

Trout Stream Classification Checklist (revised 7/2012)

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

Stream name: Unnamed tributary to Unnamed tributary to East Fork Flag River

County: Bayfield

WBIC: 5000450

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.

Unnamed tributary to East Fork Flag River in Port Wing Township (T49N, R8W, Sects. 1 and 6). 1.3 miles beginning approximately 1.1 miles southeast of the end of Almstead Road and approximately 0.3 mile west of Section Lines 6 and 5, downstream to the confluence with the Unnamed Tributary to the East Fork Flag River.

This written description should reference permanent, unambiguous landmarks that would allow a person unfamiliar with the area to locate the points (e.g., dams, road crossings, stream confluences, county lines, section lines, township lines)

Upstream point coordinates: 91° 16' 46.7" W, 46° 45' 12.7" N

Downstream point coordinates: 91° 18' 6.99" W, 46° 45' 32.48" N

Classification proposed: 1a

- 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: DNR Superior paper files and Superior network electronic files

- Water leader has consulted with other Water Division Bureaus, especially for class III waters.
Date: 10-4-2013

- Public notice published in local newspaper or other media
Date: 10-24-2013

Notice sent to all clerks of the county, town, city, or village in which the stream is located

Date: 11/4/2013

Notice sent to legislators in the affected districts

Date: 11/4/2013

Notice sent to chairpersons of legislative committees with jurisdiction for natural resources issues

Date: 11/4/2013

No hearing requested 30 days after public notice

Hearing requested, held, and classification recommended

Date _____

Signed: Author of Checklist

Paul Piszczek

Date 11-29-2013

Fish Team Supervisor

[Signature]

Date 12/17/2013

Water Leader

Nancy J. Larson

Date 1/21/2014

ELECTROFISHING Data Collection Sheet: CWA - Baseline or Natural Community Reference Stream Monitoring

Waterbody: UNNAMED TO EAST FLAG R.	Gear: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Backpack <input type="checkbox"/> Stream-shocker(s)	Sample Date: 8-22-2006
WBIC: 5000450	Current Type: [AC] <input checked="" type="radio"/> [DC] [PDC]	Start Time: _____
County: BAYFIELD	Volts: _____ Pulse Rate: _____	End Time: _____
Station Name or Description: MIDDLE THREE FORKS	Amps: _____ Duty Cycle: _____	Total Time: _____
Start Lat/Long: 46° 45' 24.72 N; 91° 17' 25.64 W	No. of Dippers/Anodes: [1] <input checked="" type="radio"/> [2] [3]	Distance Shocked: 387
End Lat/Long: _____	Survey Type: CPUE <input checked="" type="radio"/> TWD PASS Mesh Size: _____	Pass Type: [Up] [Dn] [Up-Dn] [Other]
Collectors: PRATT, BLUST	Weather: _____	Water Level: [Hi] [Norm] [Low]
AVG STREAM WIDTH = 4.25 ft	Adverse Cond: _____	Clarity: _____
	Target Fish: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> [All species] <input type="checkbox"/> [Gamefish]	Water Temp: 49.0°F

SPECIES 11 **Comments:** START @ PLASTIC CULVERT ON OLD LOGGING ROAD

BKT	SLIMY SCULPIN	BKT	SLIMY SCULPIN							
2.8 1.9	2.8 2.9	6.3 2.4	1.8 3.7							
2.0 2.7	3.7 3.3	5.2 1.7	2.0 3.0	ONE DEAD BNT FURTHER D/S						
2.3 2.3	2.5 2.3	2.6 2.3	2.9 2.1	(LOWER MOST BEAVER POND)						
2.5 2.6	3.2 1.9	2.7 2.3								
2.3 2.4	3.2 1.9	2.5 2.3								
2.8 2.1		2.8 2.7								
2.4 2.7		2.7 4.7								
2.6 2.3		2.6 2.8								
6.5 2.3		2.0 2.3								
4.6 2.7		1.9 2.3								
2.3 1.9		2.4 2.5								
3.1 4.9		2.0 4.2								
2.7 4.7		4.8 2.9								
2.9 5.3										
3.1 2.8										
2.9 4.1										
2.3 2.9				2ND PASS						
2.6 2.6										
4.5 2.7										
2.7 2.2										
2.7 2.7										
2.2 2.3										
2.1 2.4										
2.3 2.3										
2.9 2.6										
2.6 2.5										
2.5 2.6										
2.7 2.6										
2.2 1.5										
2.0 2.6										
2.3 1.9										
2.4 2.3										
2.3 1.6										
2.3 2.7										
1ST PASS										

10:00
49°F 8-22-06 Middle 3 Forks 2nd Pass

Brook	Slimy Sculpin	
6.3	2.4	1.8
5.2	1.7	3.7
2.6	2.3	2.0
2.7	2.3	3.0
2.5	2.3	2.9
2.8	2.7	2.1
2.7	4.7	
2.6	2.8	
2.0	2.3	
1.9	2.3	
2.4	2.5	
2.0		
4.2		
4.8		
2.9		

8-22-06 Middle 3 Forks 1st Pass

Station of first current

Brook	Slimy Sculpin		
2.8	1.9	3.1 2.8	2.8 2.9
2.0	2.7	2.9 4.1	3.7 3.3
2.3	2.3	2.3 2.9	2.5 2.3
2.5	2.6	2.6 2.6	3.2 1.9
2.3	2.4	4.5 2.7	3.2
2.8	2.1	2.7 2.2	1.9
2.4	2.7	2.7 2.7	
2.6	2.3	2.2 2.3 2.2 1.5	
6.5	2.3	2.1 2.4 2.0 2.6	
4.6	2.7	2.3 2.3 2.3 1.9	
2.3	1.9	2.9 2.6 2.4 2.3	
3.1	4.9	2.6 2.5 2.3 1.6	
2.7	4.7	2.5 2.6 2.3	
2.9	5.3	2.7 2.6 2.7	

5000450 / PPF 7/16-2013

8-22-06 Middle 3 Forks

Station	Length	Width
	386.8 ft	1 3.1 feet
		2 6.0
		3 4.6
		4 4.4
		5 3.6
		6 3.8

East Flag Three Forks Fishery Investigations – Pratt, Dumke, Kaspar and Gotham August 21 and 22 2006. (All three stations were marked with orange ribbons around maple trees.) *cedar or ASH TREES*

South Three Forks - I took the stream habitat crew into the middle portion of South Three Forks on August 21st to establish an index station before major habitat work is initiated. (Jerry Johnson – APHIS trapper initiated trapping and dam removal in the headwaters of this tributary this summer. The habitat crew spent one day in the headwater section below the beaver dam's stream cleaning about a week ago. I think that the Jennings research crew is sampling a station at the mid way logging trail crossing as we saw a ribbon just upstream of the clay culverts. We walked downstream and sampled a 300 foot station below crossings immediate beaver meadow (upper end of station equal with lower end of beaver meadow. Most of this station was sandy bottomed although there appeared to be two or three areas with a very small amount of spawning gravel, the uppermost had the look of being a lake run fish redd. We used two backpacks in tandem and completed a two pass removal for an estimate of total standing stock. The second pass catches were about 50% of the first run catches. Brook trout dominated the catch, followed by coho, brown and rainbow. Slimy sculpins were also surveyed. The station length was 307 feet and stream widths averaged 6.65 feet wide (5.6, 6.9, 6.5, 5.8, 10.2 and 4.9 feet).

5000485

Tributary to Middle Three Forks - We sampled the tributary to Middle Tree Forks with one backpack unit making one pass from the trail in upstream for 160 feet. This stream section averaged 2.25 feet wide and contained young of the year (ranging from 2.3 to 3.3 inches) brook trout and a couple slimy sculpin. Bill and I had noted this tributary as it entered the lower end of the middle tributary in the old beaver complex in the streams lower end. While the crew sampled this tributary I walked from the station upstream to near the head waters. Although this tributary is much smaller than it's parent stream it looks visually similar and I suspect, although I did not geo-reference its headwater location, that its head end is immediately south of the Middle Three Forks headwater area. I had enough time to walk to the cedar grove likely just downstream of the head spring area. The uppermost section that I walked had ample gravel supplies and some exposed rocks could be seen. This is also a very nice brook trout spawning and nursery stream.

~~5000448~~

NOT DIGITIZED
APPROX STATION
LOCATION
N 46° 45' 14.349"
W 91° 17' 18.421"
PP 10/18/2013

Middle Three Forks - On August 22nd we sampled a 387 foot section of this stream starting at the plastic culvert on the old logging road with two backpacks in tandem and a two pass removal method. Again we captured about 50% of the number caught in the first pass on the second pass. Only brook trout (ranging from 1.5 to 6.5 inches) and slimy sculpin were captured in the tributary. The stream averaged 4.25 feet wide (3.1, 6.0, 4.6, 4.4, 3.6, 3.8 feet). Although we had observed a dead brown trout in the lowest beaver pond it was interesting to note that none we captured here.

5000450

EAST FLAG THREE FORKS TRIBUTARY HABITAT EVALUATION
PRATT/BLUST 4/28/06

The stream investigated is the largest coldwater tributary to the East Flag originating south of Almstead Rd. and enters the E Flag approximately one mile upstream from its confluence with the W Flag. The tributary is comprised of three main forks that supply high quality groundwater and critical spawning and rearing habitat for brook trout and other salmonids. One other fork that carries substantial runoff and isn't a coldwater resource enters the tributary just upstream from its confluence with the E Flag. All three of the coldwater feeders merge in nearly the same location and has been named the Three Forks. Neither the tributary nor the feeders are named, but we referred to the three coldwater feeders as the North, Middle and South tribs. From our knowledge none of this tributary has been surveyed or classified as trout water. Access was gained from the dual use snowmobile/ATV trail (Wally Polk Memorial Trail) at the end of Almstead Rd. This is a well built trail that enabled us to drive the truck to nearly the headwaters of all three of the feeders.

North trib

We only looked at a short distance of this stream due to time constraints. We investigated it both upstream and downstream from the ATV bridge that crosses it. At the bridge the stream may have a flow of $\frac{3}{4}$ -1 CFS. Brook trout fry were observed as well as yearlings upstream. At the bridge the stream bed was sand, but upstream some fist sized rocks and small gravel was found. Soils may be turning to clay around the bridge. The stream split a short distance upstream of the bridge with the west portion being the largest. Last year while working with the APHIS trapper we set traps on this stream downstream approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. Several large dams existed, backing up several hundred yards of stream. The dams were located just behind the private hunting camp, but on county land that had recently harvested. Much of this stream runs through private land. Additional investigation must be carried out on this trib to evaluate habitat and improvement potential. The headwaters appear to originate within a quality cedar stand and if like the Middle trib may be very valuable. It was observed that its mouth has been impounded by a very large beaver dam for who know how long, but now runs freely and likely not in its original. The streambed was still impacted by the remnant beaver dam and consisted of entirely sand.

Middle trib

The entire stream flows through Bayfield County Forest. We walked from its headwaters to confluence with the other two forks. The headwater portion originates in a quality cedar swamp [N 46 45 16.3 and W91 17 01.8] and provides very exceptional spawning/nursery habitat for brook trout (est. CFS $\frac{3}{4}$ -1). The stream bottom was nearly all gravel with steps created by wood. Very little larger rock was observed here. Many brook trout fry were observed as well as several older year classes. None of the fish observed were over seven inches. No improvement is necessary in this reach, but it must be protected. Just downstream a small feeder [Pictures for this section are from headwaters 136 to 140] enters from the east and appears to carry some sand and from

this point downstream because of gradient and persistent beaver problems streambed quality diminishes to nearly all sand and very few holes. Although, good numbers of brook trout fry were observed until the stream became totally inundated by beaver and observation was impossible. Clay was first observed in the stream a few hundred yards above the trail and runs through clay to the forks. As we got near the 1st old logging road it was apparent that the stream was at one time impounded by beaver as the riparian forest turned to ash and alder. At the old crossing [N 46 45 23.7 and W91 17 25.5] there is a corrugated 12" plastic culvert that was at one time plugged up by beaver and a dam was built on top of it. It now flows around the culvert and backs up very little flow. From the road downstream the feeder was destroyed by very recent and active beaver activity. It was hard to count the number of dams, but it had to be well over a dozen. Within this reach another logging road crosses the stream [N46 45 34.1 and W91 17 39.5]. The lower several hundred yards above the confluence with the other two forks consisted of an old beaver meadow created by the dam built immediately downstream of the Three Forks. A small coldwater trib enters from the west within the meadow and must be investigated. The bottom like the East trib was influenced by a remnant beaver dam and consisted of entirely sand. At its mouth with the other tribs the estimated flow was maybe 1 1/2 CFS. Beaver need to be removed and controlled for this stream to revert back to original character and improved conditions. Habitat work consisting of removing old dams and debris to allow sand to pass through and exposing its original streambed is warranted. This stream looks to have great potential for brook trout as well as other salmonids. One yearling brown trout was found dead at the old Three Forks dam site [N46 45 31.8 and W91 18 06.1].

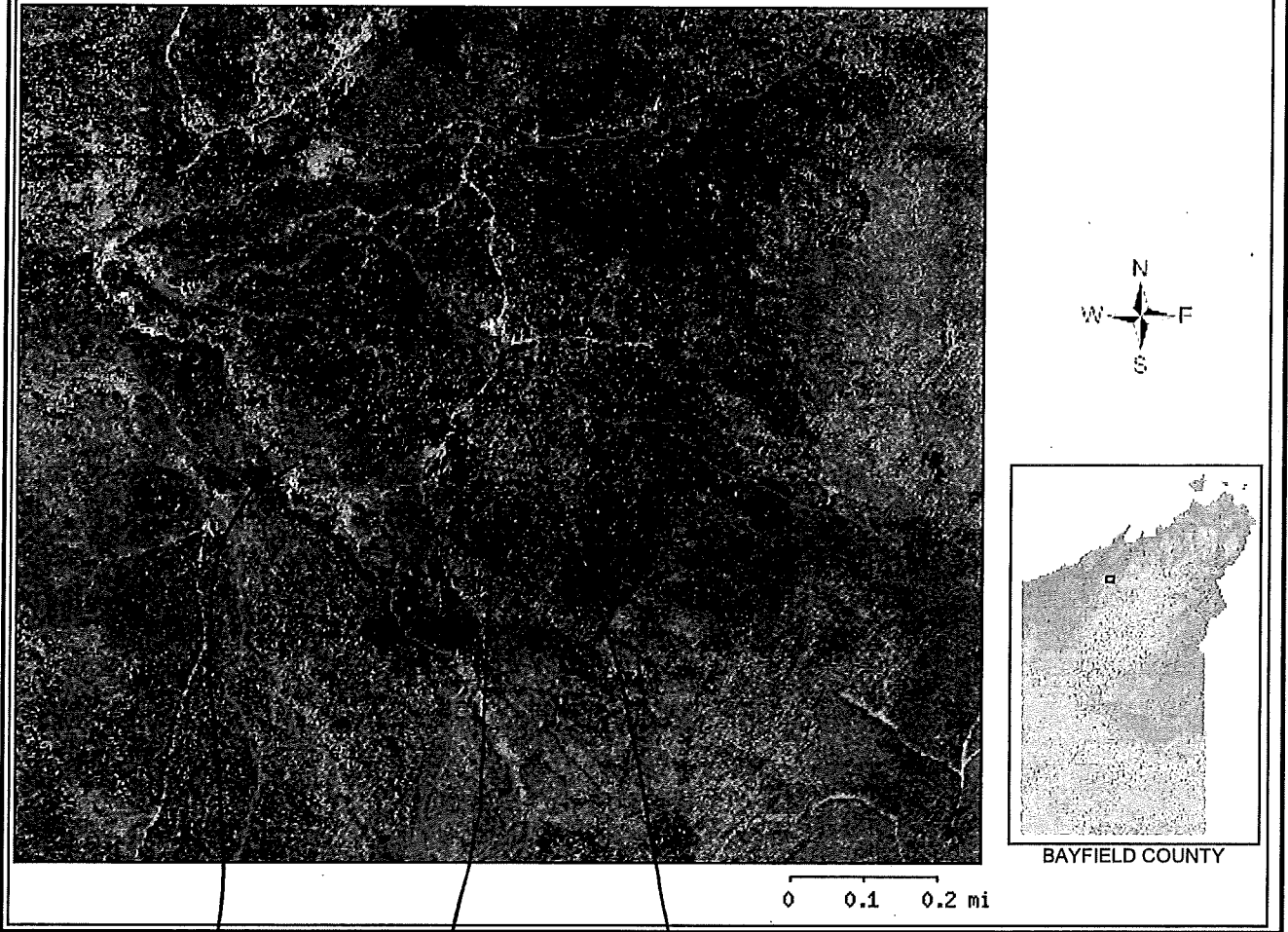
South trib

We walked this trib from the Three Forks upstream to the first logging road which was roughly 3/4 mile. The lower portion (200+yds) was running freely but like the other two tribs was at one time impounded by a large beaver dam at the forks. Streambed was sand and riparian habitat grass and poplar on the hillsides. Estimated CFS at the forks was 1-2 which was similar to the other two tribs. Some brook trout fry were observed in the lower reach. Just upstream of the old beaver influence the stream improves and with rock and gravel exposed. Fry were observed as well as a pair of steelhead and several redds. This stretch only lasted 100-200 yards and was again impacted by old beaver activity. The streambed was buried and riparian habitat diminished. We got out of the stream at an old logging trail. I believe the entire reach we walked ran through clay soils. The same trail which had the plastic culvert on the Middle trib. The remainder of the stream must be investigated, but from aerial photos it also looks to be heavily impacted by past beaver activity. This tributary hold great potential thereby beaver control is necessary and habitat improvement warranted.

Tributary main stem below Three Forks

Below the Three Forks the stream takes on a different character. For the first few hundred yards the stream is rocky with some spawning gravel and moderate gradient. Some fry were observed (possibly coho), but not in great numbers. Downstream the stream becomes greatly incised and is high gradient to the confluence with the East Flag. The streambed sits on clay with most gravel moving through this reach. Downstream a

3 Forks Tributaries



(5000485) PPP/7-16-2013

South 3 Fork Index Station
August 21st 2006

2 PASS REMOVAL
2 BACKPACKS IN
TANDEM

(5000450) PPP/7-16-2013

Middle 3 Forks Index Station
August 22nd 2006

2 PASS REMOVAL
2 BACK RACKS IN
TANDEM

Trib to
Middle 3 Forks

~~(5000448)~~

PPP/7/6-2013

Not Digitized
PPP 10/18/2013