

Importance of Brushing Work!

- First-Thank you to all of those that participate!
- IN ADDITION to improving fishing access:
 - Improve riparian habitats
 - Improve instream habitats
 - Prevent erosion
 - Remove invasive species

Improve Riparian Habitat

- Removing invasive/non-desirable species
- Leaving and promoting native and beneficial vegetation
- Promote diversity
- Increase growth and abundance of beneficial vegetation
- Wildlife benefits, insect benefits, erosion benefits

Improve Instream Habitats

- Sunlight can be the limiting factor in stream productivity
- Opening up the canopy can increase instream productivity
 - Increase macrophyte abundance and growth
 - Increase insect biomass

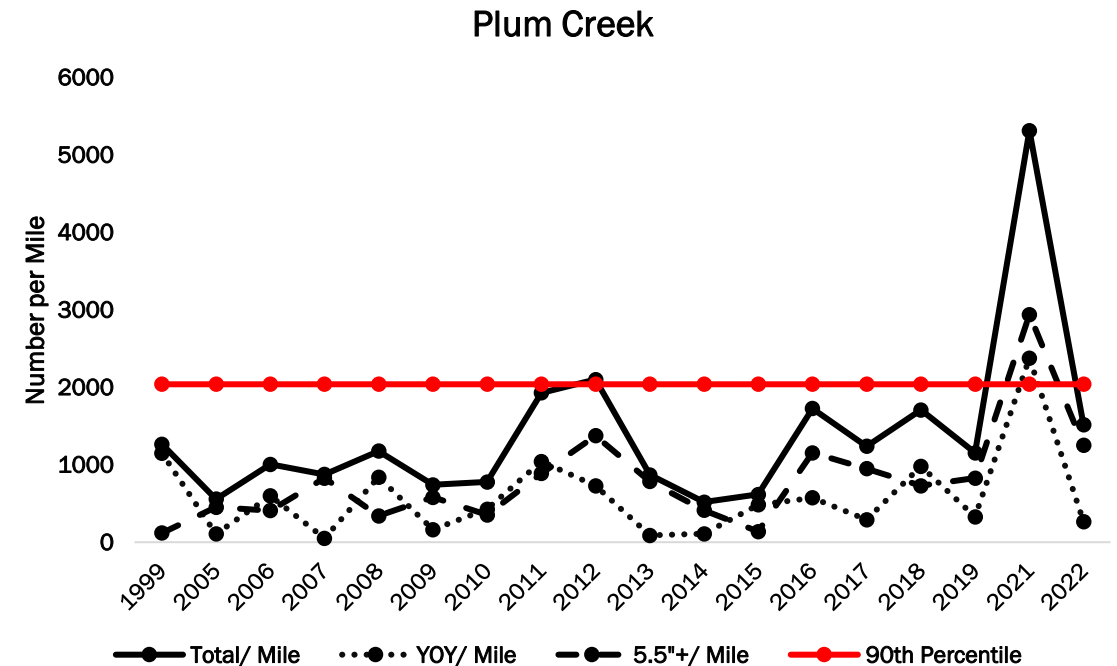
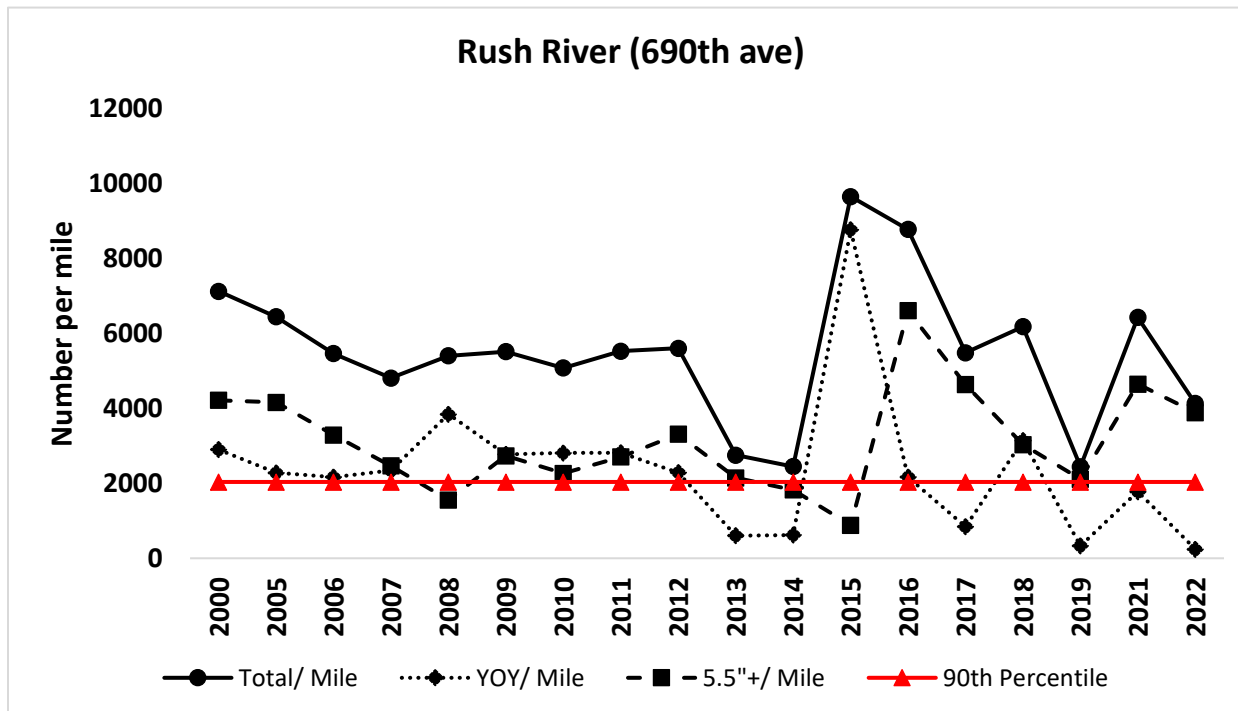


Pierce County Trout Regulation Change Proposals

Kasey Yallaly 1/3/2023

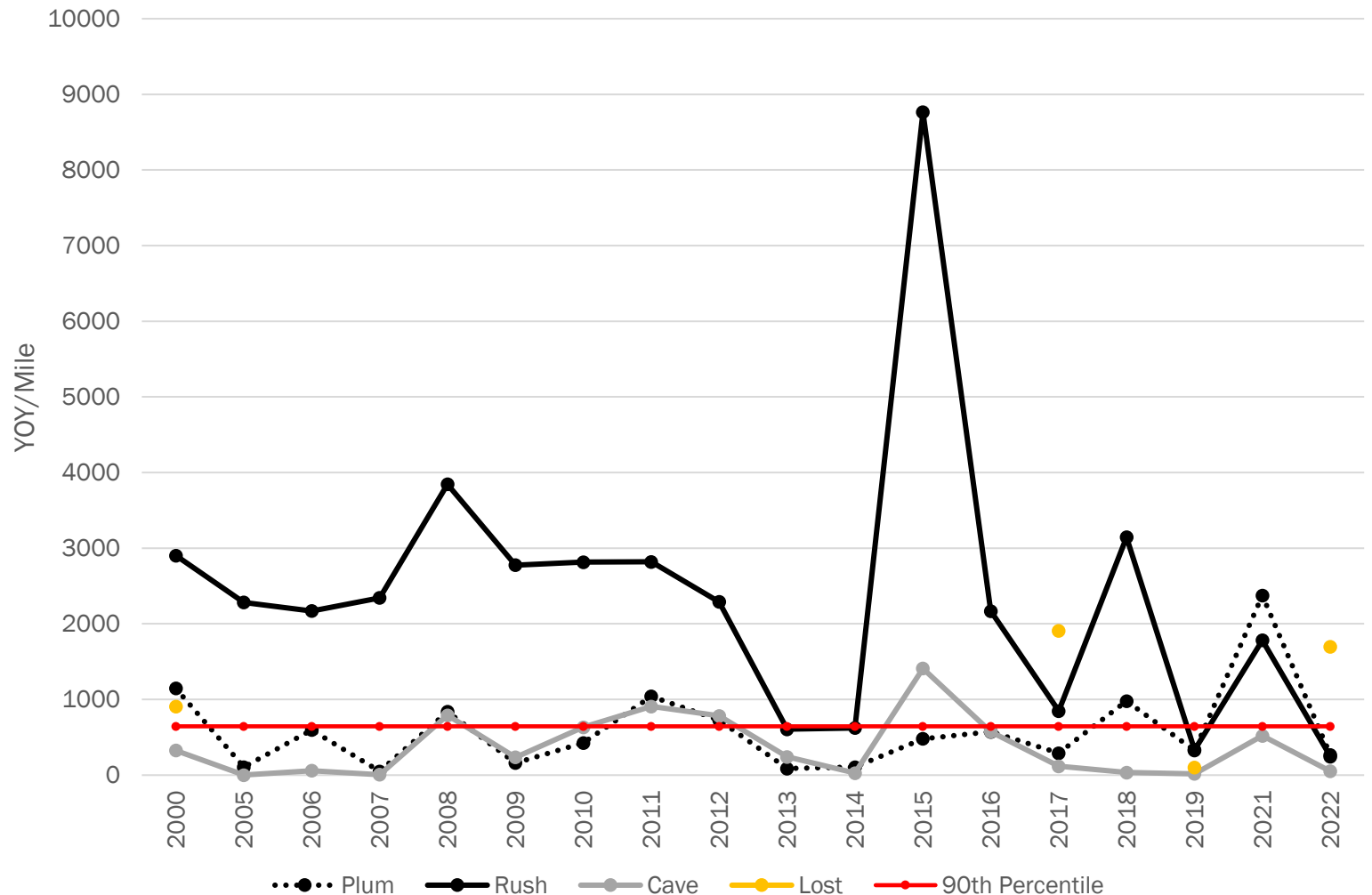
Status of Trout Populations

- Class I streams have very high-density brown trout populations
 - Abundance on average ranges from 3000-5000 fish per mile annually in the Rush, Cave, Lost, Plum
 - 95th percentile for Class I trout streams in the Driftless Area



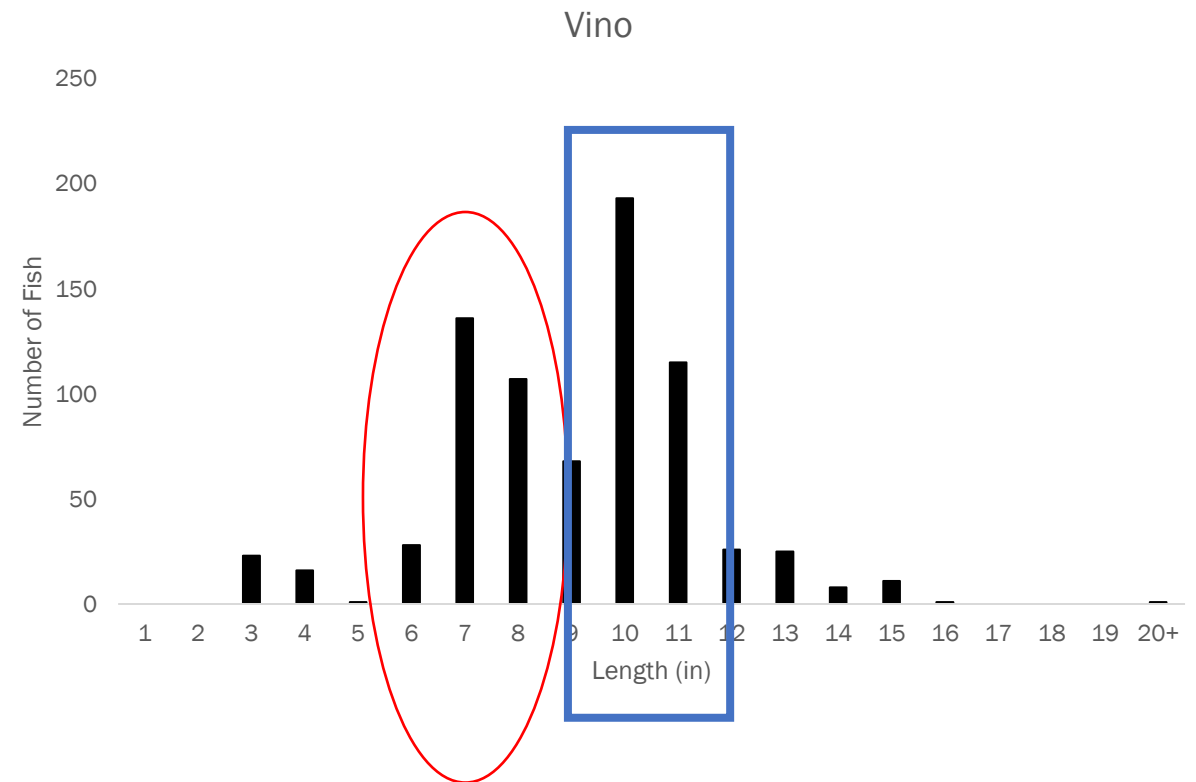
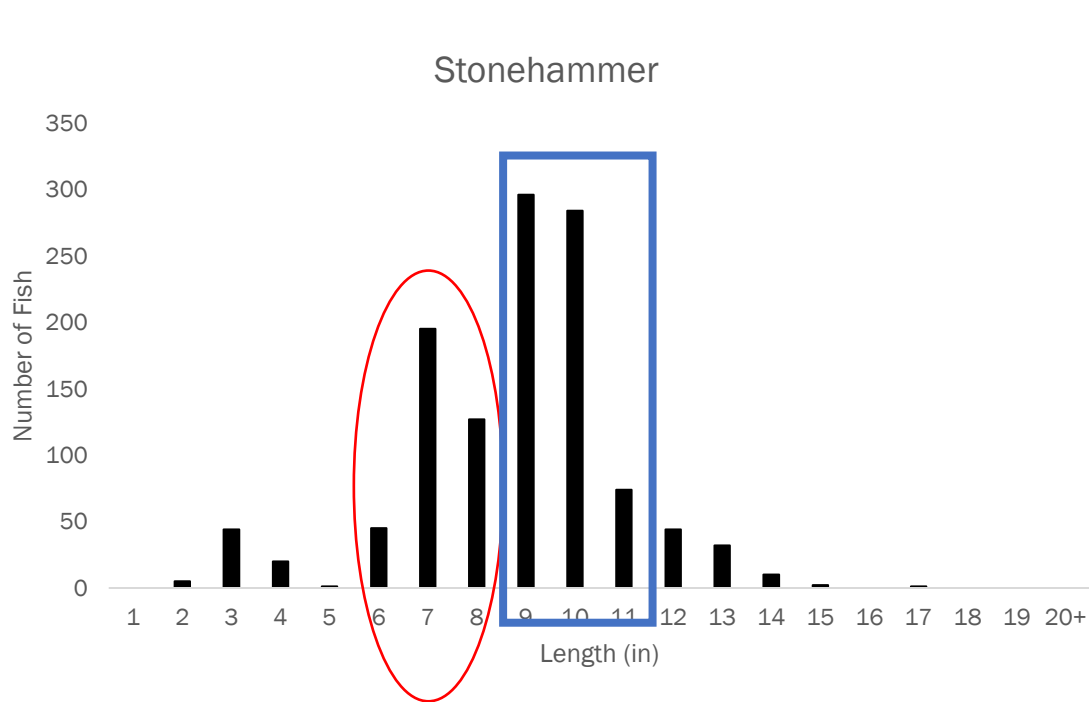
Natural Reproduction

- Natural reproduction is strong and consistent
- *Cave Creek averages 400 YOY/mile-80th percentile



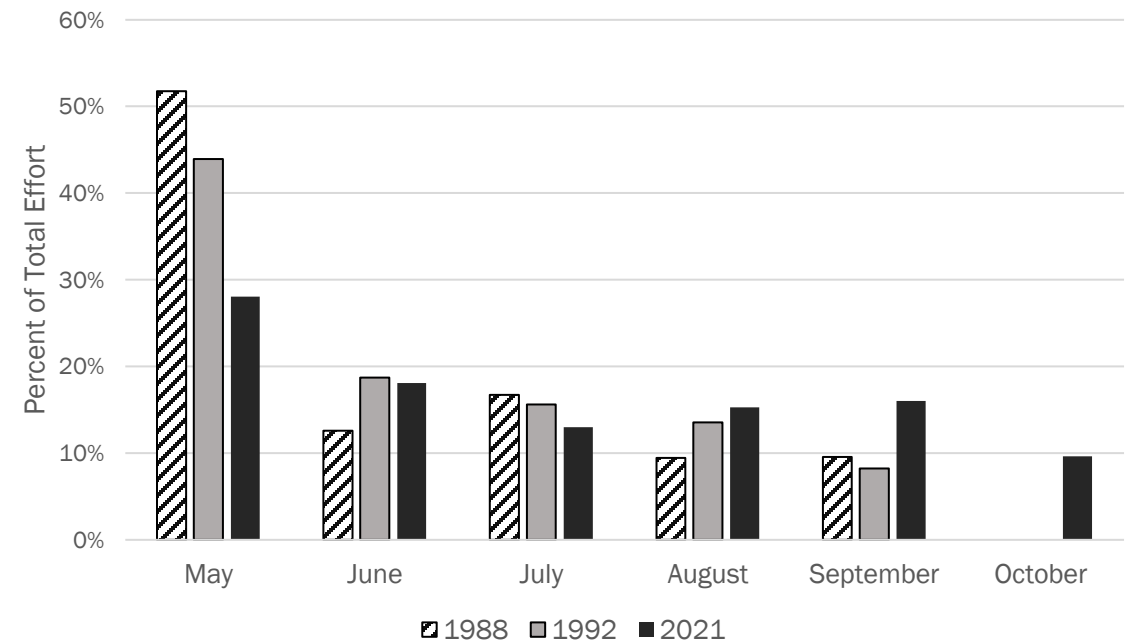
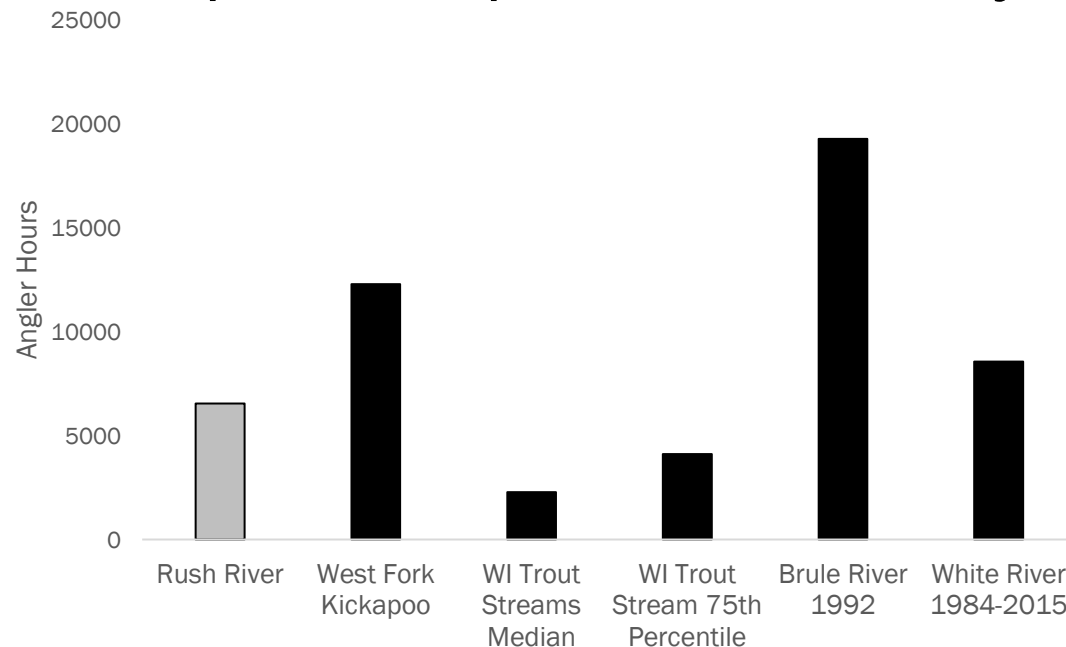
Survival and Recruitment

- Survival and recruitment is high



Angler Harvest

- Creel Survey in 2021
- Angler harvest is very low despite high angler effort and catch rates compared to prior creel surveys in 1988 and 1992

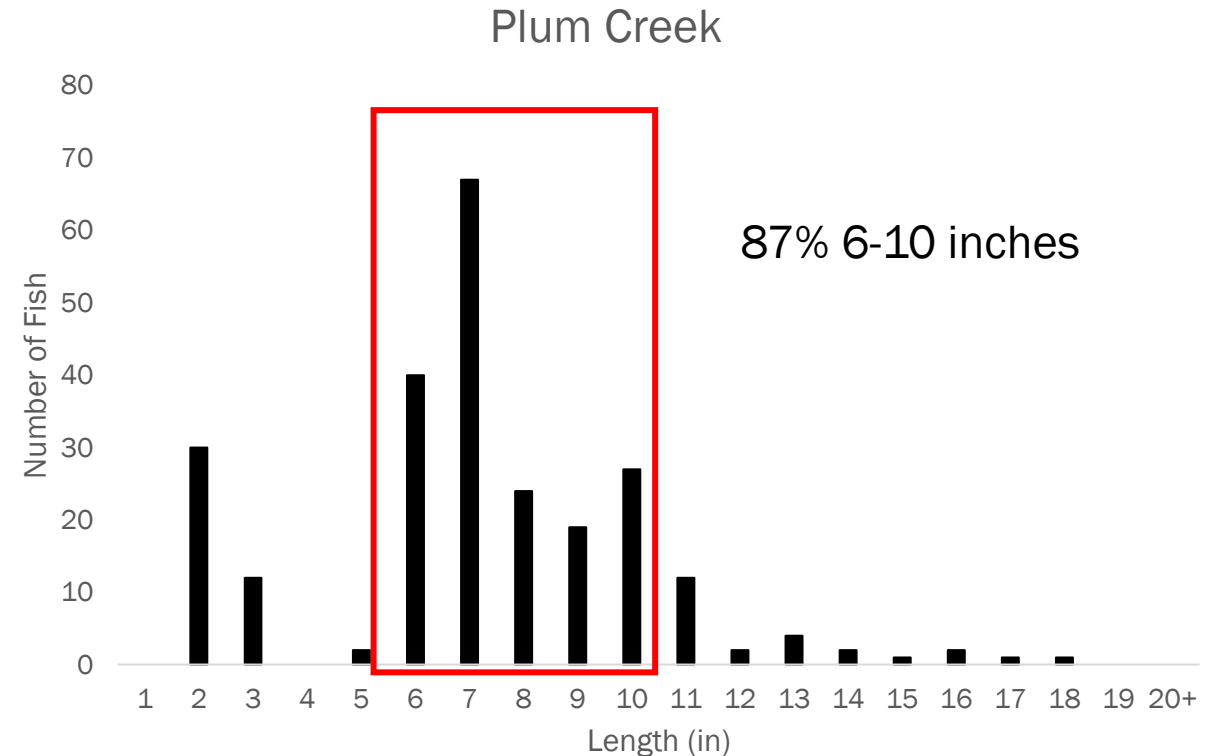
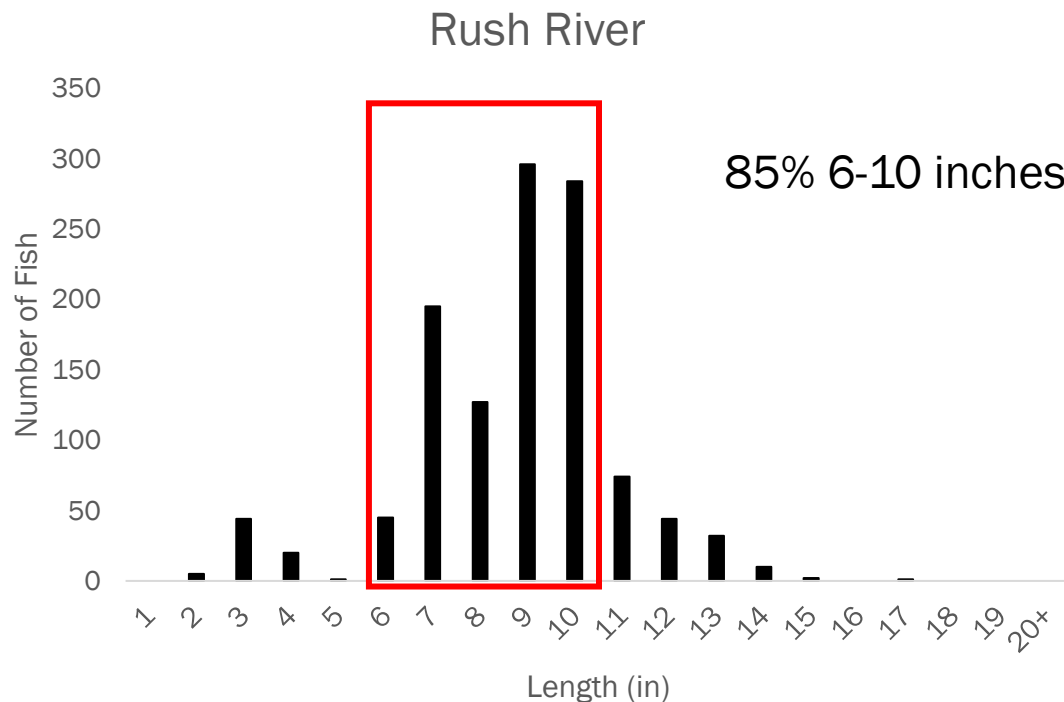


Harvest

- Actual Brown Trout Harvest-49 fish for the season
- Projected Harvest-126 fish or 1 fish/45 hours or 0.04 fish/hour
- Harvest rates declined by 73% from a 1988 creel survey
- Catch and release ethic gained popularity
- Similar low harvest on the West Fork Kickapoo River in 2022
 - 540 fish or 1 fish/167 hours
- Harvest on White River-0.08 fish/hour or 1 fish/10 hours

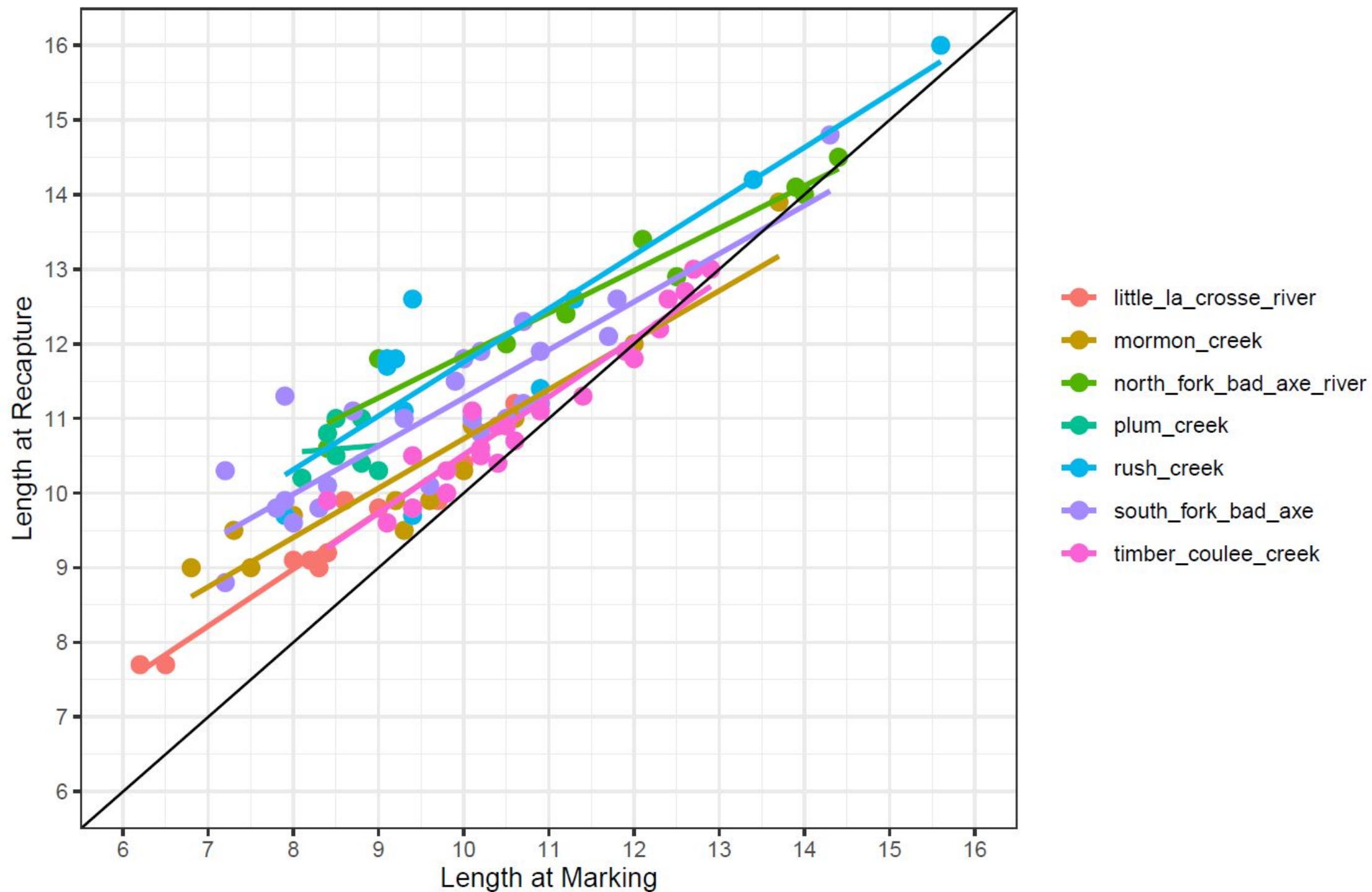
High Densities of Small Fish

- Majority of fish are in the 6-10 inch range
- Consistent patterns annually because of high and consistent rates of natural reproduction and recruitment



Density Dependence

- High densities can lead to slow growth rates and poor condition of fish
- Poor size structure
- Reduced maximum size



Regulations

- Current regulation of 12 inch minimum is no longer appropriate on these streams, Rush River, Plum Creek, Lost Creek, Cave Creek
 - Protects the majority of fish from harvest
 - Causes a “stacking up” of fish under the length limit
 - Increases the effects of density dependence
- Proposed 12 inch maximum 5/day bag limit
 - Allow harvest of abundant, small trout
 - Improve growth rates by reducing density of fish in the 6-11 inch range
 - Protect large fish and improve size structure-IF harvest is high enough

Public Meetings in 2023

- Dates to come!



CONNECT WITH US

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OFF THE RECORD"