

**White Lily Pond Biological Survey (Survey # 517066)**  
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White Lily Pond (UH-P566) is a shallow (approximately 5 feet deep), 15-acre waterbody located at the north end of the Boreas Ponds tract, which was recently added to the High Peaks Wilderness. The pond is located in Essex County's Town of North Hudson and is part of the Upper Hudson watershed. Access details to this formerly private pond have yet to be finalized, and trails are not yet developed, but some amount of hiking will be required to reach this water. No previous fisheries information existed for this pond other than water chemistry data from 1990, so a cursory survey was done in 2017 while we were in the area on a reconnaissance trip.

A single 150' experimental gill net and a minnow trap were set in August 2017. Although the sampling gear was only deployed for a couple of hours instead of the typical overnight duration, two brook trout were captured, ranging in length from 11" – 13". No other fish species were collected, but many small fish were observed in the shallows along the shoreline. Analysis of water samples from the 2017 survey indicates very good chemistry with a pH of 7.4 and an acid neutralizing capacity of  $186 \mu\text{eqL}^{-1}$ , along with high dissolved oxygen levels.

Despite its history of private stockings, Spencer Bruce of the NY State Museum found no evidence of previously stocked fish in the genetics of brook trout from Slide Brook (Bruce 2017), which joins with the outlet of White Lily Pond before it empties into Boreas Ponds.

Doug Carlson with the Rare Fishes Unit sampled Boreas Ponds in 2013 (Survey # 513901) as part of studies on late spawning suckers of the Adirondacks. Carlson, in conjunction with Richard Morse of the New York State Museum, and Evon Hekkala of Fordham University, determined that Boreas Ponds contains an "unknown sucker variant" or "Elk Lake" sucker (Carlson et al. 2015), which is currently listed as a high priority Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the state's [Wildlife Action Plan](#). Additional genetic work is needed to resolve the taxonomy and biogeography of "Elk Lake suckers", including those found in Boreas Ponds. It is possible this sucker variant is also present in White Lily Pond.

While the pond was stocked with brook trout by the previous owners, we believe that had ceased by 2011, meaning that the trout caught in the 2017 survey were very likely the result of natural reproduction. We have no plans to stock fish at this time, but will periodically sample the pond in the future to monitor its brook trout population and gauge the fishing pressure to determine if other management is warranted. Collecting water temperature data will be important since the pond's shallow depth may contribute to warming to a degree that would preclude a consistent brook trout fishery. Statewide angling regulations are in effect, except that the use of baitfish is prohibited. Because the pond was incorporated into the High Peaks Wilderness, use and possession of baitfish is prohibited in the unit-wide regulation per 6 NYCRR §10.6 (d) (1).

**Literature Cited**



Bruce, S. 2017. Summary of Findings: Boreas watershed and Little Charley Pond brook trout genetic project. Report prepared for the Nature Conservancy: 6 pp.

Carlson, D. R. Morse and E. Hekkala. 2015. Late-spawning suckers of New York's Adirondack Mountains. *American Currents* 40(4): 10-14.