

TROUT (family Salmonidae)

Brown trout

Salmo trutta



Similar Species: None in South Dakota

Identification: Light body with dark spots, some spots bright red, tail fin not spotted throughout, tail not deeply forked.

Brown trout are native to Europe but have been extensively introduced throughout the U.S. They tend to be more piscivorous (fish-eating) than rainbow or brook trout but feed extensively on insects as well. Brown trout tolerate somewhat warmer water than brook or rainbow trout and can live in waters that occasionally exceed 70 F for short periods of time. Brown trout spawn in the fall and maintain wild populations by natural reproduction in many Black Hills streams and Gary Creek in eastern South Dakota. Brown trout, along with brook trout, are the primary trout species managed in Black Hills streams. Brown trout can also be found in the tailwaters areas of the Missouri River dams.

