

Watershed Survey Visual Assessment

WATERSHED SURVEY VISUAL ASSESSMENT

GENERAL INFORMATION

Stream name: _____

Watershed name: _____ State: _____

County: _____

Approximate size of study area (acres): _____

Investigators: _____

Site (description): _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

LAND USES IN THE WATERSHED

1. Specific uses identified (check as many as apply)

	Streamside	Within 1/4 mile of Stream	Within Watershed
Residential:			
Single-family housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Apartment building	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lawns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parking lot	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial / Industrial / Institutional:			
Commercial development (stores, restaurants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Auto repair/gas station	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Factory/Power plant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sewage treatment facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water treatment facility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Institution (e.g., school, offices)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Landfill	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Automobile graveyard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bus or taxi depot	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forest / Parkland:			
Recreational park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National/State Forest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Woods/Greenway	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural / Rural:			
Grazing land	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cropland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Animal feedlot	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Isolated farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Old (abandoned) field	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fish hatchery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tree farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Weather in past 24 hours:

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

Weather now:

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

2. Summary of major land uses in the watershed (use approx. percentages)

Residential _____% Parkland/Forest _____%
 Commercial/Industrial/Institutional _____% Other _____%
 Agricultural/Rural _____%

4. Comments on land uses

Use this space to explain or expand on land use descriptions you have identified above. For example, you might want to identify particular buildings, specify the location of construction sites, note the condition of streamside picnic areas, note the presence of cows in a stream, or note corrective measures such as swales or settling basins.

3. Additional activities in the watershed (check as many as apply)

	Streamside	Within 1/4 mile	Within
	of Stream	of Stream	Watershed
Construction			
Building construction	0	0	0
Roadway	0	0	0
Bridge construction	0	0	0
Other _____	0	0	0
Logging			
Selective logging	0	0	0
Intensive logging	0	0	0
Lumber treatment facility	0	0	0
Other _____	0	0	0
Mining			
Strip mining	0	0	0
Pit mining	0	0	0
Abandoned mine	0	0	0
Quarry	0	0	0
Other _____	0	0	0
Recreation			
Biking/Off-road vehicle trails	0	0	0
Horseback riding trail	0	0	0
Boat ramp	0	0	0
Jogging paths/hiking trail	0	0	0
Swimming area	0	0	0
Fishing area	0	0	0
Picnic area	0	0	0
Golf course	0	0	0
Campground/trailer park	0	0	0
Power boating	0	0	0
Other _____	0	0	0

GENERAL STREAM AND WATERSHED CHARACTERISTICS

5. Note the number of hydrologic modifications (structures that alter natural stream flow):

None _____	Waterfalls _____
Dams _____	Stream fords _____
Bridges _____	Beaver dams _____

6. Note the approximate length of stream that is affected by the following:

Stream diversion _____	feet or _____	miles
Stream straightening _____	feet or _____	miles
Concrete streambank/bottom _____	feet or _____	miles

7. Check the categories that best describe the general appearance of the stream:

Litter:

- No litter visible
- Small litter occasionally (e.g., cans, paper)
- Small litter common
- Large litter occasionally (e.g., tires, carts)
- Large litter common

Erosion:

- No streambank erosion or areas of erosion very rare; no artificial stabilization
- Occasional areas of streambank erosion
- Areas of streambank erosion common
- Artificial streambank stabilization (e.g., rip rap) present

Special Problems (note in detail in comment section below):

- Spills of chemicals, oil, etc.
- Fish kills
- Wildlife, waterfowl kills
- Flooding
- Periods of no flow

8. Comments on general stream characteristics (e.g., date and size of fish kill, increased rate of erosion evident, litter most evident after storms)

PIPE AND DRAINAGE DITCH INVENTORY

In this section, provide information on pipes and drainage ditches found on the banks or in the stream. These pipes/ditches can be abandoned or active. Note this basic information for each pipe or drainage ditch you observe. Attach additional pages to this form.

9. This information applies to a:

- Pipe Drainage ditch Other _____

10. Location of pipe/ditch:

- In stream In streambank Near stream

Describe location:

11. Pipe/Ditch # (for mapping/local purposes) _____

12. Identify type of pipe (check one)

- Industrial outfall
- Sewage treatment plant outfall
- Storm drain
- Combined sewer overflow
- Agricultural field drainage
- Paddock or feedlot drainage
- Settlement basin/pond drainage
- Parking lot drainage
- Unknown
- Other _____

13. Approximate Diameter of Pipe: _____ inches or _____ feet

14. Describe the discharge flow:

- Rate of Flow: None Intermittent Trickle
 Steady Heavy
- Appearance: Clear Foamy Turbid
 Oily sheen Colored _____
- Odor: None Rotten eggs/sewage Chemical
 Chlorine Other _____

15. Describe the streambank/stream below pipe or drainage ditch:

- No problem evident
- Sewage litter (e.g., toilet paper)
- Litter (e.g., styrofoam, cans)
- Eroded
- Lots of algae
- Other _____

16. Comments on pipes and drainage ditches

Use this space to explain or expand on information provided on pipes and discharges you have identified above. For example, you may want to identify particular facilities, or discuss in more detail the condition of the stream below the discharge.