

# Citizen Resolution # 130923



## Protect brook trout population on Sixmile Branch in Grant County, southern Wisconsin

Brook trout populations in southern Wisconsin have been declining for decades, due to environmental degradation, and the fact that brown trout can tolerate slightly warmer temperatures and are more capable of resisting predation. Many southern Wisconsin streams contained mostly brook trout in past decades, but brown trout have outcompeted them and taken over most of these streams. The DNR has established special regulations to protect the surviving brook trout population on many creeks, for example Plum Creek in Crawford Co, Harkers Cr, Big Spring Branch and Pompey Pillar Cr in Iowa Co.

Sixmile Branch in Grant Co has been the site of extensive habitat improvement work performed by the Harry and Laura Nohr chapter of Trout Unlimited and supported by the DNR and various conservation groups. This stream has a surprising population of naturally reproducing brook trout, and it also supports a healthy population of brown trout. The browns live longer and grow to larger sizes, and larger brown trout routinely feed on small trout. Establishment of special regulations on this stream will reduce angler harvest of the wild brook trout and increase harvest of brown trout as it has done on other streams in southern Wisconsin. This needs to be done before the current wild brook trout population is significantly reduced with the surviving brook trout forced into the stream's headwaters.

**Would you support establishing special regulations for trout fishing on Sixmile Branch in Grant County, above Pine Tree Road, to specify a daily bag limit of 5 trout in total, all brook trout caught must be immediately released; brown trout and rainbow trout no minimum length; gear restriction that only artificial lures may be used?**

Additional Information provided by author:

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