

Pursuant to NR 1.02(7)(c), Wis. Adm. Code, the Department of Natural Resources gives public notice of the classification of eight miles of Kelly Brook, in Oconto County as a Class I Trout water. Kelly Brook is a 27.7 mile hard water fourth order stream having slight alkalinity that originates at the outlet of Peterson Lake in southern Oconto County. Kelly Brook is a tributary to Little River (Oconto Co.) and is currently not a classified trout stream. The section of Kelly Brook proposed to be classified as a Class I trout stream begins at the crossing of White Lake Road (T29N – R18E Sec 12) in the Town of Maple Valley and extends downstream to the CTH B crossing (T29N – R19E Sec 35) in the Town of Spruce.

Classifying the proposed reach of Kelly Brook from White Lake Road downstream to CTH B as a Class I trout stream is supported by:

- 1) Water temperature monitoring over several years revealed suitable temperatures for trout
- 2) Fish surveys resulted in multiple year classes of brook trout, including young-of-year and adult trout at several sites within the reach proposed for classification
- 3) Suitable habitat ratings for trout, as either “good” or “excellent”

The Department shall waive any hearing requirement on this classification unless a written request for hearing is received before October 23, 2020. Requests should be sent to Tammie Paoli, WDNR, 101 N. Ogden Road, Suite A, Peshtigo, WI 54157.

*A Class I Trout Stream is a stream or portion thereof with a self-sustaining population of trout. Such streams contain trout spawning habitat and naturally produced fry, fingerling, and yearling in sufficient numbers to utilize the trout habitat; or contains trout with 2 or more age groups, above the age of one year, and natural reproduction and survival of wild fish in sufficient numbers to utilize the available trout habitat and to sustain the fishery without stocking.*