

## WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION INVENTORY WORKSHEET FOR STREAM/RIPARIAN CORRIDOR HABITATS (LOTIC SYSTEMS)

Client: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Farm No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tract(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Field(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Acres: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conservationist: \_\_\_\_\_

This Wildlife Habitat Evaluation inventory worksheet lists a number of habitat considerations/elements related to wildlife values for riparian areas associated with perennial streams. In some areas there may be a seasonally high water table that occurs close to the surface during a major portion of the growing season, but these areas do not meet the criteria required to be classified as "wetlands<sup>1</sup>". For "wetland" wildlife habitat evaluation, use form NV-ECS-21.

**The riparian area evaluated must score a rating of 0.5 for each habitat consideration/element listed in the Wildlife Habitat Index to substantiate reporting conservation practice Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) or Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644).**

### WILDLIFE HABITAT INDEX (AQUATIC/RIPARIAN HABITATS)

HABITAT CONSIDERATION	HABITAT POINTS	PRESENT	PLANNED	APPLIED
<b>NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITY</b> ( <i>Kind of Plants or Life-Forms i.e., trees, shrubs, forbs, grasses or grass-like plants</i> )				
Three or more kinds of native plants (life-forms) present.	<b>0.7 to 1.0</b>			
Two kinds of native plants (life-forms) present.	<b>0.5 to 0.6</b>			
One kind of native plant (life-form) present.	<b>0.1 to 0.4</b>			
Bare Ground	<b>0</b>			

<b>VEGETATIVE COVER</b> ( <i>Woody Plant Canopy Cover plus Herbaceous Plant Foliar Cover</i> )				
More than 50% canopy cover plus foliar cover	<b>0.8 to 1.0</b>			
More than 25% and less than 50% vegetative cover	<b>0.5 to 0.7</b>			
Less than 25% canopy cover plus foliar cover	<b>0 to 0.4</b>			

HABITAT CONSIDERATION	HABITAT POINTS	PRESENT	PLANNED	APPLIED
<b>NRCS STREAM VISUAL ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL (SVAP) SCORE<sup>2</sup></b>				
SVAP Score is >9 (" <i>Excellent</i> ")	<b>1.0</b>			
SVAP Score is 7.5 – 8.9 (" <i>Good</i> ")	<b>0.8 to 0.9</b>			
SVAP Score is 6.1 – 7.4 (" <i>Fair</i> ")	<b>0.5 to 0.7</b>			
SVAP Score is <6.0 (" <i>Poor</i> ")	<b>0.1 to 0.4</b>			
SVAP Score is <3.0	<b>0</b>			

<b>PROPER FUNCTIONING CONDITION (PFC) FOR LOTIC RIPARIAN AREAS<sup>3</sup></b>				
PFC Rating is <i>Proper Functioning</i>	<b>1.0</b>			
PFC Rating is <i>Functional-At Risk w/Trend Upward</i>	<b>0.8 to 0.9</b>			
PFC Rating is <i>Functional-At Risk w/Trend Not Apparent</i>	<b>0.5 to 0.7</b>			
PFC Rating is <i>Functional-At Risk w/Trend Downward</i>	<b>0.1 to 0.4</b>			
PFC Rating is <i>Non-Functional</i>	<b>0</b>			

<b>GRAZING MANAGEMENT (Refer to NRCS conservation practice Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) standard and specifications)</b>				
Riparian area evaluated is not grazed	<b>1.0</b>			
Grazing management meets NRCS practice standard and specifications. ( <i>i.e., periods of grazing and rest are identified; minimum stubble height for utilization of herbaceous vegetation established and maintained; browse utilization levels and recruitment objectives established and attained</i> ). Documentation of livestock forage utilization can be made using NV-ECS-01 or NV-ECS-414. Documentation of livestock browse utilization and recruitment can be made using NV-ECS-416.	<b>0.5 to 1.0</b>			
Grazing management does <u>not</u> meet NRCS conservation practice standard and specifications.	<b>0 to 0.4</b>			

Total Riparian Habitat Points (*5 points maximum*)

**Riparian Habitat Index (Total Points/5)**

**NOTES:**

<sup>1</sup>For the definition of wetlands and wetland habitats as applied here see, Cowardin, L.M., V. Carter, F.C. Golet, and E.T. LaRoe. 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. Reprinted 1992. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service.

<sup>2</sup>US Department of Agriculture, Natural resources Conservation Service. 1998. Stream Visual Assessment Protocol. National Water and Climate Center Technical Note 99-1.

<sup>3</sup>US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. 1994. Riparian Area Management: A User Guide to Assessing Proper Functioning Condition and the Supporting Science for Lotic Areas. TR1737-15 1998.