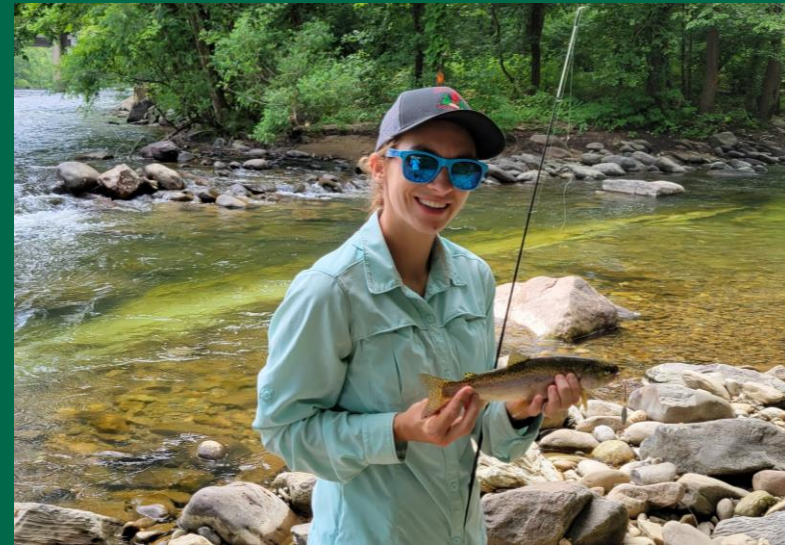


# 2026 Tennessee Coldwater Summit



## Session 2: The Changing Angler Dynamic and Our Organizational Missions



Sally Petre  
Fisheries Biologist  
TWRA



# What role does angling play in your organization's mission and how does angling influence your Mission implementation?

- Angling plays a direct role in our mission
- Agency Mission
  - Preserve, conserve, manage, protect, and enhance the fish and wildlife of the state and their habitats for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the citizens of Tennessee and its visitors.
- Fisheries Division Mission
  - *Conserve and enhance Tennessee's fish populations and their habitats, promote ecological diversity of aquatic ecosystems, and improve angler experiences for all.*

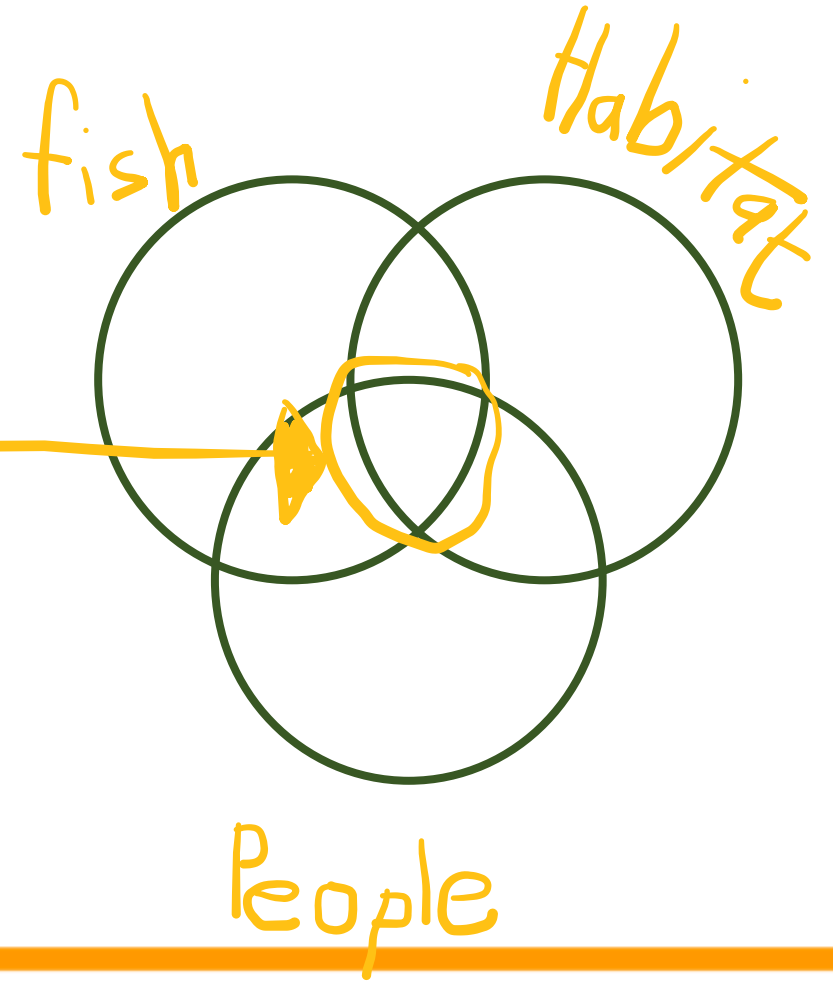


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# How do we manage a fishery?

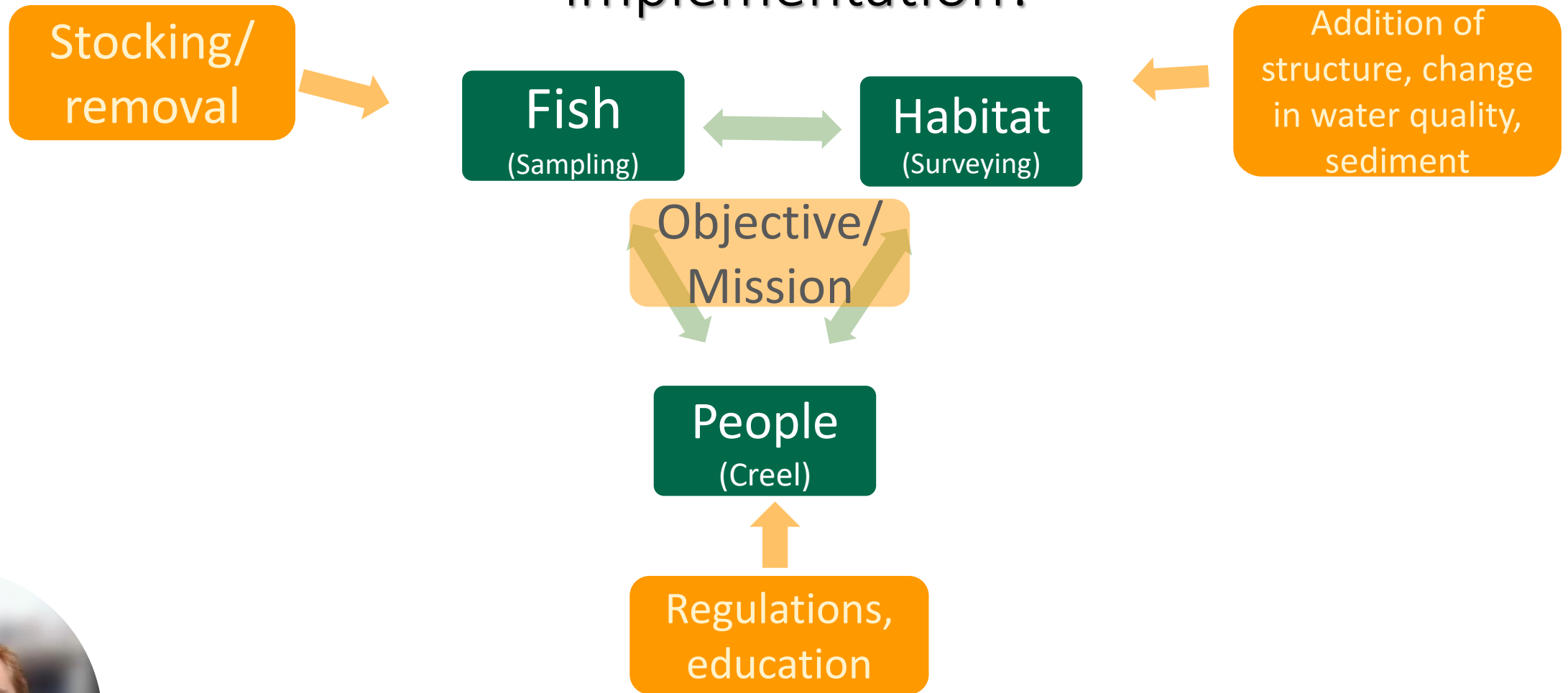
- Management by manipulation of
  - fish,
  - habitat,
  - people
- **Objective**



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# How does angling influence your Mission implementation?



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# What do you know about angler expectations and behaviors?

- Statewide Creel Survey
  - 10-15 creel clerks
  - Rotate among different waterbodies
- Data
  - Monthly angling effort
  - Monthly catch/harvest statistics
  - Species catch statistics
  - Sociological questions
  - Trip expenditure/consumer surplus
  - Angler attitude



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## ***FINAL REPORT***

REPORT NO. 25-04

TENNESSEE STATEWIDE CREEL SURVEY

2024 RESULTS



Prepared by:  
Wm. Patrick Black

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

April 2025



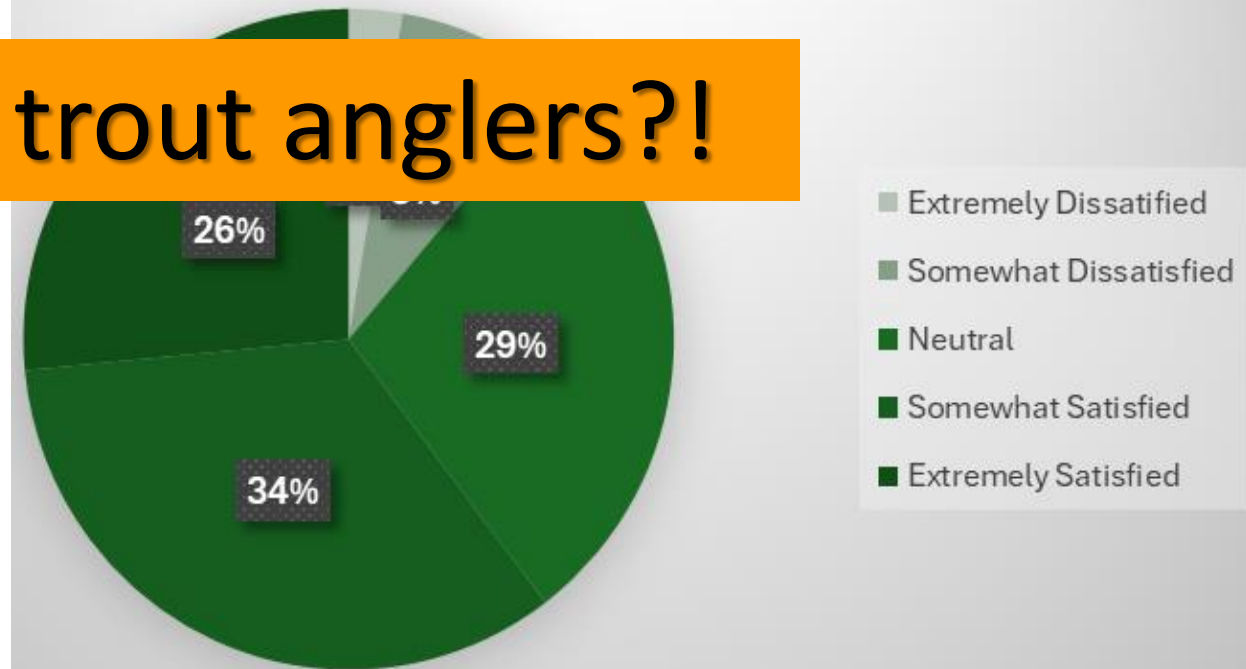
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency  
Fisheries Management Division  
5107 Edmonson Pike  
Nashville, TN 37211

# What do you know about angler expectations?

- Anglers are satisfied
  - Expectations are met

What about trout anglers?!

## Statewide Angler Satisfaction 2024

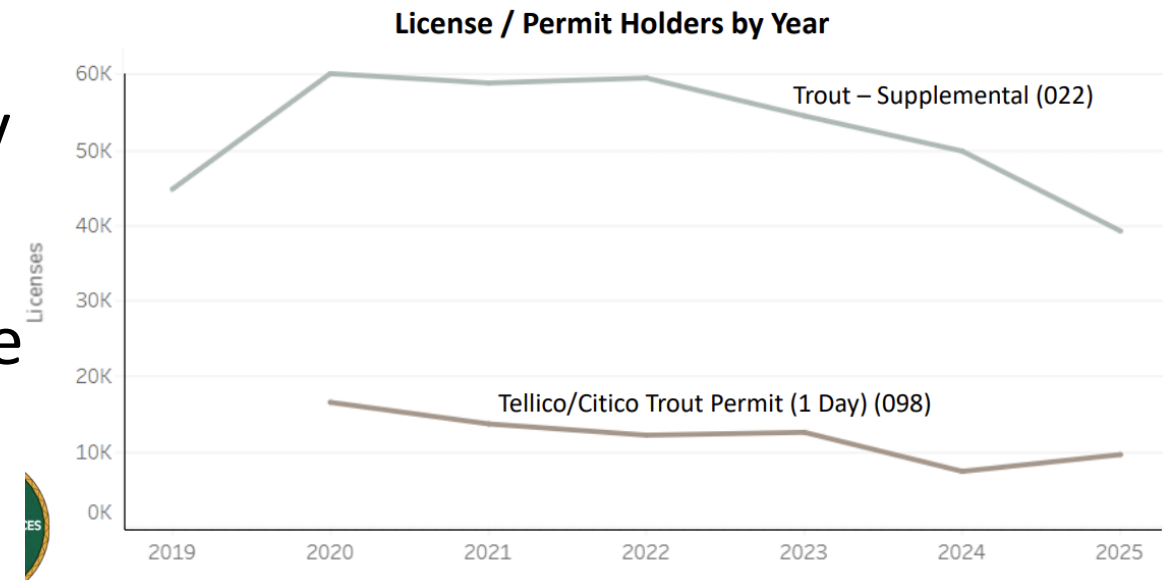


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# Understanding Trout anglers

- Creel tailwaters, streams, community fishing areas
- 2021 Tennessee Trout Anglers Survey
- 2024 Brook Trout Angler Survey
- Management Plans incorporate these data & public comment period
- Track license sales



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# Tennessee's Coldwater Resources are Diverse

- 14 different tailwaters
  - Wild and hatchery supported
- Wild Rainbow, Brown, Brook Trout inhabiting different types of resources
  - Hundreds of miles of wild trout waters
- Hatchery supported waters
  - Streams
  - Community fisheries
  - Ponds
  - Reservoirs

Results in diverse angler expectations/behaviors

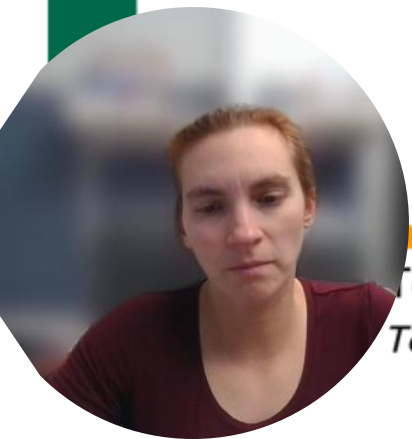
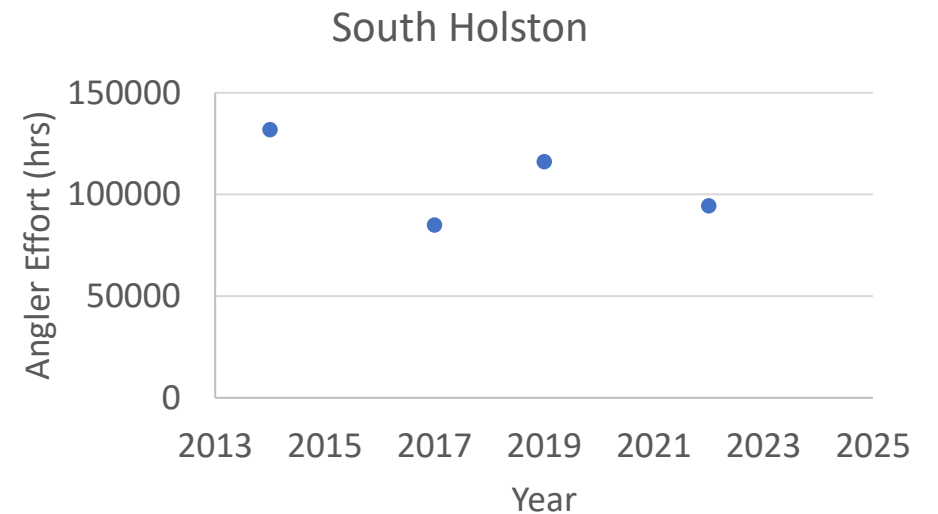
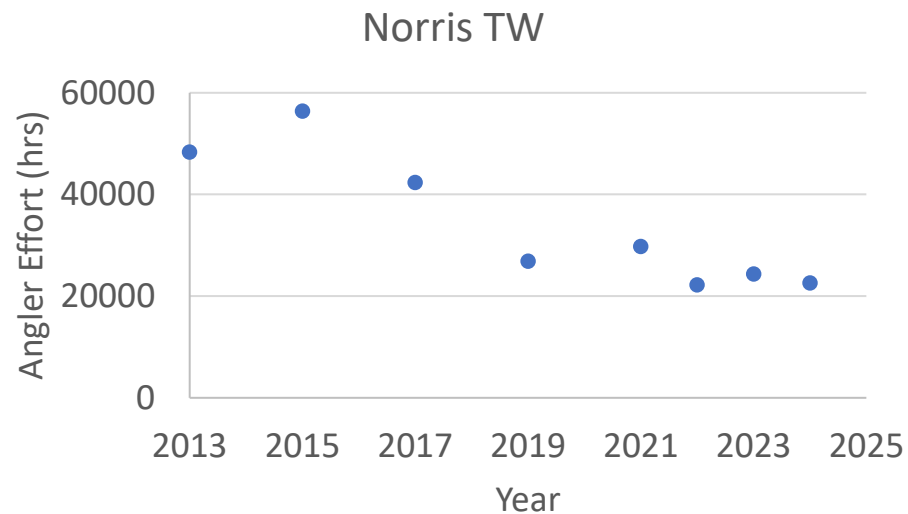
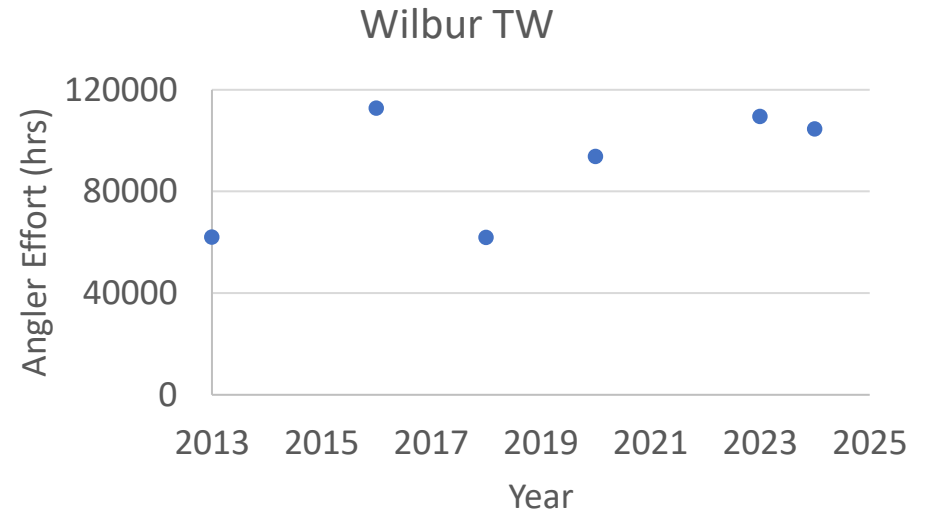


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# Tailwater Creel from 2013 to 2024

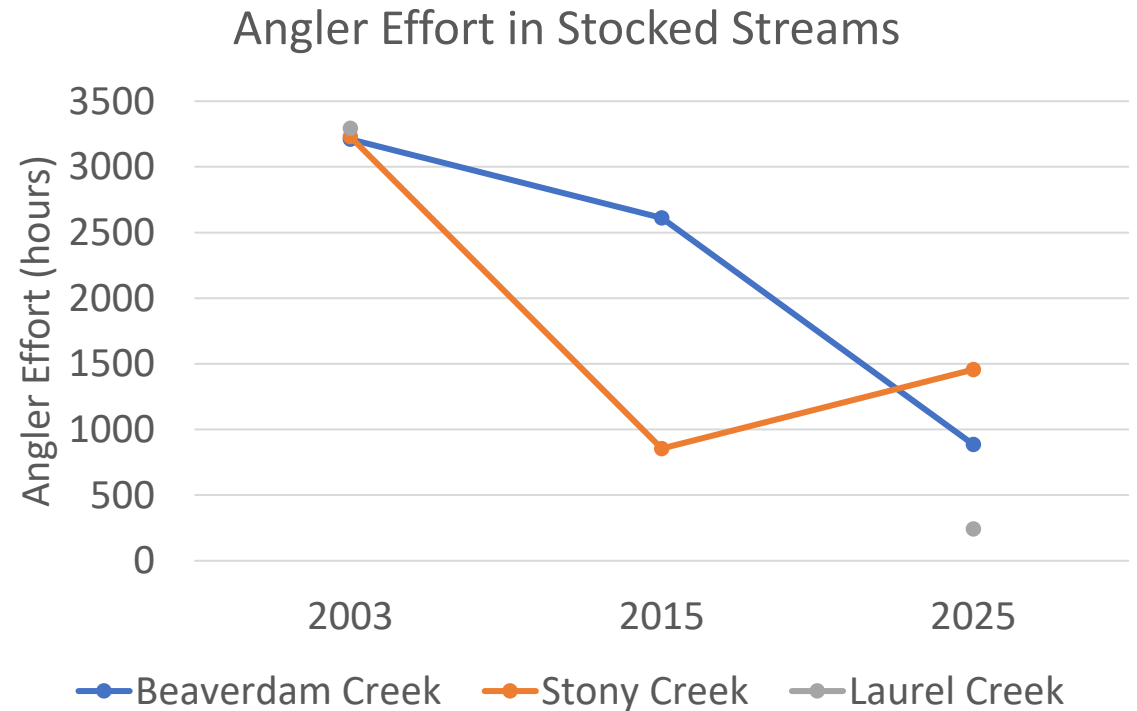
- Angler behavior?
  - Angler effort here is mixed up/down over time



Tennessee  
To protect,

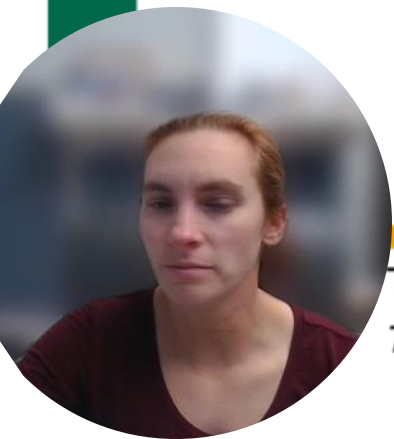
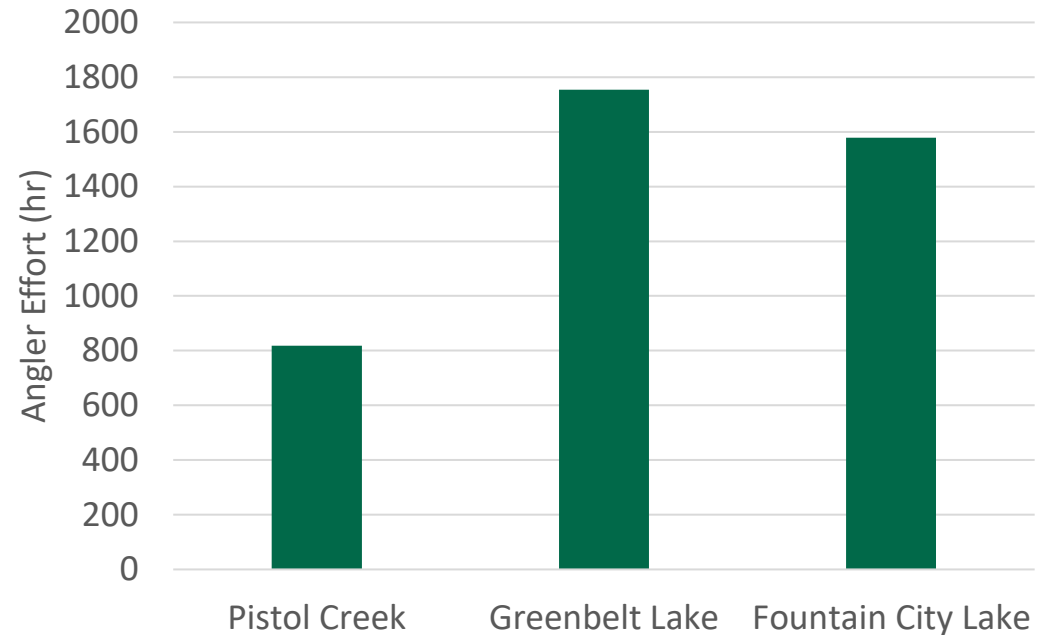
# Stream creel angler effort over time

- Angler behavior?
  - Angler effort decreasing over time



# Community Fishing

- Locations that are within city limits
- ~30% anglers new to trout fishing
- ~15% anglers new to fishing

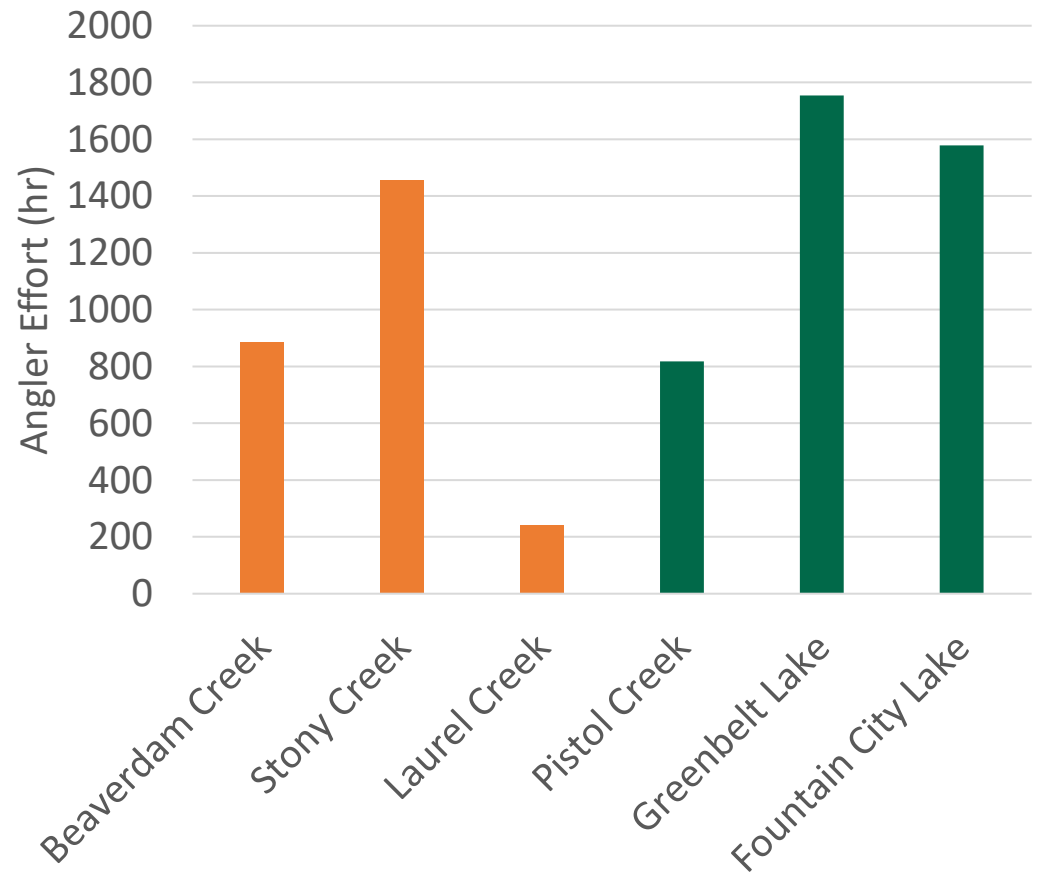


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# Traditional vs. community fishing?

- Angler behavior?
  - Close to home fisheries more popular than traditional
- Community fisheries stocked for 3 months vs. 5 month for traditional stocked streams
  - Similar angling pressure in just 3 months...
  - Why?



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# Angler behaviors: barriers to trout fishing

- Identified in both Trout Angler and BKT Angler surveys
  - lack of time to fish
  - lack of places nearby to trout fish
- How do we manage using this?
  - Community fishing alleviates these barriers
  - But value in stocked streams with less pressure
    - Access and connection to nature important to anglers (surveys show)



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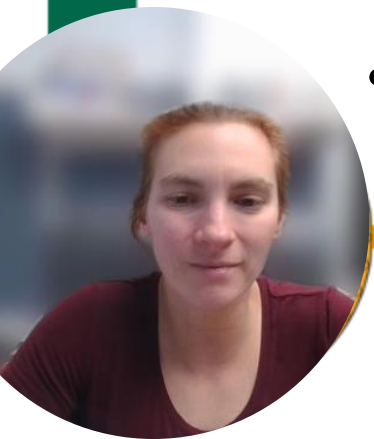
# What angling groups/opportunities/demands do you see growing and which are not?

## Growing

- Community Fishing
  - More locations close to home
- Family fishing
- Different types of fishing experiences
  - Species
- Guided trips
- Social media driven fishing

## Declining

- Fishing in waters that have been historically stocked
  - Far away from public
- Public areas to fish
  - Private land owners restricting access
- Habitat

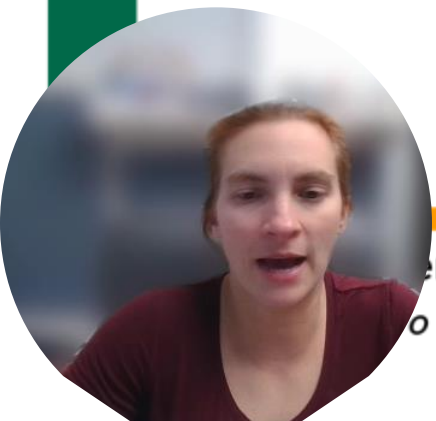


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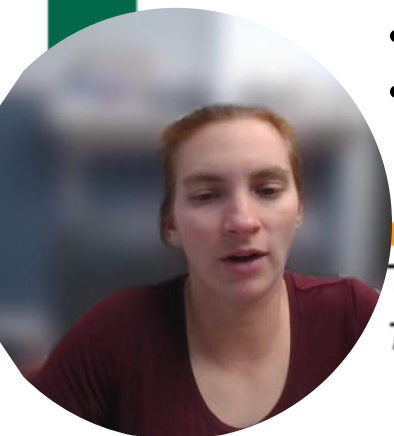
# Important gaps in your knowledge of angler behaviors and their impact on the coldwater resource?

- Good handle what our anglers want
- Gaps:
  - How to balance diverse types of anglers so we can manage for different experiences?
  - Future of angler behaviors
    - knowledge of landscape
    - knowledge of fishing
    - exploration comfort
    - harvest
  - How do they get information about fishing?



# How can we work together to fill these gaps?

- Help educate the public or provide fishing events for all different anglers
  - Don't restrict to just kids
  - Teach them where they can come back by themselves
- Fisheries management
  - One of gaps is people
    - We have data, but education and our communication of that data
- Secure access
- Understand each other and each other's mission
  - Mission: create opportunity for all anglers
    - Diverse anglers, our job is to balance those behaviors and expectations
    - Understand our management decisions are based on sound science and a lot of data analysis for the betterment of the fishery



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# Questions??



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