

## BROWN TROUT ABUNDANCE IN SEVEN MILE CREEK

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An estimate of the abundance of brown trout in Seven Mile Creek was conducted in September 2003, sampling the same section as was done in 2002. Three passes were made with a backpack electrofisher. All captured trout were removed from the sample reach until the completion of the sampling. The sample reach was 850 ft long each year.

Age-0 brown trout comprised most of the population in 2003, in contrast to 2002 when much of the population was comprised of age 1 to 3 fish around 200 mm in length. Total abundance and biomass were greater in 2003 although this was mostly comprised of the abundant young-of-year trout. Low water conditions persisted through much of 2003. Most of the flow was from groundwater discharge just upstream of the sample reach, which may have resulted in more stable flow and temperatures than other years allowing for high survival of the fingerling trout stocked in June 2003. Additionally, habitat work in 2003 improved the quality of riffles, which may have contributed to young-of-year trout survival, by improving their habitat.

Table 1. Abundance of trout in Seven Mile Creek in 2002 and 2003.

	2002	2003
Population Estimate	137	645
Approximate 95% CI	(120 - 153)	(624 - 667)
Mean Length (in.)	7.4	4.5
Maximum Length (in.)	12.6	14.4
Number per acre water	405	1900
Biomass lb/acre	77	93

