

Date: _____

Observer: _____

Pasture/Location: _____

HEALTH CHECKLIST FOR RIPARIAN AREAS¹

- | | YES | NO |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Is the stream channel narrow and deep? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Does the stream overflow its banks almost every year? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Are streambanks anchored securely by deep and fibrous roots? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Is the stream able to move its sediment load during annual flooding? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Are new silt or gravel bars present but rare? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Are eroding or sloughing streambanks rare? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Is the stream channel width stable or narrowing? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Are streambanks well-vegetated with grasses, sedges and/or shrubs? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Are noxious weeds rare or absent? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Is bare ground rare or absent? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Are shrubs and trees (if present) of mixed ages? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Do shrubs (if present) have many stems with last year's wood growth remaining? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. Are most grasses at least 3 inches high at the end of the growing season? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14. Are water-loving plants vigorous? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15. Is there a variety of water-loving plant species present? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

General Comments/Observations:

¹Adapted from "Stream Channel and Riparian Area Monitoring Guide" in *Monitoring for Success*. Prepared by J.C. Mosley, Extension Range Management Specialist, Montana State University-Bozeman (8/97).