### FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT DATA

**Benjamin Swigle**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BROWN TROUT</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BROOK TROUT</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAINBOW TROUT</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>1.3</td>
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#### Cedar Cove (Private)

- **Fishing**
- 8.8

- **Decommissioned Idlewilde Dam**
  - Pre Flood 2010 - 2012
  - 2014

- **Maximum**
  - 12.9

- **Minimum**
  - 0.7

- **Mean**
  - 10.0

- **1000**

- **1500**

- **Graph 1.**

- **Graph 2.**

- **Graph 3.**

- **Graph 4.**

- **Graph 5.**

### Abundance of brown and rainbow trout has drastically decreased. Post flood work that temporarily channelized the river, Smith Mountain Park. The park is maintained by the City of Loveland and was the site of their hydroelectric operations. The system is currently decommissioned. Restoration work has been completed, CPW will monitor the success and likely increase in trout abundance. A small number of an experimental strain of rainbow trout were stocked at this location providing insight this strain may be a tool to give the rainbows an advantage to repopulate sections of river as rainbows emerge during June. Solid reproductive habitat has occurred since 1995.

### Additional details of some of the stations are listed below.

### Big Thompson River Below Olympus Dam

#### Gear: Electrofish 2 pass, 10/2016

- **Station: Olympus**

- **Length: 550 ft (between arrows)**

- **Passage. The barrier has traditionally blocked reproductive migration to the upper canyon. In addition, the dam backed up waters and remained essentially unaltered.**

- **Displacement from Estes Lake, upstream migration, or both. While the abundance of rainbow trout in this reach has rebounded to levels measured pre flood work temporarily channelized the river, removing habitat complexity. Restoration work has been completed, CPW will monitor the success and likely increase in trout abundance. A small number of an experimental strain of rainbow trout were stocked at this location providing insight this strain may be a tool to give the rainbows an advantage to repopulate sections of river as rainbows emerge during June. Solid reproductive habitat has occurred since 1995.**

- **Young of year brown trout typically emerge from the nest in May while rainbows emerge during June. Solid reproductive habitat has occurred since 1995.**

- **The rest of the Big Thompson River below Olympus Dam:**
  - 2013, zero timber input, little overwinter habitat or defined low flow passage. The barrier has traditionally blocked reproductive migration to the upper canyon. In addition, the dam backed up waters and remained essentially unaltered.**

- **Displacement from Estes Lake, upstream migration, or both. While the abundance of rainbow trout in this reach has rebounded to levels measured pre flood work temporarily channelized the river, removing habitat complexity. Restoration work has been completed, CPW will monitor the success and likely increase in trout abundance. A small number of an experimental strain of rainbow trout were stocked at this location providing insight this strain may be a tool to give the rainbows an advantage to repopulate sections of river as rainbows emerge during June. Solid reproductive habitat has occurred since 1995.**

- **Fishing within the catch and release section (Watonia bridge to Olympus Dam) will produce good numbers. As a result of the flood, and post flood construction angling below Drake will be poor in 2018. Fishing within the catch and release section (Watonia bridge to Olympus Dam) will produce good numbers. As a result of the flood, and post flood construction angling below Drake will be poor in 2018.**

### Fish Survey and Management Data

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### Amenities

- **Fishing Pier Trout Per Mile (>6”)**
  - **Cedar Cove, Chuck’s Place**
  - **Vegetated Banks (willows), a broad floodplain restored**
  - **Meadows**

### Buy a Fishing License:

- [https://www.co.wildlifelicense.com/start.php](https://www.co.wildlifelicense.com/start.php)