

# WA HABITAT ASSESSMENT FIELD DATA SHEET—HIGH GRADIENT STREAMS (FRONT)

STREAM NAME:		LOCATION DESCRIPTION:	
WA SITE ID:		DATE:	
START TIME:	END TIME:	TIME ZONE: EST or EDT	
FORM COMPLETED BY/ASSESSOR:			
COMMENTS:			

Parameters to be evaluated in sampling reach	Habitat Parameter	Condition Category			
		Optimal	Suboptimal	Marginal	Poor
	<b>1. Epifaunal Substrate/ Available Cover</b>	Greater than 70% of substrate favorable for epifaunal colonization and 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 newfall, 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.
	SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0
	<b>2. Embeddedness</b> Note: Look at substrate in run areas.	Gravel, cobble, and boulder particles are 0-25% surrounded by fine sediment. Layering of cobble provides diversity of niche space.	Gravel, cobble, and boulder particles are 25-50% surrounded by fine sediment.	Gravel, cobble, and boulder particles are 50-75% surrounded by fine sediment.	Gravel, cobble, and boulder particles are more than 75% surrounded by fine sediment.
	SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0
	<b>3. Velocity/Depth Regime</b>	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).
	SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0
	<b>4. Sediment Deposition</b>	Little or no enlargement of islands or point bars and less than 5% of the bottom affected by sediment deposition.	Some new increase in bar formation, mostly from gravel, sand or fine sediment; 5-30% of the bottom affected; slight deposition in pools.	Moderate deposition of new gravel, sand or fine sediment on old and new bars; 30-50% 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% of the bottom changing frequently; pools almost absent due to substantial sediment deposition.
	SCORE	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0
	<b>5. Channel Flow Status</b>	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	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0

## HABITAT ASSESSMENT FIELD DATA SHEET – HIGH GRADIENT STREAMS (BACK)

Parameters to be evaluated broader than sampling reach	Habitat Parameter	Condition Category			
		Optimal	Suboptimal	Marginal	Poor
	<b>6. Channel Alteration</b>	Channelization (straightening) or dredging absent or minimal; stream with normal pattern.	Some channelization or shoring structures 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.
	<b>SCORE</b>	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0
	<b>7. Frequency of Riffles (or bends)</b>	Occurrence of riffles relatively frequent; ratio of distance between riffles divided by width of the stream $\leq 7:1$ (generally 5 to 7); variety of habitat is key. In streams where riffles are continuous, placement of boulders or other large, natural obstructions are important.	Occurrence of riffles infrequent; distance between riffles divided by the width of the stream is between 8 to 15.	Occasional riffle or bend; bottom contours provide some habitat; distance between riffles divided by the width of the stream is between 16 to 25.	Generally all flat water or shallow riffles, occasional bend; poor habitat; distance between riffles divided by the width of the stream is a ratio of $>25$ .
	<b>SCORE</b>	20 19 18 17 16	15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6	5 4 3 2 1 0
	<b>8. Bank Stability (score each bank)</b>  <b>Note: determine left or right side by facing downstream.</b>	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; 60-100% of bank has erosional scars.
	SCORE ____ (LB)	Left Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0
	SCORE ____ (RB)	Right Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0
	<b>9. Bank Vegetative Protection (score each bank)</b>	More than 90% of the streambank surfaces and immediate riparian zone covered by 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 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.
	SCORE ____ (LB)	Left Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0
	SCORE ____ (RB)	Right Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0
	<b>10. Riparian Vegetative Zone Width (score each bank riparian zone)</b>	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 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.
	SCORE ____ (LB)	Left Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0
	SCORE ____ (RB)	Right Bank 10 9	8 7 6	5 4 3	2 1 0

**Total Score** \_\_\_\_\_