

# WATERSHED SURVEY VISUAL ASSESSMENT

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Stream name: \_\_\_\_\_

Watershed name: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate size of study area (acres): \_\_\_\_\_

Investigators: \_\_\_\_\_

Site (description): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### 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

## LAND USES IN THE WATERSHED

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

	Streamside	Within 1/4 mile of Stream	Within Watershed
<b>Residential:</b>			
Single-family housing	0	0	0
Apartment building	0	0	0
Lawns	0	0	0
Playground	0	0	0
Parking lot	0	0	0
Other _____	0	0	0
<b>Commercial / Industrial / Institutional:</b>			
Commercial development (stores, restaurants)	0	0	0
Auto repair/gas station	0	0	0
Factory/Power plant	0	0	0
Sewage treatment facility	0	0	0
Water treatment facility	0	0	0
Institution (e.g., school, offices)	0	0	0
Landfill	0	0	0
Automobile graveyard	0	0	0
Bus or taxi depot	0	0	0
Other _____	0	0	0
<b>Forest / Parkland:</b>			
Recreational park	0	0	0
National/State Forest	0	0	0
Woods/Greenway	0	0	0
Other _____	0	0	0
<b>Agricultural / Rural:</b>			
Grazing land	0	0	0
Cropland	0	0	0
Animal feedlot	0	0	0
Isolated farm	0	0	0
Old (abandoned) field	0	0	0
Fish hatchery	0	0	0
Tree farm	0	0	0
Other _____	0	0	0

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

Residential \_\_\_\_%      Parkland/Forest \_\_\_\_%  
 Commercial/Industrial/Institutional \_\_\_\_%      Other \_\_\_\_%  
 Agricultural/Rural \_\_\_\_%

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

	Streamside	Within 1/4 mile of Stream	Within Watershed
<b>Construction</b>			
Building construction	0	0	0
Roadway	0	0	0
Bridge construction	0	0	0
Other _____	0	0	0
<b>Logging</b>			
Selective logging	0	0	0
Intensive logging	0	0	0
Lumber treatment facility	0	0	0
Other _____	0	0	0
<b>Mining</b>			
Strip mining	0	0	0
Pit mining	0	0	0
Abandoned mine	0	0	0
Quarry	0	0	0
Other _____	0	0	0
<b>Recreation</b>			
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

**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.

## 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/locational 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.