Trout Stream Classification Proposal: Vernon, La Crosse, Monroe and Crawford Counties

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Bureau of Fisheries Management

La Crosse, WI

Submitted to: Lori Tate, Trout Stream Classification Coordinator

Submitted by: La Crosse Area Fisheries Management Crew (Kirk Olson, Kevin Mauel and Kristina Pechacek)

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# **Unnamed tributary to Mormon Coulee Creek (WBIC: 1649100**)

County: **La Crosse**

WBIC: **1649100**

Define the portion of the stream to be classified. Please provide both a written description and the coordinate locations of the upstream and downstream beginning and end points:

The entire length (1.43 mi.) of the unnamed tributary to Mormon Coulee Creek (WBIC 1649100), that originates in S13, T15N, R6W, La Crosse County and generally flows southwest to its confluence with Mormon Coulee Creek in S24, T15N, R6W.

Please provide coordinate locations:

Upstream point coordinates: 43.77943° N, 91.03409° W

Downstream point coordinates: 43.77991° N, 91.03326° W

Classification proposed: Class I

\_\_X\_\_ Fish survey (including relative abundance, length distribution, and age structure) and habitat survey completed on water to be classified. Survey on file at the La Crosse Service Center.

\_\_X\_\_ Fish team supervisor and district fisheries supervisor have approved the classification. Date HB 10/01/2018; BH 9/22/2020

\_\_\_ Fish Biologist has consulted with the following staff in their office or district \_\_X\_\_ Permit Drafter Name \_\_\_Ryan Papas\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Resource Specialist Name\_Camille Bruhn, Jean Unmuth\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_\_\_\_Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Management Specialist Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Drinking and Groundwater staff Name\_\_\_Adam Freihoefer\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_10/01/2020\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No

\_\_X\_\_ Public notice published in local newspaper or other media. Date\_\_\_\_\_8/28/2020\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to all clerks of the county, town, city, or village in which the stream is located. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8/31/2020\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to legislators in the affected districts. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ Notice sent to chairpersons of legislative committees with jurisdiction for natural resources issues. Date\_\_\_8/31/2020 (HB sent email)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ No hearing requested 30 days after public notice.

\_\_\_\_ Hearing requested, held, and classification recommended. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fisheries Biologist

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fish Team Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ District Fisheries

**Justification:**

This unnamed tributary to Mormon Coulee Creek (WBIC: 1649100) should be classified as Class I Trout Water. An electrofishing survey in March 2018 revealed high densities of naturally reproduced brown trout (CPE = 758 fish/mile) and low densities of brook trout (CPE = 16 fish/mile). Brook and brown trout have not been stocked into the stream since at least 1972 (extent of electronic stocking records) and were last stocked into Mormon Coulee in 2007 (brook trout) and 2013 (brown trout). This indicates that the fish we captured were naturally reproduced.

Because our survey was completed in early spring, only age I and older fish were vulnerable to our sampling gear. Based on our length distribution, age I fish were abundant in the station (Fig. 1, Total Length 4-6”). This indicates that there is strong natural recruitment in the stream. Spawning habitat was also observed within the sampled reach.

The presence of brown trout from 4 to 11 inches indicates that naturally reproduced fish are surviving multiple years.

Figure 1. Catch per mile of brook and brown trout in one-inch groups.

# **Unnamed tributary to Mormon Coulee Creek (WBIC: 5027707)**

County: **La Crosse**

WBIC: **5027707**

Define the portion of the stream to be classified. Please provide both a written description and the coordinate locations of the upstream and downstream beginning and end points:

The entire length (1.39 mi.) of the unnamed tributary to Mormon Coulee Creek (WBIC 5027707), that originates in S25, T15N, R6W, La Crosse County and generally flows northwest to its confluence with Mormon Coulee Creek in S23, T15N, R6W.

Please provide coordinate locations:

Upstream point coordinates: 43.74773° N, 91.04045° W

Downstream point coordinates: 43.75703° N, 91.06012° W

Classification proposed: Class I

\_\_X\_\_ Fish survey (including relative abundance, length distribution, and age structure) and habitat survey completed on water to be classified. Survey on file at the La Crosse Service Center.

\_\_X\_\_ Fish team supervisor and district fisheries supervisor have approved the classification. Date HB 10/01/2018; BH 9/22/2020

\_\_\_ Fish Biologist has consulted with the following staff in their office or district \_\_X\_\_ Permit Drafter Name \_\_\_Ryan Papas\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Resource Specialist Name\_Camille Bruhn, Jean Unmuth\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_\_\_\_Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Management Specialist Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Drinking and Groundwater staff Name\_\_\_ Adam Freihoefer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_9/22/2020\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No

\_\_X\_\_ Public notice published in local newspaper or other media. Date\_\_\_\_\_8/28/2020\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to all clerks of the county, town, city, or village in which the stream is located. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8/31/2020\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to legislators in the affected districts. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ Notice sent to chairpersons of legislative committees with jurisdiction for natural resources issues. Date\_\_\_8/31/2020 (HB sent email)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ No hearing requested 30 days after public notice.

\_\_\_\_ Hearing requested, held, and classification recommended. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fisheries Biologist

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fish Team Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ District Fisheries

**Justification:**

The unnamed tributary to Mormon Coulee Creek (WBIC: 5027707) should be classified as Class I trout water. An electrofishing survey in March 2018 revealed high densities of naturally reproduced brown trout (CPE = 402 fish/mile) and low densities of brook trout (CPE = 31 fish/mile). Brook and brown trout have not been stocked into the stream since at least 1972 (extent of electronic stocking records) and were last stocked into Mormon Coulee in 2007 (brook trout) and 2013 (brown trout). This indicates that the fish we captured were naturally reproduced.

Because our survey was completed in early spring, only age I and older fish were vulnerable to our sampling gear. Based on our length distribution, age 1 fish were abundant in the station (Fig. 1, Total Length 4-6”). This indicates that there is strong natural recruitment in the stream. Spawning habitat was also observed within the sampled reach.

The presence of brown trout from 4 to 9 inches and brook trout up to 11 inches indicates that naturally reproduced fish are surviving multiple years.

Figure 1. Catch per mile of brook and brown trout in one-inch groups.

# **Unnamed tributary to Mormon Coulee Creek (WBIC: 1649000)**

County: **La Crosse**

WBIC: **1649000**

Define the portion of the stream to be classified. Please provide both a written description and the coordinate locations of the upstream and downstream beginning and end points:

The entire length (1.73 mi.) of the unnamed tributary to Mormon Coulee Creek (WBIC 1649000), that originates in S36, T15N, R6W, La Crosse County and generally flows northwest to its confluence with Mormon Coulee Creek in S26, T15N, R6W.

Please provide coordinate locations:

Upstream point coordinates: 43.73923° N, 91.05042° W

Downstream point coordinates: 43.75176° N, 91.07178° W

Classification proposed: Class I

\_\_X\_\_ Fish survey (including relative abundance, length distribution, and age structure) and habitat survey completed on water to be classified. Survey on file at the La Crosse Service Center.

\_\_X\_\_ Fish team supervisor and district fisheries supervisor have approved the classification. Date HB 10/01/2018; BH 9/22/2020

\_\_\_ Fish Biologist has consulted with the following staff in their office or district \_\_X\_\_ Permit Drafter Name \_\_\_Ryan Papas\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Resource Specialist Name\_Camille Bruhn, Jean Unmuth\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_\_\_\_Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Management Specialist Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Drinking and Groundwater staff Name\_\_\_ Adam Freihoefer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_9/22/2020\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No

\_\_X\_\_ Public notice published in local newspaper or other media. Date\_\_\_\_\_8/28/2020\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to all clerks of the county, town, city, or village in which the stream is located. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8/31/2020\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to legislators in the affected districts. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ Notice sent to chairpersons of legislative committees with jurisdiction for natural resources issues. Date\_\_\_8/31/2020 (HB sent email)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ No hearing requested 30 days after public notice.

\_\_\_\_ Hearing requested, held, and classification recommended. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fisheries Biologist

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fish Team Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ District Fisheries

**Justification:**

The unnamed tributary to Mormon Coulee Creek (WBIC: 1649000) should be classified as Class I trout water. An electrofishing survey in March 2018 revealed high densities of naturally reproduced brown trout (CPE = 2,406 fish/mile). Brook and brown trout have not been stocked into the stream since at least 1972 (extent of electronic stocking records) and were last stocked into Mormon Coulee in 2007 (brook trout) and 2013 (brown trout). This indicates that the fish we captured were naturally reproduced.

Because our survey was completed in early spring, only age I and older fish were vulnerable to our sampling gear. Based on our length distribution, age 1 fish were abundant in the station (Fig. 1, Total Length 4-6”). This indicates that there is strong natural recruitment in the stream. Spawning habitat was also observed within the sampled reach.

The presence of brown trout from 3 to 12 inches indicates that naturally reproduced fish are surviving multiple years.

Figure 1. Catch per mile of brown trout in one-inch groups.

# **Unnamed tributary to Mormon Coulee Creek (WBIC: 1648900)**

County: **La Crosse**

WBIC: **1648900**

Define the portion of the stream to be classified. Please provide both a written description and the coordinate locations of the upstream and downstream beginning and end points:

The entire length (0.73 mi.) of the unnamed tributary to Mormon Coulee Creek (WBIC 1648900), that originates in S34, T15N, R6W, La Crosse County and generally flows north to its confluence with Mormon Coulee Creek in S27, T15N, R6W.

Please provide coordinate locations:

Upstream point coordinates: 43.73755° N, 91.08265° W

Downstream point coordinates: 43.74701° N, 91.08817° W

Classification proposed: Class I

\_\_X\_\_ Fish survey (including relative abundance, length distribution, and age structure) and habitat survey completed on water to be classified. Survey on file at the La Crosse Service Center.

\_\_X\_\_ Fish team supervisor and district fisheries supervisor have approved the classification. Date HB 10/01/2018; BH 9/22/2020

\_\_\_ Fish Biologist has consulted with the following staff in their office or district \_\_X\_\_ Permit Drafter Name \_\_\_Ryan Papas\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Resource Specialist Name\_Camille Bruhn, Jean Unmuth\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_\_\_\_Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Management Specialist Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Drinking and Groundwater staff Name\_\_\_ Adam Freihoefer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_9/22/2020\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No

\_\_X\_\_ Public notice published in local newspaper or other media. Date\_\_\_\_\_8/28/2020\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to all clerks of the county, town, city, or village in which the stream is located. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8/31/2020\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to legislators in the affected districts. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ Notice sent to chairpersons of legislative committees with jurisdiction for natural resources issues. Date\_\_\_8/31/2020 (HB sent email)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ No hearing requested 30 days after public notice.

\_\_\_\_ Hearing requested, held, and classification recommended. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fisheries Biologist

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fish Team Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ District Fisheries

**Justification:**

The unnamed tributary to Mormon Coulee Creek (WBIC: 1648900) should be classified as Class I trout water. An electrofishing survey in March 2018 revealed naturally reproduced brown trout (Brown trout CPE = 181 fish/mile) and brook trout (CPE = 10 fish/mile). Brook and brown trout have not been stocked into the stream since at least 1972 (extent of electronic stocking records) and were last stocked into Mormon Coulee in 2007 (brook trout) and 2013 (brown trout). This indicates that the fish we captured were naturally reproduced.

Because our survey was completed in early spring, only age I and older fish were vulnerable to our sampling gear. However, we did capture recently hatched fry (<1”), which indicate successful natural reproduction. Spawning habitat was also observed within the sampled reach.

The presence of brown trout from 1 to 7 inches and brook trout at 7 inches indicate that naturally reproduced fish are surviving multiple years.

Figure 1. Catch per mile of brown trout and brook trout in one-inch groups.

# **Unnamed tributary to Coon Creek (WBIC: 1645600)**

County: **Vernon**

WBIC: **1645600**

Define the portion of the stream to be classified. Please provide both a written description and the coordinate locations of the upstream and downstream beginning and end points:

The entire length (2.35 mi.) of the unnamed tributary to Coon Creek (WBIC 1645600), that originates in S2, T14N, R6W, Vernon County and generally flows south to its confluence with Coon Creek in S12, T14N, R6W.

Please provide coordinate locations:

Upstream point coordinates: 43.72042° N, 91.05228° W

Downstream point coordinates: 43.69730° N, 91.03969° W

Classification proposed: Class I

\_\_X\_\_ Fish survey (including relative abundance, length distribution, and age structure) and habitat survey completed on water to be classified. Survey on file at the La Crosse Service Center.

\_\_X\_\_ Fish team supervisor and district fisheries supervisor have approved the classification. Date HB 10/01/2018; BH 9/22/2020

\_\_\_ Fish Biologist has consulted with the following staff in their office or district \_\_X\_\_ Permit Drafter Name \_\_\_Ryan Papas\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Resource Specialist Name\_Camille Bruhn, Jean Unmuth\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_\_\_\_Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Management Specialist Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Drinking and Groundwater staff Name\_\_\_ Adam Freihoefer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_9/22/2020\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No

\_\_X\_\_ Public notice published in local newspaper or other media. Date\_\_\_\_\_8/28/2020\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to all clerks of the county, town, city, or village in which the stream is located. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8/31/2020\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to legislators in the affected districts. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ Notice sent to chairpersons of legislative committees with jurisdiction for natural resources issues. Date\_\_\_8/31/2020 (HB sent email)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ No hearing requested 30 days after public notice.

\_\_\_\_ Hearing requested, held, and classification recommended. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fisheries Biologist

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fish Team Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ District Fisheries

**Justification:**

The unnamed tributary to Coon Creek (WBIC: 1645600) should be classified as Class I trout water. An electrofishing survey in March 2018 revealed naturally reproduced brown trout (Brown trout CPE = 1,166 fish/mile) brook trout that were likely of natural origin (CPE = 44 fish/mile). Brown trout have not been stocked into the stream since at least 1972 (extent of electronic stocking records) and brook trout were last stocked in 2005. Brook trout are stocked annually into Coon Creek but brown trout have not been stocked into Coon Creek since 2014. This indicates that the abundant age 1 (4-6”) brown trout year class is of natural origin, while it is possible that stocked brook trout may have moved into the stream from Coon Creek.

Because our survey was completed in early spring, only age I and older fish were vulnerable to our sampling gear. Age 1 brown trout (4-6”), were abundant in our survey indicating strong natural reproduction of brown trout. Spawning habitat was also observed within the sampled reach.

The presence of brown trout from 3 to 11 inches indicates that naturally reproduced fish are surviving multiple years.

Figure 1. Catch per mile of brown trout and brook trout in one-inch groups.

# **Unnamed tributary to Coon Creek (WBIC: 1645500)**

County: **Vernon**

WBIC: **1645500**

Define the portion of the stream to be classified. Please provide both a written description and the coordinate locations of the upstream and downstream beginning and end points:

The entire length (2.7 mi.) of the unnamed tributary to Coon Creek (WBIC 1645500), that originates in in S20, T14N, R5W, Vernon County and generally flows west to its confluence with Coon Creek in S24, T14N, R6W.

Please provide coordinate locations:

Upstream point coordinates: 43.67026° N, 91.00425° W

Downstream point coordinates: 43.67711° N, 91.04461° W

Classification proposed: Class I

\_\_X\_\_ Fish survey (including relative abundance, length distribution, and age structure) and habitat survey completed on water to be classified. Survey on file at the La Crosse Service Center.

\_\_X\_\_ Fish team supervisor and district fisheries supervisor have approved the classification. Date HB 10/01/2018; BH 9/22/2020

\_\_\_ Fish Biologist has consulted with the following staff in their office or district \_\_X\_\_ Permit Drafter Name \_\_\_Ryan Papas\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Resource Specialist Name\_Camille Bruhn, Jean Unmuth\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_\_\_\_Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Management Specialist Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Drinking and Groundwater staff Name\_\_\_ Adam Freihoefer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_9/22/2020\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No

\_\_X\_\_ Public notice published in local newspaper or other media. Date\_\_\_\_\_8/28/2020\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to all clerks of the county, town, city, or village in which the stream is located. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8/31/2020\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to legislators in the affected districts. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ Notice sent to chairpersons of legislative committees with jurisdiction for natural resources issues. Date\_\_\_8/31/2020 (HB sent email)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ No hearing requested 30 days after public notice.

\_\_\_\_ Hearing requested, held, and classification recommended. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fisheries Biologist

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fish Team Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ District Fisheries

**Justification:**

The unnamed tributary to Coon Creek (WBIC: 1645500) should be classified as Class I trout water. An electrofishing survey in April 2018 revealed naturally reproduced brown trout (CPE = 410 fish/mile) and brook trout that were likely of natural origin (CPE = 23 fish/mile). Brown and brook trout have not been stocked into the stream since at least 1972 (extent of electronic stocking records). Brook trout are stocked annually into Coon Creek but brown trout have not been stocked into Coon Creek since 2014. This indicates that the young of the year (1”) and age 1 (4-6”) brown trout captured are of natural origin. It is possible that stocked brook trout may have moved into the stream from Coon Creek. However, given that the average size of stocked fish in early spring of 2018 was 7.6”, it is likely that the brook trout captured (4-6”) were of natural origin.

The presence of age 0 (1”) and age 1 brown trout (4-6”) indicates natural reproduction of brown trout. Spawning habitat was also observed within the sampled reach.

The presence of brown trout from 1 to 9 inches indicates that naturally reproduced fish are surviving multiple years.

Figure 1. Catch per mile of brown trout and brook trout in one-inch groups.

# **Unnamed tributary to Coon Creek (WBIC: 1645800)**

County: **Vernon**

WBIC: **1645800**

Define the portion of the stream to be classified. Please provide both a written description and the coordinate locations of the upstream and downstream beginning and end points:

The entire length (1.21 mi.) of the unnamed tributary to Coon Creek (WBIC: 1645800), that originates in in S17, T14N, R5W, Vernon County and generally flows west to its confluence with Coon Creek in S7, T14N, R5W.

Please provide coordinate locations:

Upstream point coordinates: 43.68821° N, 91.00968° W

Downstream point coordinates: 43.69933° N, 91.02267° W

Classification proposed: Class I

\_\_X\_\_ Fish survey (including relative abundance, length distribution, and age structure) and habitat survey completed on water to be classified. Survey on file at the La Crosse Service Center.

\_\_X\_\_ Fish team supervisor and district fisheries supervisor have approved the classification. Date HB 10/01/2018; BH 9/22/2020

\_\_\_ Fish Biologist has consulted with the following staff in their office or district \_\_X\_\_ Permit Drafter Name \_\_\_Ryan Papas\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Resource Specialist Name\_Camille Bruhn, Jean Unmuth\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_\_\_\_Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Management Specialist Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Drinking and Groundwater staff Name\_\_\_ Adam Freihoefer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_9/22/2020\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No

\_\_X\_\_ Public notice published in local newspaper or other media. Date\_\_\_\_\_8/28/2020\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to all clerks of the county, town, city, or village in which the stream is located. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8/31/2020\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to legislators in the affected districts. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ Notice sent to chairpersons of legislative committees with jurisdiction for natural resources issues. Date\_\_\_8/31/2020 (HB sent email)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ No hearing requested 30 days after public notice.

\_\_\_\_ Hearing requested, held, and classification recommended. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fisheries Biologist

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fish Team Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ District Fisheries

**Justification:**

The unnamed tributary to Coon Creek (WBIC: 1645800) should be classified as Class I trout water. An electrofishing survey in April 2018 revealed naturally reproduced brown trout (CPE = 688 fish/mile) and brook trout that were likely of natural origin (CPE = 73 fish/mile). Brown and brook trout have not been stocked into the stream since at least 1972 (extent of electronic stocking records). Brook trout are stocked annually into Coon Creek, but brown trout have not been stocked into Coon Creek since 2014. This indicates that the age 1 (4-6”) brook and brown trout captured are of natural origin. It is possible that stocked brook trout may have moved into the stream from Coon Creek. However, given that the average size of stocked fish in early spring of 2018 was 7.6”, it is likely that the brook trout captured (4-6”) were of natural origin.

The presence of age 1 brown trout (4-6”) indicates natural reproduction of brown trout. Spawning habitat was also observed within the sampled reach.

The presence of brown trout from 4 to 10 inches and brook trout from 6 to 10 inches indicates that naturally reproduced fish are surviving multiple years.

Figure 1. Catch per mile of brown trout and brook trout in one-inch groups.

# **Unnamed tributary to North Fork Bad Axe River (WBIC: 1643200)**

County: **Vernon**

WBIC: **1643200**

Define the portion of the stream to be classified. Please provide both a written description and the coordinate locations of the upstream and downstream beginning and end points:

The entire length (0.86 mi.) of the unnamed tributary to the North Fork Bad Axe River (WBIC: 1643200), that originates in in S34, T14N, R5W, Vernon County and generally flows south to its confluence with the North Fork Bad Axe River in S3, T13N, R5W.

Please provide coordinate locations:

Upstream point coordinates: 43.64067° N, 90.946442° W

Downstream point coordinates: 43.63008° N, 90.96425° W

Classification proposed: Class I

\_\_X\_\_ Fish survey (including relative abundance, length distribution, and age structure) and habitat survey completed on water to be classified. Survey on file at the La Crosse Service Center.

\_\_X\_\_ Fish team supervisor and district fisheries supervisor have approved the classification. Date HB 10/01/2018; BH 9/22/2020

\_\_\_ Fish Biologist has consulted with the following staff in their office or district \_\_X\_\_ Permit Drafter Name \_\_\_Ryan Papas\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Resource Specialist Name\_Camille Bruhn, Jean Unmuth\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_\_\_\_Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Management Specialist Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Drinking and Groundwater staff Name\_\_\_ Adam Freihoefer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_9/22/2020\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No

\_\_X\_\_ Public notice published in local newspaper or other media. Date\_\_\_\_\_8/28/2020\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to all clerks of the county, town, city, or village in which the stream is located. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8/31/2020\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to legislators in the affected districts. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ Notice sent to chairpersons of legislative committees with jurisdiction for natural resources issues. Date\_\_\_8/31/2020 (HB sent email)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ No hearing requested 30 days after public notice.

\_\_\_\_ Hearing requested, held, and classification recommended. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fisheries Biologist

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fish Team Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ District Fisheries

**Justification:**

The unnamed tributary to North Fork Bad Axe River (WBIC: 1643200) should be classified as Class I trout water. An electrofishing survey in April 2018 revealed naturally reproduced brown trout (CPE = 1,335 fish/mile) and brook trout that were likely of natural origin (CPE = 563 fish/mile). Brown and brook trout have not been stocked into the stream since at least 1972 (extent of electronic stocking records). At the time of the survey, brook trout were last stocked into the North Fork of the Bad Axe River upstream of Runge Hollow (local name: Esofea Branch) in spring of 2017 at an average length of 8.7” and brown trout had not been stocked into the North Fork of the Bad Axe since 2014. This indicates that the abundant age 1 (3-6”) brook and brown trout captured are of natural origin. It is possible that some of the brook trout >6” may be migrants from stocking on North Fork Bad Axe in previous years.

The abundance of natural origin age 1 brook and brown trout (3-6”) indicates strong natural reproduction. Spawning habitat was also observed within the sampled reach.

The presence of brown trout from 3 to 13 inches indicates that trout are surviving multiple years in the stream.

Figure 1. Catch per mile of brown trout and brook trout in one-inch groups.

# **Unnamed tributary to North Fork Bad Axe River (WBIC: 5029301)**

County: **Vernon**

WBIC: **5029301**

Define the portion of the stream to be classified. Please provide both a written description and the coordinate locations of the upstream and downstream beginning and end points:

The entire length (1.63 mi.) of the unnamed tributary to the North Fork Bad Axe River (WBIC: 5029301), that originates in in S11, T13N, R5W, Vernon County and generally flows northwest to its confluence with the North Fork Bad Axe River in S3, T13N, R5W.

Please provide coordinate locations:

Upstream point coordinates: 43.62004° N, 90.93640° W

Downstream point coordinates: 43.63462° N, 90.95189° W

Classification proposed: Class I

\_\_X\_\_ Fish survey (including relative abundance, length distribution, and age structure) and habitat survey completed on water to be classified. Survey on file at the La Crosse Service Center.

\_\_X\_\_ Fish team supervisor and district fisheries supervisor have approved the classification. Date HB 10/01/2018; BH 9/22/2020

\_\_\_ Fish Biologist has consulted with the following staff in their office or district \_\_X\_\_ Permit Drafter Name \_\_\_Ryan Papas\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Resource Specialist Name\_Camille Bruhn, Jean Unmuth\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_\_\_\_Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Management Specialist Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Drinking and Groundwater staff Name\_\_\_ Adam Freihoefer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_9/22/2020\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No

\_\_X\_\_ Public notice published in local newspaper or other media. Date\_\_\_\_\_8/28/2020\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to all clerks of the county, town, city, or village in which the stream is located. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8/31/2020\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to legislators in the affected districts. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ Notice sent to chairpersons of legislative committees with jurisdiction for natural resources issues. Date\_\_\_8/31/2020 (HB sent email)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ No hearing requested 30 days after public notice.

\_\_\_\_ Hearing requested, held, and classification recommended. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fisheries Biologist

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fish Team Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ District Fisheries

**Justification:**

The unnamed tributary to North Fork Bad Axe River (WBIC: 5029301) should be classified as Class I trout water. An electrofishing survey in April 2018 revealed naturally reproduced brown trout (CPE = 885 fish/mile) and brook trout that were likely of natural origin (CPE = 321 fish/mile). Brown and brook trout have not been stocked into the stream since at least 1972 (extent of electronic stocking records). At the time of the survey, brook trout were last stocked into the North Fork of the Bad Axe River upstream of Runge Hollow (local name: Esofea Branch) in spring of 2017 at an average length of 8.7” and brown trout had not been stocked into the North Fork of the Bad Axe since 2014. This indicates that the abundant age 1 (3-6”) brook and brown trout captured are of natural origin. It is possible that some of the brook trout >6” may be migrants from stocking on North Fork Bad Axe in previous years.

The abundance of natural origin age 1 brook and brown trout (3-6”) indicates strong natural reproduction. Spawning habitat was also observed within the sampled reach.

The presence of brown trout from 3 to 14 inches indicates that trout are surviving multiple years in the stream.

Figure 1. Catch per mile of brown trout and brook trout in one-inch groups.

# **Rocky Run (Tributary to the West Fork of the Kickapoo)**

County: **Vernon**

WBIC: **1189300**

Define the portion of the stream to be classified. Please provide both a written description and the coordinate locations of the upstream and downstream beginning and end points:

The entire length (3.09 mi.) of Rocky Run (WBIC: 1189300), that originates in in S21, T13N, R3W, Vernon County and generally flows south to its confluence with the West Fork of the Kickapoo River in S32, T13N, R3W.

Please provide coordinate locations:

Upstream point coordinates: 43.59385° N, 90.74712° W

Downstream point coordinates: 43.55753° N, 90.75566° W

Classification proposed: Class I

\_\_X\_\_ Fish survey (including relative abundance, length distribution, and age structure) and habitat survey completed on water to be classified. Survey on file at the La Crosse Service Center.

\_\_X\_\_ Fish team supervisor and district fisheries supervisor have approved the classification. Date HB 10/01/2018; BH 9/22/2020

\_\_\_ Fish Biologist has consulted with the following staff in their office or district \_\_X\_\_ Permit Drafter Name \_\_\_Ryan Papas\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Resource Specialist Name\_Camille Bruhn, Jean Unmuth\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_\_\_\_Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Management Specialist Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Drinking and Groundwater staff Name\_\_\_ Adam Freihoefer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_9/22/2020\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No

\_\_X\_\_ Public notice published in local newspaper or other media. Date\_\_\_\_\_8/28/2020\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to all clerks of the county, town, city, or village in which the stream is located. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8/31/2020\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to legislators in the affected districts. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ Notice sent to chairpersons of legislative committees with jurisdiction for natural resources issues. Date\_\_\_8/31/2020 (HB sent email)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ No hearing requested 30 days after public notice.

\_\_\_\_ Hearing requested, held, and classification recommended. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fisheries Biologist

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fish Team Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ District Fisheries

**Justification:**

Rocky Run (WBIC: 1189300) should be classified as Class I trout water. An electrofishing survey in May 2018 revealed naturally reproduced brown trout (CPE = 442 fish/mile) and brook trout that were likely of natural origin (CPE = 15 fish/mile). Brown and brook trout have not been stocked into the stream since at least 1972 (extent of electronic stocking records). Brook trout are stocked annually into the West Fork of the Kickapoo but brown trout were last stocked into the West Fork in 2009. This indicates that the age 1 (3-7”) brown trout captured are of natural origin. Though unlikely, it is possible that the brook trout may have originated from stocking in the West Fork of the Kickapoo in 2018.

The presence of natural origin age 1 brown trout (3-7”) indicates natural reproduction. Spawning habitat was also observed within the sampled reach.

The presence of brown trout from 5 to 11 inches indicates that trout are surviving multiple years in the stream.

Figure 1. Catch per mile of brown trout and brook trout in one-inch groups.

# **Unnamed Tributary to the West Fork of the Kickapoo (WBIC: 1190900)**

County: **Vernon**

WBIC: **1190900**

Define the portion of the stream to be classified. Please provide both a written description and the coordinate locations of the upstream and downstream beginning and end points:

The entire length (2.44 mi.) of the unnamed tributary to the West Fork Kicakpoo River (WBIC: 1190900), that originates in in S21, T14N, R3W, Vernon County and generally flows southwest to its confluence with the West Fork of the Kickapoo River in S31, T14N, R3W.

Please provide coordinate locations:

Upstream point coordinates: 43.67285° N, 90.74970° W

Downstream point coordinates: 43.65307° N, 90.77840° W

Classification proposed: Class I

\_\_X\_\_ Fish survey (including relative abundance, length distribution, and age structure) and habitat survey completed on water to be classified. Survey on file at the La Crosse Service Center.

\_\_X\_\_ Fish team supervisor and district fisheries supervisor have approved the classification. Date HB 10/01/2018; BH 9/22/2020

\_\_\_ Fish Biologist has consulted with the following staff in their office or district \_\_X\_\_ Permit Drafter Name \_\_\_Ryan Papas\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Resource Specialist Name\_Camille Bruhn, Jean Unmuth\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_\_\_\_Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Management Specialist Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Drinking and Groundwater staff Name\_\_\_ Adam Freihoefer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_9/22/2020\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No

\_\_X\_\_ Public notice published in local newspaper or other media. Date\_\_\_\_\_8/28/2020\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to all clerks of the county, town, city, or village in which the stream is located. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8/31/2020\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to legislators in the affected districts. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ Notice sent to chairpersons of legislative committees with jurisdiction for natural resources issues. Date\_\_\_8/31/2020 (HB sent email)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ No hearing requested 30 days after public notice.

\_\_\_\_ Hearing requested, held, and classification recommended. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fisheries Biologist

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fish Team Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ District Fisheries

**Justification:**

The unnamed tributary to the West Fork Kicakpoo River (WBIC: 1190900) should be classified as Class I trout water. An electrofishing survey in April 2018 revealed naturally reproduced brown trout (CPE = 402 fish/mile) and brook trout that were likely of natural origin (CPE = 16 fish/mile). Brown and brook trout have not been stocked into the stream since at least 1972 (extent of electronic stocking records). Brook trout are stocked annually into the West Fork of the Kickapoo but brown trout were last stocked into the West Fork in 2009. This indicates that the age 1 (3-6”) brown trout captured are of natural origin. Though unlikely, it is possible that the brook trout may have originated from stocking in the West Fork of the Kickapoo in 2018.

The presence of natural origin age 1 brown trout (3-6”) indicates natural reproduction. Spawning habitat was also observed within the sampled reach.

The presence of brown trout from 5 to 19 inches indicates that trout are surviving multiple years in the stream.

Figure 1. Catch per mile of brown trout and brook trout in one-inch groups.

# **Unnamed Tributary to the West Fork of the Kickapoo (WBIC: 1191200)**

County: **Vernon**

WBIC: **1191200**

Define the portion of the stream to be classified. Please provide both a written description and the coordinate locations of the upstream and downstream beginning and end points:

The entire length (2.7 mi.) of the unnamed tributary to the West Fork Kicakpoo River (WBIC: 1191200), that originates in in S26, T14N, R4W, Vernon County and generally flows east to its confluence with the West Fork of the Kickapoo River in S30, T14N, R3W.

Please provide coordinate locations:

Upstream point coordinates: 43.66438° N, 90.82635° W

Downstream point coordinates: 43.65616° N, 90.78319° W

Classification proposed: Class I

\_\_X\_\_ Fish survey (including relative abundance, length distribution, and age structure) and habitat survey completed on water to be classified. Survey on file at the La Crosse Service Center.

\_\_X\_\_ Fish team supervisor and district fisheries supervisor have approved the classification. Date HB 10/01/2018; BH 9/22/2020

\_\_\_ Fish Biologist has consulted with the following staff in their office or district \_\_X\_\_ Permit Drafter Name \_\_\_Ryan Papas\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Resource Specialist Name\_Camille Bruhn, Jean Unmuth\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_\_\_\_Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Management Specialist Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Drinking and Groundwater staff Name\_\_\_ Adam Freihoefer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_9/22/2020\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No

\_\_X\_\_ Public notice published in local newspaper or other media. Date\_\_\_\_\_8/28/2020\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to all clerks of the county, town, city, or village in which the stream is located. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8/31/2020\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to legislators in the affected districts. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ Notice sent to chairpersons of legislative committees with jurisdiction for natural resources issues. Date\_\_\_8/31/2020 (HB sent email)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ No hearing requested 30 days after public notice.

\_\_\_\_ Hearing requested, held, and classification recommended. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fisheries Biologist

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fish Team Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ District Fisheries

**Justification:**

The unnamed tributary to the West Fork Kicakpoo River (WBIC: 1191200) should be classified as Class I trout water. An electrofishing survey in April 2018 revealed naturally reproduced brown trout (CPE = 1,500 fish/mile) and brook trout that were likely of natural origin (CPE = 512 fish/mile). Brown and brook trout have not been stocked into the stream since at least 1972 (extent of electronic stocking records). Brook trout are stocked annually into the West Fork of the Kickapoo but brown trout were last stocked into the West Fork in 2009. This indicates that the age 1 (3-6”) brown trout captured are of natural origin. Though unlikely, it is possible that the brook trout may have originated from stocking in the West Fork of the Kickapoo in 2018.

The prevalence of natural origin age 1 brown trout and brook trout (~3-6”) indicates strong natural reproduction. Spawning habitat was also observed within the sampled reach.

The presence of brown trout from 3 to 12 inches indicates that trout are surviving multiple years in the stream.

Figure 1. Catch per mile of brown trout and brook trout in one-inch groups.

# **Elk Run (tributary to West Fork Kickapoo)**

County: **Vernon**

WBIC: **1189200**

Define the portion of the stream to be classified. Please provide both a written description and the coordinate locations of the upstream and downstream beginning and end points:

The entire length (3.68 mi.) of the unnamed tributary to the West Fork Kicakpoo River (WBIC: 1189200), that originates in in S22, T13N, R3W, Vernon County and generally flows southwest to its confluence with the West Fork of the Kickapoo River in S4, T12N, R3W.

Please provide coordinate locations:

Upstream point coordinates: 43.58538° N, 90.71535° W

Downstream point coordinates: 43.55020° N, 90.74517° W

Classification proposed: Class II

\_\_X\_\_ Fish survey (including relative abundance, length distribution, and age structure) and habitat survey completed on water to be classified. Survey on file at the La Crosse Service Center.

\_\_X\_\_ Fish team supervisor and district fisheries supervisor have approved the classification. Date HB 10/01/2018; BH 9/22/2020

\_\_\_ Fish Biologist has consulted with the following staff in their office or district \_\_X\_\_ Permit Drafter Name \_\_\_Ryan Papas\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Resource Specialist Name\_Camille Bruhn, Jean Unmuth\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_\_\_\_Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Management Specialist Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Drinking and Groundwater staff Name\_\_\_ Adam Freihoefer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_9/22/2020\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No

\_\_X\_\_ Public notice published in local newspaper or other media. Date\_\_\_\_\_8/28/2020\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to all clerks of the county, town, city, or village in which the stream is located. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8/31/2020\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to legislators in the affected districts. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ Notice sent to chairpersons of legislative committees with jurisdiction for natural resources issues. Date\_\_\_8/31/2020 (HB sent email)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ No hearing requested 30 days after public notice.

\_\_\_\_ Hearing requested, held, and classification recommended. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fisheries Biologist

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fish Team Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ District Fisheries

**Justification:**

The unnamed tributary to the West Fork Kicakpoo River (WBIC: 1189200) should be classified as Class II trout water. An electrofishing survey in May 2018 revealed naturally reproduced brown trout (CPE = 110 fish/mile) and brook trout that were likely of natural origin (CPE = 16 fish/mile). Brown and brook trout have not been stocked into the stream since at least 1972 (extent of electronic stocking records). Brook trout are stocked annually into the West Fork of the Kickapoo but brown trout were last stocked into the West Fork in 2009. This indicates that the age 1 (5-6”) brown trout captured are of natural origin. Though unlikely, it is possible that the brook trout may have originated from stocking in the West Fork of the Kickapoo in 2018.

The presence of natural origin age 1 brown trout and brook trout (5-6”) indicates natural reproduction. Spawning habitat was also observed within the sampled reach.

The presence of brown trout from 5 to 12 inches indicates that trout are surviving multiple years in the stream. We observed low densities of brown and brook trout (total CPE = 126 fish/mile) that were likely well below carrying capacity, especially given the size of the stream (measured discharge = 7.57 cfs, average width = 3 meters).

Figure 1. Catch per mile of brown trout and brook trout in one-inch groups.

# **Unnamed Tributary to Tainter Creek (WBIC: 1186000)**

County: **Crawford**

WBIC: **1186000**

Define the portion of the stream to be classified. Please provide both a written description and the coordinate locations of the upstream and downstream beginning and end points:

The entire length (0.96 mi.) of the unnamed tributary to the Tainter Creek (WBIC: 1186000), that originates in in S28, T11N, R4W, Crawford County and generally flows west to its confluence with the Tainter Creek in S32, T11N, R4W.

Please provide coordinate locations:

Upstream point coordinates: 43.39706° N, 90.85921° W

Downstream point coordinates: 43.55020° N, 90.74517° W

Classification proposed: Class I

\_\_X\_\_ Fish survey (including relative abundance, length distribution, and age structure) and habitat survey completed on water to be classified. Survey on file at the La Crosse Service Center.

\_\_X\_\_ Fish team supervisor and district fisheries supervisor have approved the classification. Date HB 10/01/2018; BH 9/22/2020

\_\_\_ Fish Biologist has consulted with the following staff in their office or district \_\_X\_\_ Permit Drafter Name \_\_\_Ryan Papas\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Resource Specialist Name\_Camille Bruhn, Jean Unmuth\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_\_\_\_Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Management Specialist Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Drinking and Groundwater staff Name\_\_\_ Adam Freihoefer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_9/22/2020\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No

\_\_X\_\_ Public notice published in local newspaper or other media. Date\_\_\_\_\_8/28/2020\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to all clerks of the county, town, city, or village in which the stream is located. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8/31/2020\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to legislators in the affected districts. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ Notice sent to chairpersons of legislative committees with jurisdiction for natural resources issues. Date\_\_\_8/31/2020 (HB sent email)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ No hearing requested 30 days after public notice.

\_\_\_\_ Hearing requested, held, and classification recommended. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fisheries Biologist

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fish Team Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ District Fisheries

**Justification:**

The unnamed tributary to Tainter Creek (WBIC: 1186000) should be classified as Class I trout water. An electrofishing survey in May 2018 revealed naturally reproduced brown trout (CPE = 209 fish/mile). Brown trout have not been stocked into the stream since at least 1972 (extent of electronic stocking records). Brook and brown trout are stocked annually into the Tainter Creek at a site >4 miles upstream on Tainter Creek. Given this, and the moderate densities we observed, the brown trout we captured were almost certainly natural origin.

The presence of natural origin age 1 brown trout (~5-6”) indicates natural reproduction. Spawning habitat was also observed within the sampled reach.

The presence of brown trout from 5 to 7 inches indicates that trout are surviving multiple years in the stream.

Figure 1. Catch per mile of brown trout in one-inch groups.

# **Unnamed Tributary to Tainter Creek (Local Names: Connway Valley Creek, Buggergut)**

County: **Crawford**

WBIC: **1186100**

Define the portion of the stream to be classified. Please provide both a written description and the coordinate locations of the upstream and downstream beginning and end points:

The entire length (3.64 mi.) of the unnamed tributary to the Tainter Creek (WBIC: 1186100), that originates in in S25, T11N, R5W, Crawford County and generally flows southeast to its confluence with the Tainter Creek in S32, T11N, R4W.

Please provide coordinate locations:

Upstream point coordinates: 43.40529° N, 90.92650° W

Downstream point coordinates: 43.39269° N, 90.87478° W

Classification proposed: Class I

\_\_X\_\_ Fish survey (including relative abundance, length distribution, and age structure) and habitat survey completed on water to be classified. Survey on file at the La Crosse Service Center.

\_\_X\_\_ Fish team supervisor and district fisheries supervisor have approved the classification. Date HB 10/01/2018; BH 9/22/2020

\_\_\_ Fish Biologist has consulted with the following staff in their office or district \_\_X\_\_ Permit Drafter Name \_\_\_Ryan Papas\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Resource Specialist Name\_Camille Bruhn, Jean Unmuth\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_\_\_\_Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Management Specialist Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Drinking and Groundwater staff Name\_\_\_ Adam Freihoefer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_9/22/2020\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No

\_\_X\_\_ Public notice published in local newspaper or other media. Date\_\_\_\_\_8/28/2020\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to all clerks of the county, town, city, or village in which the stream is located. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8/31/2020\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to legislators in the affected districts. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ Notice sent to chairpersons of legislative committees with jurisdiction for natural resources issues. Date\_\_\_8/31/2020 (HB sent email)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ No hearing requested 30 days after public notice.

\_\_\_\_ Hearing requested, held, and classification recommended. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fisheries Biologist

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fish Team Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ District Fisheries

**Justification:**

The unnamed tributary to Tainter Creek (WBIC: 1186100) should be classified as Class I trout water. An electrofishing survey in August 2018 revealed naturally reproduced brown trout (mean CPE = 1,179 fish/mile) and brook trout of unknown origin (mean CPE = 11 fish/mile). Brook and brown trout have not been stocked into the stream since at least 1972 (extent of electronic stocking records). Brook trout are stocked annually into Tainter Creek and brown trout were last stocked into Tainter Creek in 2009. Given this, the brown we captured were of natural origin. Though unlikely, it is possible that the brook trout may have originated from stocking into Tainter Creek in 2018.

The high density of young of the year brown trout (≤ 5 in.) at two stream reaches indicates high levels of natural reproduction (Fig.1, Fig.2). Spawning habitat was also widespread within both the sampled reaches.

The presence of brown trout from 3 to 14 inches indicates that trout are surviving multiple years in the stream.

Figure 1. Catch per mile of brown trout and brook trout in one-inch groups upstream of County Highway B (43.39301, -90.8777).

Figure 2. Catch per mile of brown trout and brook trout in one-inch groups downstream of County Highway C (43.39127, -90.8839).

# **Unnamed Tributary to Reads Creek (WBIC: 5030661)**

County: **Vernon**

WBIC: **5030661**

Define the portion of the stream to be classified. Please provide both a written description and the coordinate locations of the upstream and downstream beginning and end points:

The entire length (0.72 miles) of the unnamed tributary to the Reads Creek Creek (WBIC: 5030661), that originates in in S22, T12N, R4W, Vernon County and generally flows west to its confluence with the Reads Creek in S27, T12N, R4W.

Please provide coordinate locations:

Upstream point coordinates: 43.49862° N, 90.82955° W

Downstream point coordinates: 43.49157° N, 90.83713° W

Classification proposed: Class I

\_\_X\_\_ Fish survey (including relative abundance, length distribution, and age structure) and habitat survey completed on water to be classified. Survey on file at the La Crosse Service Center.

\_\_X\_\_ Fish team supervisor and district fisheries supervisor have approved the classification. Date HB 10/01/2018; BH 9/22/2020

\_\_\_ Fish Biologist has consulted with the following staff in their office or district \_\_X\_\_ Permit Drafter Name \_\_\_Ryan Papas\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Resource Specialist Name\_Camille Bruhn, Jean Unmuth\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_10/01/2018\_\_\_\_\_\_Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Water Management Specialist Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No \_\_X\_\_ Drinking and Groundwater staff Name\_\_\_ Adam Freihoefer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_9/22/2020\_\_\_ Concerns Yes No

\_\_X\_\_ Public notice published in local newspaper or other media. Date\_\_\_\_\_8/28/2020\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to all clerks of the county, town, city, or village in which the stream is located. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_8/31/2020\_\_\_\_

\_\_X\_\_ Notice sent to legislators in the affected districts. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ Notice sent to chairpersons of legislative committees with jurisdiction for natural resources issues. Date\_\_\_8/31/2020 (HB sent email)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_X\_ No hearing requested 30 days after public notice.

\_\_\_\_ Hearing requested, held, and classification recommended. Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fisheries Biologist

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Fish Team Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ District Fisheries

**Justification:**

The unnamed tributary to Reads Creek (WBIC: 5030661) should be classified as Class I trout water. An electrofishing survey in July 2018 revealed naturally reproduced brown trout (CPE = 64 fish/mile) and brook trout (CPE = 526 fish/mile). Brook and brown trout have not been stocked into the stream since at least 1972 (extent of electronic stocking records). Brook and brown trout were last stocked into Reads Creek in 2005. Given this, the fish we captured were of natural origin.

The presence of natural origin age 1 brook and brown trout (~4-6”) indicates natural reproduction. Spawning habitat was also observed within the sampled reach.

The presence of brook trout from 3 to 7 inches indicates that trout are surviving multiple years in the stream.

Figure 1. Catch per mile of brown trout and brook trout in one-inch groups.