Standard Operating Procedure

Methods for Assessing Habitat in Wadeable Streams

Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet Department for Environmental Protection Division of Water

Version 3.0

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| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|--------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 2 of 33 |

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| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|--------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 3 of 33 |

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| 1.0 SCOPE & APPLICABILITY |
|---|
| 2.0 SUMMARY OF METHOD |
| 3.0 DEFINITIONS & ACRONYMS 4 |
| 4.0 HEALTH & SAFETY STATEMENT5 |
| 5.0 CAUTIONS & INTERFERENCES |
| 6.0 PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS |
| 7.0 EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES |
| 8.0 STEP-BY-STEP PROCEDURE 6 |
| 8.1 Sampling Considerations |
| 8.1.1 Index Period6 |
| 8.1.2 High vs. Low Gradient Streams7 |
| 8.2 Filling out a Habitat Assessment Datasheet9 |
| 8.2.1 Station Visit Information9 |
| 8.2.2 Station Point Verification10 |
| 8.2.3 Weather |
| 8.2.4 Stream Shading11 |
| 8.2.5 Stream Flow11 |
| 8.2.6 Instream Features12 |
| 8.2.7 Riffle/Run/Pool or Run/Pool Sequence12 |
| 8.2.8 Local Watershed Features13 |
| 8.2.9 Current Channel Alterations13 |
| 8.2.10 Riparian Vegetation13 |
| 8.2.11 Hydraulic Structures13 |
| 8.2.12 Field Meter Data13 |
| 8.2.13 Field Activities14 |
| 8.2.14 Substrate Characterization14 |
| 8.2.15 Reach Location Description14 |
| 8.2.16 Assessment Procedures15 |
| 8.2.17 General and Sediment Notes 25 |
| 8.3 Habitat Rating Development25 |
| 8.4 Photo documentation |
| 9.0 DATA & RECORDS MANAGEMENT 27 |
| 10.0 QUALITY CONTROL & QUALITY ASSURANCE |
| 11.0 REFERENCES |
| Appendix A. High Gradient Habitat Assessment Datasheet |
| Appendix B. Low Gradient Habitat Assessment Datasheet. Error! Bookmark not defined. |

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|--------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 4 of 33 |

1.0 SCOPE & APPLICABILITY

This manual has been developed by the Kentucky Division of Water (DOW) as guidance for the uniform and accurate evaluation of habitat parameters present in wadeable streams of Kentucky. The methods defined herein are required for all habitat assessment procedures and quality assurance (QA)/quality control (QC) activities resulting in information that could be used for water quality assessments.

2.0 SUMMARY OF METHOD

Habitat condition is critical to understanding and assessing stream health. This procedure outlines the methods used by DOW to evaluate the habitat available for aquatic life within Kentucky's wadeable streams and the riparian habitat surrounding those streams. The procedure described herein is based on the historical methods used by the Water Quality Branch (WQB) (DOW 2008), as well as general methods recommended in the manual *Rapid Bioassessment Protocols for Use in Streams and Wadeable Rivers* (Barbour et al. 1999). The procedure is commonly referred to as the RBP method.

3.0 DEFINITIONS & ACRONYMS

DOW – Kentucky Division of Water
GNIS – Geographic Names Information System
K-WADE – Kentucky Water Assessment Data for Environmental Monitoring
QA – Quality Assurance
QC – Quality Control
RBP – Rapid Bioassessment Protocols
SOP – Standard Operating Procedure
WQB – Water Quality Branch

Bioregions of Kentucky:

BG – Bluegrass Bioregion
 MT – Mountain Bioregion
 MVIR – Mississippi Valley-Interior River Bioregion
 PR – Pennyroyal Bioregion

Pool – An area of a stream characterized by deep (usually > 0.5 m), slow velocity and a variety of substrate types. Because of slower velocities, sediment deposition can occur over pool substrate. Pools may have a higher diversity of permanent microhabitat types.

Riffle – An area of a stream with an observable decrease in gradient characterized by shallow (<0.5 m), fast velocity and stable, layered rock substrate. The surfaces of some substrate may be exposed above the waterline.

Run – An area of a stream characterized by deep (usually > 0.5 m), fast velocity and a variety of substrate types. Runs are commonly found below riffles. In low gradient streams, runs (also called glides) are the dominant habitat where velocity is faster than the surrounding habitats. **Thalweg** – The deepest part of a stream channel, whether underwater or not.

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|--------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 5 of 33 |

4.0 HEALTH & SAFETY STATEMENT

All field staff should review and follow *Worksite Hazard Assessment Guidance Document* (DOW, 2025). In addition, each employee will be individually trained by their supervisor, or designee, to perform assigned job tasks safely, prior to performing the task.

Field staff working in and around potentially contaminated surface waters should receive immunization for Hepatitis A (KDEP Policy SSE-708), Hepatitis B, and tetanus to aid in the prevention of contracting those pathogens. All field staff should also be trained in CPR, First Aid, and Bloodborne Pathogens (KDEP Policy SSE 711; 29 CFR 1910.151 and 29 CFR 1910.1030). Pertinent field staff allergies, such as bee stings, shall be identified before the sampling trip. Members of a field crew should familiarize themselves with the nearest hospital, doctor's office, or urgent medical care provider prior to leaving for site visit.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) should be used when sampling. This includes but is not limited to site-appropriate wading boots, personal flotation device, and weather appropriate clothing.

5.0 CAUTIONS & INTERFERENCES

Habitat assessment should be performed during base flow conditions and in the appropriate index period (see Section 8.1). If very low/no flow, high flow, or flooding conditions are present, data collection should be postponed. If a scouring rain event has occurred in the last 14 days, data collection may need to be postponed, depending on project objectives (scouring event is defined in Section 8.2.3). When habitat assessments are conducted in conjunction with biological sample collection (e.g. fish, macroinvertebrates, or algae) it is typical to postpone the full data collection event to allow for re-colonization of the target fauna. If habitat assessments are performed independently, postponement may still be appropriate if riparian or instream habitat has been significantly altered from its typical conditions and is no longer considered representative.

Data sheets are specific to stream gradient. The appropriate data sheet must be used to evaluate high versus low gradient streams. Stream gradient categories are defined in Section 8.1.2.

Failure to collect data during the appropriate season, under the appropriate conditions, and using the appropriate method may invalidate the data and make it unusable for biological assessment. If a potential monitoring reach has backwater from a lake, dam, or large river, this reach should not be used for biological or habitat assessment. The investigators are responsible for the quality and integrity of the data. Data must be accurate so that valid assessments can be made later. At least two trained biologists should perform a collaborative habitat assessment to reduce individual bias.

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|--------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 6 of 33 |

6.0 PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS

All personnel involved in habitat assessment will meet at least the minimum qualifications for their job classification. Field biologists must have basic knowledge of aquatic organisms and their habitats. In addition, biologists must have knowledge of stream geomorphology and stream physical processes. All field biologists will receive formal training in this procedure and training will continue on-the-job through interaction with experienced field personnel.

7.0 EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

The following list of supplies are needed to complete this habitat assessment.

- High or Low Gradient Stream Datasheet (Appendices A and B)
- Waterproof pen, permanent marker, or pencil
- Range finder and/or measuring tape and flagging
- GPS unit

8.0 STEP-BY-STEP PROCEDURE

A habitat assessment should be conducted at every sampling reach where bioassessments are conducted. Such assessments will allow investigators to evaluate the quality of instream and riparian habitat, and the availability of quality habitat directly influences the biological integrity of the stream reach. Information obtained from the habitat assessment can be used to supplement biological and physicochemical data when determining the overall health of the stream reach and designated use attainment for 305(b) reporting.

Additionally, habitat assessments can be used to document physical changes that occur at a sampling reach over time. Habitat assessments provide continuity and consistency between all entities involved in multi-agency monitoring efforts. Habitat assessment procedures described herein follow those outlined in *Rapid Bioassessment Protocols for Use in Streams and Wadeable Rivers* (Barbour et al. 1999).

8.1 Sampling Considerations

Before sampling begins, the appropriate index period and method must be determined. Also, habitat should not be assessed during periods of excessively high or low flows or within two weeks of a known scouring flow event (see Section 8.2.3).

8.1.1 Index Period

Habitat assessment within the designated index periods is critical for accurate evaluation of wadeable streams. Index periods for streams, based on their drainage area, are:

- Headwater streams (<5mi² drainage area) March 1st to May 31st
- Wadeable streams (>5mi² drainage area) May 1st to September 30th

In some cases, assessment outside these index periods is permissible to determine immediate impacts (e.g. chemical spills, leaks, etc.). For routine assessments or baseline data collection, data collected outside of these index periods are considered unacceptable.

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|--------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 7 of 33 |

8.1.2 High vs. Low Gradient Streams

Streams in Kentucky are characterized as high gradient or low gradient streams. This stream classification is based on flow and presence or absence of particular types of habitat. The metrics assessed for each gradient type differ and are reflected on separate datasheets (Appendices A and B). A determination of the stream reach gradient must be made prior to performing a habitat assessment. The following guidelines should be used when determining stream gradient.

High gradient

High gradient streams are defined as streams that have velocities greater than 0.013m/sec (0.5ft/sec), exhibit rapid changes in stream gradient, and have a high frequency of riffle habitat. These streams are found in the Mountain (MT), Bluegrass (BG), and Pennyroyal (PR) Bioregions of Kentucky and any transition areas between those bioregions (Figure 1).

If a high gradient stream has minimal or completely lacks natural riffle habitat and falls within a high gradient bioregion, biologists are to complete a High Gradient Habitat Assessment Datasheet and provide comments as to why riffle habitat was lacking (e.g. reach dominated by bedrock). If biological sampling occurs, additional notes should be taken describing the habitat that was sampled in lieu of true riffles (e.g. shallow, fast-moving glide with obvious change in slope). Parameter 7a should be scored to reflect the absence of true riffles when a stream reach completely lacks natural riffle habitat. Non-riffle habitat that is targeted for biological sampling should not be substituted as true riffle habitat when determining a score for Parameter 7a.

Low gradient

Low gradient streams are defined as streams that have velocities less than 0.013m/sec (0.5ft/sec) and naturally lack riffle habitat. These streams are found in the Mississippi Valley-Interior River (MVIR) Bioregion (Figure 1). The Low Gradient Habitat Assessment Datasheet must be used in streams that fall completely within the MVIR.

Streams lying within the transition area between the PR and MVIR bioregions may be difficult to classify as high gradient or low gradient (Figure 1, Inset 2). Assessors should use best professional judgment and the following guidelines to determine gradient within the PR/MVIR transition area:

• If stream gradient is not obvious, assessors should walk the sampling reach, make notes, and take photographs of shallow, fast areas of the stream and determine if these macrohabitats are composed of stable riffles with prominent cobble and/or boulder substrate (which would indicate high gradient).

Historical sampling information may also provide assistance in making gradient determinations. If a station has been classified as high or low gradient in the past, the classification should carry forward in future assessments.

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|--------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 8 of 33 |

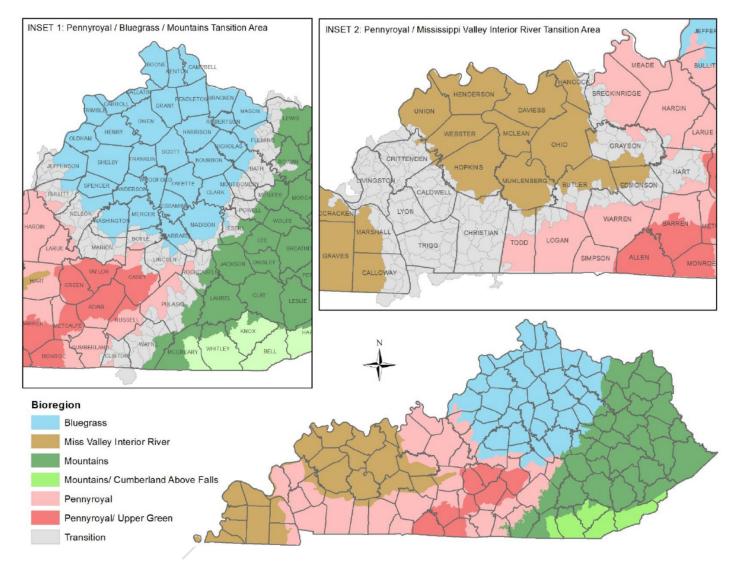


Figure 1. Bioregions of Kentucky and the transition areas between the bioregions. Pennyroyal/Bluegrass/Mountains Transition Areas require consideration of a secondary bioregion in station documentation (see Inset 1 and Section 8.2.1 Bioregion). Pennyroyal/Mississippi Valley Interior River Transition Areas require consideration of data collection methods (see Inset 2 and Section 8.1.2 High vs. Low Gradient Streams) and consideration of a secondary bioregion in station documentation (see Section 8.2.1 Bioregion).

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|--------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 9 of 33 |

8.2 Filling out a Habitat Assessment Datasheet

The following sections explain how to complete each individual portion of the habitat assessment datasheet in high gradient and low gradient streams. If any of the observations on this sheet are insufficient to capture conditions at the station, provide additional descriptive notes and photos to supplement the data.

8.2.1 Station Visit Information

The header information is identical on all sheets and requires sufficient information to identify the timing and location of data collection. The K-WADE (Kentucky Water Assessment Data for Environmental Monitoring) database should be referenced to provide station identification, locale, location description, and project/trip name. The following information should be filled out completely:

- Station Identification
- Locale (GNIS stream name)
- Location Description
- County
- Date and time (start and finish) of assessment (time in 24-hour format)
- Name(s) of the investigator(s) (include designated Activity Lead and all Field Technicians)
- Project and Trip associated with the sampling event

Additional details such as primary and secondary bioregion (if applicable; see Figure 1 and *Bioregion* subsection below), stream permanence (ephemeral, intermittent, and perennial; see *Stream Permanence* subsection below), and stream type (headwater or wadeable; see section 8.1.1) are also found in this section.

Stream Permanence

Note if the stream is perennial, ephemeral, or intermittent. Biological communities inhabiting ephemeral or intermittent streams are markedly different from communities in perennial streams due to unstable water flows. Those communities present in ephemeral and intermittent streams may consist of more tolerant organisms. The following definitions apply to these terms:

- **Ephemeral Stream** has flowing water only during, and for a short duration after, precipitation events in a typical year.
- Intermittent Stream has flowing water during certain times of the year, when groundwater provides water for stream flow. During dry periods, intermittent streams may not have flowing water.
- **Perennial Stream** has flowing water year-round during a typical year.

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 10 of 33 |

Bioregion

The biological communities found in the Commonwealth's four bioregions are distinct and varied. A station should be assigned to at least one primary bioregion using the methodology outlined in the *K-WADE Station Creation* SOP (DOW 2024). For all stations within the bounds of the transition area (Figure 1), the K-WADE station should have both a primary and secondary bioregion assigned. The primary bioregion is the bioregion in which the station is located according to the latitude and longitude coordinates. When a station is located within the bounds of a transition area, the neighboring bioregion is considered the secondary bioregion. If needed, a GIS layer of bioregions and transition areas can be provided by DOW, upon request.

8.2.2 Station Point Verification

For first-time station visits where station locations are determined using GPS coordinates and mapping software such as ArcGIS or Google Earth, verification of the station coordinates is required. This is achieved utilizing a series of datasheet elements.

- 1) **K-WADE Target Point**: The target latitude and longitude of the station are listed on the datasheet in advance; these are the GPS coordinates derived from mapping software.
- 2) **Field GPS Location**: Field staff navigate to station with the assistance of a handheld GPS unit. Once on site, the latitude and longitude on the handheld unit are recorded as the Field GPS Location, along with details on the satellite accuracy.
 - If the listed coordinates do not get staff to the stream or area of interest (or, in rare cases, a sampling location is shifted based on criteria outlined in applicable PMPs or PSPs) staff will continue to navigate until they reach the intended area for sampling before recording the Field GPS Location.
 - Nav. to Target Point Within GPS Error? Check the GPS satellite error and mark if the field station location is within that error when compared to the K-WADE Target Point (expected location in the stream channel).
 - **Target on Correct Stream?** If, after navigating to the K-WADE Target Point, the wrong stream is identified and the station must be moved or not sampled, mark 'N', otherwise, mark 'Y'. If 'N', add notes to the datasheet describing the error.
 - **Field GPS Error**: Record the GPS satellite error for the Field GPS location.
- 3) **GPS Final:** Finally, the field staff determines which set of coordinates is most accurate and annotates it in the appropriate section on the datasheet (circle 'K-WADE' if coordinates from '1)' are used, and circle 'Field' if coordinates from '2)' are used).
 - **K-WADE Station Update**: If the field GPS coordinates are used to identify a sampling location, the project lead will update the K-WADE station accordingly to reflect the correct coordinates.

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 11 of 33 |

8.2.3 Weather

Note the present weather conditions on the day of the survey and those immediately preceding the day of the survey. This information is important when interpreting the effects of hydrologic events on sampling efforts. Weather abbreviations are as follows:

| HR = heavy rain | CS = clear, sunny |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| SR = steady rain | CO = cloudy, overcast |
| IS = intermittent showers | SSH = snow, sleet, hail |

Additionally, note if there has been a scouring rain event within the last 14 days. Determination of a scouring event is based upon the biologist's best professional judgment but is typically considered if 2 inches of rain or more falls within a watershed in a 24-hour period. In addition, observations of recent high water such as signs that the stream has recently exceeded its banks, obvious removal of filamentous algae, signs of recently shifted substrate, new bank scarring, turbid waters, or a lack of macroinvertebrates on large instream rocks should be used in making this decision (see Section 5.0 for more information on the implications of this observation).

8.2.4 Stream Shading

An exposed stream often exhibits increased water temperatures that may be directly or indirectly limiting to some organisms and may be favorable for nuisance algal blooms and decreased dissolved oxygen. Light intensity may be limiting to some organisms and favorable to others. A partially shaded stream generally contains the highest species diversity. In wadeable streams, sufficient shade to maintain temperatures and habitats that will support indigenous organisms is generally created by a 50% to 75% tree canopy. Natural headwater streams should generally have 75% to 100% tree canopy.

Visually assess the overhead canopy cover throughout the stream reach and estimate the canopy shading as full (canopy provides fully effective shading of stream reach), partial (canopy is present and provides some shading to stream reach), or none (there is no canopy to provide effective shading of the stream reach).

Note if tree canopy is 'leafed out' by circling 'Y' for yes, or 'N' for no. The emergence of leaves occurs over a period of days and weeks and varies by species and location. Use best professional judgement to determine if the canopy is 'leafed out' by considering its functionality as a shade for the underlying stream and riparian habitat.

While not used for assessing stream shading, if shading is provided by a non-vegetative source such as a building or natural feature, and therefore the above observations do not accurately represent conditions at the station, make note of this on the datasheet.

8.2.5 Stream Flow

Indicating the level of stream flow (dry, pooled, low, high, seasonal normal) is important because it can influence biological communities and water quality (e.g. low or pooled flow can

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 12 of 33 |

increase chemical parameters in water chemistry samples). Additionally, this information can be used to verify if the data can be used in assessment (e.g. macroinvertebrate samples collected during a high flow event would not be used for assessment purposes because sampling efficiency is lowered).

8.2.6 Instream Features

Instream features are measured or estimated within the sampling reach.

Stream Width

Stream width is measured as the average wetted width, estimated visually, or using a measuring device. Wetted width is the distance from the edge of the water on one side of the main channel to the edge of the water on the opposite side of the main channel. Visually estimate or measure the wetted width of a representative sample of pool, riffle, and run habitat, and average the results.

Maximum Stream Depth

Maximum stream depth is measured as the vertical distance from water surface to stream bottom at its maximum or deepest spot within the sampling reach. Maximum stream depth should be measured with some type of measuring device (i.e. carpenters' rule or marked net handle) when possible. If a measuring device is not available, maximum stream depth can be estimated.

Sampling Reach Length

When conducting habitat assessments in conjunction with biological sampling, establish the reach length according to biological methods and project objectives before sample collection begins. The habitat assessment reach should coincide with the established biological reach length. When assessing habitat without collecting biological samples, visual observations must be conducted along 100 meters of stream to adequately assess habitat integrity. Unique habitat features may warrant extending the habitat assessment reach beyond 100 meters, but it should not be extended beyond 300 meters in length. If for some reason a sampling reach is not between 100 and 300 meters in length, the reasons for this excursion should be documented on the field assessment form. Reach length may be visually estimated or measured using a range finder or other measurement device.

8.2.7 Riffle/Run/Pool or Run/Pool Sequence

The riffle/run/pool sequence is measured as the number of each macrohabitat type present within the reach. If a sample reach lacks true riffles, 'riffle' should be recorded as "0". Non-riffle habitat that is targeted for biological sampling should not be considered when making this observation.

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 13 of 33 |

8.2.8 Local Watershed Features

Document the prevalent land-use type in the watershed of the sampling station (noting any other land uses in the area, which although not predominant, may potentially affect water quality). These land uses could potentially impact biological communities and water chemistry results. Use GIS, if needed, to accurately document land use within the entire catchment area.

8.2.9 Current Channel Alterations

Note if any current or recent dredging or channel alterations are present (i.e. straightening of stream channel, bridge construction, artificial bank stabilization). These types of alterations often decrease instream habitat and directly influence the presence or absence of biological communities. If current or recent activities are present, include notes and photos.

8.2.10 Riparian Vegetation

Due to its stabilizing effects as well as its ability to influence water temperatures, a riparian zone of 18 meters or more is preferred. Indicate the dominant vegetation type (trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, and grasses) in the riparian zone (choose more than one if appropriate). In addition, the number of canopy strata present in the riparian zone should be counted as it is an indication of riparian age and quality (e.g. overstory, understory, shrub, herbaceous layer). Dominant riparian species are noted in the provided space.

8.2.11 Hydraulic Structures

Note the presence of hydraulic structures such as dams, bridge abutments, fords, islands, waterfalls, and berms within or nearby the sampling reach (for dams consider any known structures in the watershed). These structures often form barriers that restrict movement of organisms, which could result in the lowering of assessment scores.

- **Dams** a barrier constructed to hold back water and raise its level. Note the presence of dams anywhere upstream or downstream of the sampling reach that may impact the water quality of the sampling reach or the movement of aquatic organisms.
- Abutments a structure built to support the end of a bridge or dam.
- Fords a shallow place in a river or stream used for vehicle crossings.
- **Islands** an area within the stream channel where dry land (including exposed substrate) is bounded on all sides by water.
- **Waterfalls** a cascade of water falling from a height, formed with a river or stream flows over a precipice or steep incline.
- **Berms** an artificial ridge or raised bank bordering a river.

8.2.12 Field Meter Data

Measure and record values for each of the water quality parameters indicated (temperature (°C), dissolved oxygen (mg/L and % saturation), pH, and specific conductance) using the appropriate calibrated water quality instrument(s) and following standard operating procedures (SOP) (DOW 2018, or current revision). Note the instrument ID and calibration information in the "Field Activities, Multi-Probe" section.

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 14 of 33 |

If collecting discharge data, measure and record stream discharge and percent uncertainty using the *Measuring Stream Discharge SOP* (DOW 2020). Note the instrument ID and beam check information in the "Field Activities, Discharge" section.

8.2.13 Field Activities

Note the types of samples collected during the station visit. Each biological community has a corresponding sampling protocol indicating how and what types of samples are to be collected. Where applicable, indicate the numbers of samples collected and if duplicate samples were collected. Indicate the lead collector(s) for each sample collection.

8.2.14 Substrate Characterization

In general, variations in particle size and type are reflected in flowing bodies of water by gradation of habitat types from stream headwaters to mouth. Each longitudinal gradation in substrate type harbors a characteristic biotic community. The absence of characteristic community members in the presence of a favorable substrate type can be a useful indication of stream disturbance.

For estimates of substrate size, the pool, riffle, and run habitats are visually surveyed by each field crew member to estimate the substrate by percent particle size. Results are expressed as percent of total and determined by consensus within the field crew. Sample particle sizes are listed in Table 1 to provide a fixed concept of category size. Sizes are applicable to the intermediate dimension of the particle (i.e. a rock that is flat (e.g. 0.5 inches) but wide and long (e.g. 7 inches by 11 inches), should be classified as "cobble" based on its intermediate dimension of 7 inches). Results are recorded on the habitat assessment datasheet. In addition, the estimated percent of riffle, run, and pool habitat within the sampling reach are recorded. If one or more of these habitats is missing, it is acceptable to record 0% for estimated percent. Consequently, substrate size estimates should not be recorded for missing habitats.

| Tuble 11 Subst | ate particle size ci | art |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Categories | Size (mm) | Size (inches) |
| Silt/Clay | < 0.06 mm | < 0.002 in |
| Sand | 0.06 – 2 mm | 0.002 – 0.08 in |
| Gravel | 2 – 64 mm | 0.08 – 2.5 in |
| Cobble | 64 – 256 mm | 2.5 – 10 in |
| Boulders | > 256 mm | > 10 in |

Table 1. Substrate particle size chart

8.2.15 Reach Location Description

A description of the reach of stream that was sampled during this station visit. Use permanent features where possible to identify the upper and lower limits of the sampling reach. If available, map tools such as GPS topographic maps or aerial view map applications can be used to better identify and describe sampling reach boundaries.

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 15 of 33 |

8.2.16 Assessment Procedures

The habitat assessment is conducted following biological and water chemistry sampling so that the entire stream reach is observed during the collection of biological samples. The habitat assessment should be conducted in collaboration by all biologists present, who deliberate and reach a consensus on how each parameter is scored.

The visual based habitat evaluation consists of ten parameters that rank instream habitat, channel morphology, bank stability, and riparian vegetation for each sampling reach. A numeric scale of 0 (lowest) to 20 (highest) is used to rank each parameter (Barbour et al. 1999). For each parameter, the investigators will determine which of the following conditions exist at the sampling reach: Optimal, Suboptimal, Marginal, or Poor. A parameter score will then be given within the condition category chosen above: Optimal (20-16), Suboptimal (15-11), Marginal (10-6) or Poor (5-0). The investigators will total all parameter ratings to obtain a final habitat ranking (Barbour et al. 1999).

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 16 of 33 |

Habitat Assessment Parameters

These parameters should be evaluated within the sampling reach. All areas within the reach should be evaluated together as a composite.

1 Epifaunal Substrate/Available Cover (High and Low Gradient Sheets)

This metric describes the relative quantity and variety of natural structures in the stream, such as cobble, boulders, fallen trees, logs, branches, root mats, undercut banks, aquatic vegetation, etc., that provide refugia, feeding opportunities, and sites for spawning and nursery functions for aquatic macrofauna. Riffles and runs are critical for maintaining a variety and abundance of insects by offering a diversity of habitat through variety of particle size, and, in many small high gradient streams, will provide the most stable habitat. Snags and submerged logs are among the most productive habitat structure for macroinvertebrate colonization and fish refugia in low gradient streams. However, "new fall" will not yet be suitable for colonization. Assessment is a composite of the entire biological sampling reach. Areas with bedrock or sand/fines alone will not be considered stable habitat.

High Gradient:

| Habitat | | Condition Category | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Parameter | Optimal | Suboptimal | Marginal | Poor | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SCORE | 20 19 18 17 16 | 15 14 13 12 11 | 10 9 8 7 6 | 5 4 3 2 1 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.Epifaunal Substrate/ Available Cover Score | Greater than 70% of substrate favorable for epifaunal colonization and fish cover; mix of snags, submerged logs, undercut banks, cobble or other stable habitat and at stage to allow full colonization potential (i.e., logs/snags that are <u>not</u> new fall and <u>not</u> transient). | 40-70% mix of stable habitat; well-suited for full colonization potential; adequate habitat for maintenance of populations; presence of additional substrate in the form of new fall, but not yet prepared for colonization (may rate at high end of scale). | 20-40% mix of stable habitat; habitat availability less than desirable; substrate frequently disturbed or removed. | Less than 20% stable habitat; lack of habitat is obvious; substrate unstable or lacking. | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Low Gradient:

| Habitat | | Condition Category | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|-----------------------------|--------|--------|-------|------|---|--|--|
| Parameter | | C | Optim | al | | Suboptimal | | | | | | | Mar | gina | ıl | | | Poor | | | | | | |
| SCORE | 20 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 1 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | | |
| 11.Epifau nal Substra te/ Availab le Cover Score | favorable colonizati of snags, undercu stable ha allow ful | e for tion a , subr t ban abitat Il colo s/sna | epifar and fis merge ks, co t and onizat gs tha | unal sh cov ed log obble at sta ion po | ver; mix s, pr other ge to | 30-50% well-suit potentia mainten presence in the fo yet prep (may rat | ed for ance of a rm of ared f | r full o quate of pop dditio newf for co | coloni e habi oulatio nal su all, bu loniza | zation tat for ons; Ibstrate It not Ition | 10-30 habita desira distur | at ava able; s | ilabil ubst | ity le rate | ess tl freq | | Less ti lack o substr | f habi | tat is | obvio | ous; | | | |

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 17 of 33 |

2a Embeddedness (High Gradient Sheet)

The extent to which base substrate (gravel, cobble, boulders, and bedrock/hardpan clay) and snags are covered or sunken into the silt, sand, or mud of the stream bottom. Generally, as rocks become embedded, the surface area available to macroinvertebrates and fish (for shelter, spawning, and egg incubation) is decreased. Embeddedness is a result of large-scale sediment movement and deposition, and is a parameter evaluated in the riffles and runs of high gradient streams. The rating of this parameter may be variable depending on where the observations are taken. To avoid confusion with sediment deposition (another habitat parameter), observations of embeddedness should be taken in the upstream and central portions of riffles and cobble substrate areas. Ideally, a total of 10 riffle rocks from 2 separate riffles will be examined to determine embeddedness. It is appropriate to evaluate only one riffle in streams where riffles are scarce.

| Habitat | | Condition Category | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|----|------|-------------------------------|-------|-------------------|---|---|------|----------------------------|-------|--------|-------|----|
| Parameter | | | | | | M | argin | al | | Poor | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SCORE | 20 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 2.Embeddedness Score | Gravel, bedrock surroun Layerin diversit | k are Ided I g of c | 0-259 by fin obble | 6 e sed e prov | iment. ides | Gravel, bedroc surrou | k are | 25-50 |)% | | Gravel, bedrock surroun | are 5 | <u>.</u> 50-75 | % | - | bedr | el, col ock ai ounde | re mo | ore th | an 75 | 5% |

High Gradient:

2b Pool Substrate Characterization (Low Gradient Sheet)

This metric evaluates the type and condition of bottom substrates found in pools of low gradient streams. Firmer sediment types (e.g. gravel and sand) and rooted aquatic plants support a wider variety of organisms than a pool substrate dominated by mud or bedrock and no plants. In addition, a stream that has a uniform substrate in its pools will support far fewer types of organisms than a stream that has a variety of substrate types.

| Habitat | | | | | | | | | Co | nditior | n Catego | ory | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|----|----|----|---------|---|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| Parameter | Optimal | | | | | | | | | Poor | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SCORE | 20 19 18 17 16 | | | | | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | |
| 2. Pool Substrate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Characterization | Mixture of substrate materials, with gravel and firm sand prevalent; root mats and submerged vegetation common. | | | | | Mixture of soft sand, mud, or clay; mud may be dominant; some root mats and submerged vegetation present. | | | | | All mud or clay or sand bottom; little or no root mat; no submerged vegetation. | | | | | | Hard-pan clay or bedrock; no root mat or vegetation. | | | | | | |
| Score | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Low Gradient:

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 18 of 33 |

3a Velocity/Depth Regime (High Gradient Sheet)

The highest scoring streams in most high gradient regions will have all the following patterns of velocity and depth: 1) slow-deep, 2) slow-shallow, 3) fast-deep, and 4) fast-shallow. The occurrence of these 4 patterns relates to the stream's ability to provide and maintain a stable aquatic environment. Investigators may have to scale deep and shallow depending upon the stream size; a general guideline is:

*Headwater streams (<5 mi2): Deep = > 0.5 m

*Wadeable streams (>5 mi2): Deep = >1 m

*Fast = surface of the water broken with turbulence (>0.3 m/sec)

*Shallow areas adjacent to the thalweg in headwater streams will be considered as slowshallow.

| Habitat | | Condition Category | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------|--|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|--|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|---------------------|--------|---|---|---|---|
| Parameter | | C | ptim | al | | | Suboptimal | | | | | argin | al | | | Poor | | | | | |
| SCORE | 20 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 3.Velocity/ Depth Regime Score | All four regime slow-sh shallow deep is | s pres nallow /). (Sl | sent (v, fast low is | slow- -deep | o, fast- | Only 3 presen missing missing | t (if fa g, sco | ast-sh re low | allow /er th | is an if | Only 2 o regimes shallow missing, | pres or slo | ent (i ow-sh | f fast allov | | Dom dept deep | h regi | | | | |

High Gradient:

3b Pool Variability (Low Gradient Sheet)

This metric rates the overall mixture of pool types found in low gradient streams according to size and depth. The four basic types of pools are large-shallow, large-deep, small-shallow, and small-deep. A stream with many pool types will support a wide variety of aquatic species. Rivers with low sinuosity (few bends) and monotonous pool characteristics do not have sufficient quantities and types of habitat to support a diverse aquatic community. General guidelines are any pool dimension (i.e. length, width, oblique) greater than half the cross-section of the stream for separating large from small and 1 meter depth separating shallow and deep.

| | | | | | | | | | 0.1 | uuicii | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------|----|----|----------------------|----|----|--------|--------|--|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---------------|------|---|---|--------|-------|--|
| Habitat | | Condition Category | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Parameter | Optimal | | | | | Suboptimal | | | | | | Marginal | | | | | | Poor | | | | | |
| SCORE | 20 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | |
| 3. Pool Variability Score | Even mix deep, sm pools pro | nall-sl | hallov | | | Majority very few | | | arge-o | leep; | | Shallow p prevalent | | | | | Majo or po | | | | all-sh | allow | |

Low Gradient:

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 19 of 33 |

4 Sediment Deposition (High and Low Gradient Sheets)

This metric estimates the amount of sediment that has accumulated in pools and changes that have occurred to the stream bottom as a result of deposition. Deposition occurs from largescale movement of sediment. This may cause formation of islands, point bars (areas of increased deposition usually at the beginning of a meander that increases in size as the channel is diverted toward the outer bank), or shoals or result in the filling of runs and pools. Sediment is often found in areas that are obstructed and areas where the stream flow decreases, such as bends. Deposition is a symptom of an unstable and continually changing environment that becomes unsuitable for many organisms.

For this parameter, determine the percent of bottom that is being affected by sediment deposition for the entire sampling reach (examine bars/shoals and pool substrates). Use this percentage to categorize the reach as optimal, suboptimal, marginal, or poor.

| Habitat | | Condition Category | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Parameter | Optimal | Suboptimal | Marginal | Poor | | | | | | | | | | |
| SCORE | 20 19 18 17 16 | 15 14 13 12 11 | 10 9 8 7 6 | 5 4 3 2 1 0 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. Sediment Deposition Score | Little or no enlargement of islands or point bars and less than 5% (<20% for low gradient streams) of the bottom affected by sediment deposition. | Some new increase in bar formation, mostly from gravel, sand or fine sediment; 5-30% (20-50% for low gradient) of the bottom affected; slight deposition in pools. | Moderate deposition of new gravel, sand or fine sediment on old and new bars; 30-50% (50-80% for low gradient) of the bottom affected; sediment deposits at obstructions, constrictions, and bends; moderate deposition of pools prevalent. | Heavy deposits of fine material, increased bar development; more than 50% (80% for low gradient) of the bottom changing frequently; pools almost absent due to substantial sediment deposition. | | | | | | | | | | |

High Gradient:

Low Gradient:

| Habitat | | Condition | Category | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Parameter | Optimal | Suboptimal | Marginal | Poor |
| SCORE | 20 19 18 17 16 | 15 14 13 12 11 | 10 9 8 7 6 | 5 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 4. Sediment Deposition Score | Little or no enlargement of islands or point bars and less than 20% of the bottom affected by sediment deposition. | Some new increase in bar formation, mostly from gravel, sand or fine sediment; 20-50% of the bottom affected; slight deposition in pools. | Moderate deposition of new gravel, sand or fine sediment on old and new bars; 50-80% of the bottom affected; sediment deposits at obstructions, constrictions, and bends; moderate deposition of pools prevalent. | Heavy deposits of fine material, increased bar development; 80% of the bottom changing frequently; pools almost absent due to substantial sediment deposition. |

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 20 of 33 |

5 Channel Flow Status (High and Low Gradient Sheets)

This metric estimates the degree to which the channel is filled with water. The score will change with the seasons. Estimate the percentage of the channel that is wet using the low water mark of both lower banks (Figure 2). The low water mark is the line on the stream bank that represents the height of the water during normal, or base, flow conditions. The low water mark is often identifiable as a natural line impressed on the bank, an obvious shelf in the bank, and/or as a disruption of terrestrial vegetation.

When water does not cover much of the streambed, the amount of suitable substrate for aquatic organisms is limited. In high gradient streams, riffles and cobble substrate are exposed; in low gradient streams, the decrease in water level exposes logs and snags, thereby reducing the areas of good habitat. Channel flow is especially useful for interpreting biological condition under abnormal or lowered flow conditions.

| | | | | | | | 51 | anu | | | dient | • | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|---|-------|------|---|----|-----|-------|------|---------|-------|-----|-----|-----|----|---|-----|------|-----------|---------|
| Habitat | | | | | | | | | Cor | nditior | Categ | ory | | | | | | | | |
| Parameter | | Ор | timal | | | | Sul | bopti | | | | | | Poo | r | | | | | |
| SCORE | 20 | 19 | 18 : | 17 1 | 6 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 1 | L 0 |
| 5.Channel Flow Status Score | lower ba | ater reaches base of both wer banks, and minimal nount of channel substrate exposed. Water fills >75% of the available channel; or <25% of channel substrate is exposed. Water fills 25-75% of the available channel, and/or riffle substrates are mostly exposed. Very little water in channel and mostly present as standing pools. | | | | | | | | | | | nel | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | _ | Drdi | nary | | 10 | | | Low | er | | per | Bank | · · · · · | רוווזמר |

High and Low Gradient:

Figure 2. Typical stream cross-section indicating the low water mark of the lower bank.¹

The next 5 parameters should evaluate an area from approx. 100-m upstream of the sampling reach through the sampling reach. This whole area should be evaluated as a composite. When determining left and right bank, face downstream.

¹ https://gaswcc.georgia.gov/sites/gaswcc.georgia.gov/files/imported/SWCC/Files/Adam_White.pdf

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 21 of 33 |

6 Channel Alteration (High and Low Gradient Sheets)

This metric characterizes the large-scale, direct changes in the shape of the stream channel. Channel alteration is present when 1) artificial embankments, rip-rap, and other forms of bank stabilization or structures are present, 2) the stream is very straight for significant distances because of channelization, 3) dams and bridges are present that obstruct flow, and/or 4) dredging or other substrate mining activities are occurring or have occurred.

Many streams in urban and agricultural areas have been straightened, deepened, or diverted into concrete channels, often for flood control or irrigation purposes. Such streams have far fewer natural habitats for fish, macroinvertebrates, and plants than do naturally meandering streams. Scouring is often associated with channel alteration.

| Habitat | | Condition | Category | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Parameter | Optimal | Suboptimal | Marginal | Poor |
| SCORE | 20 19 18 17 16 | 15 14 13 12 11 | 10 9 8 7 6 | 5 4 3 2 1 0 |
| 6. Channel Alteration Score | Channelization or dredging absent or minimal; stream with normal pattern. | Some channelization present, usually in areas of bridge abutments; evidence of past channelization, i.e., dredging, (>20 yr.) may be present, but recent channelization is not present. | Channelization may be extensive; embankments or shoring structures present on both banks; and 40 to 80% of stream reach channelized and disrupted. | Banks shored with gabion or cement; over 80% of the stream reach channelized and disrupted. In stream habitat greatly altered or removed entirely. |

High and Low Gradient:

7a Frequency of Riffles (or Bends) (High Gradient Sheet)

This metric estimates the sequence of riffles and thus the heterogeneity occurring in a stream. Estimate riffle frequency by determining the ratio of distance between riffles divided by the width of the stream. An average of the riffle ratios is determined for biological monitoring reach and the upstream segment. The field crew will estimate this ratio for a minimum of 3 riffle distances. These 3 ratios will be averaged to get the final riffle frequency ratio.

| | | | | | | | | ч ъч | | auten | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------|---|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----|--|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----|
| Habitat | | Condition Category | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Parameter | | 0 | ptim | al | | Suboptimal | | | | | | | Poor | | | | | | | | |
| SCORE | 20 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 7.Frequency of Riffles (or bends) Score | Occurre frequen betwee width o (genera habitat where r placeme other la | nt; rat n riff f the lly 5 f is key iffles ent o | tio of les div strea to 7); y. In s are c f boul | dista vided m <7 varie streau ontin lders | nce by :1 ity of ms iuous, | Occurre infrequ riffles o the stre 15. | ent; livide | distan d by t | ce be he wi | dth of | Occasion bottom some ha betweer width of betweer | conto abitat n rifflo f the s | ours p ; dista es div strear | orovio ance /ided m is | de | Gene shall dista divid strea | ow rif nce b ed by | fles; etwe the v | poor en rif width | habit fles of th | at; |

High Gradient:

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 22 of 33 |

7b Channel Sinuosity (Low Gradient Sheet)

This metric characterizes the meandering or sinuosity of the low gradient stream. A high degree of sinuosity provides for diverse habitat and fauna, and the stream is better able to handle surges when water levels in the stream fluctuate as a result of storms. The absorption of this energy by bends protects the stream from excessive erosion and flooding and provides refugia for benthic invertebrates and fish during storm events.

To gain an appreciation of this parameter in low gradient streams, a longer reach than that designated for sampling may be incorporated into the evaluation (can use accurate aerial imagery if needed). The "sequencing" pattern of the stream morphology is important in rating this parameter. In "oxbow" streams of coastal areas and deltas, meanders are highly exaggerated and transient. Natural conditions in these streams are shifting channels and bends, and alteration is usually in the form of flow regulation and diversion. A stable channel is one that does not exhibit progressive changes in slope, shape or dimensions, although short-term variations may occur during floods (Gordon et al. 1992).

| Habitat | | Condition Category | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Parameter | Optimal | Suboptimal | Marginal | Poor | | |
| SCORE | 20 19 18 17 16 | 15 14 13 12 11 | 10 9 8 7 6 | 5 4 3 2 1 0 | | |
| 7. Channel Sinuosity Score | The bends in the stream increase the stream length 3 to 4 times longer than if it was in a straight line. (Note – channel braiding is considered normal in coastal plains and other low- lying areas. This parameter is not easily rated in these areas. | The bends in the stream increase the stream length 2 to 3 times longer than if it was in a straight line. | The bends in the stream increase the stream length 2 to 1 times longer than if it was in a straight line. | Channel straight; waterway has been channelized for a long distance. | | |

Low Gradient:

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 23 of 33 |

8 Bank Stability (High and Low Gradient Sheets)

This metric estimates whether the stream banks are eroded or have the potential to erode. Steep banks are more likely to collapse and suffer from erosion than are gently sloping banks and are therefore considered to be unstable. Signs of erosion include crumbling, un-vegetated banks, exposed tree roots, and exposed soil. Eroded banks indicate a problem of sediment movement and deposition and suggest a scarcity of cover and organic input to streams.

Each bank is scored independently from 10-0. Use the % of bank affected to place the bank stability into one of the four categories. The severity of erosion then can be used to give the bank a score within the determined category.

| Habitat | | Condition Category | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------------------|---|----------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Parameter | Opt | imal | | Suboptima | I | | Marginal | | | Poor | |
| Left/Right Bank | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 8.Bank Stability LB RB | Banks stable; e erosion or bank or minimal; littl future problem affected. | failure absent e potential for | infrequer erosion n | | d over. | of bank i erosion; | ely unstable n reach has a high erosion I during flood | areas of | "raw" are straight s obvious b | ; many erod eas frequent ections and bank slough bank has ero | t along bends; ing; 60- |

High and Low Gradient:

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 24 of 33 |

9 Bank Vegetative Protection (High and Low Gradient Sheets)

This metric estimates the amount of vegetative protection afforded to the stream and the near stream portion of the riparian zone.

Each bank is scored independently from 10-0. Determine what vegetative types (trees, understory shrubs, herbs, and non-woody macrophytes) are present on each bank. This parameter supplies information on the ability of the bank to resist erosion as well as some additional information on the uptake of nutrients by the plants, the control of instream scouring, and stream shading. Those stream banks with diverse vegetation types provide better erosion protection and provide more of a variety of allochthonous food material. Native vegetation scores higher than invasive or non-native vegetation.

| Habitat | | | | Co | ondition | Categor | ry | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|------------------------------|
| Parameter | Optimal | | : | Suboptimal | | Marginal | | | Poor | | |
| Left/Right Bank | 10 9 | | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 9. Vegetative Protection LB RB | More than 90% of the bank surfaces and imm riparian zone covered native vegetation, incl trees, understory shru nonwoody macrophyt vegetative disruption grazing or mowing mi not evident; almost al allowed to grow natur | mediate l by cluding ubs, or tes; through inimal or Il plants | surfaces of vegetation plants is n represent evident bo plant grow great exter half of the | f the stream covered by n n, but one cl ot well- ted; disruptic ut not affect wth potentia ent; more tha e potential p eight remain | ative ass of ing full I to any an one- lant | surfaces of vegetatio obvious; j or closely common; | f the stream covered by n; disruption patches of b cropped ve less than on tial plant st maining. | n are soil getation ne-half of | bank surf vegetatio stream ba very high been rem | 50% of the aces covere n; disruption ank vegetati ; vegetation toved to 5 ers or less in eight. | d by n of on is has |

High and Low Gradient:

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 25 of 33 |

10 Riparian Vegetative Zone Width (High and Low Gradient Sheets)

This metric estimates the width of the natural vegetation from the edge of the stream bank through the riparian zone. A relatively undisturbed riparian zone supports a robust stream system; narrow riparian zones occur when roads, parking lots, fields, lawns, bare soil, rocks, or buildings are near the stream bank. Conversely, the presence of "old field" (i.e. a previously developed field not currently in use), paths, and walkways in an otherwise undisturbed riparian zone may be judged to be inconsequential to altering the riparian zone and may be given relatively high scores (however, the presence of these elements should be noted on the datasheet). When determining final scores, the age and density of the riparian vegetation should be evaluated. Each bank is scored independently from 10-0.

| Habitat | | Condition Category | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|-----------|---|-----------|-----------|---|------------|------------|--|--------|
| Parameter | Opti | mal | | Suboptimal | | | Marginal | | | Poor | |
| Left/Right Bank | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 10. Riparian Vegetative Zone Width LB | Width of riparia meters; human parking lots, roa cuts, lawns, or c impacted zone. | activities (i.e., idbeds, clear- rops) have not | meters; h | riparian zon uman activit zone only m | ties have | meters; h | riparian zor numan activi I zone a grea | ities have | meters: li | riparian zor ttle or no ri n due to hu | parian |

| High | and | Low | Grad | ient: |
|------|-----|------|------|-----------|
| | ana | 2011 | o uu | i Ci i Ci |

8.2.17 General and Sediment Notes

If any element of the data collection needs further description, or is insufficient in describing onsite conditions, use this space to provide further details. Also, observations of elements not captured in standard data collection and general impressions of the conditions of the reach can be added.

Sediment notes should consider observations of sediment loading and substrate characteristics within the stream channel. Note extensive deposits of sediment or substrate within the stream, areas of obvious erosion or sources of sediment pollution in the area, or obvious scouring and substrate loss. Also note if there are extensive areas of exposed bedrock.

8.3 Habitat Scoring Criteria and Narrative Ratings

Reference reach habitat data collected from 1998 – 2005 were used to produce habitat criteria for each bioregion. The habitat assessment scores for reference reach stations in each bioregion were ranked and divided into percentiles. The 25th percentile was used to determine the cutoff for a narrative rating of "Good" Scores falling within the 25th and 10th percentile were identified as the ranges for a narrative rating of "Fair". Scores falling below the 10th percentile were assigned a rating of "Poor". Due to inherent differences in the habitat structure of headwater (<5.0 mi²) and wadeable (>5.0 mi²) streams in the Bluegrass Bioregion, separate

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 26 of 33 |

scoring criteria were developed for each. Scoring criteria and narrative ratings can be found in Table 2.

| Bioregion | Rating | Area Scoring | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | | Headwater (<5.0 mi²) | Wadeable (>5.0 mi ²) | | | | |
| Bluegrass (BG) | Good | ≥ 156 | ≥ 130 | | | | |
| Didegrass (DG) | Fair | 142 - 155 | 114-129 | | | | |
| | Poor | ≤ 141 | ≤ 113 | | | | |
| | | Headwater or Wadeable | | | | | |
| Pennyroyal (PR) | Good | ≥ 146 | | | | | |
| | Fair | 132 – 145 | | | | | |
| | Poor | ≤ 131 | | | | | |
| | | Headwater o | r Wadeable | | | | |
| Mississippi Valley | Good | ≥ 13 | 35 | | | | |
| Interior River (MVIR) | Fair | 114 - | 134 | | | | |
| | Poor | ≤ 1. | 13 | | | | |
| | | Headwater o | r Wadeable | | | | |
| | Good | ≥ 10 | 60 | | | | |
| Mountain (MT) | Fair | 117- | 159 | | | | |
| | Poor | ≤ 11 | 16 | | | | |

Table 2. Scoring for narrative habitat ratings.

8.4 Special Considerations for Assigning Ratings to Stations in a Bioregion Transition Area

For stations that are in the MVIR-PR or PR-MVIR transition area, a low or high gradient determination must have been made using the guidance in Section 8.1.2 and the appropriate datasheet must have been used. If the stream was determined to be low gradient, the scoring criteria for the MVIR must be used to determine the narrative rating. If the stream was determined to be high gradient, the scoring criteria for the PR must be used to determine the narrative rating.

If the stream was determined to be high gradient and the station falls within the transition area of two high gradient bioregions (PR, MT, or BG), the scoring criteria may be evaluated for both the primary and secondary bioregion and multiple narrative ratings may be considered when making final decisions regarding the habitat quality.

8.5 Photo Documentation

At each biological/habitat station, photographs need to be taken of the sampling zone, upstream of the sampling zone, downstream of the sampling zone, and typical instream habitat for the station.

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 27 of 33 |

Typical photos include:

- Upstream and downstream from top of reach
- Upstream and downstream from mid-reach
- Upstream and downstream from bottom of reach
- Typical left and right bank habitat
- Noted features (e.g. significant erosional areas of either bank)
- Substrate at head of riffles, in runs, in pools, and in riffles

9.0 DATA & RECORDS MANAGEMENT

All data collected shall be recorded on either a High or Low Gradient Habitat Assessment Datasheet. Datasheets shall undergo an initial data review for accuracy and completeness (see Section 11.0). Datasheets should be promptly scanned and filed in project folders. Data entry procedures should follow project guidance outlined in project QA documentation. Digital photos should be downloaded to project folders and named according to project QA guidance. All records, including hardcopy and electronic files, that are collected by DOW staff or that are collected for the explicit use by DOW must be kept according to KDEP record retention policy (KDLA, 2013).

10.0 QUALITY CONTROL & QUALITY ASSURANCE

Habitat assessment forms should be filled out by at least 2 trained field biologists who discuss and come to an agreement on each element of the form in order to control for individual bias.

Upon completion, each datasheet should be reviewed for completeness and accuracy. After this initial data review, the datasheet should be signed (or initialed) and dated in the appropriate location.

In addition, each year for each DOW program conducting habitat assessments, a randomly selected five percent of samples collected may be duplicated to evaluate precision and repeatability of the technique and the sampling crew. If possible, replicates will be collected by the same biologist(s) within the same index period. Results will be considered acceptable if the same narrative habitat assessment rating is attained. If the narrative habitat assessment rating is not the same between replicate samples, all biologists will meet to assess the issue and take corrective actions, which will be documented with other QA files.

For special studies, any deviation from the procedures in this document will be noted in study documentation approved by DOW biologists prior to sampling.

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 28 of 33 |

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| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 29 of 33 |

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| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 30 of 33 |

APPENDIX A. HIGH GRADIENT HABITAT ASSESSMENT DATASHEET

| | High G | Gradient H Stat | abitat A ion Visit Ir | | |)atas | neet | | | Page 1 |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Locale Name: | Project: | | | Trip: | | | | c | ounty: | |
| Station ID: | Loc. Desc.: | | | | - | | | vi | isit Date: | |
| Field Lead: | Primary | | | Seconda | | | | 12 | isit Start me: | |
| 46 | Bioregion: | Stream | Enh L I | Bioregio | Stream | n Type | | | isit Finish | |
| Team: | | Perm. | | STRUE COMPR | (HW or | r WA): | | Ti | me: | EATHER |
| 1) K-WADE Target | 2) Field GPS Location | Nav. to Targe | Target | Field | 3) GPS | K-WAT | E Station U | ndate S | couring Rain | |
| Point | | Point Within G | On On | GPS | Final | 19.500 | - Station o | 100000000 | 14 Days? 1 ow: HR | SR IS |
| Lat: | | Error? | Correct Stream? | Error (M) | N-N I | Staff: | | 100 | ow: HR ircle1 CS | CO SSH |
| Long: | | YIN | YIN | | Field K-WADE | Date: | | 100 | ast HR | SR IS |
| Stream Shad | ding C | TREAM FLOW C | | | | | ATURES | | thr: CS | CO SSH |
| Leafed Out? Y/N | Y N Dry | Pooled | Low | Avgerag | e Wetted | | | | of riffles in re | All of the second se |
| General | 100.2 (20.00) | Seasonal No | | Maximu | m Depth | (m): | 2 | - | of runs in rea | ch |
| Shading Full Part Circle 1 | tial None Abo | ve Normal | Flood | Reach Lo | ength (m) | : | | # | of pools in re | ach |
| LOCAL WATERSHE | D FEATURES (Major Lan | d Use): (Check a | ii that are pre | esent) | | CHAN | INEL ALTERA | | ll, Partial or 1 | Not/None |
| Surface Mining | Construction | | /Grazing | | Dredging | g: | FPN | | nelization: | F P N |
| Deep Mining | Commercial | Silvicult | | | | | | ARIAN VEG | | |
| Oil Wells | Industrial | Urban P | | | Dom. | 1000 | Herbs | Gras | | Strata: |
| Land Disposal | Row Crops | Storm S | | - | Тур | 1578 | Shrubs | 1 10 | ees | |
| Residential | Forest | HYDRAULIC STR | ed Outfalls | eck all th | Dom. | Contraction of Contraction | | | | |
| Dams: Bridg | | Fords: | Islands: | | Waterfa | | | Be | erms: | |
| Temp | DO | DO | FIELD | METER D | Sp. C | bood | | Discha | 170 | |
| 2 12 12 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 | (mg/l): | %Sat: | pH (SU): | | (µS/0 | | | CFS Ur | and the second se | |
| Autivity Complete d2 | Collectors | | | D ACTIVIT | | liabation | | | | (and the second s |
| Activity Completed? Algae: | Collectors | QualMI | | Visual Fo | and the second second second | ili that a | R4MULTI: | 100 | le necessary i ther: | nformation |
| Fish: | 8 | Equip.: | | Seine | | EF Sec | and the second second second | 10 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | eine Minutes: | |
| Habitat: | | | data other t | | | Cr Sec | onus. | ~ | and minutes. | |
| Invertebrate: | | | | nan Kor: | MACS 20 | a labe | | Other: | | |
| Star Call and Star Star Star | Undercuts/Roots: | Sticks/Wood: | le + MH: | f Packs: | 1000000 | isticia : | Auf | wuchs: | Edge: | |
| CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR AND A DECISION | Bedrock/Slab: | Depositional | | k Pick: | | m. Veg.: | | od Pick: | Other: | |
| Chemistry: | | H2SO4 L | ot #: | | | | HNO ₃ Lot # | - | | |
| Multi-Probe: | | Inst. ID: | | 200 | | | Cal. Date: | | | |
| Discharge: | 2 | Inst. ID: | 6 | | | | Beam Chec | k: | | |
| Other: | | Other D | | | | | | | | |
| Substrate Category | % Riffle: | SUBSTRATE C | HARACTERIZ | % Pool: | | | Rea | ach Total | 10000 | Not Sampled |
| Silt/Clay (<0.06 mm) | | | | | - | | | | | ason)- Please |
| Sand (0.06 – 2 mm) | | | | | | 10 | | | 12 | nd Comments |
| Gravel (2-64 mm) | | - | | | | 1 | 8 | | and the second se | Deep/Impounded |
| Cobble (64 – 256 mm) | | | | | | | | | 5 | ite Not Found |
| Boulders (>256 mm) | | | | | | - î | Ĵ | | | Unsafe Dry |
| Bedrock/Hardpan Clay | , | | | | | | | | Othe | r (See Comments) |
| Reach Location | | | | | | ŝ | Weather | HR = Heav | y Rain | SR = Steady Rain |
| Description: | | | | | | | Choices: | | nittent Shower dy Overcast | s CS = Clear Sunny SSH = Snow Sleet |
| Initial Data | | Initial D | ata | <u> </u> | | | Date | | ov Overcast | Source Supervision Street |
| Review By: | | Review | Date: | | | | Ente | ered: | | |

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 31 of 33 |

| | | dient Habitat Asses | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Habitat Parameter | Condition Category Optimal Suboptimal Marginal Pr | | | | | | | | | | |
| SCORE | 20 19 18 17 16 | 15 14 13 12 11 | 10 9 8 7 6 | 5 4 3 2 1 0 | | | | | | | |
| 1.Epifaunal | Greater than 70% of substrate | 40-70% mix of stable habitat; | | | | | | | | | |
| Substrate/ Available Cover Score | favorable for epifaunal colonization and fish cover; mix of snags, submerged logs, undercut banks, cobble or other stable habitat and at stage to allow full colonization potential (i.e., logs/snags that are not new fall and not transient). | well-suited for full colonization potential; adequate habitat for maintenance of populations; presence of additional substrate in the form of new fail, but not yet prepared for colonization (may rate at high end of scale). | 20-40% mix of stable habitat; habitat availability less than desirable; substrate frequently disturbed or removed. | Less than 20% stable habitat; lack of habita is obvious; substrate unstable or lacking. | | | | | | | |
| 2.Emboddedness | Gravel, cobble, boulder, and bedrock are 0-23% surrounded by fine sediment. Layering of cobble provides diversity of niche space. | Gravel, cobble, boulder and bedrock are 25-50% surrounded by fine sediment. | Gravel, cobble, boulder, and bedrock are 50-75% surrounded by fine sediment. | Gravel, cobble, boulder, and bedrock are more than 75% surrounded by fine sediment. | | | | | | | |
| Score 3.Velocity/ Depth Regime Score | All four velocity/depth regimes present (slow-deep, slow-shallow, fast-deep, fast-shallow). (Slow is < 0.3 m/s, deep is > 0.5 m.) | Only 3 of the 4 regimes present (if fast-shallow is missing, score lower than if missing other regimes). | Only 2 of the 4 habitat regimes present (if fast-shallow or slow- shallow are missing, score low). | Dominated by 1 velocity/ depth regime (usually slow-deep). | | | | | | | |
| 4. Sediment Deposition | Little or no enlargement of islands or point bars and less than 5% (<20% for low-gradient streams) of the bottom affected by sediment deposition. | Some new increase in bar formation, mostly from gravel, sand or fine sediment; 5-30% (20-50% for low-gradient) of the bottom affected; slight deposition in pools. | Moderate deposition of new gravel, sand or fine sediment on old and new bars; 30-50% (50-80% for low-gradient) of the bottom affected; sediment deposits at obstructions, constrictions, and bends; moderate deposition of pols prevalent. | Heavy deposits of fine material, increased bar development; more than 50% (80% for low-gradient) of the bottom changing frequently; pools almost absent due to substantial sediment deposition. | | | | | | | |
| 5.Channel Flow Status | Water reaches base of both lower banks, and minimal amount of channel substrate is exposed. | Water fills >75% of the available channel; or <25% of channel substrate is exposed. | Water fills 25-75% of the available channel, and/or riffle substrates are mostly exposed. | Very little water in channel and mostly present as standing pools. | | | | | | | |
| Score 6.Channel Alteration Score | Channelization or dredging absent or minimal; stream with normal pattern. | Some channelization present, usually in areas of bridge abutments; evidence of past channelization, i.e., dredging, (greater than past 20 yr.) may be present, but recent channelization is not present. | Channelization may be extensive; embankments or shoring structures present on both banks; and 40 to 80% of stream reach channelized and disrupted. | Banks shored with gabion or cement; over 80% of the stream reach channelized and disrupted. Instream habitat greatly altered or removed entirely. | | | | | | | |
| Score Score | Occurrence of riffles relatively frequent; ratio of distance between riffles divided by width of the stream <7:1 (generally 5 to 7); variety of habitat is key. In streams where riffles are continuous, placement of boulders or other large, natural obstruction is important. | Occurrence of riffles infrequent; distance between riffles divided by the width of the stream is between 7 to 15. | Occasional riffle or bend; bottom contours provide some habitat; distance between riffles divided by the width of the stream is between 15 to 25. | Generally all flat water or shallow riffles; poor habitat; distance between riffles divided by the width of the stream is a ratio of >25. | | | | | | | |
| Left/Right Bank | 10 9 | 8 7 6 | 5 4 3 | 2 1 0 | | | | | | | |
| 8.Bank Stability LB RB | Banks stable; evidence of erosion or bank failure absent or minimal; little potential for future problems. <5% of bank affected. | Moderately stable; infrequent, small areas of erosion mostly healed over. 5-30% of bank in reach has areas of erosion. | Moderately unstable; 30-60% of bank in reach has areas of erosion; high erosion potential during floods. | Unstable; many eroded areas; "raw" areas frequent along straight sections and bends obvious bank sloughing; 60-300% of bank has erosional scars. | | | | | | | |
| 9. Vegetative Protection LB RB | More than 90% of the streambank surfaces and immediate riparian zone covered by native vegetation, including trees, understory shrubs, or nonwoody macrophytes; vegetative disruption through grazing or mowing minimal or not evident; almost all plants allowed to grow naturally. | 70-90% of the streambank surfaces covered by native vegetation, but one class of plants is not well-represented; disruption evident but not affecting full plant growth potential to any great extent; more than one-half of the potential plant stubble height remaining. | 50-70% of the streambank surfaces covered by vegetation; disruption obvious; patches of bare soil or closely cropped vegetation common; less than one-half of the potential plant stubble height remaining. | Less than 50% of the streambank surfaces covered by vegetation; disruption of streambank vegetation is very high; vegetation has been removed to 5 centimeters or less in average stubble height. | | | | | | | |
| 10. Riparian Vegetative Zone Width LB RB | Width of riparian zone >18 meters; human activities (i.e., paring lots, roadbeds, clear-cuts, lawns, or crops) have not impacted zone. | Width of riparian zone 12-18 meters; human activities have impacted zone only minimally. | Width of riparian zone 6-12 meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal. | Width of riparian zone <6 meters: little or no riparian vegetation due to human activities. | | | | | | | |
| Total Score | Notes/Co | omments: | | | | | | | | | |
| General Notes | 8 | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Sediment Notes: | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 32 of 33 |

| | Low | Gradient Hal | | | | ন্দ্রধ | neet | | | | Page 1 |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------|---|---|--------------------|
| Locale | Proje | 10.0 | mwsten | Tormati Trip: | on | | | | County: | | |
| Name: | | | | Trip: | | | | | county. | 8 | |
| Station ID: | Loc. Desc. | : | | | | | | | Visit Dat | e: | |
| Field | Primary | | | Seconda | ry | - | | | Visit Sta | rt | |
| Lead: | Bioregion: | Stream | | Bioregio | n: Stream | Type | | | Time: Visit Fini | sh | |
| Team: | | Perm. | Eph I | nt Per | (HW or | | | | Time: | 511 | |
| | | STATION POINT VE | RIFICATION | N | | | _ | _ | | WEATHE | - |
| 1) K-WADE Target Point | 2) Field GPS Locatio | on Nav. to Target | Target On | Field GPS | 3) GPS Final | K-WAD | E Station | Update | Contraction (C) | g Rain In Last Days? YN | YIN |
| Lat: | | Error? | Correct Stream? | Error (M) | Field K-WADE | Staff: | | | Now: Circle 1 | HR S | SR IS D SSH |
| Long: | 2 | Y N | YIN | | ADE | Date: | | | Past 24hr: | HR S | SR IS D SSH |
| CANOPY CO | | STREAM FLOW Circ | le 1 | | INSTR | EAM FE | ATURES | | and the second se | UN/POOL SE | Q, |
| Leafed Out? Y/N | Y N Dr | ry Pooled | Low | - | e Wetted | - | (m): | | # of riffle | es in reach | |
| General Shading Full Part | tial None | Seasonal Norm | 1.5.1 | | m Depth | | | | | in reach | 8 |
| Circle 1 | A | bove Normal | | Contraction of the local sectors of the local secto | ength (m): | - | | | 100 100 100 100 | ls in reach | 2 |
| 5 5 5 S | 1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1. | Land Use): (Check all t | | isent) | | | | | 1.17. | al or Not/No | |
| Surface Mining | Construction | Pasture/0 | Grazing | | Dredging | 8 | FPI | V Ch | annelizati | on: F | PN |
| Deep Mining | Commercial | Silvicultur | | | | | | | EGETATIO | (7.3 S. | |
| Oil Wells | Industrial | Urban Ru | | - | Dom. | 10 C 10 C 10 C | Herbs | | asses | # of Strata: | |
| Land Disposal | Row Crops | Storm Ser | | | тур | | Shrubs | 5 | Trees | 8 | |
| Residential | Forest | Permittee HYDRAULIC STRUC | | ock all the | Dom. | | | | | | |
| Dams: Bridg | e Abutments: | Fords: | Islands: | etk dir Un | Waterfa | | | _ | Berms: | | |
| | | | FIELD | METER D | | | | | | | |
| remp (°C): | DO (mg/l): | DO %Sat: | pH (SU): | | Sp. C (µS/c | | | 1000000 | charge Uncert. | | |
| C): | (mg/i). | | | ACTIVIT | ES | 100 | N | | e | | |
| Activity Completed? | Collectors | | | | | ll that a | | r enter/o | | ssary inform | ation) |
| Algae: | | QualMHC | 1 | Visual Fo | orm: | | R4MULTI: | | Other: | | |
| Fish: | | Equip.: | BPEF | Seine | Barge | EF Sec | onds: | | Seine M | inutes: | |
| Habitat: | | Habitat d | ata other t | han RBP? | e: | | | | | | |
| invertebrate: | 1992 - CH | 1m ² riffle | and the second s | | MACS 20 |)-Jab: | | Other | | | |
| | Undercuts/Roots: | Snags/Woody De Silt/Sand/Fine Gr | | Leaf P | | | ge Habitat: | <pre></pre> | Other: | | |
| Y/N or # Jabs Chemistry: | Cobble/Gravel: | Silt/Sand/Fine Gr | 100 | Wood | PICK. | Em | HNO ₃ Lot | 15.5 | Other: | | |
| Multi-Probe: | | Inst. ID: | 992 3 | | | | Cal. Date: | | - | | |
| Discharge: | | Inst. ID: | | | | | Beam Che | ck | - | | |
| Other: | | Other De | se. | _ | | | beam one | CR. | _ | | |
| | | SUBSTRATE CH | | ATION | | | | | | Site Not | Sampled |
| Substrate Category | % Riffle: | % Run: | | % Pool: | | | Re | each Tota | il | |)- Please |
| silt/Clay (<0.06 mm) | | | | | 0 | | | | | Add Co | mments |
| Sand (0.06 – 2 mm) | | | | | | | | | | | ner Denial |
| Gravel (2-64 mm) | | | | | | | | | | here and the second second | Impounded |
| Cobble (64 – 256 mm) | 6 | | | | | | | | | a contract of the second se | t Found safe |
| Boulders (>256 mm) | | | | | | | | | | A DOMEST | ry |
| Bedrock/Hardpan Clay | 1 | | | | | | | | | Other (See | |
| Reach Loc. Description: | | | | | | | Weather Choices: | Interm | ittent Show | SR = Steady wers CS = Cl | lear Sunny C |
| | | | | | | | 17 | = Cloue | iv Overcas | t SSH = Snow | Diect Hail |

APPENDIX B. LOW GRADIENT HABITAT ASSESSMENT DATASHEET

| Document ID | DOWSOP03024 |
|----------------|---------------|
| Version | 3.0 |
| Effective Date | January 2025 |
| Page(s) | Page 33 of 33 |

| Subtrate/ Available Cover Available Cover Available Cover Available Cover and fink cover, mid or static, submerged logs, underext banks, cobble or other static hashist and st stage to allow full colonization potential (r., bigd/sngs that is def available), here and transien). Subtrate to for Uticonization potential is to be a static banks, not yet prepared for colonization potential (r., bigd/sngs that is def available), here and transien). The barter static hashist state to allow full colonization potential (r., bigd/sngs that is def available), here and transien). The barter static hashist state to allow full colonization prevential for allow for experiment and state the for end of state). The barter state thashist state to allow for experiment and state the for end state). The barter state thashist state to allow for experiment and allow for experiment state to allow for experiment state and submerged vegetation prevent and los state). The barter state thashist state to allow for experiment state and submerged vegetation prevent and los state). All mud or elay or stat be bottom submerged vegetation. Herd pan clay or bedrock, nr mat or vegetation. 3. Pool Variability Even mid fange shallow, large deep, prevent and les state 2016 of the position. Majority of pools bared from matin, state or subtrate to state. Moderate deposition of new for each from experiment state and barb to be state. Moderate deposition of new for allow pools and of the adoption prevel, and of fine abotto. Moderate deposition of new for allow pools and of the state to subtrate to subtrate to subtrate. Moderate head of the state to subtrate to subtrate to the pools and the state and theadoptis and to the subtrate to subtrate. Modera | Low Gradient Habitat Assessment Datasheet Page 2 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Scote Scie Scie <t< th=""><th></th><th>Rear</th></t<> | | Rear | | | | | |
| 1. Splitward Aulian Cover Orserer the 500 or dual constants and final cover the final constants and final cover the final cover the dual cover the dual cover the final cover the dual cover the | | | | | | | |
| Integration Integration for optimum containers on a single and halfs and a sequence in the form of meeting in the form o | | | | | Less than 10% stable habitat: lack | | |
| uniform uniformized trags, uniform hand, and marked in the stream of and adds in the stream of a data and and a data and and a data and a data and and and and and and and and and | Substrate/ | | suited for full colonization potential; | habitat availability less than | of habitat is obvious; substrate | | |
| Instrume | Available Cover | | | | unstable or lacking. | | |
| Start Display Display of the start Display of the start <th< td=""><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>disturbed or removed.</td><td></td></th<> | | | | disturbed or removed. | | | |
| Name Instantial (Le., toge/mags, hat are regined in (Inva y and a ship), and (Inva y and Inva y and | | | | | | | |
| 2. Account Description Description Description Description 2. Account main and submerged vegetation main may be account on the main may be accounted on the main ma | | | | | | | |
| Owner testing grant and grant gr | Score | new and transient). | | | | | |
| Owner testing grant and grant gr | 2. Pool Substrate | Mixture of substrate materials, with | Mixture of soft sand, mud, or clay: | All mud or clay or sand bottom; | Hard-pan clay or bedrock; no root | | |
| Store common. present. Description Addition of present. Multiplication of present and present. 3. Feed Variability Chem and engagement of infands or present. The variability of present. Multiplication of present and addition of present additio | | | | | | | |
| A. Peri Variability Comment of any space data, second. Majority of pools large data, two ballow. Shallow pools mean note, present that deep pool. Majority of pools and that pools after an exercision. A. Sedment B. Schement B. S | | | | submerged vegetation. | | | |
| Image: statistic statisty, and i deeg post. Image: statisty, image: statisty image: st | Score | common. | present. | | | | |
| Image: series in the result of the series in the stream near the stream | 3. Pool Variability | | | Shallow pools much more | Majority of pools small-shallow or | | |
| Advisional Department Litterio tra ono subregreement of island-or Department Conserve transmission and exercise of the bottom affected, sight deposition in position. Moderate deposition of mean generation and object of the bottom affected, sight deposition in position. Moderate deposition of mean generation and object of the bottom affected, sight deposition in position. Moderate deposition of mean generation and object of bottom affected, sight deposition in position. Moderate deposition of mean generation and object of bottom affected, sight deposition in position. Moderate deposition of mean generation and object of bottom affected, sight deposition in position. Moderate deposition of mean generation and object of bottom affected, sight deposition in position. Moderate deposition of mean generation and object of bottom affected, sight deposition in position. Moderate deposition of mean generation and object of bottom affected, sight deposition in position. Moderate deposition of mean generation and bottom and object of the sight deposition in position. Moderate deposition of position and object of the sight deposition in position. Moderate deposition of position and object of the sight deposition in position. Moderate deposition of position and object of the sight deposition in position. Moderate deposition and position and object of the sight deposition in position. Moderate deposition of position and object of the sight deposition in position. Moderate deposition of position and object of the sight deposition of position and object of the sight deposition in position. Moderate deposition of position and object of the sight deposition in position. Moderate deposition of position and object of the sight deposition in position and object of the sight | | | few shallow. | prevalent than deep pools. | pools absent. | | |
| Dependition paint hars and leas than 2016 of the bottom affected by sediment deposition. maskly from grawf, and or fins sediment 2005 00 of the bottom affected, sight deposition in pole. The served and devolution affected, sight deposition in pole. The served and devolution affected, sight deposition in pole. The served and devolution affected, sight deposition in pole. The served and devolution affected affected affected. The served and devolution affected affected af | | present. | | 100 E E E | | | |
| Buttom affected by earlierent deposition. Section affected by earlierent affected sight deposition in posi- affected sight deposition in posi- affected sight deposition in posi- bility deposition in posi- bility deposition. Interesting a and an explored affected sight deposition in position deposition. Interesting a and an explored affected sight deposition in position deposition. Interesting a and an explored affected sight deposition in position deposition. Interesting a and an explored affected sight deposition. Interesting a and an explored affected sight deposition. Interesting affected and an explored affected and an explored affected affected affected and an explored affect | 4. Sediment | Little or no enlargement of islands or | Some new increase in bar formation, | Moderate deposition of new | Heavy deposits of fine material, | | |
| deposition affected, slight deposition in pools bottom affected, selement, constitutions, and were, constitutions, and were and were and | Deposition | | | | increased bar development; 80% | | |
| Scree deponds at a branchist addition deponds at a branchist addition Scree water reaches base of both lower subtrate is exposed. Water fills 373% of the available channel, or 423% of dhamalable subtrate is exposed. Water fills 373% of the available channel, or 423% of dhamalable subtrate is exposed. Water fills 373% of the available channel, or 423% of dhamalable subtrate is exposed. Water fills 373% of the available channel, or 423% of dhamalable subtrate is exposed. Water fills 373% of the available channel, or 423% of dhamalable subtrate is exposed. Water fills 373% of the available channel, or 423% of dhamalable subtrate is exposed. Water fills 373% of the available channel, or 423% of dhamalable subtrate is exposed. Water fills 373% of the available channel, or 423% of dhamalable subtrate is exposed. Water fills 373% of the available channel, subtrate is exposed. Water fills 373% of the available channel water in the stream with in area of brinds exposed. Water fills 373% of the available channel water in the stream increase the index in the stream mean in areas. Water fills 373% of the stream increase the stream fields by a difficient is stream increase the stream increase is not exait. Water fills 373% of the stream increase the stream fields by a difficient of the available channel water in the stream increase is not exait. Water fills 400 (Mater available addition in a stream increase is not exait. Water fills 400 (Mater available addition in areas in areasing the increase in the stream increase is not exait. Water fills 400 (Mater available addition in a stream increase in arease is a stream in arease in the stream increase i | | | | | | | |
| Some constructions, maintenais deposition Schamel Taw Burks, and minimal amount of channel strates Water reaches base of both lower bands, and minimal amount of channel strates Water reaches base of both lower bands, and minimal amount of channel strates Water reaches base of both lower bands, and minimal amount of channel strates Water reaches base of both lower bands, and minimal amount of channel strates Water reaches base of both lower bands Maintenaistics on an encode of both dots Water reaches base of both lower bands Water have based dot water base of both dots Water have based dots and both of both dots Water have bave based dot both dots Water have based dots and | | September. | and the sign corporation in pools. | | due to substantial sediment | | |
| Some state Image: state Image: state <td></td> <td></td> <td> </td> <td>constrictions, and bends;</td> <td></td> | | | | constrictions, and bends; | | | |
| Schamel Flow Status Water resches basic flot in four- basis, and/or if the schalable construction is separated aubstrate is exposed. Water flits 2756 of the scalable channels and increases the schemel schemel is an other in a schemel and increases the schemel basis and other increases the sinussity Water flits 2756 of the scalable channels and increases the schemel basis and other increases the schemel baschemel basis and other | 201007 | | | | | | |
| Status Source basis, and minimal mount of channel, source channel, and real, source channel, source channel, source channel, and real, source channel, and real, source channel, source channel, sourcesource <thchanel, source</thchanel, | Score | | | prevalent. | | | |
| State banks, and minimal amount of channel, channel, and real. channel, and real. <thchanel, and="" real.<="" th=""></thchanel,> | 5. Channel Flow | Water reaches base of both lower | Water fills >75% of the available | Water fills 25-75% of the available | Very little water in channel and | | |
| Scame Channel Channel Channelization or dredge galsent or minimal; stream with normal galtern dredging, P24 y; may be gream; dredging, P24 y; dredging, P24 y; dredging, P24 y; | | banks, and minimal amount of channel | channel; or <25% of channel | channel, and/or riffle substrates | mostly present as standing pools. | | |
| 6.Channel Alteration Channelization or dredging absent or minimul; stream with normal pattern in areas of hinding aburments; in a straight line. (Note channel lateling a somthere in our areas; This parameter is not assily areas; areas areas; areas; the stream hassily area; areas; the stream hassis; area; the str | Score | substrate is exposed. | substrate is exposed. | are mostly exposed. | | | |
| Alteration minimal; stream with normal pattern in areas of bridge abuments; diredging, F20 (y) may be present. diredging, F20 (y) may be present. Score embanismets or shoring tructures present about the stream memb the stream healts agreed (y) may be present. The bends in the stream increase the stream healts agreed (y) may be present. embanismets or shoring tructures present about the stream healts agreed (y) may be present. The bends in the stream increase the stream healts 2 to 3 times longer than ellending is condered normal concert bore stream. concert the stream increase the stream in straight increase the stream increase the | | | | | | | |
| Sectement evidence of pasts channelization, is, not. threaders greater and oble banks, in the stream increase in both banks, in the stream increase in both banks, in the stream increase in the st | | | | | Banks shored with gabion or | | |
| dender give, i 20 yr.3 may be present, ursent i ursent habitate greaty all ursent. instream habitate greaty all ursent intreases in transmitting and thream increase the stream increase the stream length 3 to 4 times longer than if it was in a straight increase. instream length 3 to 4 times longer than if it was in a straight increase intreases in a straight increase. Instream length 3 to 4 times longer than if it was in a straight increase. Instream length 3 to 4 times longer than if it was in a straight increase. Instream length 3 to 4 times longer than if it was in a straight increase. Instream length 3 to 4 times longer than if it was in a straight increase. Instream length 3 to 4 times longer than if it was in a straight increase. Instream length 3 to 4 times longer than if it was in a straight increase. Instream length 3 to 4 times longer than if it was in a straight increase. Instream length 3 to 4 times longer than if it was in a straight increase. Instream length 3 to 4 times longer than if it was in a straight increase. Instream length 3 to 4 times longer than if it was in a straight increase. Instream length 3 to 4 times longer than if it was in a straight increase. Instream length 3 to 4 times longer than if it was in a straight increase. Instream length 3 to 4 times longer than if it was in a straight increase. Instream length 3 to 4 times longer than if it was in a straight increase in most increase in most if was in a straight increase. Instream length 3 to 4 times longer than if it was not a straight increase in most increase in most it has a freetow in thit was tha a straight increas | Alteration | minimal; stream with normal pattern. | | | cement; over 80% of the stream reach channelized and disrupted. | | |
| Secret Lamelization is not present. Channelization is not presented. Channel | | | | | In stream habitat greatly altered | | |
| Sector present. present. < | | | | | | | |
| Sinussity stream length 2 to 1 times longer than if if was in a straight line. Note- channel braiding is considered normal in coastal plains and other low-lyng areas. This parameter is not easily stream length 2 to 3 times longer than if it was in a straight line. the stream length 2 to 1 times longer than if it was in a straight line. been channelized for a lo distance. Score 10 9 8 2 6 4 3 2 0 If W was in a straight potential plans and other low-lyng areas. This parameter is not easily Back stability potential for fuure problemsS% of the low stability of full parameter line could be an easily of erosion. Ref Proston potential distance. Moderately stability areas of erosion monthy healed over. bank failure absent or minimal, litth or and starting the stream bank staticates covered by native vegetation. Including frees, understory shrubs, on covered by native vegetation. Including res, understory shrubs, on covered by native vegetation. Including res, understory shrubs, on covered by native vegetation. Including res, understory shrubs, on covered by native story length vegetative stubble height remaining. Width of riparian zone <18 meters; Numan activities have impacted zone only minimally. Width of riparian zone <18 meters; Including reparam vegetation common, less than on this of have not impacted zone. Ref Width of riparian come <10 meters; Including reparam vegetation common, less than on hy minimally. Width of riparian store <0 min titter or no parameterise in the common strivities. <td>Score</td> <td></td> <td>present.</td> <td></td> <td></td> | Score | | present. | | | | |
| If it was in a straight line. (Note- channel braiding is consisting plants and other low-long areas. This parameter is not easily rated in these areas. then if it was in a straight line. longer than if it was in a straight line. longer than if it was in a straight line. Seare 10 9 5 7 6 5 4 3 2 0 Intel Stability Banks stability asted in these areas. 10 9 5 7 6 5 4 3 2 0 It is was in a straight grant 10 9 5 7 6 5 4 3 2 0 It is was in a straight grant 10 9 5 7 6 5 4 3 2 0 It is was in a straight grant 10 9 5 7 6 5 4 3 2 0 It is was in a straight grant 10 9 5 7 6 5 4 3 2 0 0 It is was in a straight grant 10 9 5 7 6 5 4 3 2 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 </td <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Channel straight; waterway has</td> | | | | | Channel straight; waterway has | | |
| channel braiding is considered normal in coasial plains and other low-lying areas. This parameter is not easily areas of reason mostly headed one bank affects areas commonly headed one bank affects areas commonly headed one bank affects areas commonly headed one bank affects areas of reason nor bank affects and here areas components areas of reason mostly headed one bank affects and here areas components areas of reason mostly headed one bank affects areas of reason potential bank affects and here areas components areas of reason mostly headed one bank affects and here areas components areas of reason mostly headed one bank affects and here areas components areas of reason mostly headed one bank affects and here areas components areas of reason has areas of or converse by native wegetation, including trees, understary shrubs, or nonwood macrophytes; wegetation including trees, understary shrubs, or nonwood macrophytes; wegetation in one-half of the potential plant stubble height remaining. Width of riparian zone 6-12 meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal. Width of riparian zone 6-12 meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal. Sediment Sediment Sediment Solution of the potential shrubs areas of components; | Sinuosity | | | | been channelized for a long | | |
| Score In coastal plains and other low-lying areas. This parameter is not easily rated in these areas. Image: Comparison of the comp | | | than if it was in a straight line. | | distance. | | |
| score arress. This parameter is not easily rated in these areas. Moderately subject infequent, small arrass of arosion mostly hadde over >30% of bank in reach has areas of cosion, high erosion potential bank affects. Unstable; many eroded an arrass of arosion. Unstable; many eroded an arrass of arosion. Unstable; many eroded arrass of arosion. Needentiative table Dent fills the abance of erosion or bank affects. Moderately stable; infrequent, small arrass of arosion. Moderately unstable; arosich as areas of cosion, high erosion potential bank affects. Unstable; many eroded an arrass of arosion. Needentiation areas of arosion. Note than 90% of the streambank urfaces and immediate ripartan zone covered by native vegetation, including trees, understory shrubs, or nonwood ymacrophyte; vegetation minimal or not edient aimost all plants allowed to grow naturally. 70-90% of the streambank urfaces covered by vegetation, including trees, understory shrubs, or nonwood ymacrophyte; vegetation minimal or not edient aimost all plants allowed to grow naturally. 50-70% of the streambank urfaces covered by vegetation, including trees, understory shrubs, or nonwood ymacrophyte; vegetation minimal or not edient aimost all plants allowed to grow naturally. 50-70% of the streambank urfaces covered by vegetation, including trees, harder at almost all plants allowed to grow naturally. 50-70% of the streambank urfaces covered by vegetation one-half of the potential plant stubble height remaining. 50-70% of the streambank urfaces covered by vegetation one-half of the potential plant stubble height remaining. 50-70% of the streambank urfaces covered by natwen | | | | inite: | | | |
| Activity Display B 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 CO B. Bank Stability Banks stable: evidence of erosion or bank affected. Moderately stable: infrequent, small potential for future problems, <3% of bank affected. Moderately stable: infrequent, small erosion. Moderately unstable: 30-60% of erosion; high erosion potential during floods. Unstable: many eroded an erosion. Unstable: many eroded an erosion. Unstable: many eroded an erosion at the erosion of erosion; high erosion potential during floods. Unstable: many eroded an erosion. Unstable: many eroded an erosion. Unstable: many eroded an erosion. Unstable: many eroded an erosion. Unstable: many eroded an erosion in the erosion potential during floods. Unstable: many eroded an erosion. Unstable: many eroded an erosion. Unstable: many eroded an erosion at the erosion e | | | | | | | |
| 8. Bank Stability Bank stable: evidence of erosion of bank affected. Moderately stable: infrequent, small affault or absent or minimal, iffaulture absent or molecular absent or minimal, iffaulture absent or molecular absent or minimal, iffaulture absent or minimal, iffaulture absent or molecular absent or molecular absent or minimal, iffaulture absent or molecular absent or molecular absent or minimal, iffaulture absent or molecular absent or minimal, iffaulture absent or molecular absent o | Score | rated in these areas. | | | | | |
| 8. Bank Stability Bank stable: evidence of erosion of bank affected. Moderately stable: infrequent, small affault or absent or minimal, iffaulture absent or molecular absent or minimal, iffaulture absent or molecular absent or minimal, iffaulture absent or minimal, iffaulture absent or molecular absent or molecular absent or minimal, iffaulture absent or molecular absent or molecular absent or minimal, iffaulture absent or molecular absent or minimal, iffaulture absent or molecular absent o | Left/Right Bank | 10 9 | 8 7 6 | 5 4 3 | 2 1 0 | | |
| LB potential for future problems. <5% of bank affected. 3-30% of bank in reach has areas of erosion. erosion, high erosion potential during floods. straight section and been obvious bank sloughing 60- of bank has erosional sca 9. Vegetative Protection More than 90% of the streambank surfaces and immediate riparian sor covered by native vegetation, including trees, understory shrubs, or nonwoody macrophytes; vegetative disruption not evident jamost ail plants allowed to grow naturally. 70-90% of the streambank surfaces covered by vegetation; bor class of plants is not well- represented; disruption civilent but not affecting full plant growth as solid or closely cropped has been removed to 5 S0-70% of the streambank surfaces covered by vegetation; bor disruption obvious; patches of bars solid or closely cropped has been removed to 5 S0-70% of the streambank surfaces covered by vegetation; closely cropped has been removed to 5 S0-70% of the streambank surfaces covered by vegetation; bor disruption obvious; patches of bars solid or closely cropped has been removed to 5 S0-70% of the streambank subble height. S0-70% of the streambank subble height. S0-70% of the streambank subble height control plants allowed to growth strubble height control plants allowed to grow naturally. S0-70% of the streambank subble height. S0-70% of the streambank subble height control plants allowed to growth strubble height. Less than 50% of the streambank subble height. Less than 50% of the stre | | | | | Unstable: many eroded areas: | | |
| Image bank affected. erosion. during floods. obvious bank soughing: 00- of bank has erosional sco of bank has erosional sco bare soil or closely cropped useration common. less than one-half of the potential plant stubble height remaining. Less than 50% of the stream surfaces covered by negation of bank soil or closely cropped useration common. less than one-half of the potential plant stubble height remaining. Less than 50% of the stream stubble height remaining. 10. Rigarian Vegetative Zone Width of riparian zone >18 meters; Midth of riparian zone >18 meters; Midth of riparian zone >12 hemeters; Midth of riparian zone >12 hemeters; Midth of riparian zone shaff of the potential plant stubble height. Width of riparian zone 6-12 meters; human activities have any meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal. Width of riparian zone 6-12 meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal. Width of riparian zone 40 meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal. Width of riparian zone 40 meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal. Width of riparian zone 40 meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal. Sediment Sediment Sediment Sediment Sediment | | bank failure absent or minimal; little | areas of erosion mostly healed over. | bank in reach has areas of | "raw" areas frequent along | | |
| Initial of bank has erosional scale 9. Vegetative Protection More than 90% of the streambank surfaces covered by native vegetation, but one class of plants is not well- respected by native vegetation, but one class of plants is not well- respected by native vegetation, but one class of plants is not well- respected by native vegetation, but one fails of plants is not well- respected by native vegetation, but one fails of plants is not well- respected by native vegetation, but one fails of the potential plant plants allowed to grow naturally. Les than 50% of the streambank disruption obvious, patches of bare soil or classy or population. Les than 50% of the streambank disruption obvious, patches of bare soil or classy or population. Les than 50% of the streambank disruption obvious, patches of bare soil or classy or population. Les than 50% of the streambank disruption obvious, patches of bare soil or classy or population. Les than 50% of the streambank disruption obvious, patches of bare soil or classy or population. Les than 50% of the streambank disruption obvious, patches of bare soil or classy or population. Les than 50% of the streambank disruption obvious, patches of bare soil or classy or population. Les than 50% of the streambank disruption obvious, patches of bare soil or classy or population. Les than 50% of the streambank disruption obvious, patches of bare soil or classy or population. Les than 50% of the streambank disruption obvious, patches of bare soil or classy or population. Les than 50% of the streambank stubble height remaining. Les than 50% of the streambank stubble height remaining. 10. Ripartan Width of riparian zone site. Width of riparian zone site. Width of riparian zone sin aver stubble height remaining. | LB | | | | straight sections and bends; | | |
| 9. Vegetative Protection More than 90% of the streambank surfaces and immediate riparian zone covered by native vegetation, including trees, understory shrubs, or nonwoody macrophytes; vegetation and disruption of the optice and plants is not well- represented; disruption of understory and the streambank glants allowed to grow naturally. 50-70% of the streambank surfaces covered by negetation; disruption of through grazing or mowing minimal or not evident; almost is not well- represented; disruption of understory and the streambank stubble height remaining. S0-70% of the streambank surfaces covered by vegetation; disruption of through grazing or mowing minimal or not evident; almost is not well- represented; disruption of streamban plants allowed to grow naturally. Covered by native vegetation of bar soil or closely cropped wegetation common; less than 50% of the stream stubble height remaining. Covered by native sectored by vegetation; disruption of the stream stubble height remaining. 10. Rigarian Vegetative Zone Width Width of riparian zone >18 meters; noadbeds, clear-cuts, lawns, or crops; have not impacted zone. Width of riparian zone 6-12 meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal. Width of riparian zone of soil to human activities. 10. Rigarian Covered by native vegetation; no dynamin athing the stream stubble height remaining. Width of riparian zone of soil to human activities. Width of riparian zone of soil to human activities. 10. Rigarian Covered by native vegetation; no dynaming the remaining. Notes/Comments: Width of riparian zone of soil to human activities. Width of riparian zone of soil to human activities. 10. Rigarian Covered by natise cov | RB | bank affected. | erosion. | during floods. | obvious bank sloughing; 60-100% | | |
| Protection surfaces and immediate rigarian zone zovered by native vegetation, but covered by native vegetation covered by native vegetation. But covered by native vegetation covered by nativevegetation covered b | | Advention and the second second | 70 000 - (1 | PA PARA ANI | | | |
| LB covered by native vegetation, including trees, understory shrubs, or including trees, including trees, understory shrubs, or including trees, including trees, understory shrubs, or including trees, t | | | | | Less than 50% of the streambank | | |
| Including trees, understory shrubs, or disruption through grazing or mowing minimal or not evident at most all stubble height remaining. bare solf or closely cropped not affecting full plant growth one-half of the potential plant stubble height remaining. vgetation is very high; vgeta habeen removed us one-half of the potential plant stubble height remaining. vgetation is very high; vgeta habeen removed us one-half of the potential plant stubble height remaining. vgetation is very high; vgeta habeen removed us one-half of the potential plant stubble height remaining. vgetation is very high; vgeta habeen removed us stubble height remaining. vgetation is very high; vgeta habeen removed us one-half of the potential plant stubble height remaining. vgetation is very high; vgeta habeen removed us stubble height remaining. 10. Riparian Vgetative Zone Width of riparian zone >18 meters; human activities (i.e., parking lots, have not impacted zone. Width of riparian zone 6-12 human activities have impacted zone only minimally. Width of riparian zone 6-12 meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal. Width of riparian zone ittle or no riparian vegetation to human activities. Total Score Notes/Comments: Vgetation is very high; vgeta habeen removed us in particel zone a great deal. Width of riparian zone s in particel zone a great deal. Width of riparian zone s in particel zone a great deal. Width of riparian zone s in particel zone a in particel zone a in particel zone a in particel zone Width of riparian zone s in particel zone Vgeta in particel zone RB Notes/Comments: Vgeta in particel zone Vgeta in particel zone Vgeta in particel zone | Protection | | | | | | |
| LB norwwody macrophytes; vogetative disruption through grazing or mowing minimal or not evident; almost all plants allowed to grow naturally. not affecting full plant growth optimili on any groat extention more than one-half of the potential plant stubble height remaining. vegetation common; less than one-half of the potential plant stubble height remaining. has been removed to 5 centimeters or less in aver stubble height remaining. 10. Riparian Vegetative Zone Width of riparian zone >18 meters; numan activities (i.e., parking lots; roadbeds, clear-cuts, lawns, or crops) have not impacted zone. Width of riparian zone 418 meters; human activities have only minimally. Width of riparian zone 412 meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal. Width of riparian zone 40 meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal. Width of riparian zone 40 meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal. Width of riparian zone 40 meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal. Width of riparian zone 40 meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal. Width of riparian zone 40 meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal. Width of riparian zone 40 meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal. Total Score Notes/Comments: General Notes: | | | | | vegetation is very high; vegetation | | |
| Image: Sectiment minimal or not evident; almost all plant situbble height remaining. stubble height remaining. stubble height remaining. stubble height. R8 Width of riparian zone >18 meters; human activities (i.e., parking lots, roadbeds, clear-cuts, lawns, or crops) have not impacted zone. Width of riparian zone impacted zone. Width of riparian zone a great deal. Width of riparian zone a great deal. Total Score Notes/Comments: | | | | vegetation common; less than | has been removed to 5 | | |
| RB plants allowed to grow naturally. stubble height remaining. interval of the stubble height remaining. 10. Riparlan Vegetative Zone Width of riparian zone >18 meters; human activities (i.e., parking lots; noadbeds, clear-cuts, laws, or crops) have not impacted zone. Width of riparian zone <12.18 meters; human activities have impacted zone a great deal. | LB | | | | centimeters or less in average | | |
| RB Image: Constraint of the state of the | | | | stubble height remaining. | stubble height. | | |
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| Width LB roadbeds, clear-cuts, lawns, or crops) have not impacted zone. only minimally. impacted zone a great deal. to human activities. RB Total Score Notes/Comments: General Notes: Sediment | | With of righting same all more | | wright or riparian zone 6-12 | | | |
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| Notes. | 10. Riparlan Vegetative Zone Width LB RB Total Score General Note | human activities (i.e., parking lots, roadbeds, clear-cuts, lawns, or crops) have not impacted zone. Notes/Com | human activities have impacted zone only minimally. | meters; human activities have | | | |
| | 10. Ripartan Vegetative Zone Width LB RB Total Score General Note | human activities (i.e., parking lots, roadbeds, clear-cuts, lawns, or crops) have not impacted zone. Notes/Com | human activities have impacted zone only minimally. | meters; human activities have | | | |
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