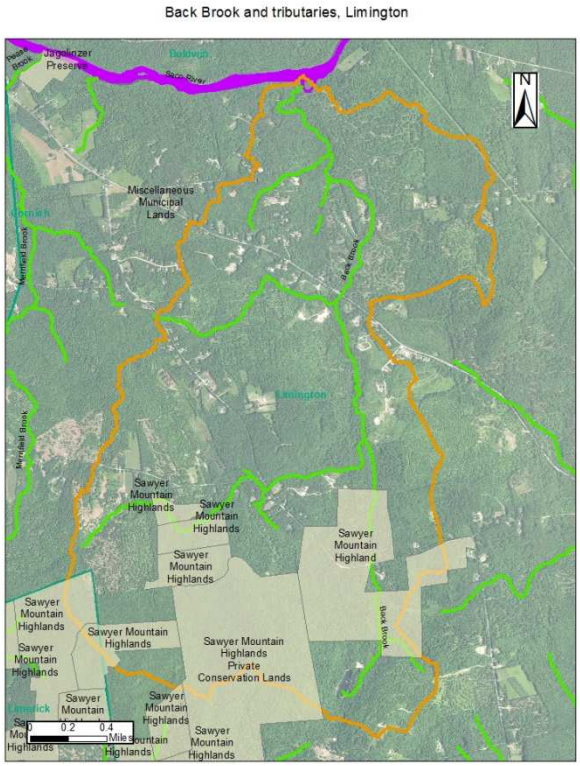
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
2018 Re-Classification Proposals

Department staff submitted seven proposals to be considered for re-classification.

Back Brook and tributaries, Limington - Upgrade to Class A



1. **Waterbody Name:** Back Brook and tributaries.

2. **Location of proposed change in classification:** Limington.

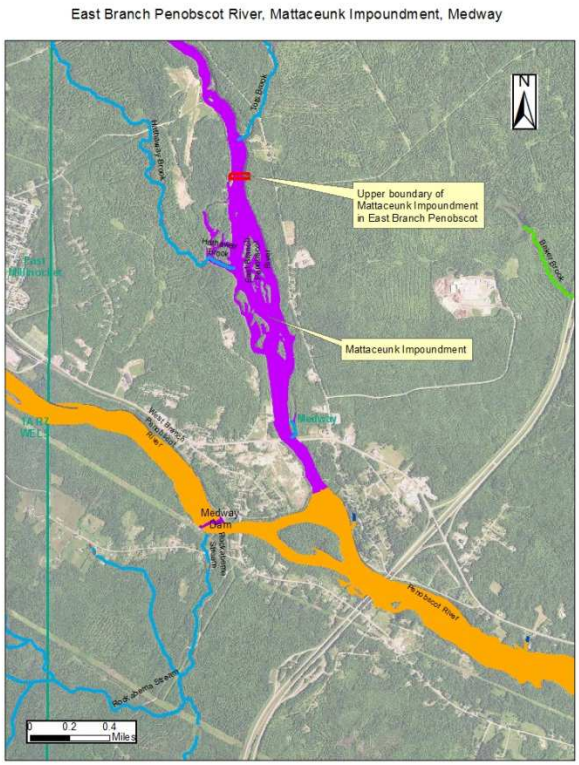
3. **Write a brief statement that justifies why the waterbody should be considered for classification change.** Back Brook has attained Class A aquatic life criteria on several occasions. It is a Class B tributary to a Class AA section of the Saco River and the watershed is largely forested. Tributaries are expected to attain Class A standards.

4. **State how the proposed change will affect other users of the waterbody, for example holders of wastewater or stormwater discharge permits or holders of land-development permits.** There are no discharges in the watershed and no land-development permits.

5. **Provide water quality data, if available (including source of data), that documents the attainment status of the candidate waterbody relative to the designated uses and criteria of the proposed classification.** DEP biological monitoring data are available that show attainment of aquatic life criteria.

6. **Provide a summary of known human activities in the watershed of the proposed re-classification that might jeopardize attainment of standards of the proposed classification, for example landuse altering activities, landfills, hazardous waste sites, wastewater discharges, etc.** The watershed is largely undeveloped and no significant negative impacts exist. Part of the watershed is protected as conservation land.

East Branch Penobscot River, Mattaceunk Impoundment, Medway – Correct Historic Re-Classification Error



1. **Waterbody Name:** East Branch Penobscot River.

2. **Location of proposed change in classification:** Most downstream segment (~1.6-miles) before confluence with West Branch Penobscot River, Medway.

3. **Write a brief statement that justifies why the waterbody should be considered for classification change.** This item corrects an error in the 1989 re-classification of part of this river from Class B to Class AA. This re-classification extended from a point located 1,000 feet downstream from the dam at the outlet of Grand Lake Mattagamon to its confluence with the West Branch Penobscot River, a total length of ~48 miles. At the time of re-classification, the most downstream 1.6-mile segment of the river was already impounded by the Mattaceunk Dam on the upper main stem Penobscot River and so did not meet the Class AA narrative criterion that the 'habitat must be characterized as free-flowing and natural'. This was an oversight by the Department and is being proposed to be resolved in the current effort by returning the segment in question to the original Class B designation.

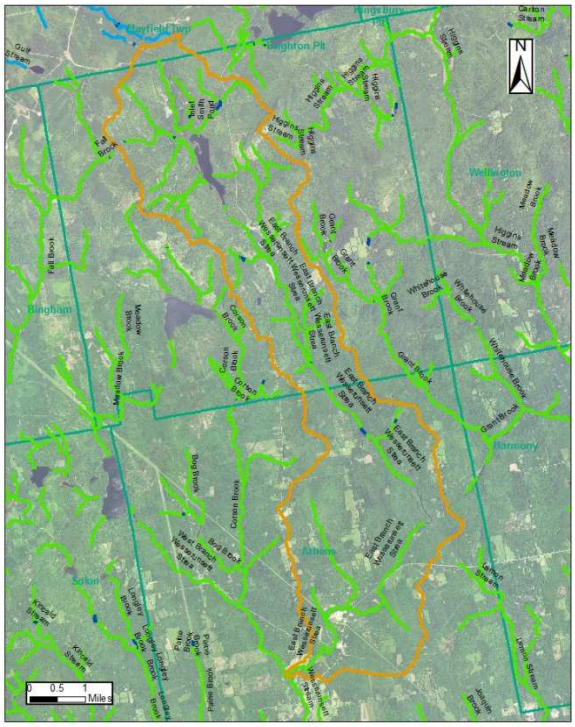
4. **State how the proposed change will affect other users of the waterbody, for example holders of wastewater or stormwater discharge permits or holders of land-development permits.** There are no discharges in the watershed. Correction of the 1989 re-classification error will allow re-licensing of the Mattaceunk Dam hydro facility to go forward. This correction is only intended to clarify that the segment in question does not, and did not at the time of the re-classification, meet the Class AA 'free-flowing and natural habitat' criterion. This correction is not intended to allow the permitting of new licenses or development of new dams.

5. **Provide water quality data, if available (including source of data), that documents the attainment status of the candidate waterbody relative to the designated uses and criteria of the proposed classification.** DEP monitoring data show attainment water quality standards for Class B.

6. **Provide a summary of known human activities in the watershed of the proposed re-classification that might jeopardize attainment of standards of the proposed classification, for example landuse altering activities, landfills, hazardous waste sites, wastewater discharges, etc.** The watershed is largely undeveloped and no significant negative impacts exist. Water quality standards are attained in the Mattaceunk impoundment.

East Branch Wesserunsett Stream and tributaries, Athens and upstream towns - Upgrade to Class A

East Branch Wesserunsett Stream and tributaries, Mayfield TWP, Brighton Plt and Athens



7. **Waterbody Name:** East Branch Wesserunsett Stream and tributaries.

8. **Location of proposed change in classification:** Mayfield TWP, Brighton Plantation and Athens.

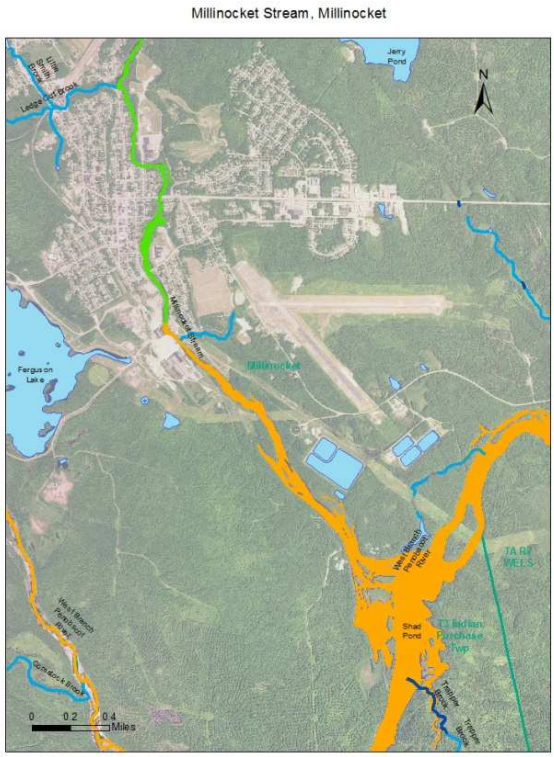
9. **Write a brief statement that justifies why the waterbody should be considered for classification change.** East Branch Wesserunsett Stream has attained Class A aquatic life criteria on several occasions. The watershed is largely forested. Tributaries are expected to attain Class A standards.

10. **State how the proposed change will affect other users of the waterbody, for example holders of wastewater or stormwater discharge permits or holders of land-development permits.** There are no discharges in the watershed and few land-development permits.

11. **Provide water quality data, if available (including source of data), that documents the attainment status of the candidate waterbody relative to the designated uses and criteria of the proposed classification.** DEP biological monitoring data are available that show attainment of aquatic life criteria.

12. **Provide a summary of known human activities in the watershed of the proposed re-classification that might jeopardize attainment of standards of the proposed classification, for example landuse altering activities, landfills, hazardous waste sites, wastewater discharges, etc.** The watershed is largely undeveloped and no significant negative impacts exist.

Millinocket Stream, confluence of the West Branch Canal to confluence with West Branch Penobscot River, Millinocket - Upgrade to Class B



1. **Waterbody Name:** Millinocket Stream.

2. **Location of proposed change in classification:** Confluence of the West Branch Canal to confluence with West Branch Penobscot River, Millinocket.

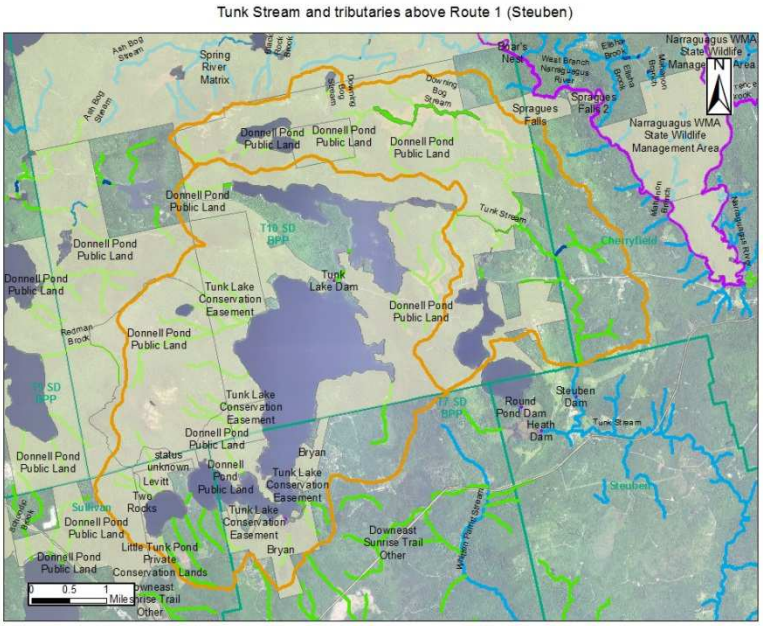
3. **Write a brief statement that justifies why the waterbody should be considered for classification change.** Closure of a pulp and paper mill has significantly improved the water quality in this segment. Millinocket Stream upstream of the West Branch Canal is Class B. The stream flows into a Class C section of the West Branch Penobscot River; this section is also proposed for upgrade.

4. **State how the proposed change will affect other users of the waterbody, for example holders of wastewater or stormwater discharge permits or holders of land-development permits.** There are no current discharges. Former mill site is being re-developed. DEP modeling indicates that new discharges at the actual discharge level that occurred between 2005 and 2009 at the mill site will support attainment of Class B standards.

5. **Provide water quality data, if available (including source of data), that documents the attainment status of the candidate waterbody relative to the designated uses and criteria of the proposed classification**.

6. **Provide a summary of known human activities in the watershed of the proposed re-classification that might jeopardize attainment of standards of the proposed classification, for example landuse altering activities, landfills, hazardous waste sites, wastewater discharges, etc**. No current discharges; former mill site is undergoing re-development.

Tunk Stream and tributaries, upstream of Route 1 (Steuben), Cherryfield and upstream towns - Upgrade to Class A



1. **Waterbody Name:** Tunk Stream and tributaries, upstream of Route 1 in Steuben.

2. **Location of proposed change in classification:** T10 SD, Sullivan, T7 SD BPP, Cherryfield.

3. **Write a brief statement that justifies why the waterbody should be considered for classification change.** Class A aquatic life criteria are attained on Tunk Stream. Forested watershed with extensive conservation land. Tributaries are expected to attain Class A standards. Tunk Stream and tributaries, below Route 1 in Steuben are Class A.

4. **State how the proposed change will affect other users of the waterbody, for example holders of wastewater or stormwater discharge permits or holders of land-development permits.** There are no discharges in the watershed and no land-development permits.

5. **Provide water quality data, if available (including source of data), that documents the attainment status of the candidate waterbody relative to the designated uses and criteria of the proposed classification.** DEP biological monitoring data are available that show attainment of aquatic life criteria on main stem.

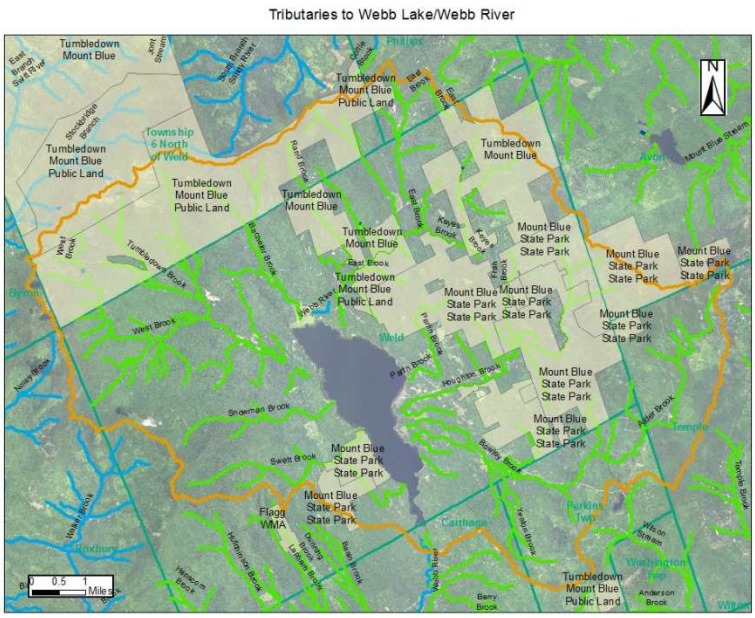
6. **Provide a summary of known human activities in the watershed of the proposed re-classification that might jeopardize attainment of standards of the proposed classification, for example landuse altering activities, landfills, hazardous waste sites, wastewater discharges, etc.** The watershed is largely undeveloped and no significant negative impacts exist.

Tributaries to Webb Lake/Webb River, Weld and surrounding towns - Upgrade to Class A

1. **Waterbody Name:** Tributaries to Webb Lake/Webb River.

2. **Location of proposed change in classification:** Weld, Township 6 North of Weld, Philips, Avon, Temple, Perkins TWP, Carthage and Roxbury.

3. **Write a brief statement that justifies why the waterbody should be considered for classification change.** Some tributaries attain Class A aquatic life criteria. The watershed is largely forested and there is extensive conservation land in watershed. Other tributaries are expected to attain Class A standards.

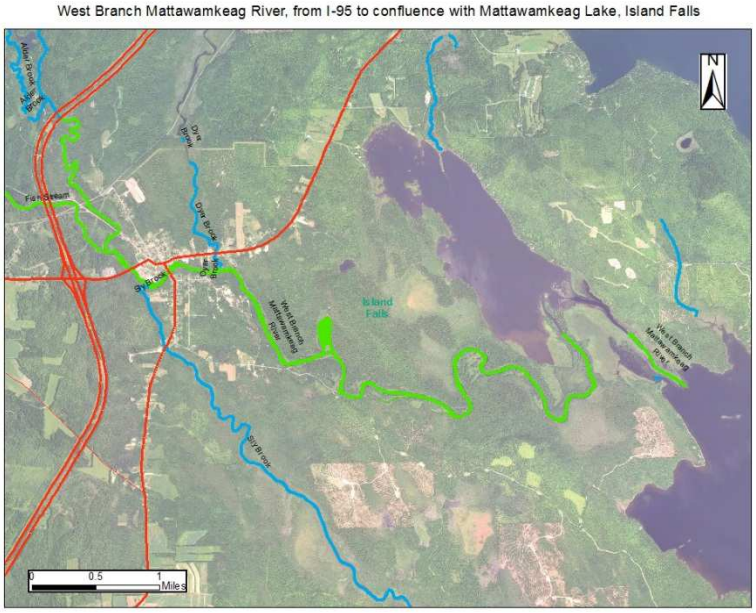


4. **State how the proposed change will affect other users of the waterbody, for example holders of wastewater or stormwater discharge permits or holders of land-development permits.** There are no discharges in the watershed and few land-development permits.

5. **Provide water quality data, if available (including source of data), that documents the attainment status of the candidate waterbody relative to the designated uses and criteria of the proposed classification.** DEP biological monitoring data are available that show attainment of aquatic life criteria.

6. **Provide a summary of known human activities in the watershed of the proposed re-classification that might jeopardize attainment of standards of the proposed classification, for example landuse altering activities, landfills, hazardous waste sites, wastewater discharges, etc.** The watershed is largely undeveloped and no significant negative impacts exist.

West Branch Mattawamkeag River, from I-95 to confluence with Mattawamkeag Lake, Island Falls - Upgrade to Class A



1. **Waterbody Name:** West Branch Mattawamkeag River.

2. **Location of proposed change in classification**: From I-95 to confluence with Mattawamkeag Lake, Island Falls.

3. **Write a brief statement that justifies why the waterbody should be considered for classification change.** This is the only Class B segment on the river, the remainder is default Class A. Almost all tributaries are Class A; exception is Fish Stream which is proposed for upgrade. Limited data indicating Class A attainment.

4. **State how the proposed change will affect other users of the waterbody, for example holders of wastewater or stormwater discharge permits or holders of land-development permits.** There is one permitted storm water discharge in the watershed and no land-development permit.

5. **Provide water quality data, if available (including source of data), that documents the attainment status of the candidate waterbody relative to the designated uses and criteria of the proposed classification.** Limited DEP data are available that show attainment of aquatic life criteria.

6. **Provide a summary of known human activities in the watershed of the proposed re-classification that might jeopardize attainment of standards of the proposed classification, for example landuse altering activities, landfills, hazardous waste sites, wastewater discharges, etc.** No known significant negative impacts exist.