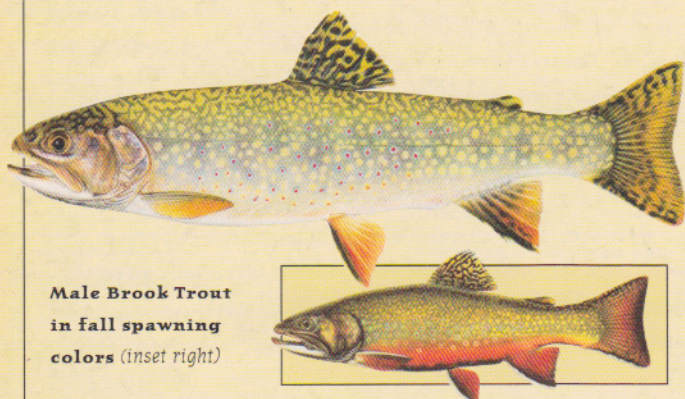


Trout Species

BROOK TROUT (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)

The smallest of the trout in the Black Hills, brook trout seldom exceed 10 inches in length. In other parts of the country, brook trout are called, square-tails, speckled trout or simply brookies. Typically 6 to 9 inches long, a brook trout over 12 inches is considered a trophy by Black Hills standards. What the brook trout lacks in size it makes up for in pure beauty. It is one of the most colorful trout in the world. Brookies have "worm-tracks," or vermiculations, on their backs. Their sides are dotted with numerous red spots, and each spot is surrounded by a blue halo. Leading edges of the lower fins have a distinct white and black stripe. Brook trout spawn in the fall. During the fall male brook trout develop a vibrant orange belly. Brook trout are found in smaller streams and beaver ponds in higher elevations.



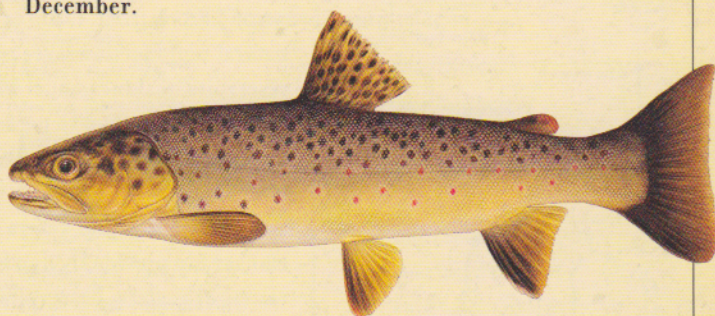
Male Brook Trout in fall spawning colors (inset right)

RAINBOW TROUT (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Rainbow trout can be easily identified by the pink stripe on their sides and the spotted tail fin. In contrast to brook and brown trout in the Black Hills, rainbows are spring spawners. Except for a reach of Spearfish Creek near the old town of Maurice, there are no self-sustaining wild rainbow trout populations in the Black Hills. Rainbow trout are stocked in the majority of the lakes in the Black Hills as well as in stream reaches without self-sustaining wild trout populations. Rainbow trout feed primarily on insects and aquatic invertebrates. Rainbow trout are stocked because they grow fast and are readily caught by anglers.

BROWN TROUT (*Salmo trutta*)

Brown trout can be found in the majority of Black Hills streams, and are typically 8 to 12 inches long, although brown trout 14 to 20 inches long are not uncommon. Wild brown trout inhabit Pactola Lake, and anglers occasionally catch one weighing 6 pounds or more. Brown trout are known for their sporting quality. They are more difficult to catch than brook or rainbow trout. Brown trout can be identified by brown-to-tan coloration and red spots on their sides. Some brown trout exhibit light halos around the red spots. Brown trout have faded white and black streaks on the leading edges of their lower fins. Number and size of spots can vary. Brown trout do not have spots on their tail fin. Like brook trout, brown trout spawn in the fall from October through early December.



SPLAKE

The splake gets its name from the fact that it is a hybrid brook (speckled) and lake trout. It has physical characteristics of both species. Splake are stocked in Deerfield Lake. They are not a sterile hybrid and can successfully mate with brook trout. For this reason it is often impossible to tell from appearance if the fish caught at Deerfield Lake is a splake or a brook trout. Splake tend to grow faster than either parent species, and studies have shown they are easier for anglers to catch.

