

Stream Walk Worksheet

Stream Name

County

State

Your Name

Monitoring Location (legal description – Township/Range/Section, longitude/latitude if known)

Date

Time

Attach photo or sketch your site:

Note features that affect stream habitat, such as riffles, runs, pools, ditches, wetlands, dams, riprap, outfalls, tributaries, landscape features, logging, paths and roads. Include an arrow showing which way the stream is flowing, and another arrow showing 'north.'

Weather in the past 24 hours:

- Storm (heavy rain)
- Rain (steady rain)
- Showers (intermittent rain)
- Overcast
- Clear/Sunny

Weather Now:

- Storm (heavy rain)
- Rain (steady rain)
- Showers (intermittent rain)
- Overcast
- Clear/Sunny

1. Water Appearance

- Clear
- Turbid
- Milky
- Foamy
- Other _____
- Dark Brown
- Oily Sheen
- Reddish
- Green

Notes _____

2. Water Odor

- None
- Sewage
- Chlorine
- Other _____
- Fishy
- Rotten Eggs
- Petroleum

Notes _____

3. Temperature

Air _____ °F °C
 Water _____ °F °C
 (circle temp. scale used)

(continued on back)

4. Submersed Aquatic Plants

Are there submersed aquatic plants?

Yes _____ No _____

Where? _____

Identify or describe them: _____

5. Riparian Vegetation

Looking upstream, describe the streamside cover.

a) Note vegetation on streambank only and check boxes if present (left column is for left-hand side of stream; right column is for right-hand side).

- | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| left | | right |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen trees | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hardwood trees | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bushes, shrubs | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tall grasses, ferns, etc. | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boulders/rocks | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gravel/sand | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bare soil | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pavement/structures | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

b) Note vegetation from the top of streambank back 66 feet.

- | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| left | | right |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evergreen trees | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hardwood trees | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bushes, shrubs | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tall grasses, ferns, etc. | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boulders/rocks | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gravel/sand | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bare soil | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pavement/structures | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural fields | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pasture | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

6. Canopy Cover

Pick the category that best describes how much vegetation shades the stream at your site.

- 0% 25% 75% 100%

Notes on vegetation: _____

7. Bottom Substrate

Record the materials that make up the stream bottom.

Bottom types:

- Bedrock
- Boulder (> 10 inches)
- Cobble (2.5 inches - 10 inches)
- Gravel (0.1 inches - 2.5 inches)
- Sand (<0.1 inches)
- Silt
- Other (include organics)

Notes on substrate: _____

8. Stream Discharge Estimate

Stream width: _____ feet
(a)

Depth measurements:

- _____ ft.
- _____ ft.
- _____ ft.
- _____ ft.
- _____ ft.

_____ total / 5 = _____ avg. depth
(b)

Velocity: Time (per 10 ft)

- _____ sec.
- _____ sec.
- _____ sec.

_____ total

divide total by number of trials

_____ / 3 = _____ secs. (avg.)

Velocity = foot/second

10 ft. / _____ sec. (avg. time)

= ft./sec.
(c)

Discharge: (width x depth x velocity)

_____ feet x _____ feet x _____ ft./sec. =
(a) (b) (c)

= ft³/sec.

9. Watershed Features

(within about 1/4 mile of the site - upstream)

Adjacent land used can impact the stream. Check "1" if present, "2" if clearly having an impact on the stream:

1 2 Residential

- single-family housing (dense)
- single-family housing (> 1 acre lots)
- multifamily housing
- lawns
- commercial/institutional

1 2 Roads, etc.

- paved roads, parking lots, bridges
- unpaved roads

1 2 Construction underway on:

- housing development
- commercial development
- road or bridge building/repair

1 2 Agricultural

- grazing land (pastures)
- feeding lots, animal holding areas
- cropland (type?)
- inactive agricultural land

1 2 Recreation

- golfing
- camping
- swimming/fishing/canoeing
- hunting land/natural

1 2 Other

- mining
- logging
- industry
- sanitary landfill
- sewage treatment plant
- dams

10. Channel Alteration

Has the stream been channelized?

Yes _____ No _____

WAV materials revised
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