



**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
STREAM ASSESSMENT REPORT**

Survey Year: 2019

Date(s) of Assessment:

Region	Area	Stream Name	Tributary No.	Stream Length
3	Lake City	Gorman	M-33	8.1
County	Watershed Name, No.	Source (T, R, S)	Mouth (T, R, S)	
Wabasha	Zumbro River, 35	109-11-1	110-10-35	

Assessment Purpose: Pre-restoration project sampling.

Summary:

A presence/absence survey was done on September 30, 2019 on a recently acquired easement on Gorman Creek. A backpack was used for electrofishing 480 feet of stream on stream mile 7.6 (Station 7 on the attached map). Five adult and 6 recruit Brook Trout were sampled in this station along with approximately 100 Brook Stickleback. This section of stream is channelized, entrenched, shallow, and lacks habitat. A tributary to the main Gorman channel was also sampled. The tributary is on the same parcel of land where the easement for the main channel was acquired and enters Gorman near the downstream end of the easement. The tributary is also channelized. It is narrower than the main channel, has better depth, cleaner substrates, more overhead bank cover, has more meander, and more instream vegetation. There were 37 Brook Trout sampled in the tributary, but only three were adults. It appears that the tributary functions as an important nursery for young fish. It also has excellent spawning substrate for adults. The main channel in the vicinity of the tributary has virtually no spawning substrate.

The Brook Trout population in Gorman Creek persists through natural reproduction and there hasn't been any stocking in Gorman for several years. Gorman Creek will be a candidate for stocking of the "Heritage" strain of Brook Trout if they are successfully raised in the hatchery. The current population is made up of descendants from stocking of the "Minnesota Wild" strain. Brown Trout have been sampled in both the main channel of Gorman and the tributary. No Brown Trout were sampled in this survey. There is an abundant population of Brook Stickleback in both the main channel and the tributary.

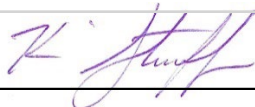
A channel restoration project to re-meander the stream and the tributary was slated to begin in the spring of 2018. There have been several delays and setbacks with design and funding. The future of the project is uncertain but efforts are being made to ensure the project continues.

Table 1. Length frequency of Gorman Creek (Main)

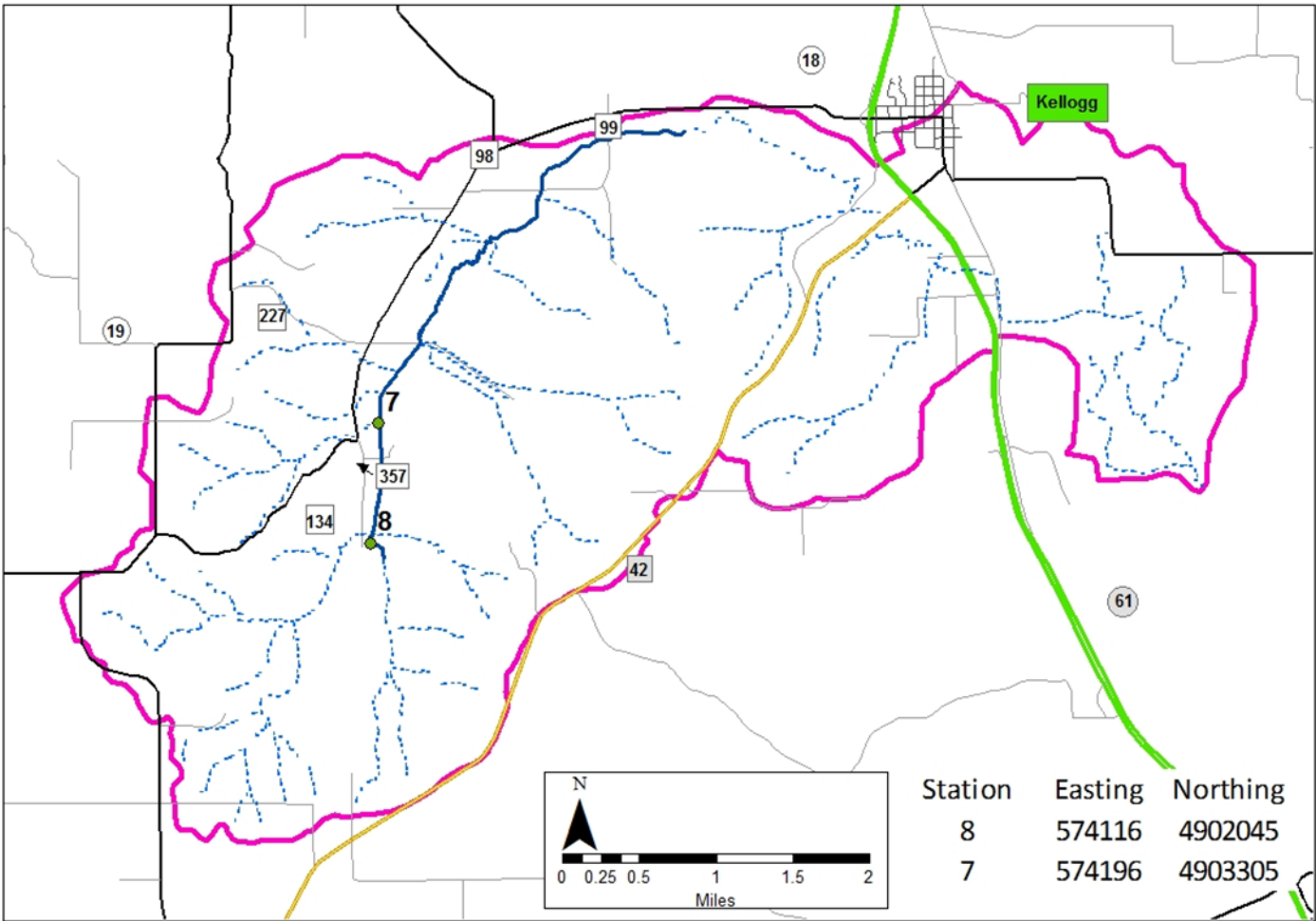
Table 2. Length Frequency of Gorman Tributary.

Length (in)	Brook Trout	Brown Trout	White Sucker
1			
2			
3			
4	4		
5	6		
6	1		
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			
29			
30+			
Total	11	0	0

Length (in)	Brook Trout	Brown Trout	White Sucker
1			
2	5		
3	14		
4	15		
5	3		
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			
29			
30+			
Total	37	0	0

Field Crew:		
Brian Beyerl and Daniel Spence		
Report completed by:		
Name: Dan Spence	Title: Fisheries Specialist	Date: March 9, 2019
Approved by:		
Area Fisheries Supervisor's Signature	Regional Fisheries Manager's Signature	Date:
		

Gorman Creek Electrofishing Stations



Stream: Gorman Creek
Tributary: M-33
Survey Year: 2019