

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Colorado State Office 2850 Youngfield Street Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7093 www.blm.gov/co



In Reply Refer To: 7250 (CO-932)

DEC 3 0 2008

RECEIVED

JAN 0 5 2009

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Ms. Linda Bassi Colorado Water Conservation Board 1313 Sherman Street, Room 721 Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Ms. Bassi:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is writing this letter to formally communicate its instream flow recommendation for Troublesome Creek, located in Water Division 5.

Location and Land Status: Troublesome Creek is tributary to the Colorado River approximately four miles east of Kremmling, Colorado. The creek is located within the upper Colorado River watershed in Grand County. This recommendation addresses two reaches located in the upper portions of the Troublesome Creek watershed. The first reach starts at the confluence with Glomerate Creek and extends downstream to the confluence with Rabbit Ears Creek. The second reach covers the stream reach beginning at the confluence with Rabbit Ears Creek and extending downstream to the headgate of the Pickering Ditch. In the two-mile upper reach, all of the land along the creek is owned and managed by the BLM. In the three-mile lower reach, approximately 42 percent of the reach is managed by BLM, and 58 percent is privately owned by an association that manages the land for recreational values with a limited number of summer residences.

Biological Summary: Troublesome Creek is a moderate gradient stream with moderate to small substrate size. The creek meanders through the bottom of a mountain valley. The willow riparian community associated with the creek often occupies the entire valley floor. The riparian community also provides substantial nutrients to the creek system and abundant bank overhangs for fish habitat. However, the riparian community does not provide substantial shading of fish habitat because the creek channel is wide. Fishery surveys indicate that the creek supports a large and self-sustaining population of brown trout with a wide variety of age classes. The creek also supports small numbers of brook trout and mottled sculpin.

R2Cross Analysis: The BLM's data analysis, coordinated with the Division of Wildlife, indicates that the following flows are needed to protect the fishery and natural environment to a

reasonable degree.

Upper Reach - Confluence with Glomerate Creek to Confluence With Rabbit Ears Creek

- 5.1 cubic feet per second (cfs) is recommended during the high temperature period from April 1 through October 31. This recommendation is driven by the average velocity and wetted perimeter criteria. Because the creek channel is large, meeting the wetted perimeter criteria is especially important for providing sufficient physical habitat during the time of year when fish are putting on weight for overwintering and also during October, when brown trout are spawning.
- 2.8 cfs is recommended for the cold temperature period from November 1 through March 31. This recommendation is driven by the depth criteria. This flow should allow fish passage between pools during the winter, and should prevent complete icing of the water column at this high elevation location.

Lower Reach -Confluence With Rabbit Ears Creek to Headgate of Pickering Ditch

- 9.3 cfs is recommended during the high temperature period from April 1 through October 31. This recommendation is driven by the average depth criteria. The creek in this reach has a wide channel in response to large flows associated with snowmelt runoff. Without sufficient flow, only the thalweg of the creek is wetted, which does not provide sufficient habitat for the large brown trout population.
- 5.9 cubic feet per second is recommended for the cold temperature period from November 1 through March 31. As would be expected in a wide channel, this recommendation is driven by the wetted perimeter criteria. This flow should allow passage between pools during the winter, and should prevent complete icing of the water column at this high elevation.

Water Availability: Matheson Reservoir is located just above the upper terminus of the proposed instream flow reach. The reservoir is decreed for 475.83 acre feet, conditional, and 1,073.6 acre feet, absolute. The BLM's understanding is that reservoir releases water for diversion by the Pickering Ditch, which is suggested as the lower terminus of this reach, and to Missouri Ditch, located further downstream.

For calculating water availability, the BLM recommends using USGS Gage 09039000, Troublesome Creek near Pearmont, CO. This gage is located above all of the ditches in the lower watershed, with the exception of Pickering Ditch, which is decreed for 9.5 cfs. The BLM recommends examining the historic diversion records for Pickering Ditch and adding those volumes back into the gage record to get an estimate of raw water availability for the watershed. For the upper reach, a basin apportionment calculation can be performed on the gage data. For the lower reach, the adjusted gage data can be used without further modification, because the lower terminus of the lower instream flow reach is located only 3/4 miles upstream from this gage.

Relationship to Management Plans: Troublesome Creek is managed for several types of uses. The upper reach forms the southeast boundary of the Troublesome Wilderness Study Area. In this location, mountainous terrain rises up steeply from the creek. The creek corridor in this location has been historically grazed and grazing will continue under an updated allotment management plan that emphasizes improvement and maintenance of riparian habitat. The lower Rabbit Ears Creek forms the southeastern boundary of the BLM's Troublesome Wilderness Study Area. Recreation and livestock grazing are the management emphasis for the lower reach, again with an emphasis on maintaining and improving riparian conditions. A protected flow regime will assist the BLM in meeting its management objectives for this stream corridor.

The BLM requests that the Board recognize that this recommendation is based only upon the minimum flows necessary to support cold-water and cool-water fishery values. The BLM may wish to work with the Board and/or through the Colorado water rights system to appropriate flows to optimally protect fish values and to protect other water-dependent values specified in BLM resource management plans.

Data sheets, R2Cross output, fishery survey information, and photographs of the cross section to support this recommendation were provided with the BLM's draft recommendation in February 2008. We thank both the Division of Wildlife and the Water Conservation Board for their cooperation in this effort.

If you have any questions regarding our instream flow recommendation, please contact Roy Smith at 303-239-3940.

Sincerely,

Linda Anania Deputy State Director, Resources and Fire

cc: David Stout, Kremmling FO Paula Belcher, Kremmling FO Tom Fresques, Glenwood Springs FO

DRAFT INSTREAM FLOW RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Dan Merriman Colorado Water Conservation Board 1313 Sherman Street, Room 721 Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Mr. Merriman:

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R2Cross Analysis. BLM's data analysis, coordinated with the Division of Wildlife, indicates that the following flows are needed to protect the fishery and natural environment to a reasonable degree.

<u>Upper Reach –</u> <u>Outlet of Matheson Reservoir to Confluence With Rabbit Ears Creek</u>

5.1 cubic feet per second is recommended during the high temperature period from April 1 through October 31. This recommendation is driven by the average velocity and wetted perimeter criteria. Because the creek channel is large, meeting the wetted perimeter criteria is especially important for providing sufficient physical habitat during the time of year when fish are putting on weight for overwintering and also during October, when brown trout are spawning. 2.8 cubic feet per second is recommended for the cold temperature period from November 1 through March 31. This recommendation is driven by the depth criteria. This flow should allow fish passage between pools during the winter, and should prevent complete icing of the water column at this high elevation location.

<u>Lower Reach –</u> <u>Confluence With Rabbit Ears Creek to Headgate of Pickering Ditch</u>

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Data sheets, R2Cross output, fishery survey information, and photographs of the cross section are enclosed to support this recommendation. We thank both the Division of Wildlife and the Water Conservation Board for their cooperation in this effort.

If you have any questions regarding our instream flow recommendation, please contact Roy Smith at 303-239-3940.

Sincerely,

Linda Anania Deputy State Director Resources and Fire

4 Enclosures

cc: Peter McFadden, Kremmling FO Paula Belcher, Kremmling FO Tom Freques, Glenwood Springs FO Appendix - B

Field Data

COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

FIELD DATA FOR INSTREAM FLOW DETERMINATIONS



LOCATION INFORMATION

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SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

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CHANNEL PROFILE DATA

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COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

FIELD DATA FOR INSTREAM FLOW DETERMINATIONS



LOCATION INFORMATION

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SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

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CHANNEL BED MATERIAL SIZE RANGE:			PHOTOGRAPHS TAI	KEN YES/NO	NUMBER OF PI	HOTOGRAPHS:

CHANNEL PROFILE DATA

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AQUATIC SAMPLING SUMMARY

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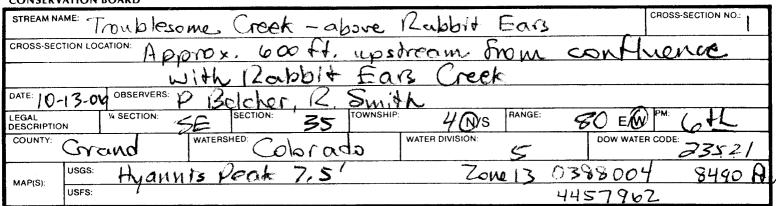
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FIELD DATA FOR INSTREAM FLOW DETERMINATIONS

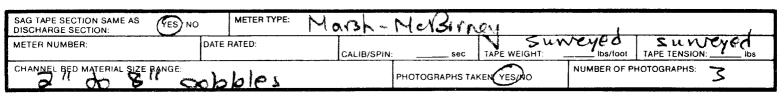


COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

LOCATION INFORMATION



SUPPLEMENTAL DATA



CHANNEL PROFILE DATA

STATION	DISTANCE FROM TAPE (ft)	ROD READING (ft)		× ×	LEGEND:
X Tape @ Stake LB	0.0	surveyed		KIZ	Stake 🛞
🛞 Tape @ Stake RB	0.0	surveyed	s к		Station (1)
1 WS @ Tape LB/RB	0.0	6.52/6.52	E T C	TAPE	Photo (1)
2 WS Upstream	47,5	6,23	н		
3 WS Downstream	26.5	6.65			Direction of Flow
SLOPE O. 4	12/64.0 =	0,0065			

AQUATIC SAMPLING SUMMARY

STREAM ELECTROFISHED YESNO	DISTANCE	EELEC	CTROFIS	SHED: _	ft	i	F	ISH CA	UGHT:	YES/)		WATE	RCHEN	AISTRY	SAMPL	ED:	s/)o
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LENGTH - FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION BY ONE-INCH SIZE GROUPS (1.0-1.9, 2.0-2.9, ETC.) SPECIES (FILL IN) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 >15 TO SEECIES (FILL IN) SEC Cut to check SUMDAY SUMDAY AUDATIC INSECTS IN STREAM SECTION BY COMMON OR SCIENTIFIC ORDER NAME: WOMENTS COMMENTS																		
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LENGTH - FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION BY ONE-INCH SIZE GROUPS (1.0-1.9, 2.0-2.9, ETC.) PECIES (FILL IN) 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 >15 TOTAL SEE CNHOCKONDOR SUMPRY JUATIC INSECTS IN STREAM SECTION BY COMMON OR SCIENTIFIC ORDER NAME: WGM FLY, CODER NAME: COMMENTS																		
TDS = 100													·					

480

STREAM NAME:	Tra	uble-	some	Cree	k	(CROSS	S-SECTION	NO.:	(DATE: 10 - 13-	06 SHEE	
BEGINNING OF M			VATER LOOKING D			HT Gag	je Rea	ading:	0,311	Т	ME: 1! L	5	
ທ ຍັStake (S)	Distance	Width	Total	Water	Depth	Revolutio	ons		Velo		(ft/sec)		
Stake (S) Grassline (G) Waterline (W) Rock (R)	From Initial Point (ft)	(ft)	Vertical Depth From Tape/Inst (ft)	Depth (ft)	of Obser- vation (ft)			Time (sec)	At Point		Mean in Vertical	Area (ft ²)	Discharge (cfs)
L.S.	0.0		4.38										
G	2.0		5.61										
W	2,4		6.52	φ					φ				
	3,0 4,0		6.65	0.15					0.Z	4			
	5.0		6.64	0,15					0.7			+	
	510 610		6.64	0,15					ϕ				
	7,0		6.66	0.15					Ø		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
	8.0			0,5					0.4	{)			
	90	10.1	6,67	0.20						38		-	
	10.0	(9,5		0.30	0.20				١, ٢	18		>	
	11.0	K10,5		0.35	<u> </u>		-		1.Z	1		•	
	12.C		6,89	0.35					1-0	4			
	13.0		6.83	0,30						12			
	14.0	•	6.72	0,20					0, 1	12			
	15.0		6,71	0,20					0,				
	16.0 17 0 17		6.65	0,15					0,7				
	18,0		6.66	0.15					0,5				
												1	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·											+	
		+											
									·······			+	
												<u>+</u>	
W U	19.0)	6.52	ø					Ø				
	21.3	2	6.52 5,69 4,68										
NS	26,9	≱	4,68			···· , ,							· · · · ·
TOTALS:												8	<u> </u>
End of Measure	ement		Gage Reading	0.3	CALCULATI	ONS PERFO	RMED	BY:		CAI	CULATIONS	CHECKED BY:	1

FIELD DATA FOR INSTREAM FLOW DETERMINATIONS

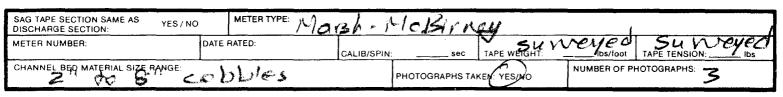


COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

LOCATION INFORMATION

STREAM NA	ME: 7	Froub	lesov	ne - ab	ove	Rabbit	Ear	3	CROSS-SECTION NO.:
CROSS-SEC	TION LOC		ADDY			ream (from	conflue	once.
			with	· 12 cr/b/o	IF E	ais Cir	st		
DATE: 10.	13-06	OBSERVERS:	RSV	nith P.	Belc	Ner-			
LEGAL DESCRIPTIO	N	V SECTION:	SE	SECTION: 35	TOWNSHI	P: 400s	RANGE:	BOEN	PM 6th
COUNTY:	Gro	ind	WATERSH	ED: Colora	do	WATER DIVISION:	5	DOW WATER	R CODE: 23521
MAP(S):	USGS:	Hyan	nis Pa	rak 7.51					
	USFS:								

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA



CHANNEL PROFILE DATA

STATION	DISTANCE FROM TAPE (ft)	ROD READING (ft)				LEGEND:
🛞 Tape @ Stake LB	0.0	surveyed		¥	·····	Stake 🛞
X Tape @ Stake RB	0.0	suweyed	s к			Stake Station (1)
1 WS @ Tape LB/RB	0.0	6 37 6 37	E T C	TAPE		Photo
2 WS Upstream	21.0	6.23	Н	A7 4	7 53	
3 WS Downstream	43.0	6,05				Direction of Flow
SLOPE O	.42/64,0	- 0.0065		۲	\bigcirc	

AQUATIC SAMPLING SUMMARY

STREAM ELECTROFISHED YESINO	DISTANCE ELEC	CTROFIS	SHED:	ft		F	ISH CA		YES	2		WATE	RCHEN	IISTRY	SAMPL	ED:	siyo
LENGTH - FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION BY ONE-INCH SIZE GROUPS (1.0-1.9, 2.0-2.9, ETC.)																	
SPECIES (FILL IN)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	>15	TOTAL
see attack	ed										1	1					
<u> </u>																	
AQUATIC INSECTS IN STREAM SECTION	BY COMMON OR SC	IENTIFI	C ORD	ER NAM	E:												in the second
caddis, may	fly, S	\$01	ret	-(V													
	* ,.,			7			<u> </u>	_									<u></u>

COMMENTS

Temp= 480	
Ph= 6,4	
TIDSFICD	

FORM #ISF FD 1-85

STR	EAM NAME:	Tm	ables	ome	Cree	ekc		CROS	S-SECTION	^{NO.:} Z	D/ (ATE: 0-13-1	06 SHEE	r <u>/</u> of_)
		EASUREMENT	I FROF OF W	ATER LOOKING D	OWNSTREAM:	LEFT / RIG	нт	Gage Re	ading:	<u>0.4</u> #	1	⊫ 1; 4 4		
atur S D	itake (S) irassline (G) Vaterline (W)	Distance From Initial Point	Width (ft)	Total Vertical Depth From Tape/Inst	Water Depth (ft)	Depth of Obser- vation	Revo	lutions	Time	At	A	t/sec) Mean in	Area (ft ²)	Discharge (cfs)
<u>е</u> п	lock (R)	(ft)		(ft)		(ft)			(sec)	Point		Vertical		
	SIG	0,0		4.48										
		2.0		5.50					-		_	<u></u>		
		6.2		5.76										
		9,3		5.83	4					ø				
	\mathbb{W}_{-}	13.9		6.44	0.05					¢ ¢				
		15.0		6.43	0.05	<u></u>				4				
		15.5		6 51	0.15					0.4				
		16.0	,	6.56	0.20					0.8	51 38			+
		16-5		6,60	0.25 0,20					0,6				
	·	17.5		6.61	0.25					1-4	8			
		15.0	<u> </u>	6.69	0.35					1,4	7			
<u> </u>		18.5		6,66	0,30 0,40					$\frac{1}{1}$	6			
		19.5		6,67	0.30				-		8			
	c	20.0		6.61	0.25						2			
		20,5	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	6.72	0.35					0.8	59			
		21.0		6.67	0.30					0,8		······································	-	
		215		6.68	0.15 0.30					0.6	\$			
		22.5		6.52 6.68 6.69	0,30					0.6	74			
<u> </u>			,	•										
								······						
														+
	W	23.0		4.51 4.51	ø					Ø				
n.	stG	25.7		4.5										
<u> </u>							 							
	TOTALS:													
End	d of Measu	ement Tir	me: 0, 4	Gage Reading	2,00	CALCULAT	TIONS P	ERFORME	D BY:		CAL	CULATIONS	CHECKED BY	

1

Kremmling Field Office Stream Surveys October 2006

Troublesome Creek Below Confluence with Rabbit Ears Creek - Water Code #23521

Troublesome Creek, located north of Kremmling, CO and located on BLM lands managed by the Kremmling Field Office was sampled on October 13, 2006. Troublesome Creek is tributary to the Colorado River. Presence/absence sampling was done in support of the Colorado BLM instream flow program. Sampling was conducted via backpack electro-shocker and approximately 275 feet of stream was sampled. Personnel present were Paula Belcher, KRFO, Hydrologist, Roy Smith, CSO Water Rights Program Lead, Paul a private land owner along Troublesome Creek, Tom Fresques, BLM West Slope Fisheries Biologist, and Malia Boyum, Biological Technician, GSFO.

A total of 66 fish were collected including 60 brown trout, 3 brook trout, and 3 sculpin. No lengths were taken for this section. See the data sheet below for more information.







FISH SAMPLING FORM

WATER <u>Troublesome Creek (below confluence)</u> CODE____ DATE <u>10-13-06</u> GEAR <u>backpack shocker</u> EFFORT <u>275 ft</u> STATION #____ PASS #____

species	length	weight	mark		species	length	weigh t	mark
		Individua	als were	e not measu	red, only	counted		
200 ft e	effort:							
BRN	28 indiv	viduals	(one n	neasured 13	5.5")			
BRK	1 indivio	dual						
MOSC	3 indivi	duals						
75 ft ef	fort:							
BRN	32 indiv	viduals						
BRK	2 indivi	duals						

GPS Location:

Notes (water temp, etc.):

Over 275 ft effort, 66 total fish were captured: 60 brown trout (*Salmo trutta* morpha *fario*); 3 brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*); 3 mottled sculpin (*Cottus bairdi*)

Kremmling Field Office Stream Surveys October 2006

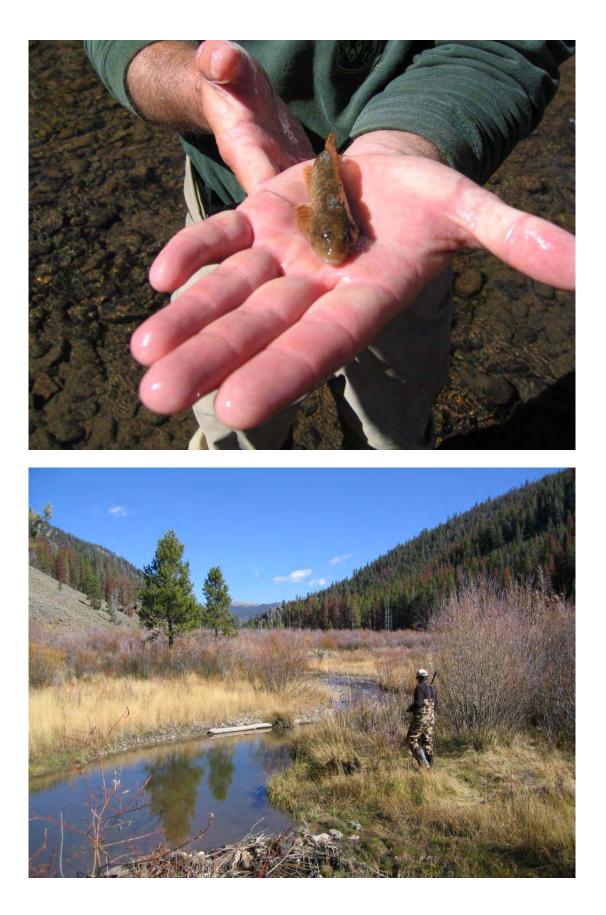
Troublesome Creek Above Confluence with Rabbit Ears Creek - Water Code #23521

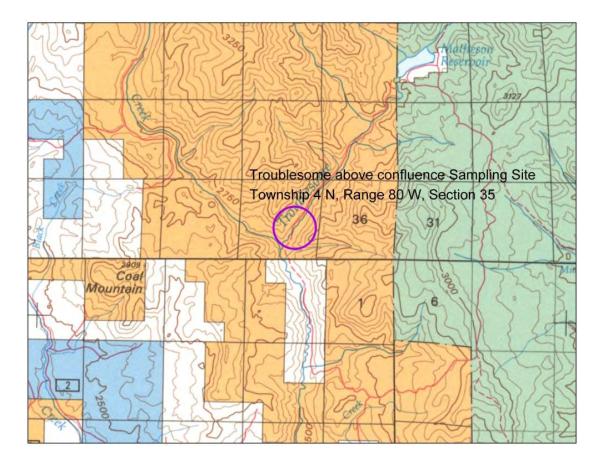
Troublesome Creek, located north of Kremmling, CO and located on BLM lands managed by the Kremmling Field Office was sampled on October 13, 2006. Troublesome Creek is tributary to the Colorado River. Presence/absence sampling was done in support of the Colorado BLM instream flow program. Sampling was conducted via backpack electro-shocker and approximately 175 feet of stream was sampled. Personnel present were Paula Belcher, KRFO, Hydrologist, Roy Smith, CSO Water Rights Program Lead, Paul Wirthrich a private land owner along Troublesome Creek, Tom Fresques, BLM West Slope Fisheries Biologist, and Malia Boyum, Biological Technician, GSFO.

A total of 29 fish were collected including 26 brown trout, 1 brook trout, and 2 sculpin. See the data sheet below for size distributions.









FISH SAMPLING FORM

WATER Troublesome Creek (above confluence) CODE 23521 DATE 10-13-06

0 2 <u>.</u>	(mm)			. <u>175 1</u>	0 1/1 201	(mm)		_
species	length	weight	mark		species	length	weight	mark
BRN	328				BRN	82		
BRN	232				BRN	74		
BRN	286				BRK	173		
BRN	282				MOSC	108		
BRN	250				MOSC	95		
BRN	164							
BRN	160							
BRN	223							
BRN	235							
BRN	225							
BRN	172							
BRN	208							
BRN	207							
BRN	87							
BRN	86							
BRN	78							
BRN	82							
BRN	150	← injur	ed eye					
BRN	88							
BRN	82							
BRN	83							
BRN	78							
BRN	90							
BRN	93							

GEAR <u>backpack shocker</u> EFFORT <u>175 ft</u> STATION #____ PASS #___

GPS Location:

Notes (water temp, etc.):

29 total fish: 26 brown trout (*Salmo trutta* morpha *fario*); 1 brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*); 2 mottled sculpin (*Cottus bairdi*)























