

Date: _____

Observer: _____

Pasture/Location: _____



HEALTH CHECKLIST FOR RIPARIAN AREAS¹

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
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 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:

¹ Adapted 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).