



# Habitat Assessment

\* Recommended frequency – yearly, in the summer \*

\* Photographic documentation is recommended and strongly encouraged \*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

UTM or GPS Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Volunteers Involved: \_\_\_\_\_

Was the stream dry when it was monitored?  Yes  No

Stream Habitat Type (at transect – check one)

Riffle  Run  Pool

Streambed Substrate (along transect – estimate percentages)

- \_\_\_\_\_ % Bedrock – large sheets of stone.
- \_\_\_\_\_ % Boulder – stones larger than 10 inches in diameter
- \_\_\_\_\_ % Cobble – stones, diameter between 2.5 and 10 inches
- \_\_\_\_\_ % Gravel – 0.1 to 2 inch diameter
- \_\_\_\_\_ % Sand – smaller than 0.1 inches
- \_\_\_\_\_ % Mud/Silt – dirt or soil deposited on bottom of the stream
- \_\_\_\_\_ % Other – organic material like leaf litter, tree limbs, etc.

**100% TOTAL**

Microhabitats (check all present in stream reach)

- |                                       |   |  |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Algae Mats   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sand                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Undercut Banks          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Logjams      | <input type="checkbox"/> Junk (tires, garbage, etc.)    | <input type="checkbox"/> Rip Rap                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Root Wads    | <input type="checkbox"/> Leaf Packs                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Overhanging Vegetation  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fallen Trees | <input type="checkbox"/> Rocks                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Silt/Muck    | <input type="checkbox"/> Weed Beds (Aquatic Vegetation) |  |

Stream Banks (at transect – check all that apply)

**Left Bank (facing upstream)**

- Cut Bank – Eroding
- Cut Bank – Vegetated
- Sloping Bank
- Sand/Gravel Bar
- Rip/Rap
- Constructed Bank (i.e., drainage ditch)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Right Bank (facing upstream)**

- Cut Bank - Eroding
- Cut Bank – Vegetated
- Sloping Bank
- Sand/Gravel Bar
- Rip/Rap
- Constructed Bank (i.e., drainage ditch)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Canopy Cover** (over transect – check one)

- 0-25%     25-50%     50-75%     75-100%

**Riparian Zone Width** (at transect – check one for each bank)

**Left Bank** (facing upstream)

- 0-5 meters  
 5-25 meters  
 Over 25 meters

**Right Bank** (facing upstream)

- 0-5 meters  
 5-25 meters  
 Over 25 meters

**Riparian Zone Plant Cover** (at transect – estimate percentage of each)

**Left Bank** (facing upstream)

- \_\_\_\_\_ % Trees  
\_\_\_\_\_ % Shrubs/Low Trees  
\_\_\_\_\_ % Grass/Low Plants  
\_\_\_\_\_ % Exposed Soil  
\_\_\_\_\_ % Other (rip rap, concrete, etc.)

**100% TOTAL**

**Right Bank** (facing upstream)

- \_\_\_\_\_ % Trees  
\_\_\_\_\_ % Shrubs/Low Trees  
\_\_\_\_\_ % Grass/Low Plants  
\_\_\_\_\_ % Exposed Soil  
\_\_\_\_\_ % Other (rip rap, concrete, etc.)

**100% TOTAL**

**Adjacent Land Use** (along stream reach – check all that apply)

- Row Crop     Wetland     Boating Accesses     Rural Residential Areas  
 Pasture     Prairie     Nature Trails     Conservation Lands  
 Urban     Park     Fence     Animal Feeding Operations/Lots  
 Industrial     Playground     Steep Slopes     Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Timber     Campground     Stairs/Walkway

**Human Use Activities** (along stream reach – check all that apply)

Please check activities you've participated in or witnessed at this site.

- Swimming     Wind Surfing     Wading     Fishing  
 Tubing     Canoeing/Kayaking     Rafting     Kids Playing  
 Water Skiing     Boating     Hunting/Trapping     Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Evidence of Human Use** (along stream reach – check all that apply)

Please check evidence of human use you've witnessed at this site.

- Streamside Roads     Livestock Watering     Camping Sites     Evidence of Kid's Play  
 Footprints or Paths     ATV/ORV Tracks     Fire Pit/Ring     Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dock/Platform     Rope Swings     Fishing Tackle

**Is this stream Intermittent or Perennial?** (along stream reach- check one)

- Intermittent     Perennial

**Record all other land use practices that potentially could affect the stream.**

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