Pigeon River Elk Hill Horse Campground

Fish Species

Brook Trout; Brown Trout; Rainbow Trout

Species Description

Brook, brown, and rainbow trout are common, and all are wild fish. Brook trout typically are below 8 inches in length, but fish up to 12 inches are occasionally caught. Brown trout over 20 inches are sometimes hooked in this water, but most are less than 12 inches. Young aggressive rainbows (juveniles) are present as well, and in the spring, the deeper holes will harbor steelhead from 15-25 inches.

Geographic Coordinates

Lat:45.180765 / Long:-84.424407

Noteworthy

Most anglers fishing this water, particularly downstream, will have it to themselves. Walking a long distance downstream, anglers will find reaches of the river that are quite narrow, and deep. There is a point in the river downstream where Elk Point (a ridge) intersects the river on the east shore, and slightly downstream of this point, the outlet of Grass Lake enters from the west. This is the region where an old lumber camp once was established. After Elk Ridge, the river changes, as the flow lessens and the river gets deeper, making it good wintering water for trout. If fishing here, make sure you are aware of the different regulations upstream versus downstream of this location.

Fishing Regulations

Upstream of the horse trail is a designated Type 2 trout stream. Downstream from the horse trail is the Gear Restricted reach where the river is open to fishing all year round, with a possession season of the last Saturday in April through September for brook and brown trout, but open all year for rainbow trout (steelhead). Artificial lures or flies are only allowed downstream, with a daily possession limit of two trout, with no more than 1 brown trout; minimum sizes of harvested trout are brook and rainbow trout 10 inches, and 12 inches for brown trout. This regulation stretches for 5.3 miles downstream from the campground horse trail. Please refer to the Inland Trout and Salmon Stream Regulations in the current Michigan Fishing Guide.

Directions to Site

Anglers can find this location by finding the Elk Hill