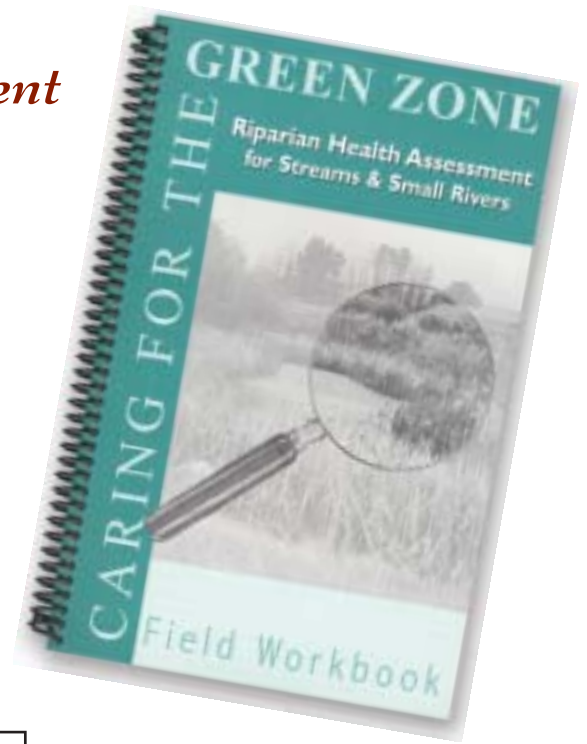




Riparian Health Assessment

Riparian health assessment puts your initial observations into a format that allows you to understand the significance of your concerns and to measure the condition of the riparian area against a standard. This is what your doctor does when you have a checkup. Nine to sixteen measurements make up a riparian health assessment. These measurements relate to the ability of the riparian area to perform key ecological functions that translate into health. Riparian health assessment is a survey that landowners, resource managers and others can use to quickly check the health status of an area. Field workbooks and field forms are available for riparian health assessments of streams and small rivers, lakes and wetlands, and large rivers.



RIPARIAN HEALTH ASSESSMENT - FIELD SHEET				
Landowner/lessee: _____		Date: _____		Reach No.: _____
Stream/River: _____				
Site Description: _____				
				Scores of N/A
				Actual Possible
1. Vegetative Cover of Floodplain and Streambanks				
6	4	2	0	_____
2. Invasive Plant Species				
3	2	1	0 (cover)	_____
3	2	1	0 (density)	_____
3. Disturbance-increaser Undesirable Herbaceous Species				
3	2	1	0	_____
4. Preferred Tree and Shrub Establishment and Regeneration				
6	4	2	0	_____
5. Utilization of Preferred Trees and Shrubs				
3	2	1	0	_____
6. Standing Decadent and Dead Woody Material				
3	2	1	0	_____
7. Streambank Root Mass Protection				
6	4	2	0	_____
8. Human-Caused Bare Ground				
6	4	2	0	_____
9. Streambank Structurally Altered by Human Activity				
6	4	2	0	_____
10. Pudding, Hummocking and/or Rutting				
3	2	1	0	_____
11. Stream Channel Incisement (vertical stability)				
9	6	3	0	_____
TOTAL				_____

this one is for Streams and Small Rivers

some questions may not apply

possible scores are the maximum available for each question

actual scores are those you measure

a description is provided of what is measured and how to measure it on other pages

your observations will allow you to assign a score

different questions are weighted differently based on the relative contribution to health

add up the individual scores and compare to the possible score