In mid-July 2018, Region Nine Fisheries staff, with assistance from USFWS staff and angler volunteers sampled Trout Brook. Sampling was part of region-wide trout population monitoring. One 465-foot site was electrofished, below the Hardy’s Road bridge. This site had been sampled previously in 2006 and every year from 2009-2017. In all surveys, trout population abundance was estimated from two electrofishing passes. Trout Brook is a major tributary of Wiscoy Creek and has 0.8 miles of public fishing rights easements.

In 2018, we captured 58 yearling and older (adult) wild brown trout, ranging in length from 4.8-13.8 inches and averaging 7.5 inches. The abundance of adult wild brown trout in 2018 was 659 fish/mile (±11) (Figure 1). The number of young-of-year (YOY) brown trout captured in both electrofishing passes combined was 170/mile (Figure 2). In addition to brown trout, we also captured two adult and five YOY brook trout. Brook trout at this site appear to be associated with a small, cold tributary entering the lower end of our sample site. Adult trout habitat was of fair quality, consisting of one shallow pool under the bridge and shallow pockets with overhanging shrubs.

The abundance of adult wild brown trout at our sampling site in 2018 was not significantly different (P<0.05) than we observed in 2014 and 2017, but was significantly higher than we saw in 2015 or 2016 (Figure 1). At this site, we observed a consistent decline in adult brown trout abundance from 2006-2016. The number of
YOY captured at our sampling site has been highly variable over our sampling years with 2018 having the third fewest (Figure 2). In 2016, we captured the highest number of brown trout YOY (1,159 fish/mile) and this may have led to increased adult abundance observed in 2017 and 2018. Trout Brook should continue to provide quality angling for those wishing to pursue wild brown trout and the occasional brook trout in a small stream setting. No changes in regulations are recommended for Trout Brook and it should continue to be managed as a wild trout fishery.