Buckhorn Ponds Physical & Chemical Survey (#521048, 521049, 521050)

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The Buckhorn Ponds are three small remote ponds that are adjacent to each other in the Siamese Ponds Wilderness of Hamilton County. Lower Buckhorn, (UH-P285) and Upper Buckhorn (UH-P283) are small and very shallow (5 and 4 ft maximum depths respectively) waters that historically have been very acidic and likely have limited fisheries potential. Middle Buckhorn (UH-P284) is a 24-ft deep, 7-acre pond with reasonable water chemistry and a long history of supporting brook trout. It is currently stocked with 600 Temiscamie x Domestic brook trout fingerlings annually.

All three of the Buckhorn Ponds received fisheries surveys in 2020 (#520019, #520020, #520021) at least in part to assess their potential as reclamation candidates. Unfortunately, water samples for chemical analysis could not be drawn during the time of the 2020 surveys. The 2021 surveys were undertaken simply to draw water for analysis. The acid-base chemistry of all three waters appears to have improved greatly since water was last analyzed in 1995.

Table 1. Buckhorn Ponds water chemistry variables, 1995-2021.

			pH (pH units)	ANC (µeq/L)
Upper Buckhorn	UH-P283	1995	4.75	-10.9
		2021	5.63	14.3
Middle Buckhorn	UH-P284	1995	5.89	8.5
		2021	6.30	19.2
Lower Buckhorn	UH-P285	1995	4.43	-30.7
		2021	5.38	16.9