

Pigeon River AA Nature Preserve



Fish Species

Brown Trout; Rainbow Trout; Steelhead

Species Description

Brown trout and rainbow trout are prevalent. Brown trout can reach up to 24 inches here and downstream many miles, but most will only be swayed to hit at night due to their nocturnal habits. Juvenile rainbows are found in these waters, and typically are caught when they are less than 8 inches long. Adult steelhead from Mullett Lake migrate through this reach in the fall, winter, and spring, spawn in the river, and return to the lake by May or June. April would be the best time to look for 15-25 inch steelhead at this location.

Geographic Coordinates

Lat:45.39265 / Long:-84.533917

Noteworthy

This is faster water in this reach and anglers should be sturdy if wading in at any time of year. This is good steelhead spawning and holding water, and some large brown trout can be caught in this reach periodically, although the river can be warmer at certain times during the summer. Bottom substrate is sand, gravel, cobble, and boulders. Some very large pockets of clay are found here on the river bottom, and can quickly send a wading fisherman swimming. Most of the land downstream and upstream is private once you leave the nature conservancy, so be respectful of landowner rights. This might possibly be the most aesthetic reach of the entire Pigeon River, with a beautiful river riparian, gurgling fast water, and somewhat broad canyon walls.

Fishing Regulations

This is a designated Type 4 trout stream. Please refer to the Inland Trout and Salmon Stream Regulations of the current Michigan Fishing Guide. Anglers can fish all year round and possess the appropriate bag limit of steelhead throughout the year. Brook and brown trout may only be harvested from the last Saturday in April through September.

Directions to Site

From M-68 Highway, take Onaway Road 1.5 miles north, then take a right onto Riverwood Road and drive east to the T intersection. Park at this intersection within the designated parking zone. Walk east on the path, down the slope, to the river and walking bridge.

Regional Visitor Information (URL)