

Appendix A: Extra Copies of Stream Monitoring Worksheet

Example of Completed Stream Monitoring Worksheet

Answer the following questions using the methods in section 11 of the stream guide.

1. What is the stream flow type? Describe how the stream behaves during an average year's rainfall for your area.

- ☒ ☐ Ephemeral: stream only flows for a few hours or days after rain events
- ☐ ☐ Intermittent: stream flows for part or most of the year, but does go dry in sections (note: intermittent streams may have unconnected pools of water year-round)
- ☐ ☒ Perennial: stream flows year round

2. Do you notice springs or seeps present?

- ☒ ☐ No
- ☐ ☒ Yes

3. What is your stream's sinuosity (or meandering)?

- ☐ ☐ Straight
- ☒ ☐ Moderately Sinuous
- ☐ ☐ Highly Sinuous
- ☐ ☒ Wet Meadow (no defined channel)

4. How is your stream channel changing or evolving?

- ☐ ☒ Fully Connected: no defined channel, "stage zero" or channel highly connected and continuous with an active floodplain
- ☒ ☐ Single Channel Forming: small but clearly defined channel
- ☐ ☐ Incised or Rechannelizing: channel actively incising/downcutting, headcuts may be present
- ☐ ☐ Widening and Depositing: channel may be unstable, active cutting and widening
- ☐ ☐ New Inset Floodplain Formed or Forming: unstable but recovering: bank slumping, sediment deposition, some point bars present
- ☐ ☐ Rebuilding: channel is in recovery, is stabilizing again and developing new floodplain benches set down within the new floodplain—often with evidence of one or more older terraces

5. How connected is your stream to the floodplain?

- ☐ ☐ Flooding out of banks occurs infrequently or never (every 5–100 years at most)
- ☐ ☐ Flooding occurs occasionally: stream channel is confined or well-contained within the banks, but with access to a narrow floodplain at higher flows (every 2–5 years)
- ☒ ☐ Flooding out of banks occurs frequently (once or twice every couple of years)

6. What is the condition of your riparian area?

a. Vegetative cover

- ☐ ☐ Bare Ground, 0–1% cover
- ☐ ☐ Very sparse, 2–10% cover
- ☐ ☐ Sparse, 11–40% cover
- ☒ ☐ Moderate, 41–70% cover
- ☐ ☒ Dense, 71–100% cover

b. Width of greenbelt

- ☐  No greenbelt present
- ☐  Greenbelt limited to edge of channel
- ☒  Greenbelt only occupying part of the valley bottom, limited to low-lying areas
- ☐  Valley bottom well vegetated with plants that are dependent on saturated or well-watered conditions

c. Dominant vegetation

- ☒  Mostly upland plants
- ☐  Mix of upland and some mesic plants
- ☐  Mostly wetland / mesic plants
- ☐  Wet meadow plants

d. Based on your assessment, which best describes the presence of trees?

- ☒  No trees or woody plants are present in the riparian area, OR only invasive tree species and upland shrubs are present
- ☐  There are old, mature and/or dying trees high on banks away from the stream, but no new “recruits” (young trees)
- ☐  Young trees and mesic woody vegetation are beginning to re-establish in the riparian area
- ☐  There are mixed ages of trees and/or mesic woody plants and native perennial shrubs

e. Plant diversity

- ☐  Low diversity, mostly invasive species and/or annual weedy species
- ☒  Low diversity, mostly perennial native species
- ☐  High diversity, mostly native species, with a mix of perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs

7. Are indicators of salinity present?

- ☐  Saline conditions are affecting plant health, productivity, and vigor
- ☐  Salt indicators are visible but are not limiting plant growth
- ☒  Salts do not appear to be present

Bringing It All Together

Using your answers from the worksheet above, fill in the chart below. Note areas that seem to be doing well, and others that need improvement.

Stream Type: _____ Stream Name or Location: _____

Date Monitoring Completed ____/____/____

Current Condition

For each question, mark the column that corresponds to the resilience color noted in the worksheet. Notice changes to condition over time by preserving this worksheet and your notes for future monitoring reference.

Question	Losing Function	Functioning But at Risk	Moderate Resilience	Strong Resilience	Most Resilient	Notes/comments: (wildlife observations, annual precipitation received, etc.)
	Less Resilient>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> More Resilient					
1. Stream Flow Type			x			Second year in moderate to severe drought. 4” precip received to date for 2021. Stream was running in May and early June after a few rain events. Damselfly and Great Plains toad seen along stream.
2. Springs and/or Seeps		x				
3. Sinuosity			x			
4. Stream Stage				x		
5. Entrenchment				x		
6a. Vegetation Cover				x		
6b. Width of Greenbelt		x				
6c. Dominant Vegetation	x					
6d. Trees and Shrubs	x					
6e. Plant Diversity				x		
7. Salinity					x	

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3. What is your stream's sinuosity (or meandering)?

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4. How is your stream channel changing or evolving?

- ☐ ☐ Fully Connected: no defined channel, "stage zero" or channel highly connected and continuous with an active floodplain
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b. Width of greenbelt

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c. Dominant vegetation

- ☐  Mostly upland plants
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d. Based on your assessment, which best describes the presence of trees?

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e. Plant diversity

- ☐  Low diversity, mostly invasive species and/or annual weedy species
- ☐  Low diversity, mostly perennial native species
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7. Are indicators of salinity present?

- ☐  Saline conditions are affecting plant health, productivity, and vigor
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2. Springs and/or Seeps						
3. Sinuosity						
4. Stream Stage						
5. Entrenchment						
6a. Vegetation Cover						
6b. Width of Greenbelt						
6c. Dominant Vegetation						
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6b. Width of Greenbelt						
6c. Dominant Vegetation						
6d. Trees and Shrubs						
6e. Plant Diversity						
7. Salinity						