



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP2)

Elements 4 & 5 (Riparian area quality) and Element (Canopy Cover)

Attach Photos

General Information	
Client: _____	County: _____
Field Office: _____	Contract #: _____
Farm #: _____	Tract #: _____
Field # and acreage: _____	

**Element 4 Riparian area quantity**

	Natural plant community extends at least two bankfull widths or more than the entire active flood plain and is generally contiguous throughout property	Natural plant community extends at least one bankfull width or more than 1/2 to 2/3 of active flood plain and is generally contiguous throughout property  Vegetation gaps do not exceed 10% of the estimated length of the stream on the property	Natural plant community extends at least 1/2 of the bankfull width or more than at least 1/2 of active flood plain  Vegetation gaps do not exceed 30% of the estimated length of the stream on the property	Natural plant community extends at least 1/3 of the bankfull width or more than 1/4 of active flood plain  Vegetation gaps exceed 30% of the estimated length of the stream on the property	Natural plant community extends less than 1/3 of the bankfull width or less than 1/4 of active flood plain  Vegetation gaps exceed 30% of the estimated length of the stream on the property
<b>Right bank</b>	10    9	8    7	6    5	4    3    2	1    0
<b>Left bank</b>	10    9	8    7	6    5	4    3    2	1    0

**Note:** Score each bank separately. Scores should represent the entire stream riparian area within the property. Score for this element = left bank score plus right bank score divided by 2. If the score of one bank is 7 or greater and the score of the other bank is 4 or less, subtract 2 points from final score.

[Type here]

**Element 5 Riparian area quality**

Natural and diverse riparian vegetation with composition, density and age structure appropriate for the site		Natural and diverse riparian vegetation with composition, density and age structure appropriate for the site: Little or no evidence of concentrated flows through area			Natural vegetation compromised			Little or no natural vegetation		
No invasive species or concentrated flows through area		Invasive species present in small numbers (20% cover or less)			Evidence of concentrated flows running through the riparian area  Invasive species common (>20% <50% cover)			Evidence of concentrated flows running through the riparian area  Invasive species widespread (>50% cover)		
<b>Right bank</b>	<b>10 9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Left bank</b>	<b>10 9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

**Notes:** Score should represent the entire stream riparian area within the property.  
Score for this element = left bank score plus right bank score divided by 2.

**Element 6 Canopy cover**

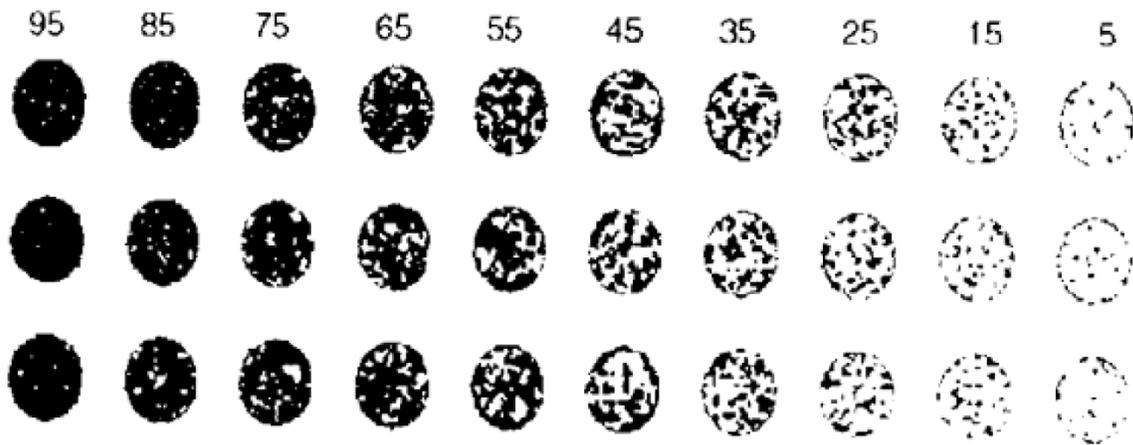
(a) Cold-water streams

>75% of water surface shaded within the length of the stream in landowner's property		75–50% of water surface shaded within the length of the stream in landowner's property			49–20% of water surface shaded within the length of the stream in landowner's property			<20% of water surface shaded within the length of the stream in landowner's property		
<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

(b) Warm-water streams

50–75% of water surface shaded within the length of the stream in landowner's property		>75% of water surface shaded within the length of the stream in landowner's property			49–20% of water surface shaded within the length of the stream in landowner's property			<20% of water surface shaded within the length of the stream in landowner's property		
<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

[Type here]



**Figure 4. Percent canopy cover. Numbers above the ovals refer to the percent black (= shade/cover). USDA Forest Service FIA Manual, <http://fia.fs.fed.us/library.htm#Manuals>)**