

Cain Hollow Fisheries survey
Scott Cornett, Region Nine Fisheries

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On July 23, 2019 Region 9 Fisheries staff conducted a stream survey at two sites on Cain Hollow, a tributary of Quaker Run, located in Allegany State Park, Cattaraugus County. In a 2010 survey we found that the stream's headwaters support a remnant population of wild brook trout, however surveys in the early 1990s did not find trout in the lower section of the stream. The survey this year was done to determine if the downstream section of Cain Hollow (in and below the park campground) currently supports wild trout.

In this year's survey, our two electrofishing sites totaled 700 feet in length. We did not collect trout at either site. Fish species collected were blacknose dace, longnose dace, mottled sculpin, white sucker, fantail darter and creek chub. There was sufficient available habitat in our sites for adult trout if they had been present. As the day was a cool, cloudy one with air temperatures in the 60's, water temperatures appeared to be suitable for trout, but may not have been indicative of summer temperatures on this section of the stream. Trout are likely not able to survive in the lower section of Cain Hollow during the summer, due to warm water temperatures caused by extensive beaver ponds located just upstream of the campground and a lack of mature trees along the creek to provide shade on the water. No changes to management or regulations are expected for this stream based on the 2020 state-wide Inland Trout Stream Management Plan. DEC staff will encourage Allegany State Park to control beaver populations in Cain Hollow to facilitate improvements in water quality to allow wild brook trout to utilize more of this watershed.

