BROWN TROUT UPDATE
LEES FERRY

Bill Stewart and Lisa Winters
Brown Trout
- Spawn Nov-Dec
- Feed
- Aggressive piscivores (70% Yard et al.)
- Move long distance to spawn
- Not susceptible to whirling disease

Rainbow Trout
- Spawn Feb-April
- Predominately drift (sight) feeders (3.3% Yard et al.)
- Limited movement
TEMPERATURE PREFERENCE

Source: Valdez and Speas 2007
Colorado River Distribution

Frequency of Brown Trout vs. River Mile
HISTORICAL COMPARISON
(AZGFD LONG TERM MONITORING)
Natal Origins (LF Fall Surveys)
Creel

![Graph showing the comparison of Total # of Brown Trout and Total # of Rainbow Trout caught by anglers from 2011 to 2015. The graph indicates a peak in 2014 for both species.](image-url)
From Glen Canyon Dam to the Paria riffle:
- Limit 4 rainbow trout per day.
- Rainbow trout >14 inches may not be possessed.
- Artificial fly and lure only; Barbless hooks only.
- Rainbow trout taken from this portion of the river shall be killed and retained as part of bag limit, or immediately released.
- No limit on other sport fish species (all species of bass, catfish, other trout, and walleye).
- Why have Brown Trout populations remained so low?
  - Unsuitable temperatures?
  - Competition from Rainbow Trout?
  - Limited spawning and rearing habitat?

- Why have we seen an increase in Brown Trout at Lees Ferry?
  - Temperatures seem to be within their range
  - Rainbow trout abundance has been high
  - Are fall HFES creating spawning habitat for Brown Trout?
Questions