

Cedar Pond Brook Trout Survey (Survey #: 321003)
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Cedar Pond Brook (also known as Tiorati Brook) is an 8.7-mile-long tributary to the Hudson River in the Town of Stony Brook, Rockland County. Cedar Pond Brook is the outlet of Lake Tiorati with 3.5 miles of public access found within Harriman State Park. Informal access and the current 'Wild Quality' reach are found from the intersection of Rt 210 and Pyngyp Road upstream to the intersection of Rt 210 and Cedar Flats Rd. This reach totals approximately 0.8 miles. This reach was sampled in 2020 to determine the best management under the Trout Stream Management Plan (NYSDEC 2020).

Results from this survey estimated wild yearling and older brown trout at over 1500/mile. Therefore, it was determined this reach would be managed as 'Wild Quality.' This 2021 survey was conducted to confirm that the 'Wild Quality' designation is appropriate, and to determine if the publicly accessible reach within Harriman State Park should also be managed under this designation.

Backpack electrofishing was used at five sites from Lake Tiorati downstream to Pyngyp Road (Figure 1) to estimate trout abundance within this reach. Blocking nets were set at the upstream and downstream ends of four of the five sites, and at least two passes were made within these sites. No blocking nets, and only one pass was made at the upper most site, as the stream was narrow, and electrofishing was mostly limited to pools. No abundance estimate was attempted at this site. All trout collected were measured to the nearest millimeter and released outside of the sample reach.

A total of 407 wild brown trout were caught during this survey with 45 determined to be young of year and 362 determined to be yearling and older. Lengths of yearling and older brown trout ranged from 4.4 to 11.1 inches (Figure 2). A total of nine brown trout were caught at the upper most site and all were yearling and older. Yearling and older trout/mile and pounds/acre was estimated at 1,228 and 45, respectively for the remaining four sites (Table 1).

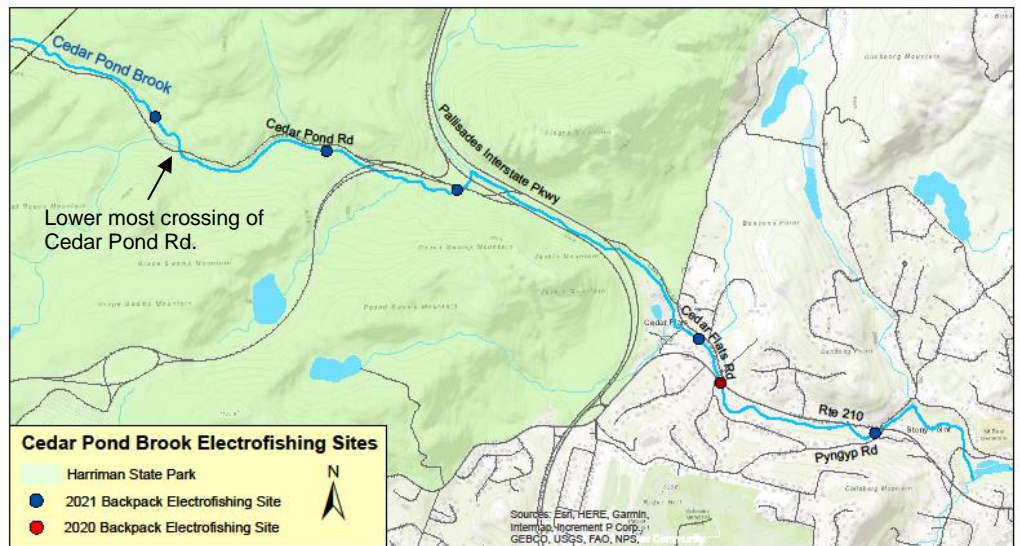
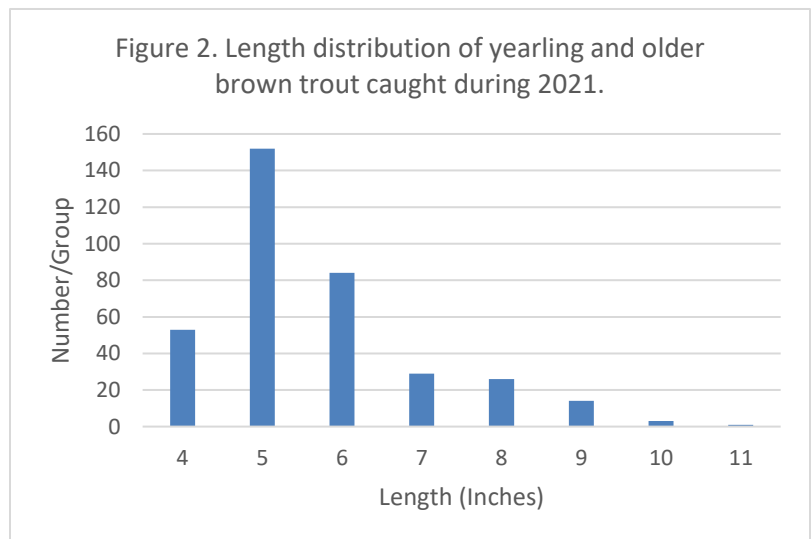


Figure 1. Sampling location on Cedar Pond Brook from 2020 and 2021.



A total of 300 yearling and older wild trout/mile or 40 pounds/acre are necessary for a stream to be managed as 'Wild Quality' in the Trout Stream Management Plan. The estimated trout/mile for five of the six sites sampled in 2020 and 2021 far exceeded the 300/mile threshold. The estimated pounds/acre from three of the six sample sites from 2020 and 2021 also met the 'Wild Quality' threshold. Therefore, it is recommended that Cedar Pond Brook be managed as 'Wild Quality' from the intersection of Pyngyp Road and Rte 210 upstream to the lower most crossing of Cedar Pond Road (also known as Tiorati Brook Rd). It is recommended that Cedar Pond Brook be reevaluated in 3-5 years to ensure the wild brown trout population still meets the qualifications for the 'Wild Quality' category.

Table 1. Total wild brown trout caught, estimated pounds/acre and estimated yearling and older trout/mile during 2020 and 2021 electrofishing. Confidence levels in parenthesis where applicable.

| Year | Site | Site Length | Total Caught | Pounds/Acre | Yearling and Older/Mile |
|------|------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 2020 | 1 | 300 | 183 | 118.1 (115.5 - 120.9) | 1544 (1509 - 1579) |
| 2021 | 1 | 395 | 69 | 32.5 (31.5 - 33.9) | 893 (867 - 933) |
| 2021 | 2 | 410 | 42 | 26.6 (26 - 28.4) | 551 (538 - 590) |
| 2021 | 3 | 445 | 161 | 60.8 (59.5 - 63) | 1655 (1619 - 1714) |
| 2021 | 4 | 400 | 9 | NA | NA |
| 2021 | 5 | 340 | 126 | 60.1 (57.4 - 63.7) | 1812 (1734 - 1922) |

Literature Cited:

NYSDEC. 2020. New York State Trout Stream Management Plan. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Albany, NY