



# Clear Creek

## FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

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**General Information:** Clear Creek, with its headwaters at the foot of the Continental Divide, flows east through the towns of Georgetown and Idaho Springs and eventually into the South Platte River. From Georgetown downstream to the town of Golden, Clear Creek provides good fishing for wild brown trout. Between Georgetown and State Highway 40 the stream lies mostly on private property. There is good public access from Highway 40 downstream to Golden, with land owned by Clear Creek Open Space and Jeffco Open Space.

**Location:** Clear Creek County adjacent to Interstate 70, Jefferson County adjacent to State Highway 6.

**Fishery Management:** Coldwater angling.

### Amenities and General Info.

- Approximately 30 miles of public angling access between Golden and Georgetown.
- The most continuous public angling access is in lower Clear Creek canyon between Golden and Idaho Springs
- Permanent restrooms at Georgetown Lake and businesses adjacent to I-70. Seasonal restrooms in Clear Creek canyon adjacent to Highway 6.

### Fishing Regulations

- General regulations - daily bag limit for trout (in aggregate) is 4 fish, possession limit is 8 fish.
- In addition to above, the daily bag and possession limit for brook trout 8 inches and less is 10 fish.

### Previous Stocking

#### 2010

Rainbow Trout

#### 2009

Rainbow Trout

#### 2008

Cuttbows

#### 2007

Cuttbows

#### 2006

Rainbow Trout

#### 2005

Rainbow Trout

### Sportfishing Notes

#### Water Quality

- The Argo Treatment plant in Idaho Springs began treating metals-laden water from the Argo Tunnel in 1998.
- Trout populations downstream of Idaho Springs have generally improved since then.

#### Brown Trout

- Historically, the most abundant trout species between Georgetown and Golden, making up about 95 percent of the fish 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 trout present between Georgetown and Golden, due to whirling disease.
- Beginning in 2009 a WD resistant strain will be stocked annually, probably increasing survival and abundance.

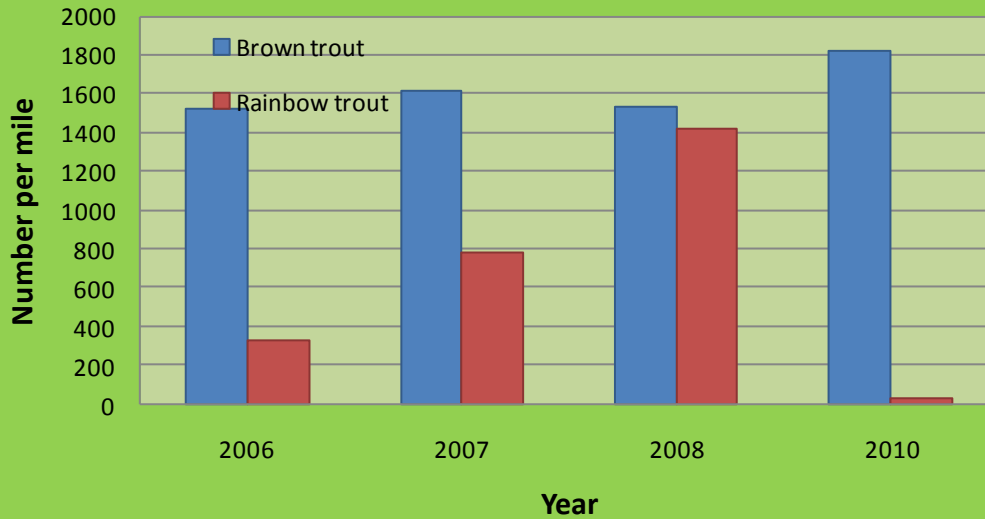


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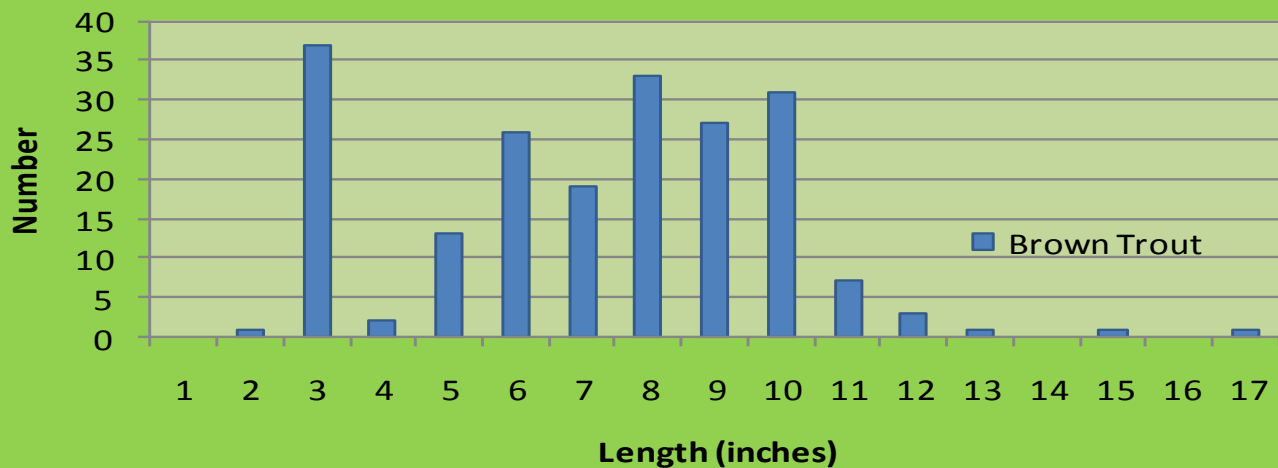
### Clear Creek Below Spring Gulch



The figure to the left shows the abundance of brown and rainbow trout greater than 6" collected in Clear Creek just below Spring Gulch (Clear Creek Open Space -Philadelphia Mill) from 2006 to 2010. Brown trout (wild fish) were typically much more abundant, consistently reaching densities of 1,500 fish per mile. Rainbow trout (which are annually stocked) densities depend on the timing of stocking relative to when surveys are conducted. The use of whirling disease resistant rainbows beginning in 2009 should increase the number of wild rainbows in Clear Creek.

The figure below shows the length frequencies in 2010 of brown trout in Clear Creek just below Spring Gulch (Clear Creek Open Space-Philadelphia Mill). The vertical bars represent the number of fish at a particular length. The majority of the catchable-size brown trout collected were 8 to 10 inches, with one brown trout up to 17 inches in length. Even though sub-catchable size rainbow trout are stocked annually in Clear Creek, only a few were collected in 2010 because stocking had not yet occurred. Whirling disease is present in Clear Creek, which is probably results in low survival of stocked rainbow trout. However, as stated above, resistant strains were stocked beginning in 2009, so rainbow survival should increase in Clear Creek in future years. It is hoped that eventually a wild population of rainbow trout will be established in Clear Creek.

### Clear Creek Below Spring Gulch



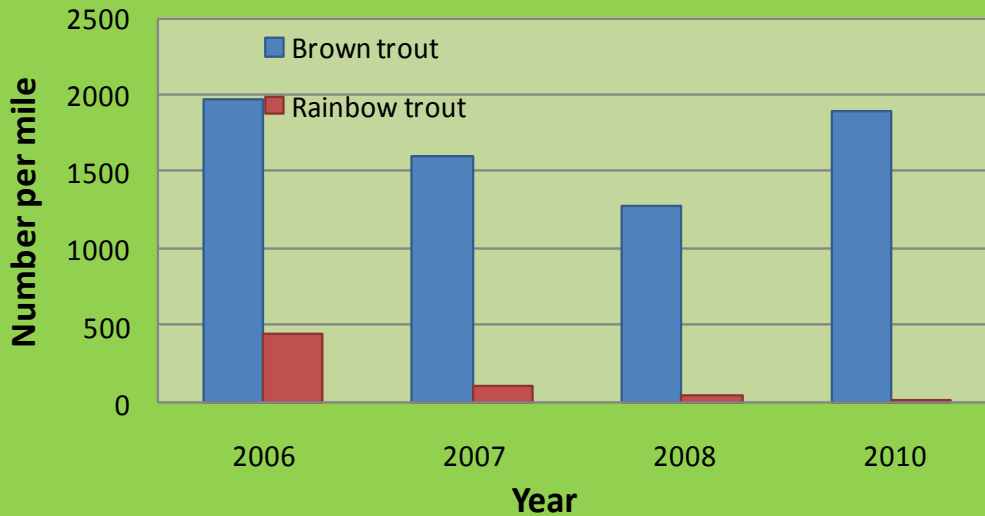


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### Clear Creek Below Highway 119



The figure to the left shows the abundance of brown and rainbow trout greater than 6" collected just Highway 119 from 2006 to 2010. Brown trout were much more abundant, consistently reaching densities >1,200 fish per mile. Rainbow trout were much less abundant, with their densities directly dependent on stocking events further upstream. Stocking of whirling disease resistant strains of rainbows beginning in 2009 should increase their numbers in future years.

The figure below shows the length frequencies in 2010 of brown trout from Clear Creek just below Highway 119. The vertical bars represent the number of fish at a particular length. The majority of the catchable-size brown trout collected were 8 to 10 inches, with a few fish up to 12 inches. Only one rainbow trout was collected here in 2010. Rainbow trout are stocked further upstream near Idaho Springs, resulting in the low densities at this site. It is hoped that whirling disease rainbows stocked starting in 2009 will migrate through the drainage and create a new wild population.

### Clear Creek Below Highway 119

