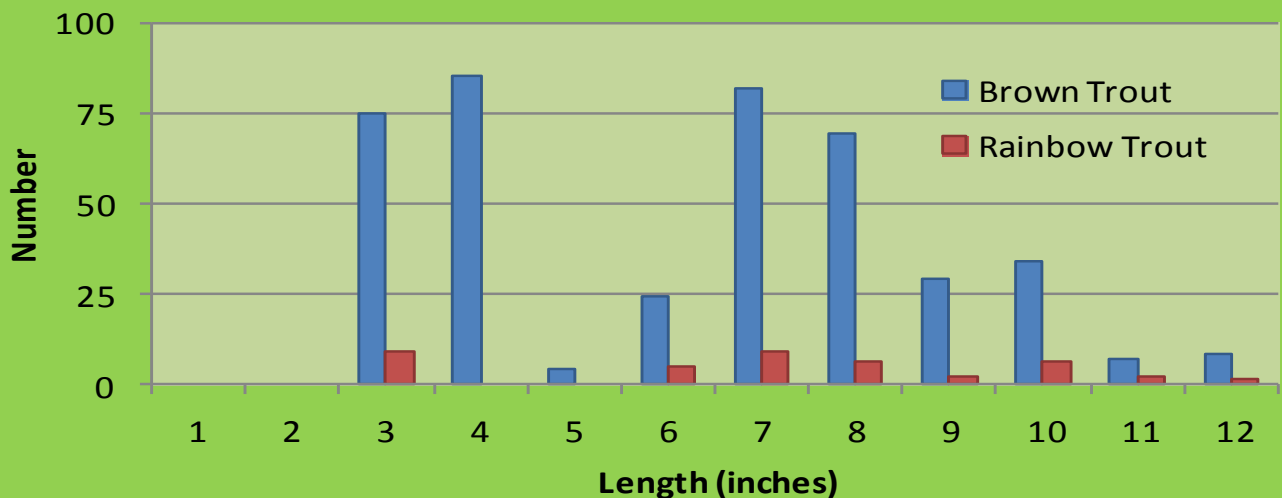
Bear Creek at Lair O' Bear



The figure to the left shows the abundance of brown and rainbow trout greater than 5" collected at Lair O' the Bear Park from 2010 to 2014. Surveys were not conducted in 2012 (low flows) and 2013 (severe flooding). Wild brown trout dominate Bear Creek, but their numbers were reduced in 2014 at Lair O' Bear due to the severe conditions in 2012 and 2013. However, similar impacts were observed after the 2002 drought, and the brown trout still recovered. Rainbow trout (primarily stocked) numbers were also reduced in 2014.

The figure below shows the length frequencies in 2014 of brown trout and rainbow trout in Bear Creek at Lair O' the Bear Park west of Morrison. The vertical bars represent the number of fish at a particular length. Brown trout ranged from 3" to 12", and this wide range of sizes shows that, although numbers were reduced in 2014, all age classes are still present at this site. Rainbow trout also ranged from 3" to 12". Because whirling disease resistant rainbows are stocked in Bear Creek, some of the larger rainbows collected in 2014 may be wild fish naturally spawned.

Bear Creek at Lair O' Bear, 2014



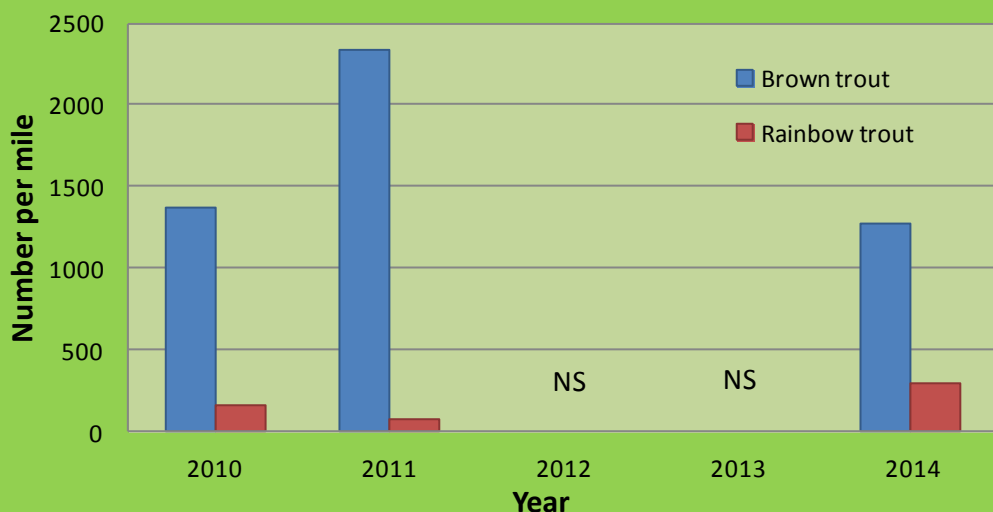


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Bear Creek at Dedisse Park



The figure to the left shows the abundance of brown and rainbow trout greater than 5" collected at Dedisse Park (just above Evergreen Golf Course) from 2010 to 2014. No surveys were conducted in 2012 (low flows) and 2013 (severe flooding). Wild brown trout dominate here. Their numbers were also reduced in 2014. Rainbow trout numbers were actually higher, but that may be due to fish from the lake moving upstream.

The figure below shows the length frequencies in 2011 of brown trout and rainbow trout from Bear Creek at Dedisse Park. This section of Bear Creek is the only public water between the lake and Mt. Evans State Wildlife Area. The vertical bars represent the number of fish at a particular length. Catchable brown trout ranged from 6" to 13". Young browns (3") hatched in Spring 2014 were also present. The wide range of sizes shows that all age classes are still present after the severe flooding of 2013. Rainbow trout ranged from 2" to 11".

Bear Creek at Dedisse Park, 2014

