

Description

Site

SITE ID: \_\_\_\_\_

# RIPARIAN HABITAT FIELD FORM

## SITE DESCRIPTION

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Site ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Stream/Pond Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Field Staff: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Site Identification and Characteristics

Town:	Subbasin	Ownership:
Aerial Photo(s) ID:	USGS Quad	Date:
Area (sf):	Length:	Width:
Nearest Road:	GPS (NAD 83) N _____ W _____	

Name of Adjacent Stream: \_\_\_\_\_ Width of Stream (ft.): \_\_\_\_\_

DEPWQ Classification of Stream: \_\_\_\_\_

Cold Water Stream: Yes No

General Site Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

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Area connected to other riparian habitat Island by riparian corridor? Upstream: Yes No  
Downstream: Yes No

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Cover Types Present

Wetland :	Forested	Scrub-Shrub	Emergent	Open Water
Upland: Forest	Shrubland	Old field	Grassland	Pasture
Agricultural Field	Turf	Sparsely Vegetated	Unvegetated	Developed

Predominant Habitat Types: \_\_\_\_\_

Average % Cover : Tree \_\_\_\_\_ Shrub/Sapling: \_\_\_\_\_

Herbaceous \_\_\_\_\_ Developed \_\_\_\_\_

Dominant Species	Abundance (% Cover of Area)

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**Invasives/Exotics within Area:**

Phragmites    P.Loosestrife    E. Buckthorn    Honeysuckle    Knotweed    Barberry  
Milfoil    Chestnut    Fanwort    Pondweed    Naiad    Hydrilla

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Wildlife Indicators Within Area:**

Beaver Pond    Snags    Stumps    Sandy Banks    Rookery    Vernal Pools  
Logs    Cavities    Burrows    Mud flats    Sandy Beach    Nest boxes  
Islands    Persistent open waters in Winter    Other \_\_\_\_\_

Wildlife

Observed: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Current Uses/Activities within Potential Restoration Site**

Parking Lot    Junkyard    Abandoned Industrial    Dumping    Borrow Area  
Fill    Excavation    Active Agr.    Abandoned Agr.    Other \_\_\_\_\_

Hazardous Waste Sites or Potential Sources of Contamination: Y / N

Comment: \_\_\_\_\_



ADJACENT AREA DESCRIPTION  
SITE ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/ notes/ sketches:

**SITE ANALYSIS**

Impairments (circle the appropriate value for each factor)

Factor	Low	Medium	High
Points	1	2	3
Coverage of Exotics	< 5%	6 - 25%	>25%
Exotic/Invasive Plants	Few (1 species)	Some (2-3 species)	Many (>3 species)
Connectivity to Undisturbed Habitat	Direct Connectivity between Site and Adjacent Vegetated Areas	Potential Connectivity between Site and Adjacent Vegetated Areas	No Connectivity between Site and Adjacent Vegetated Areas
Development within area (all areas lacking natural vegetation)	< 5 %	6-25%	>25 %
% of Restoration Area that has been previously filled	<5%	6-25%	>25%
Channelized flow through buffer (short circuiting)	Little or none	Moderate	Severe (filtering effects of buffer largely short circuited)
Area Isolated from stream by berm or wall	Buffer not isolated	<10% isolated	>10 % isolated
Erosion	Little (visible, but no impact observable)	Moderate (visible with impact visible)	Considerable (clear impact/ degradation)
Sedimentation	Little (visible, but no impact observable)	Moderate (visible with impact visible)	Considerable (clear impact/ degradation)
Evidence of Illegal Dumping	Little or No Evidence	Some Evidence	Considerable Evidence (>10 %)
Hazardous Waste Sites within or adjacent to the site	None	Localized Contamination on the Site	Widespread Contamination on the Site
Adjacent Land Use	Light/Undeveloped	Moderately Developed	Heavily Developed
Non-Point Source Pollution Sources	0-1 Sources	2-3 Sources	>3 Sources
Off-Road Vehicle Use	None	Some	Heavy



10. Restoration of site will reduce instream sedimentation.
11. Restoration of site buffer may improve instream structure (provide source of large woody debris currently not available).
12. Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Flood Control:** *(In the box to the left, note the total number of selections that apply to the restoration site)*

1. The site is located upstream of an existing flooding problem.
2. Site watershed contains a high degree of impervious surface.
3. Site has a low gradient (flat) or could be restored to a low gradient area to increase flood storage potential.
4. Site contains or has the potential to contain a high density of vegetation.
5. The area is associated with one or more watercourses.
6. Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Recreation:** *(In the box to the left, note the total number of selections that apply to the restoration site)*

1. Site is part of or adjacent to a recreation area, park, forest or refuge and is accessible to the public for recreation.
2. Fishing is currently available or will be available adjacent to the site.
3. Hunting is permitted on the site
4. Hiking occurs or has potential to occur within the site.
5. The site provides opportunities for wildlife observation and study.
6. High visual/aesthetic quality of this potential recreational site.
7. Off-road public parking available at the potential recreation site.
8. Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Groundwater Recharge/Discharge:** *(In the box to the left, note the total number of selections that apply to the restoration site)*

1. Public water supplies occur downstream and in close proximity to the riparian habitat.
2. Gravel or sandy soils are present in/or adjacent to the site.
3. Signs of groundwater discharge are present (e.g. springs).
4. Other \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL NUMBER OF POTENTIAL BENEFITS =**

**Ranking = \_\_\_\_\_** *(Few 0-11, Some 12-24, Many 25-37)*

**Indicators of Potential Negative Impacts of Restoration**

- Check all boxes that apply to the potential restoration site.
- Add up total number of check marks to determine ranking: Few 0-2, Some 3-5, Many 6-8.
- Apply ranking to the Quality of Restoration Opportunity Table found on page 6 of this form.

- Access to adjacent areas will be eliminated by restoration project.
- Existing fisheries/wildlife habitat will be adversely impacted by the project.
- Historic Structures will be impacted by the project.
- Rare Species and/or their habitat will be adversely impacted by the restoration project.
- Agricultural land will be lost as a result of the restoration project.
- Industrial/commercial use of area will be adversely impacted by the project.
- The restoration project could increase risk of local flooding.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL NUMBER OF POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACTS =**

*Ranking = \_\_\_\_\_ (Few 0-2, Some 3-5, Many 6-8)*

**Potential Indicators of Cost**

- Check all boxes that apply to the potential restoration site.
- Add up total number of check marks and multiply by the appropriate size factor rating (SFR) for the site:  
*Site Size 1-5 acres = 1 SFR, 6-10 acres = 2 SFR, 11+ acres = 3 SFR.*
- Insert this number into the appropriate ranking: *Low 0-6, Medium 7-15, High 16-30*
- Apply ranking to the *Quality of Restoration Opportunity Table* found on page 6 of this form.

- Ownership** (e.g., site is located on private property).
- Construction Access** (e.g., access is difficult or site is more than 100 ft. from existing road).
- Regrading** (e.g., substantial regrading work is necessary for the potential restoration project).
- Fill Placement** (e.g., substantial amount of fill must be removed from the site).
- Revegetation** (e.g., a significant planting and/or seeding effort is necessary for the project.)
- Maintenance Needs** (e.g., the potential restoration site will require regular maintenance work following the completion of the project).
- Removal of Structures** (e.g., on-site structures must be removed with heavy machinery).
- Hazardous Waste** (e.g., on-site hazardous waste clean-up will be required as part of restoration activities).
- Other** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL NUMBER OF POTENTIAL INDICATORS OF COST =**

*Ranking = \_\_\_\_\_ (Low 0-6, Medium 7-14, High 15-27)*

**Quality of Restoration Opportunities**

*Factor	Points		
	1	2	3
Potential Benefits	Few	Some	Many
Potential Negative Impacts	Many	Some	Few
Potential Costs	High	Medium	Low
Size of Restoration Site	2-10 acres	11-20 acres	>20 acres

**Total Score for Restoration Opportunities =**  
**Potential Restoration Opportunity Rank: (circle)      Low 4-6    Moderate 7-9    High 10-12**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

