TU CARES

A TROUT UNLIMITED VOLUNTEER BASED PROGRAM IN THE CENTRAL REGION OF WISCONSIN

Tom Lager

WI Lakes Partnership & Water Action Volunteers 20 April 2018
(30 min)

TU CARES

Bob Hunt
Conservation Hall of Fame

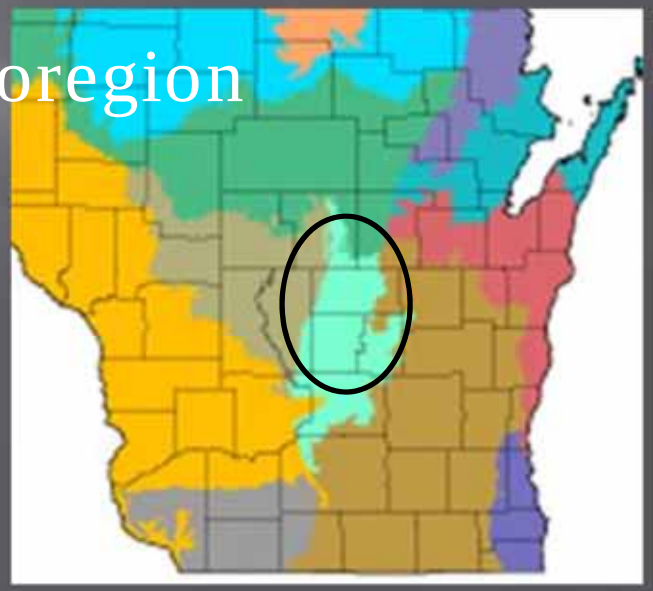
- Trout Unlimited Central Area Restoration Effort for Sustainability (TU CARES)

Goal:

- To protect, restore and reduce the decline in habitat quality for fish, game and non-game species
- In those restoration projects completed over the last 40-50 years
- Within Wisconsin's Central Sand Hills Ecoregion and its connected watersheds.

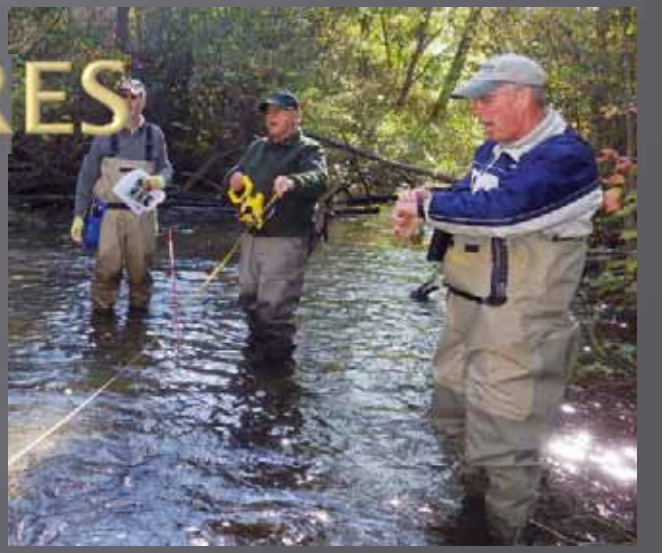
Regional Projects

- Not to re-place individual TU Chapter projects but for:
- Large projects that exceed capability of a single TU chapter due large scope of work and high funding need
- Focused on Central Sands Ecoregion
- Four TU Chapters backyard
  - Hornberg TU
  - Shaw-paca TU
  - Central Wis TU
  - Fox Valley TU



The People of TU CARES

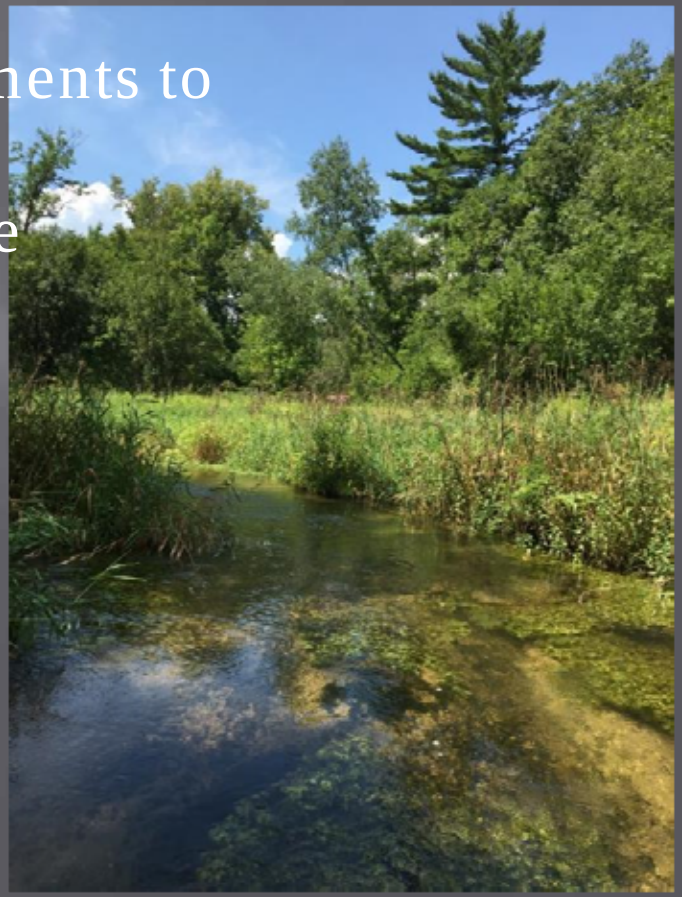
- TU Members:
  - Dennis Drazkowski
  - Al Johnson
  - Tom Lager
  - Nate Ratliff
  - Mike San Dretto
  - Brandon Schmalz
  - John Tucker
  - Laura Tucker
  - Matt (Hornberg) & Nate (Shaw-paca)
- DNR Support
  - Shawn Sullivan, Steve Devitt & Habitat Crew
  - Dave Bartz, Scott Bunde & Fish Survey Crew
  - Bobbie Jo Fisher and Dave Bolha



TU CARES Inaugural Project

West Branch of the White River (WBWR):

- Objective:
  - Assess and implement improvements to the WBWR representing the possibilities achievable across the Central Region streams

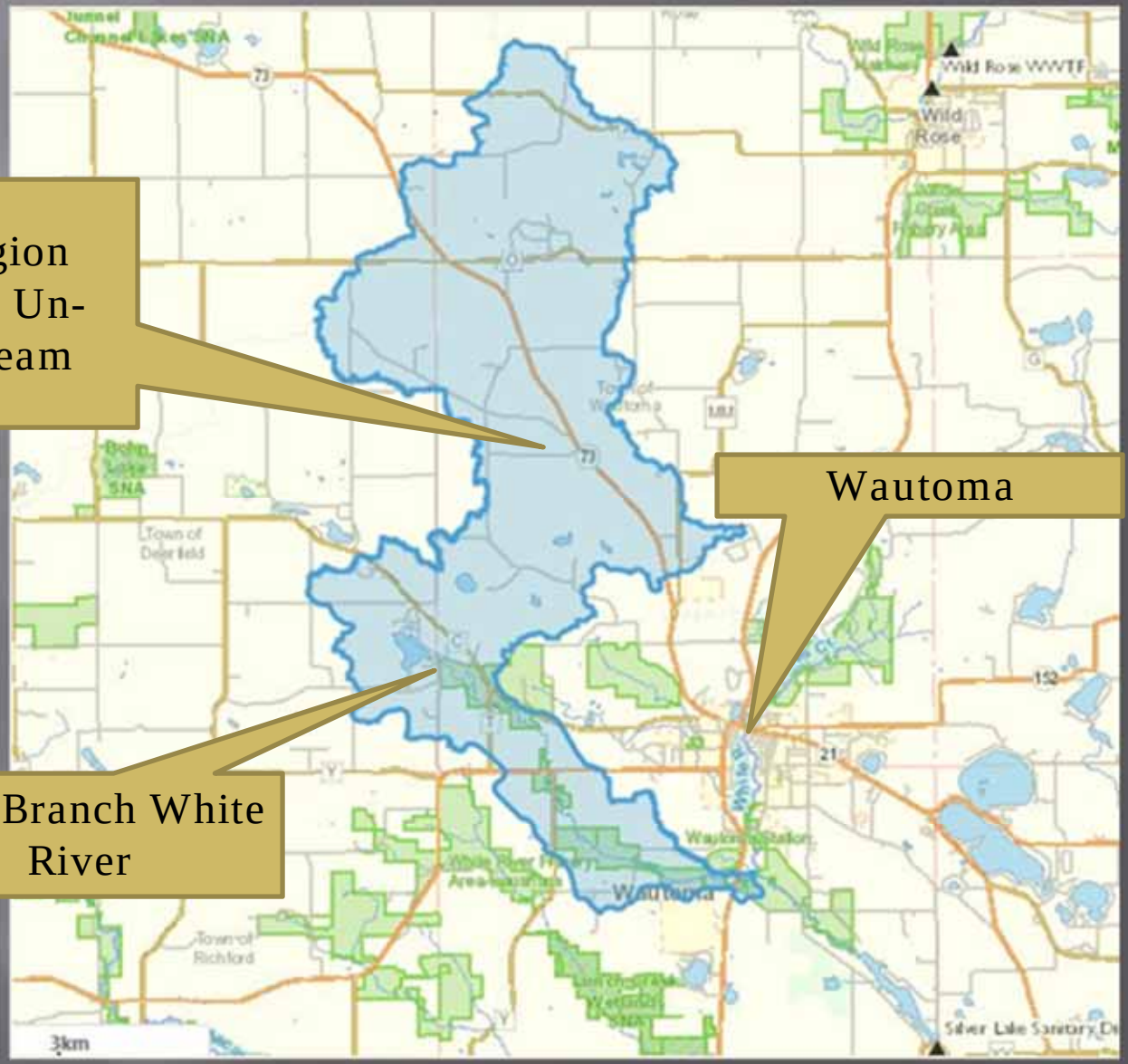


West Branch of the White River (WBWR) Project

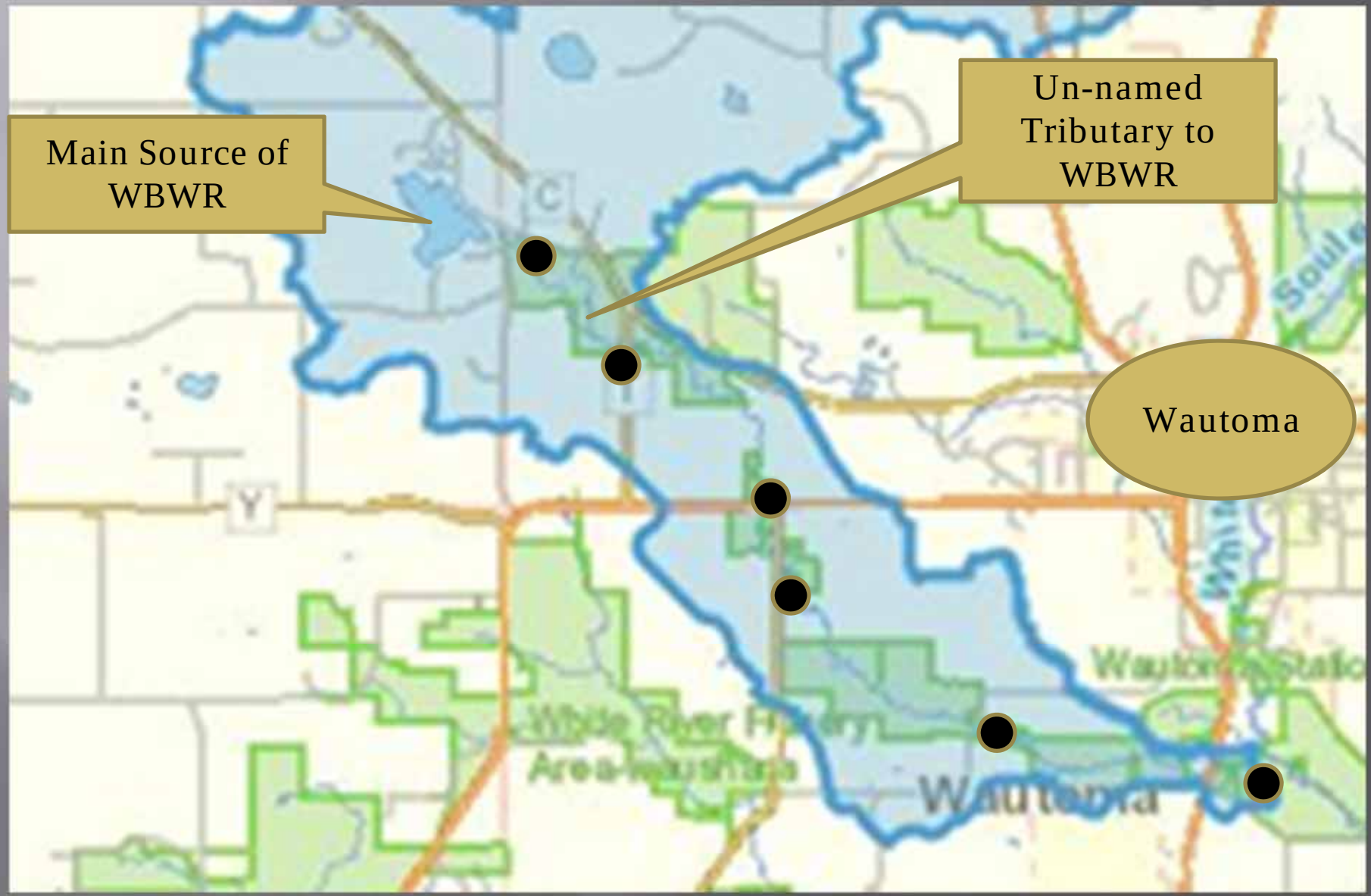
WBWR Selection Rationale:

- Biodiversity and hydrogeography commonality
- Unique features
  - Brook, rainbow and brown trout
  - Habitat improvements since 1930's WPA
  - Highway 21 bridge
- Ground water dependent stream
- Has agriculture, rural housing and wooded and wetland wildlife management land practices
- Provides public multiple use benefits
- Many DNR maintained public accesses

West Branch White River Watershed



Monitoring Sites on WBWR



2017 Accomplisments

- Stream habitat assessments
- Level I WAV Water monitoring May – Sept Data in SWIMS
- Macroinvertebrate survey
- Nine Stream Crossing Assessment completed
- Trout population survey via electro-shocking
  - Un-named tributary
- Habitat improvement and fishability
- Survey of old in-stream structures
- Publicity plan
- Grant writing training

West Branch 2018 Plan

- Enhance water monitoring to Level II
  - DO meters, expanded range, total stream continuous temperature profile & flow assessments

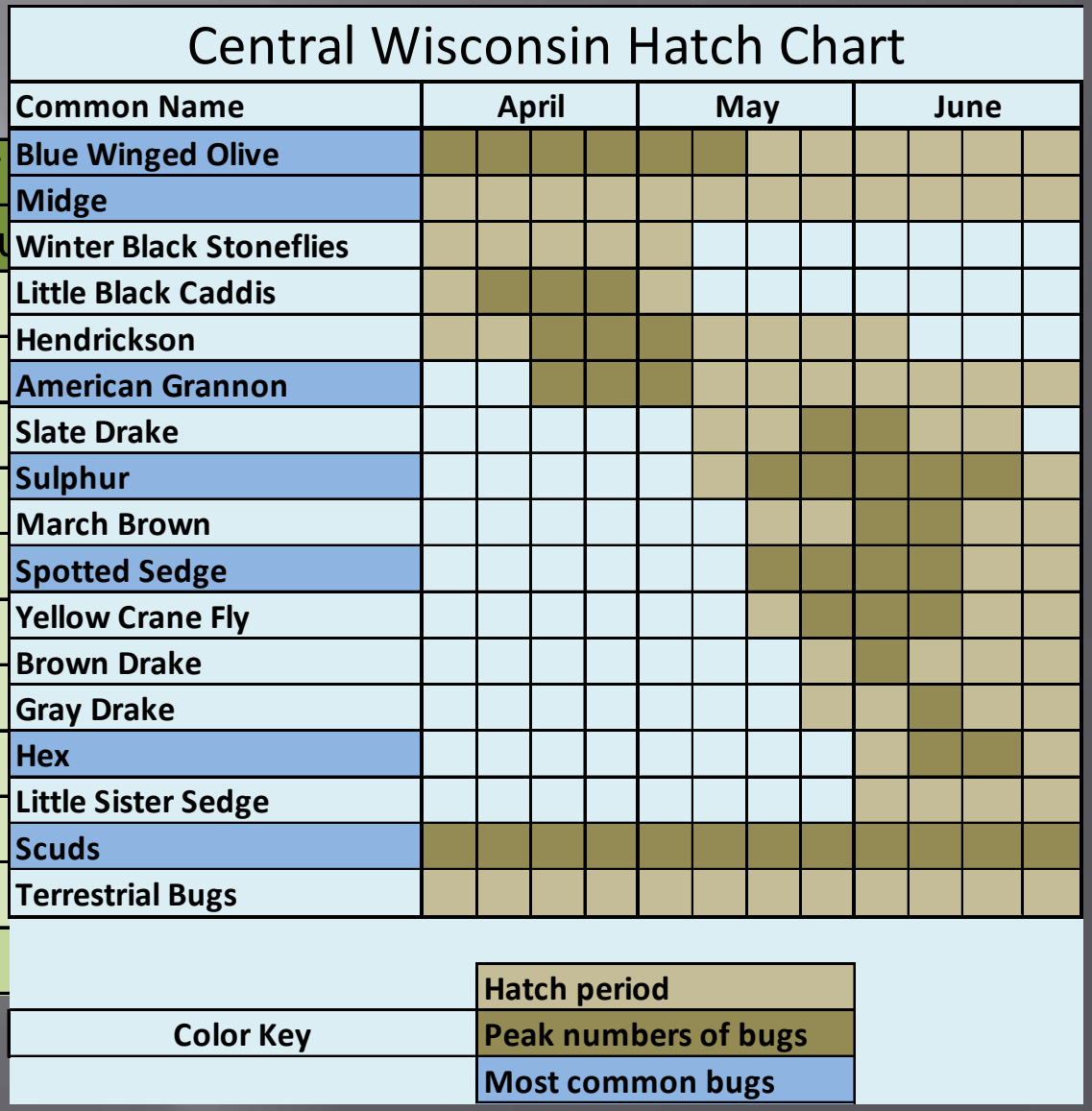
Water Monitoring & Bug Populations Results

- **High quality stream**
- Cold temperature, well oxygenated and high ground water flow
  - Maximum: 64F; except 72F down-stream of impoundment
  - Oxygen saturation: >100%
  - Ave. Flow 12 – 22 cfs; Min. flow: 7 – 20 cfs
- Bug population:
  - Biotic Index Score April-June: 2.8 (Good)

Data: Mike San Dretto; Dennis Drazkowski; Nate Ratliff

Bug Populations

Kinds of	
Kind	Nu
Stoneflies	
Mayflies	
Dragonflies	
True Bugs	
Caddisflies	
Fish and Alderflies	
Beetles	
Flies	
Scuds	
Other	
Total Kinds	



Data: Tom Lager

West Branch 2018 Plan Cont'd

- Investigate rainbow trout population decline
  - Partner with DNR Fisheries for solutons
  - DNA collected from 51 trout in April
  - Form a communication plan to inform local and regional public

Data: John Tucker & Scott Bunde

West Branch 2018 Plan Cont'd

- Develop plan to refurbish aging in-stream structures and habitat improvements
  - Planning development integrated with rainbow trout habitat needs
  - Work with Shawn's habitat crew

West Branch 2018 Plan Cont'd

- Replace Un-named tributary culvert under Lake Dr
  - Culvert barriers 3.2 miles of up-stream trout habitat
  - Work with Bobbi Jo and Matt Diebel at DNR

Justifying Culvert Replacement

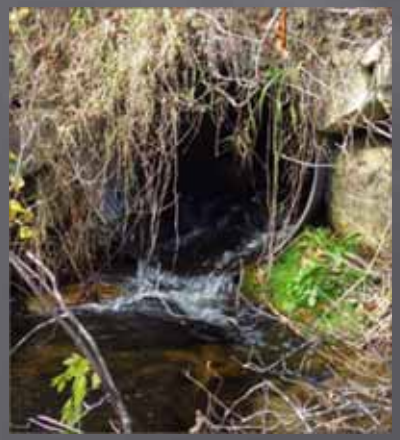
- Fish survey via electroshocking
  - Up & downstream of culvert
  - 100 m sections
  - All fish species documented

Fisheries Survey Results

- Fish assembly rated Excellent (IBI 90)
- Brook and brown trout, sculpin and white sucker
- Moderate to high population levels in tributary

	Down-stream Trout Count	Up-stream Trout Count
Brook	45	94
Brown	20	4

Culvert



Data: John Tucker; Scott Bunde; Joe Dax

West Branch 2018 Plan Cont'd

- Grants are needed to fund the work just presented
- Develop brochure for TU CARES
- Search for funding sources
- Apply for grants

Grants and Out Reach: Al Johnson; Laura Tucker

Expanded Plans 2018-19

- Crystal River habitat improvements
  - Site of former New Hope Dam
  - Temperature monitoring
  - Out reach to land owners
  - Planning with Shawn's Habitat Crew

Before Dam Removal

After Dam Removal

Expanded Plans 2018-19

- Erosion control
  - Waupaca River at River Side Park in the City of Waupaca