



East Branch Tunungwant Creek and Lewis Run, McKean County

2025 Backpack Electrofishing Surveys



Fisheries Management Area 2 biologist Lucas Hartman with a large wild Brown Trout.

Introduction

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) staff surveyed the Trophy Trout sections of East Branch Tunungwant Creek and Lewis Run in June 2025. East Branch Tunungwant Creek is located south of the city of Bradford in north central McKean County. Section 02 of the East Branch Tunungwant Creek is a Class A wild Brown Trout stream and is managed under the Trophy Trout Artificial Lures Only regulations. Section 02 limits are from the Main Street bridge in the town of Lewis Run upstream three miles to the unnamed tributary locally known as Pigeon Run. The other target stream, Lewis Run, is a tributary to East Branch Tunungwant Creek located downstream of the main street bridge in the town of Lewis Run. Lewis Run is managed as one section from headwaters to mouth. Most of Lewis Run flows through the Allegheny National Forest with three miles flowing parallel to Route 219. The Trophy Trout sections of East Branch Tunungwant Creek and Lewis Run were re-inventoried in 2025 to monitor wild trout abundance and population size structure.

Methods

All sites on East Branch Tunungwant Creek and Lewis Run were conducted via backpack electrofishing with two electrofishing backpacks. Surveys were conducted at two sample sites totaling 750 meters on each stream. Fish were measured and recorded in 1-inch size groups and immediately released.



PFBC staff electrofishing Section 02 of East Branch Tunungwant Creek.

Results

A total of 110 wild Brown Trout ranging from 1 to 23 inches were captured in East Branch Tunungwant Creek. Five Brown Trout captured exceeded the 18-inch minimum size limit outlined in the Trophy Trout Special Regulation programs. Five wild Brook Trout were also collected and ranged from 2 to 7 inches in length.

A total of 35 wild Brown Trout ranging from 2 to 22 inches in length were captured in Lewis Run. Two Brown Trout captured exceeded 18 inches in length. No other trout species were captured.



A memorable size Brown Trout collected during the survey.

Table 1: Length (inches) and count of trout captured in East Branch Tunungwant Creek and Lewis Run during backpack electrofishing surveys in June 2025.

East Branch Tunungwant			Lewis Run	
Length (in)	Brown Trout	Brook Trout	Length (in)	Brown Trout
1	3		1	1
2	8	1	2	
3			3	2
4	12		4	6
5	32	1	5	3
6	18	2	6	2
7	8	1	7	5
8	5		8	2
9	3		9	1
10	5		10	2
11	2		11	1
12	2		12	1
13	2		13	3
14	3		14	
15	1		15	4
16	1		16	
17			17	
18	1		18	
19			19	1
20	2		20	
21	1		21	1
22			22	
23	1		23	
Total	110	5	Total	35



A nice wild Brown Trout captured on East Branch Tunungwant Creek.

Discussion

Results from East Branch Tunungwant Creek and Lewis Run show a slight decline from historic surveys, however, 2025 results are within the natural fluctuations often observed in wild trout populations. Despite these results, several trophy-size Brown Trout were captured, and both streams continue to provide an excellent fishery.

Habitat improvement projects have the potential to enhance the quality of the fishery in both streams. Although some areas of East Branch Tunungwant Creek contained large wood, overhead cover, undercut banks, and deep pools, long (≥ 100 meter) stretches of stream were over widened, shallow, and lacked cover. Severely eroded banks were also present in several parts of the stream. The habitat in Lewis Run was notably better than East Branch Tunungwant Creek. Lewis Run contained an abundance of quality overhead cover including hemlocks and hardwoods. The downstream site contained many deep pools with large wood, however, the upstream site had long reaches of poor habitat that were shallow with little to no cover.

East Branch Tunungwant Creek and Lewis Run will continue to be monitored for wild trout abundance and population size structure to ensure both streams continue to provide exceptional trout angling opportunities.

Fisheries Management Area 2