



# 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

#### 2011

Rainbow Trout

#### 2010

Rainbow Trout

#### 2009

Rainbow Trout

#### 2008

Cuttbows

#### 2007

Rainbow Trout

#### 2006

Cuttbows

### 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 WD resistant strain will annually be stocked, probably increasing survival and abundance.

#### Brook Trout

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

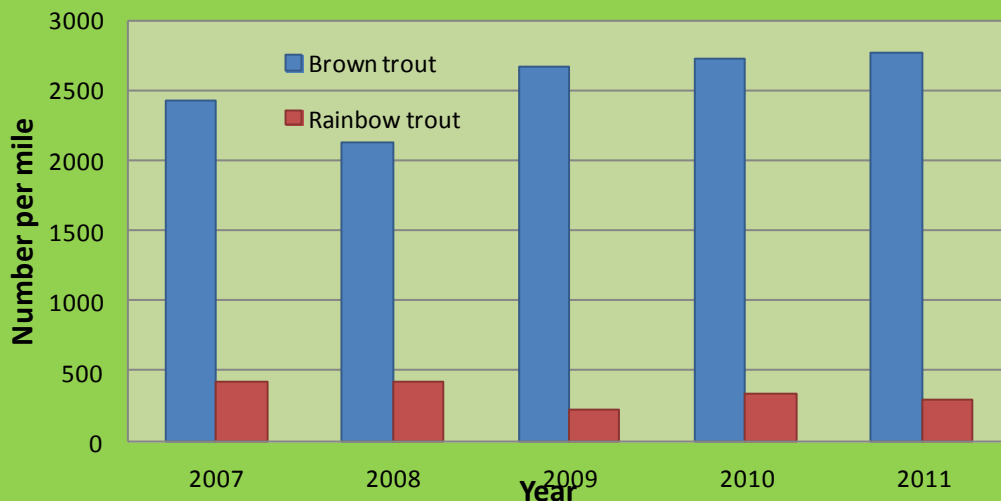


# Bear Creek

## FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

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

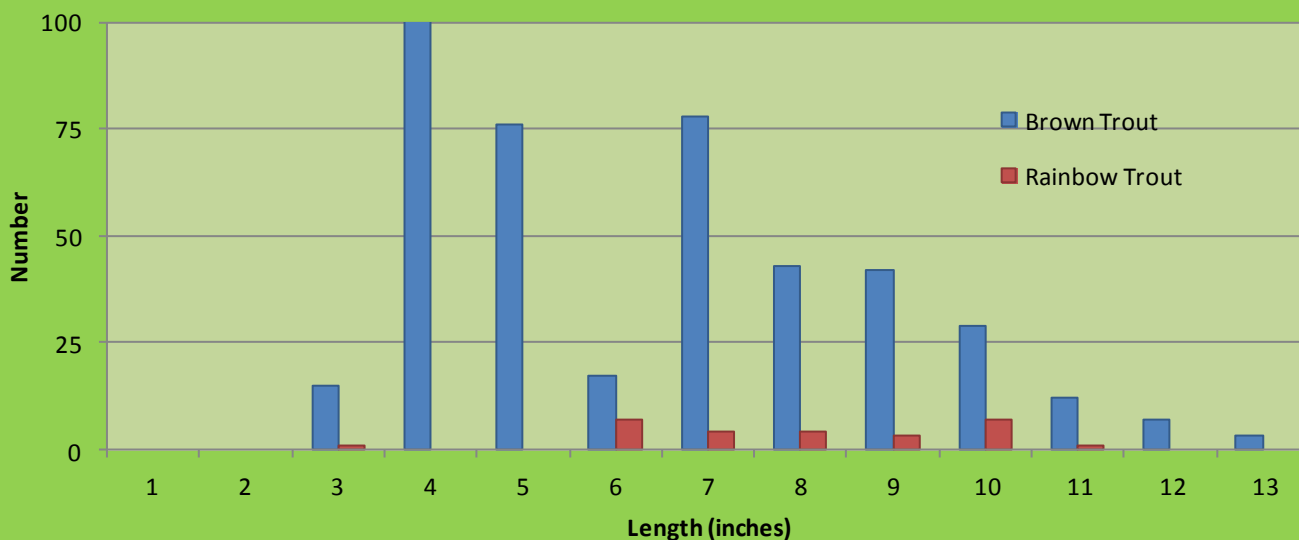
### Bear Creek at Lair O' Bear



The figure to the left shows the abundance of brown and rainbow trout greater than 6" collected at Lair O' the Bear Park from 2007 to 2011. Brown trout are much more abundant, consistently reaching densities >2,000 fish per mile. On the other hand, rainbow trout (which are mostly stocked) were typically <450 fish per mile. Starting in 2009 whirling disease resistant rainbows were stocked, which will hopefully increase the abundance of wild rainbows in Bear Creek.

The figure below shows the length frequencies in 2011 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. The majority of the catchable-size brown trout collected were 7 to 10 inches, with a few brown trout up to 13 inches in length. The number of rainbow trout collected was much smaller, since natural reproduction is limited due to whirling disease. Most of the rainbow trout of catchable size in Bear Creek are due to stocking. The largest rainbow collected was 11 inches long.

### Bear Creek at Lair O' Bear, 2011



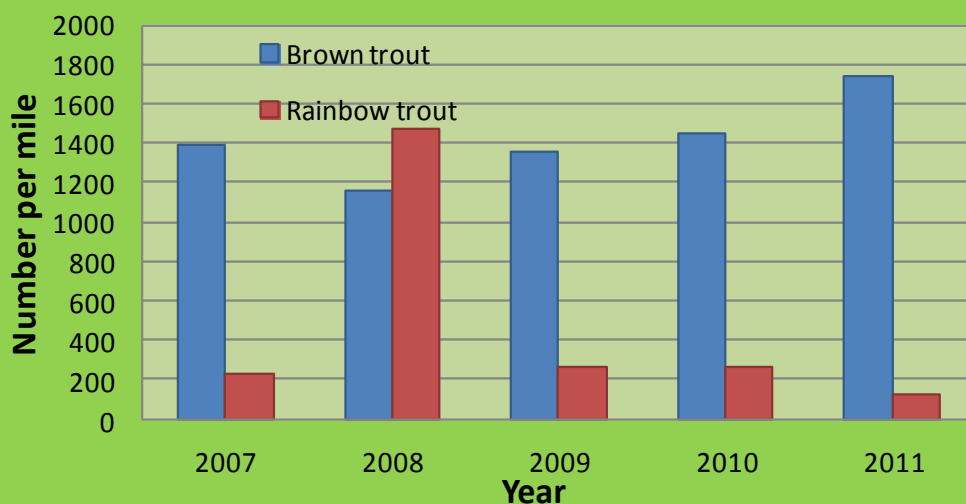


# Bear Creek

## FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

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

### Bear Creek at Morrison



The figure to the left shows the abundance of brown and rainbow trout greater than 6" collected at Morrison Park from 2007 to 2011. Brown trout are much more abundant, consistently reaching densities >1,100 fish per mile. Rainbow trout are typically less abundant, with their densities directly dependent on stocking events, such as in 2008 when the survey was conducted just after stocking.

The figure below shows the length frequencies in 2011 of brown trout and rainbow trout from Bear Creek in Morrison Park in the town of Morrison. The vertical bars represent the number of fish at a particular length. The majority of the catchable-size brown trout collected were 7 to 10 inches, with a few brown trout up to 12 inches in length. The number of rainbow trout collected was much smaller, since natural reproduction is limited due to whirling disease, so most of the rainbow trout of catchable size in Bear Creek are due to stocking. The largest rainbow collected was 11 inches long.

### Bear Creek at Morrison

