

Stream Habitat Definitions

Substrate: The composition of a streambed, including either mineral or organic materials.

Silt: Substrate particles smaller than sand and larger than clay.

Embeddedness: The degree to which rocks are covered up by the substrate material (sand, clay, silt, etc.).

Is the substrate covered with excessive silt? Some siltation along stream margins is normal. Lots of silt, settled on gravel, cobble, and woody debris is not good. Please mark YES or NO on the datasheet.

Substrate Embeddedness in Riffles: Percentage of bottom material (rocks, cobble, gravel) that are covered by silt or sand.

Riffle: A reach of stream that is characterized by shallow, fast moving water broken by the presence of rocks and boulders.

Cobble: Substrate particles that are smaller than boulder, and are generally 64-256mm in diameter.

Aquatic Plants: Any plants that live in the water.

Run: A reach of stream characterized by fast flowing low turbulence water.

Stream Margin: Where the stream's water meets the land.

Leaf Packs: Packets of damp, wet, or slimy leaves that have "layered" look and are stuck together in a stack, preferably in the decomposing phase. You can tell it's decomposing if it has dark brown-black skeletonized leaves. May not be right in the stream; could be on the bank.

Pool: A reach of stream that is characterized by deep low velocity water and a smooth surface.

Undercut Banks/Overhanging Vegetation: This term is self-explanatory.

Submerged Wood: Wood that is under water.

Other: Could be boulders; or any other habitat type not included above.