

Human Disturbance Ranking Form for Biological Assessment of Wetlands

Station #: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____
 Town: _____ County: _____
 Evaluator(s): _____
 Name of wetland and/or associated waterbodies _____

For each wetland station assessed, score all potential factors in the 5 categories below using the following scale:

Not Observed	Minimal Disturbance		Moderate Disturbance		Severe Disturbance
0	1	2	3	4	5

The purpose of this ranking is to characterize the degree of human disturbance at a given wetland biomonitoring station, including the portion of the watershed immediately surrounding the station, relative to other stations sampled. (Note that the human disturbance ranking is not intended to serve as an impact assessment in the absence of biological data.)

1. Hydrologic Modifications to Wetland	Observations/Comments	Score	Section 1 Subtotal:
man-made dikes or dams			_____
causways, roads or railroad bed crossings which impede water flow; inadequate or obstructed culverts			
ditching, draining or dewatering			
filling or bulldozing			
Other hydrologic modifications not included in this section (specify).			
2. Vegetative Modifications to Wetland	Observations/Comments	Score	Section 2 Subtotal:
timber harvesting in wetland			_____
other clearing/removal of vegetation (roads, utility lines etc.)			
plowing, mowing or grazing in wetland			
evidence of herbicide use in wetland			
Other vegetative modifications not included in this section (specify).			
3. Evidence of Chemical Pollutants	Observations/Comments	Score	Section 3 Subtotal:
discharge pipes			_____
oil, petroleum, chemicals observed, or chemical odor present			
soil staining and/or stressed or dying vegetation			
trash, chemical containers, demolition debris, drums, etc.			
Other evidence of chemical pollutants not included in this section (specify).			
4. Impervious Surface in Watershed	Observations/Comments	Score	Section 4 Subtotal:
residential development			_____
commercial/industrial development			
recreational development (campgrounds, picnic or boat launch areas, trails, docks, boardwalks, parking areas, etc.)			
additional roads, highways bridges			
Other impervious surfaces not included in this section (specify).			
5. Potential for NPS Pollution	Observations/Comments	Score	Section 5 Subtotal:
excess sediment accumulation or unstable/eroding soil from human activities (roads, construction or excavation sites, agriculture, forestry activities, etc.) observed			_____
alterations to wetland buffer (within 100 feet of wetland edge)			
livestock, feedlots or manure piles			
evidence of fertilizer or pesticide use (lawns, golf courses, agricultural crops, etc.)			
Other NPS sources not included in this section (specify).			
Additional notes (use back if needed):			Total:
