

Trout Stream Classification Checklist

(This checklist should be completed and accompany any trout stream classification changes. Check the items as appropriate and attach comments if desired.)

County Dunn

Stream name, classification proposed, and portion classified

Little Elk Creek see attached

Master Waterbody ID Code 2064200

Fish survey (including relative abundance, length distribution, and age structure) and habitat survey completed on water to be classified
Survey on file at what location Baldwin

Public notice published in local newspaper or other media (**released Feb. 5, 2006**)

Notice sent to all clerks of the county, town, city, or village in which the stream is located (**sent Mar. 1, 2006**)

Notice sent to legislators in the affected districts (**sent Mar. 1, 2006**)

Notice sent to chairpersons of legislative committees with jurisdiction for natural resources issues (**sent Mar. 1, 2006**)

No hearing requested 30 days after public notice (**deadline March 22, 2006**)

Hearing requested, held, and classification recommended

Martin P. Engel, Senior Fisheries Biologist

Signed: Author of Checklist Martin P. Engel
Regional Supervisor Mark D. Emblow

Senator Neal Kedzie Chairperson
Natural Resources + Transportation, Committee
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Madison, WI 53707-7882

Representative Scott Gunderson, Chairperson
Natural Resources Committee
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Andy Lamb
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Jeffrey Wood
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Red Cedar

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Weston Dunn

Town of Dunn
Donald Heit, Chairman
E 3788 State Rd 72
Menomonie 54751

Vicky Weber-Price, Clerk
N 3518 630th Str.

Town of Menomonie
Frank Bammert, Chairman
N 4378 410th Str.
Menomonie 54751

Leslie Hulbert, Clerk
E 4299 Cty Rd D

Town of Red Cedar
Charlie Price, Chairman
E 6544 627th Ave.
Menomonie 54751

LaRae McCulloch
N 4946 Cty Rd J

Town of Weston
Neil Weber, Chairman
N 3997 180th Str.
Menomonie 54751

Pat Pickering
E 3359 State Rd 72

Town of Lucas
Robert Shackleton, Chairman
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Jackie Clark, Clerk
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NEWS

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FOR RELEASE: Feb. 5, 2006
CONTACT: Marty Engel, Senior Fisheries Biologist, 890 Spruce St., Baldwin
(715) 684-2914 ext 110

SUBJECT: Parts of two Dunn County Trout Streams to be reclassified

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. – Portions of Irving Creek and Little Elk Creek, both in Dunn County, are to be reclassified after field study by Department of Natural Resources fisheries staff, according to Marty Engel, senior fisheries biologist, Baldwin.

People interested in the classifications and reclassifications are entitled by Administrative Code to make comments to the Department of Natural Resources about the proposed changes. As required by NR 1.02 (7) (4) Wisconsin Administrative Code, the Department of Natural Resources is providing public notice of the classification changes. The Department shall waive any hearing requirement on any new classification unless a written request is received before March 22, 2006. Anyone wanting a hearing can contact Marty Engel, Senior Fisheries Biologist, 890 Spruce Str., Baldwin, WI., 54002. He can be contacted by telephone at (715) 684-2914 ext 110.

The stream segments are:

- Irving Creek, (Menomonie, Weston & Lucas Townships) a waterbody in Dunn Co., will be reclassified from Class III trout water (CTH D upstream to the west line of Section 6, T27N, R13W, 3.5 miles) to Class II brook trout water. All portions of Irving Creek in

Dunn County (Menomonie, Weston & Lucas Townships, Dunn Co.) previously not classified will be classified as Class II brook trout water (3.3 miles). In total, the entire stream in Menomonie, Weston & Lucas Townships will be classified as Class II trout water (6.8 miles). Irving Creek currently contains low to moderate densities of self-sustaining brook trout.

- Little Elk Creek, (Dunn, Menomonie & Red Cedar Townships, Dunn Co.) a water body in Dunn Co., previously not classified will be classified entirely as Class II brook trout water (7.6 miles). Little Elk Creek currently contains low to moderate densities of self-sustaining brook trout.

Anyone who wants to provide information to the Department of Natural Resources concerning the reclassification can contact Engel either at the Baldwin Service Center or by telephone at (715) 684-2914 ext 110.



FISHERIES & HABITAT MANAGEMENT REPORT Little Elk Creek, Dunn Co., 2004

Stream Description and Management:

Little Elk Creek (T27N, R13W, Section 27) is a moderate to high gradient, cold to cool water stream, approximately 8 miles long, located just south of Menomonie, Wisconsin. The watershed is predominately farmland with wetlands in the headwater region. Little Elk Creek is currently not listed as trout water, although native brook were found throughout the system. Trout regulations are Category 4 (the bag limit is three, the minimum length limit for brook trout is eight inches and brown trout is 12 inches). The Department of Natural Resources recently surveyed Little Elk Creek in order to obtain baseline fisheries data to determine the status and health of the fishery.

The Fish and Habitat Conditions:

Six species of fish were collected from three sampling sites (**Figure 1 & Table 1**). Little Elk Creek is best characterized as a cool to coldwater stream. Wild brook trout were found throughout the stream.

The Coldwater and Warmwater Index of Biotic Integrity is a ranking system used to evaluate the health or quality of the native coldwater or warmwater fish community. Little Elk Creek ranked "Good" to "Excellent".

The Habitat Rating System provides a measure of habitat quality and/or quantity available for fish to utilize within a stream. Little Elk Creek habitat ranked "Poor to Fair". Heavy bank erosion and fine sediments were the primary limiting factors throughout most of the stream.

Optimal water temperature for growth and survival of brook trout ranges from 51.8 to 60.8 °F. The upper limiting (near lethal) water temperature is 74.8 °F. Mean, maximum and minimum summer water temperatures at Site 1 on Little Elk Creek are 56.5 F, 66.9 F and 49.6 F respectively. Water temperature for brook trout survival and natural reproduction is not considered a limiting factor in most of Little Elk Creek.

The Sport Fishery:

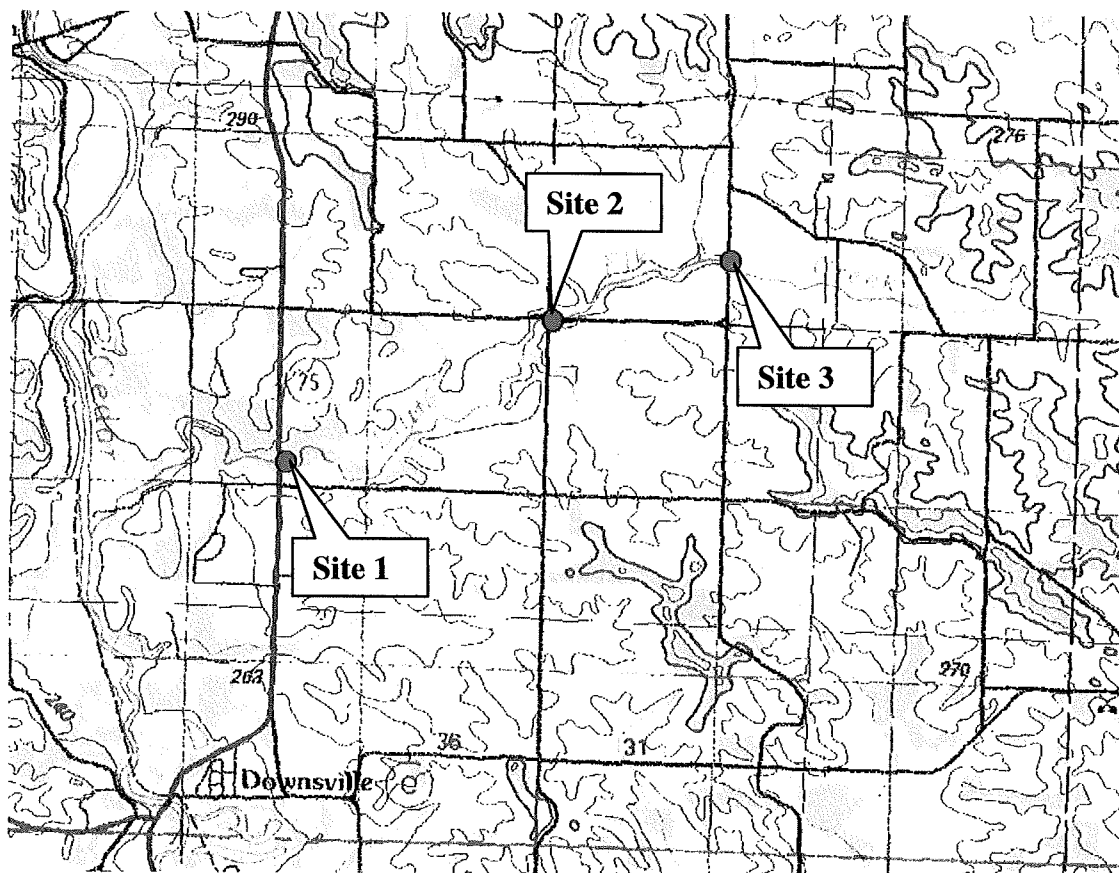
Trout abundance (Catch per Unit Effort or C.P.U.E.), expressed, as number of trout per mile of stream is a simple quantitative measurement of trout density. Trout densities of 250 - 1500 per mile are considered "Moderate" in western Wisconsin. Little Elk Creek contains "Low" to "Moderate" densities (80 to 662 trout/mi.) of native brook trout (**Table 2**). The size structure of Little Elk Creek's trout population is composed of at least three year classes. Young-of-year trout are present at all three sites. Fishable populations of legal sized brook trout are limited by poor habitat, particularly heavy bedloads of sand.

Fishing pressure on Little Elk Creek is believed to be extremely "Light" or nonexistent throughout most of the year.

Future Management:

Little Elk Creek contains a low to moderately dense, native brook trout fishery. Natural reproduction of trout is impaired by poor habitat. Heavy sand loads from erosion cover spawning gravel and limit adult trout cover or pools. Habitat is severely impaired by sedimentation from bank erosion and intense farming practices. Narrow vegetative buffers have done little to eliminate this problem. Agricultural best management practices are needed in the area to reduce stream sedimentation and allow good habitat to develop. The department should manage Little Elk Creek as a native brook trout fishery and classify the entire stream as Class II trout water (7.6 miles).

Figure 1. Fish and Habitat Survey Sites on Trout Creek, Dunn and Chippewa Counties.



For more information on Little Elk Creek you can contact the following person:

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Table 1. Relative Abundance of Fish Species Found in Little Elk Creek, Dunn Co., 2004.

Species	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3
	191 m	166 m	100 m
Ammocete Lamprey	5	3	
Blacknose Dace		35	
Brook Stickleback		4	
Brook Trout	79	21	5
Creek Chub		1	
Mottled Sculpin	4		

Table 2. Length Distribution of Trout Found in Little Elk Creek, Dunn Co., 2004.

Length (in.) Brook Trout	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3
	191 m	166 m	100 m
1			
2	5	1	2
3	60	9	2
4	2		
5			
6			
7			1
8	5	5	
9	6	3	
10		2	
11	1		
12		1	
13			
14			