

**Summary of Stream Habitat and Fish Inventories on the Enoree Ranger District (Compartment 155) of the Sumter National Forest, South Carolina  
2009**



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## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Methods .....	2
Habitat Inventory .....	2
Fish Inventory .....	3
Results.....	3
Data Availability .....	3
Literature Cited .....	11
Appendix A : Fish Species Distribution .....	12
Appendix B : Field Methods for Habitat Inventory .....	26

## List of Tables

Table 1. Channel characteristics. ....	8
Table 2. Large wood .....	9
Table 3. Dominant and subdominant substrate. ....	9
Table 4. Electrofishing sample counts. ....	10

## List of Figures

Figure 1. Site location. ....	5
Figure 2. Nick point locations. ....	6
Figure 3. Number of fish species per reach. ....	7
Appendix A - fish distributions:	
Figure A1. Creek chubsucker.....	13
Figure A2. Northern hog sucker. ....	14
Figure A3. Redbreast sunfish.....	15
Figure A4. Green sunfish. ....	16
Figure A5. Pumpkinseed sunfish. ....	17
Figure A6. Bluegill. ....	18
Figure A7. Whitefin shiner. ....	19
Figure A8. Highback chub. ....	20
Figure A9. Bluehead chub. ....	21
Figure A10. Greenhead shiner. ....	22
Figure A11. Creek chub. ....	23
Figure A12. Tessellated darter. ....	24
Figure A13. Eastern mosquitofish. ....	25

## **Introduction**

In spring 2008 the Sumter National Forest (SNF) requested assistance from the USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Center for Aquatic Technology Transfer (CATT) with stream habitat and fish inventories on an unnamed tributary of the Enoree River (Figure 1). The stream is actively head-cutting and there is a recent timber harvest in the upper watershed. The SNF is considering head-cut remediation and seeding native grasses in the timber harvest area. The CATT deployed a 4-person crew to the Enoree Ranger District on the SNF from April 28-29th, 2009 to inventory stream habitat and fish. Our primary objective was to document current conditions in the unnamed tributary, allowing the SNF to determine the extent to which remediation would improve stream habitat and the fish community. If the SNF elects to remediate, post-treatment inventories may be compared with our 2009 results.

## **Methods**

### **Habitat Inventory**

We performed a basinwide visual estimation technique (BVET) habitat inventory on 2.7 km of the unnamed tributary extending from the USFS boundary upstream to where the channel ran dry (Figure 1) (Dolloff et al. 1993).

We recorded the following attributes (Appendix B):

- Habitat unit type (pools, riffles...)
- Habitat unit wetted width (visually estimated)
- Habitat unit maximum and average water depth
- Distance
- Dominant and subdominant substrate
- Percent fines
- Percent bank instability
- Large wood

At a subset of habitat units we measured:

- Habitat unit wetted width
- Bankfull channel width
- Flood prone riparian width for both left and right bank
- Bank height for left and right bank
- Channel gradient
- Percent canopy cover
- Water temperature

We noted, photographed, and recorded GPS coordinates for stream features including:

- |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| - Waterfalls       | - Landslides |
| - Tributaries      | - Bridges    |
| - Side channels    | - Fords      |
| - Braided channels | - Dams       |
| - Seeps (springs)  | - Culverts   |

In addition, we hung flagging to divide the stream into electrofishing reaches. We attempted to divide the stream into 100 m long reaches using natural habitat unit breaks to separate the adjoining reaches, however reach length ranged from 45 – 192 m due to natural variation in the location of habitat unit breaks (Table 1).

### **Fish Inventory**

We electrofished the 27 adjoining reaches laid out during the habitat inventory, a total distance of 2.7 km (Table 1). We made a single pass (no block nets) through each reach using an Appalachian Aquatics backpack electrofishing unit (150-250v AC). We stopped at the upstream end of each reach to record the total number of individuals of each species captured. We report the fish data in Appendix A as number of fish captured per 100 meters due to variation in electrofishing reach length.

### **Results**

The CATT and SNF personnel completed 2.7 km of habitat and fish inventory on the Unnamed tributary of Enoree Creek. The incised channel had an average bankfull width of 3.1 m and bank height of 2.1 m (Table 2). The quantity of large wood within the bankfull channel was 66 pieces per kilometer (Table 3). Substrate within the wetted channel was predominantly sand and small gravel (Table 4).

Throughout the stream there were nick points (i.e. changes in slope associated with geologic features) including bedrock outcrops and a 0.8 m high waterfall (Figure 2). These nick points function as natural headcut barriers and the waterfall may impede upstream fish movement.

We collected 13 fish species in 5 families (Table 5). Species richness was highest near the downstream end of the reach (Figure 3). Some species, including creek chub (Figure A11) and bluehead chub (Figure A9) were captured throughout most of the reach. Others, such as eastern mosquitofish (Figure A13) and tessellated darter (Figure A12) were limited in distribution and number. We noted an interesting transition from whitefin shiner (Figure A7), to greenhead shiner (Figure A10), to highback chub (Figure A8) as we worked upstream. Creek chub was the most wide-spread and frequently captured species accounting for 54% of total captures. Creek chub was also the only species present upstream of the waterfall (Figure 2) and adjacent to the timber harvest.

### **Data Availability**

Spring 2009 habitat and fish data are ready for migration into the Natural Resource Information System water module (NRIS). We will format the data according to the Regional NRIS Water standards and migrate the data as the new NRIS water module comes online. As data are migrated into NRIS Water the CATT will coordinate development of custom query and reporting tools for the SNF. In the interim,

the CATT is available to assist with data analysis and report preparation. Jeanne Riley, SNF Fish Biologist, received a copy of all data in electronic format.

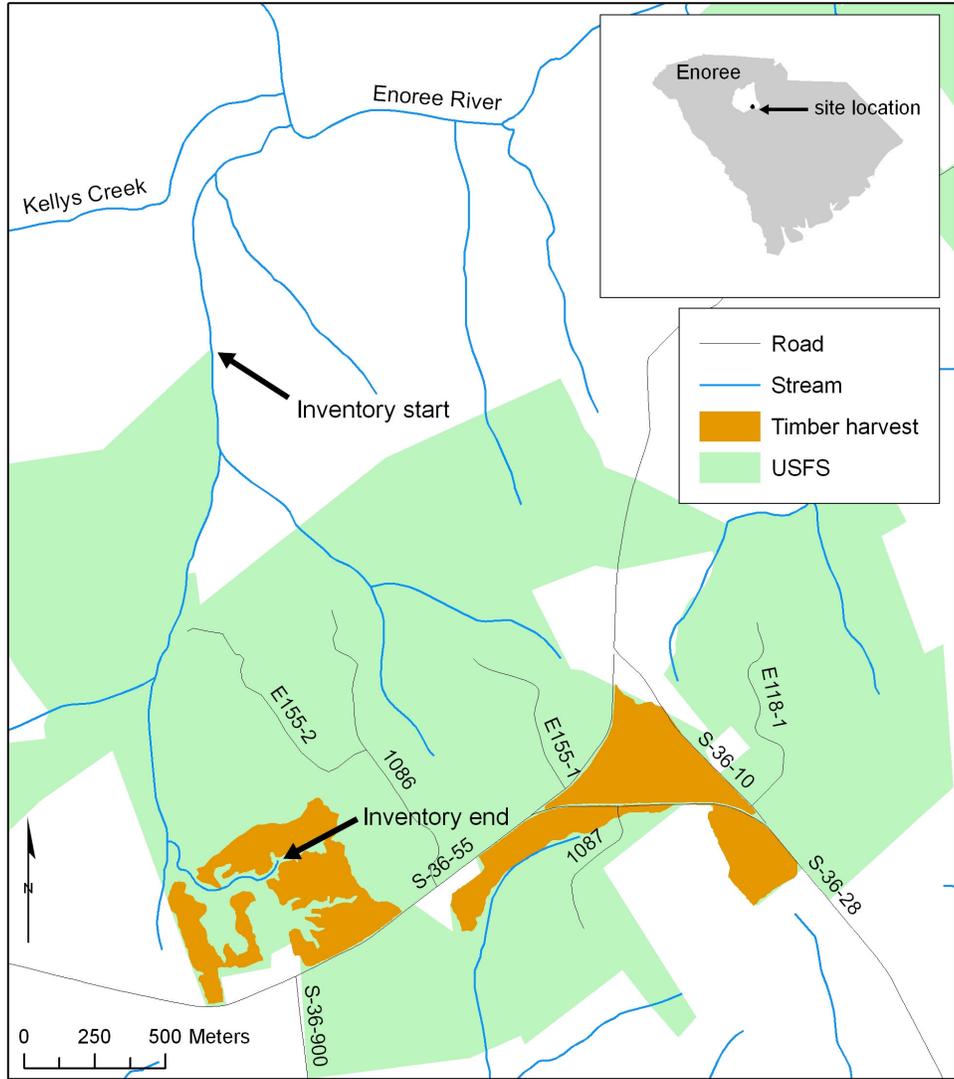


Figure 1. Location of the unnamed tributary to Enoree Creek and the start and end locations of the stream habitat and electrofishing inventories (Enoree Ranger District, SC).

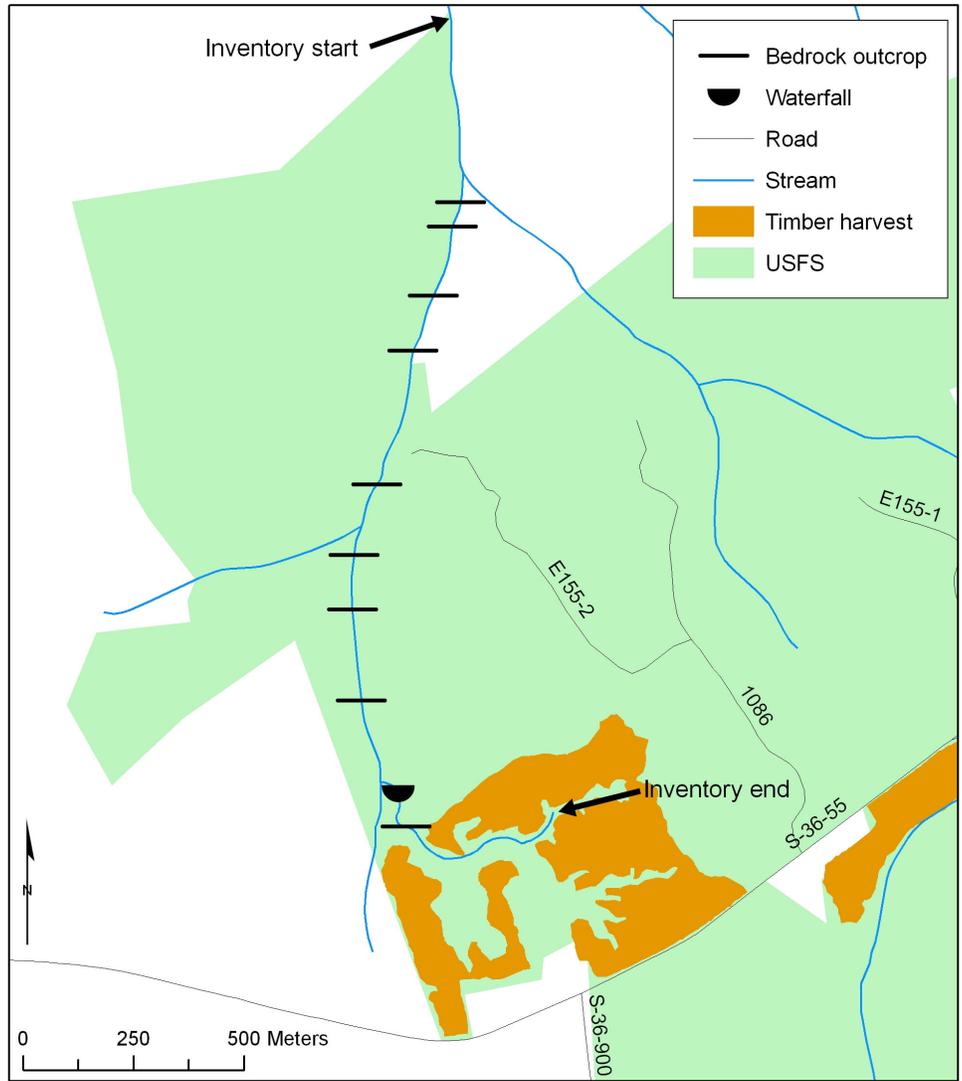


Figure 2. Location of nick points, such as bedrock outcrops and waterfalls that impede channel downcutting, in the unnamed tributary to Enoree Creek (Enoree Ranger District, SC).

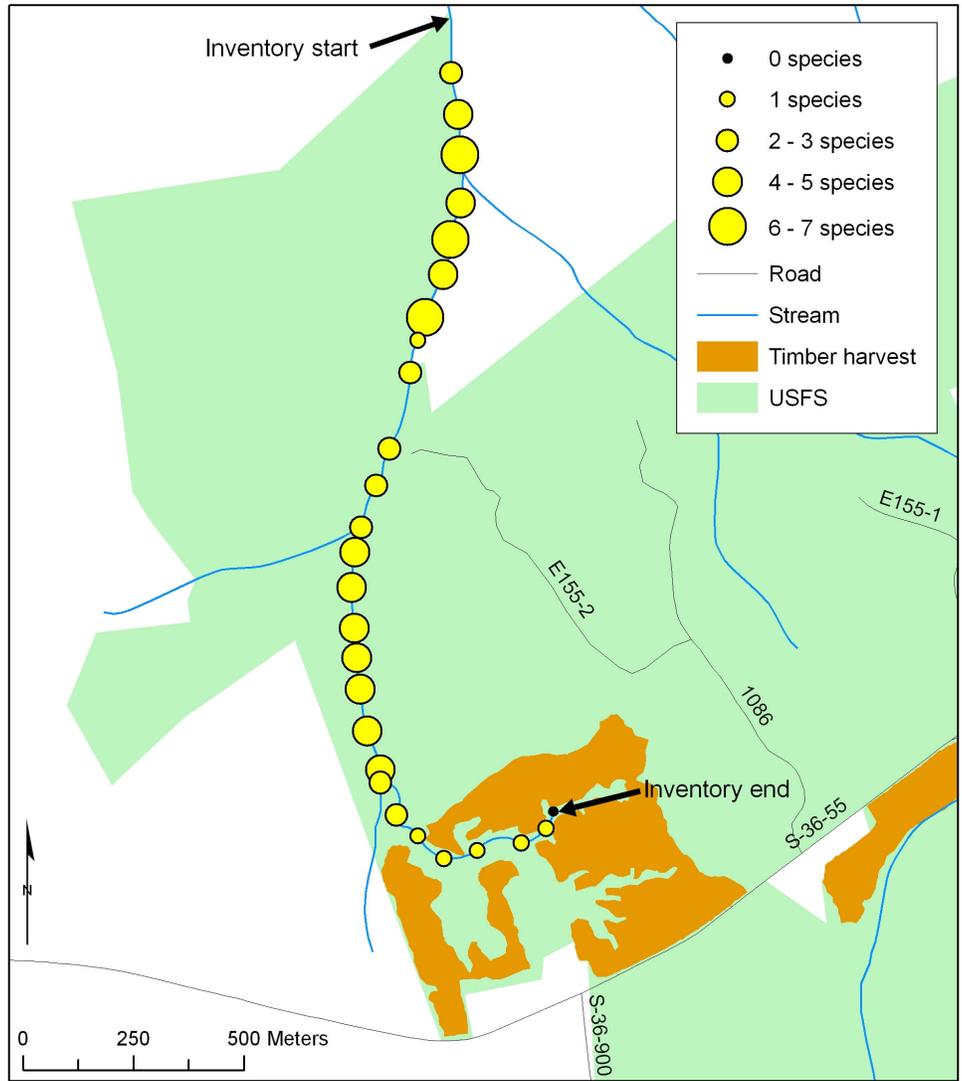


Figure 3. Number of fish species captured in sample reaches in the unnamed tributary to Enoree Creek (Enoree Ranger District, SC). Symbols are located at the upstream end of each sample reach.

Table 1. Length of electrofished reaches in the unnamed tributary of Enoree Creek.

Reach	Start (m)	End (m)	Length (m)
1	0	104	104
2	104	200	96
3	200	306	106
4	306	411	105
5	411	496	85
6	496	602	106
7	602	720	118
8	720	798	78
9	798	901	103
10	901	1,093	192
11	1,093	1,194	101
12	1,194	1,320	126
13	1,320	1,402	82
14	1,402	1,500	98
15	1,500	1,600	100
16	1,600	1,698	98
17	1,698	1,797	99
18	1,797	1,891	94
19	1,891	2,013	122
20	2,013	2,095	82
21	2,095	2,199	104
22	2,199	2,293	94
23	2,293	2,398	105
24	2,398	2,501	103
25	2,501	2,603	102
26	2,603	2,682	79
27	2,682	2,727	45
Avg Reach Length (m)			101

Table 2. Summary of channel characteristics inventoried for the unnamed tributary of Enoree Creek.

Channel Characteristics	
Average Bank Instability	36 % (n=153)
Average Bankfull Width	3.1 m (n=7)
Average Bank Height	2.1 m (n=14)

Table 3. Number of large wood pieces per kilometer.

Large Wood	Pieces per Km
1-5 m long, 10-55 cm diameter	40
1-5 m long, > 55 cm diameter	0
> 5 m long, 10-55 cm diameter	26
> 5 m long, > 55 cm diameter	0
Total:	66

Table 4. Percent and count of habitat units with specified dominant and subdominant substrate types (see Appendix B for substrate size criteria).

Substrate	Dominant		Subdominant	
	%	n	%	n
Organic matter	8	12	8	12
Clay	0	0	0	0
Silt	0	0	1	1
Sand	57	88	30	46
Small gravel	8	13	38	59
Large gravel	10	15	9	14
Cobble	1	2	2	3
Boulder	1	1	1	2
Bedrock	15	23	11	17

Table 5. Fish species captured by electrofishing 2.7 km of the unnamed tributary of Enoree Creek.

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Total Count
Catostomidae	<i>Erimyzon oblongus</i>	Creek chubsucker	1
Catostomidae	<i>Hypentelium nigricans</i>	Northern hog sucker	1
Centrarchidae	<i>Lepomis auritus</i>	Redbreast sunfish	111
Centrarchidae	<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>	Green sunfish	1
Centrarchidae	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>	Pumpkinseed	11
Centrarchidae	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	Bluegill	5
Cyprinidae	<i>Cyprinella nivea</i>	Whitefin shiner	152
Cyprinidae	<i>Hybopsis hypsinotus</i>	Highback chub	32
Cyprinidae	<i>Nocomis leptcephalus</i>	Bluehead chub	82
Cyprinidae	<i>Notropis chlorocephalus</i>	Greenhead shiner	70
Cyprinidae	<i>Semotilus atromaculatus</i>	Creek chub	551
Percidae	<i>Etheostoma olmstedii</i>	Tessellated darter	6
Poeciliidae	<i>Gambusia holbrooki</i>	Eastern mosquitofish	4

### **Literature Cited**

Dolloff, C. A., D. G. Hankin, and G. H. Reeves. 1993. Basinwide estimation of habitat and fish populations in streams. General Technical Report SE-83. Asheville, North Carolina: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Southeastern Forest Experiment Station.

## **Appendix A : Fish Species Distribution**

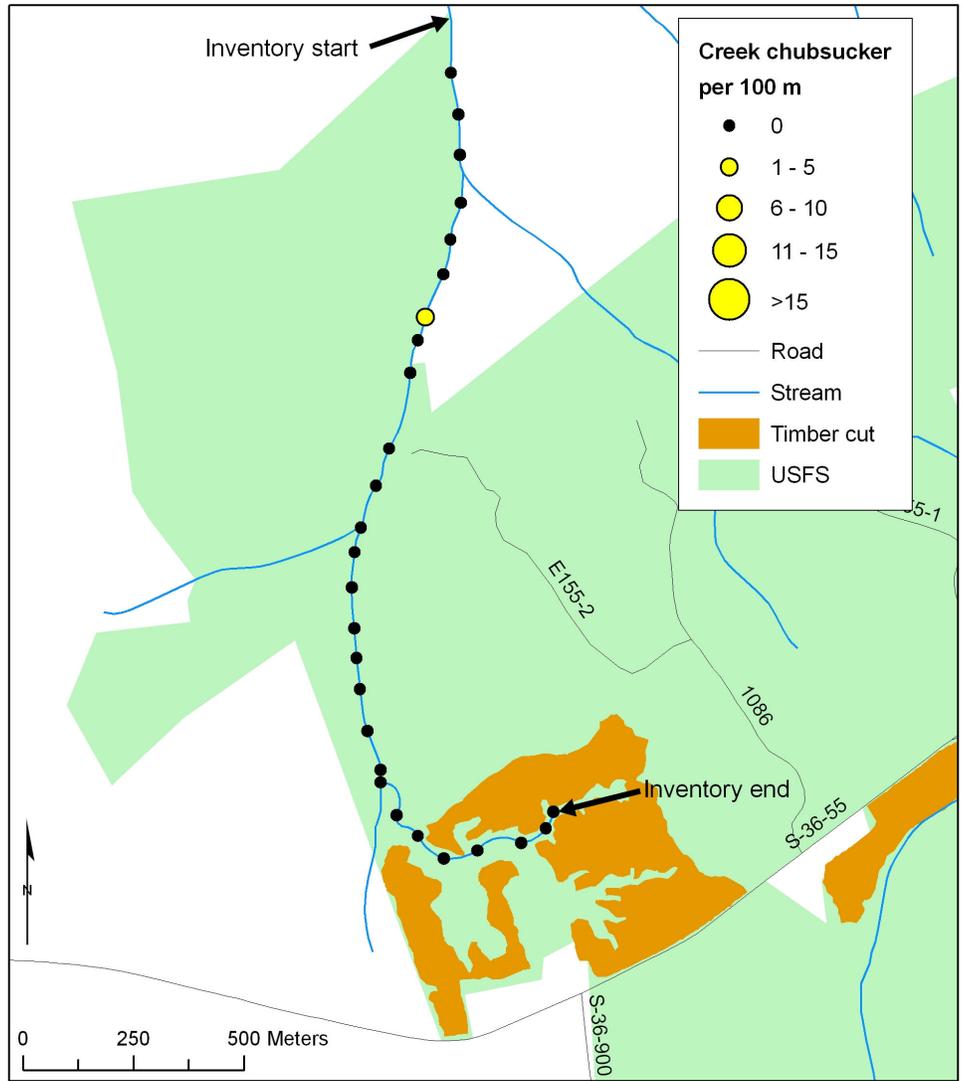


Figure A1. Number of creek chubsucker collected in sample reaches in the unnamed tributary to Enoree Creek (Enoree Ranger District, SC). Symbols are located at the upstream end of each sample reach.

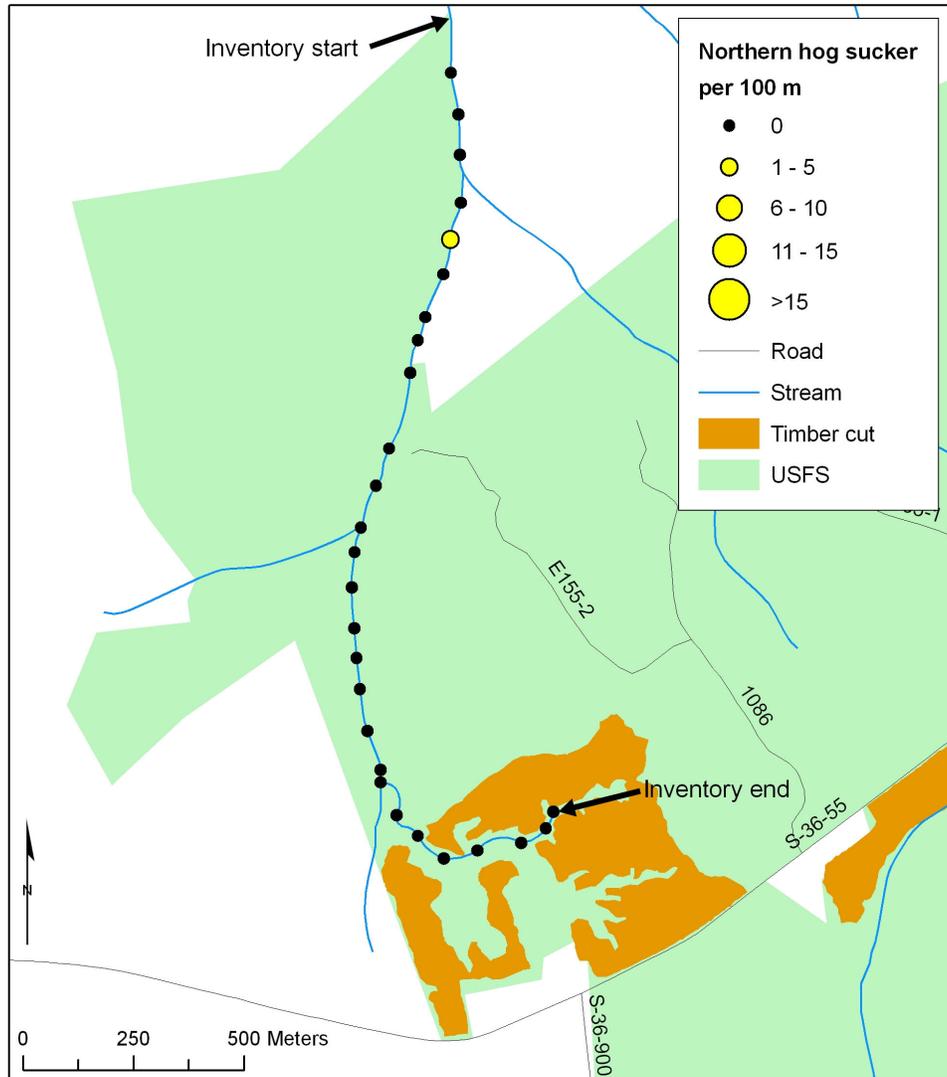


Figure A2. Number of northern hog sucker collected in sample reaches in the unnamed tributary to Enoree Creek (Enoree Ranger District, SC). Symbols are located at the upstream end of each sample reach.

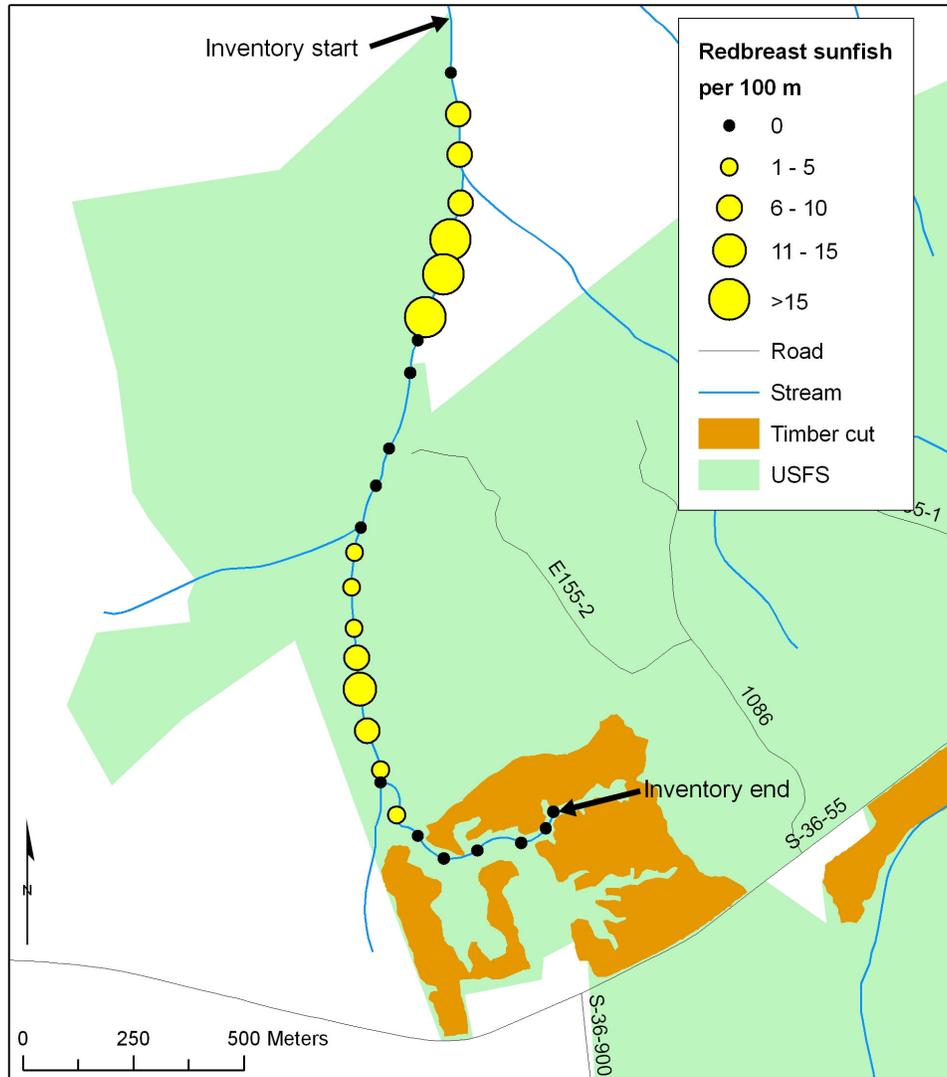


Figure A3. Number of redbreast sunfish collected in sample reaches in the unnamed tributary to Enoree Creek (Enoree Ranger District, SC). Symbols are located at the upstream end of each sample reach.

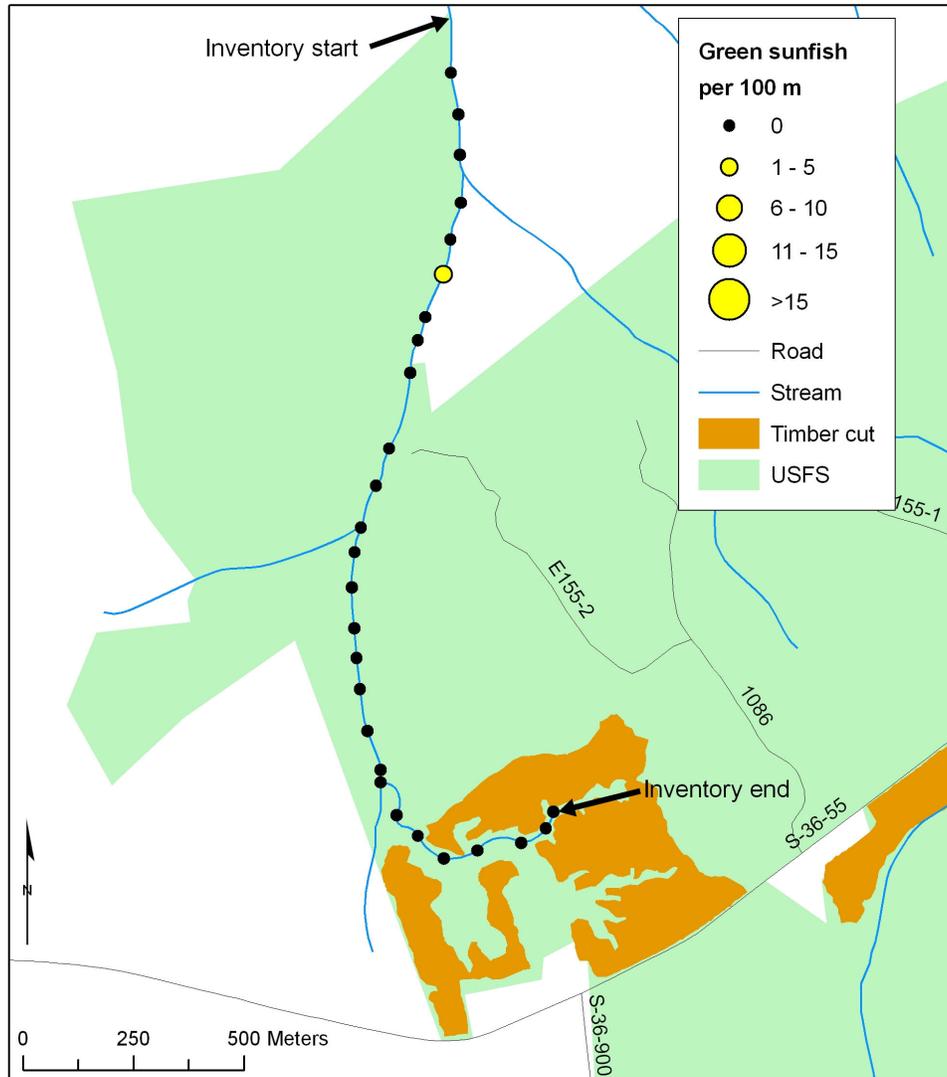


Figure A4. Number of green sunfish collected in sample reaches in the unnamed tributary to Enoree Creek (Enoree Ranger District, SC). Symbols are located at the upstream end of each sample reach.

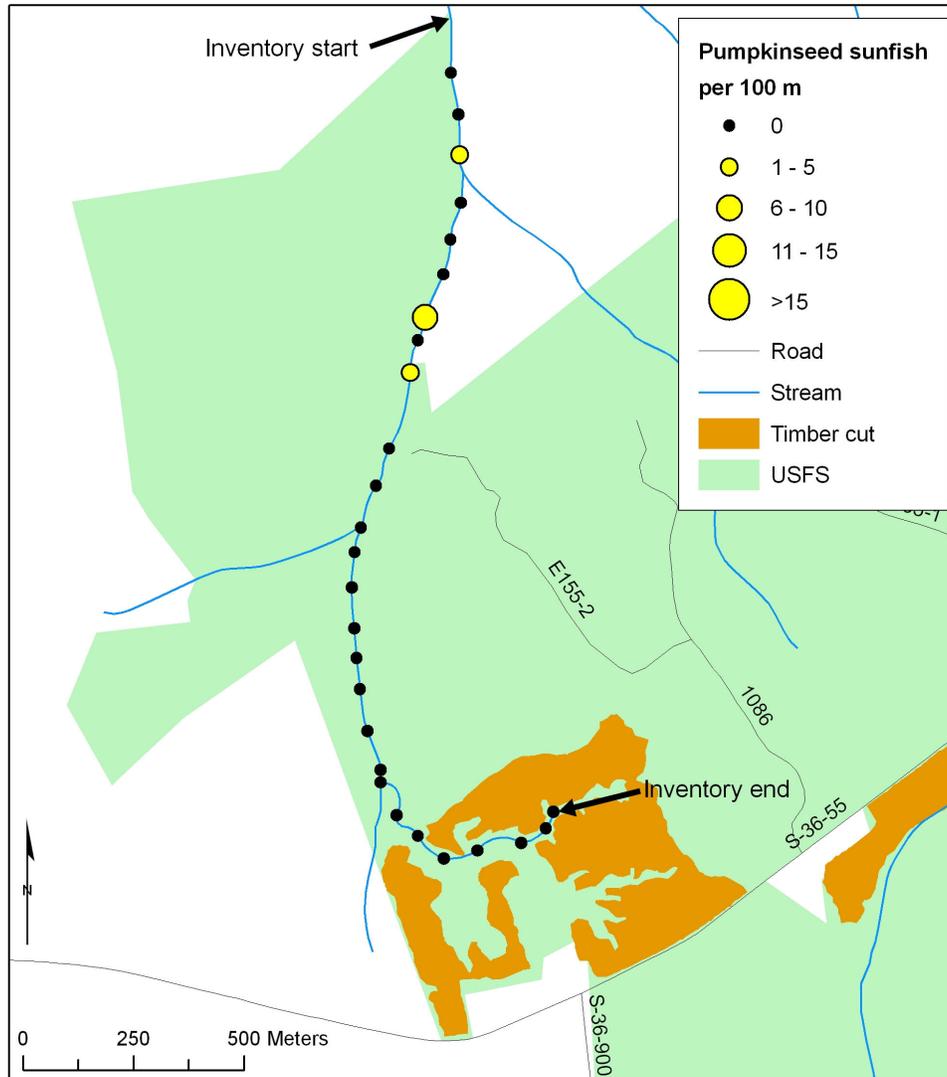


Figure A5. Number of pumpkinseed sunfish collected in sample reaches in the unnamed tributary to Enoree Creek (Enoree Ranger District, SC). Symbols are located at the upstream end of each sample reach.

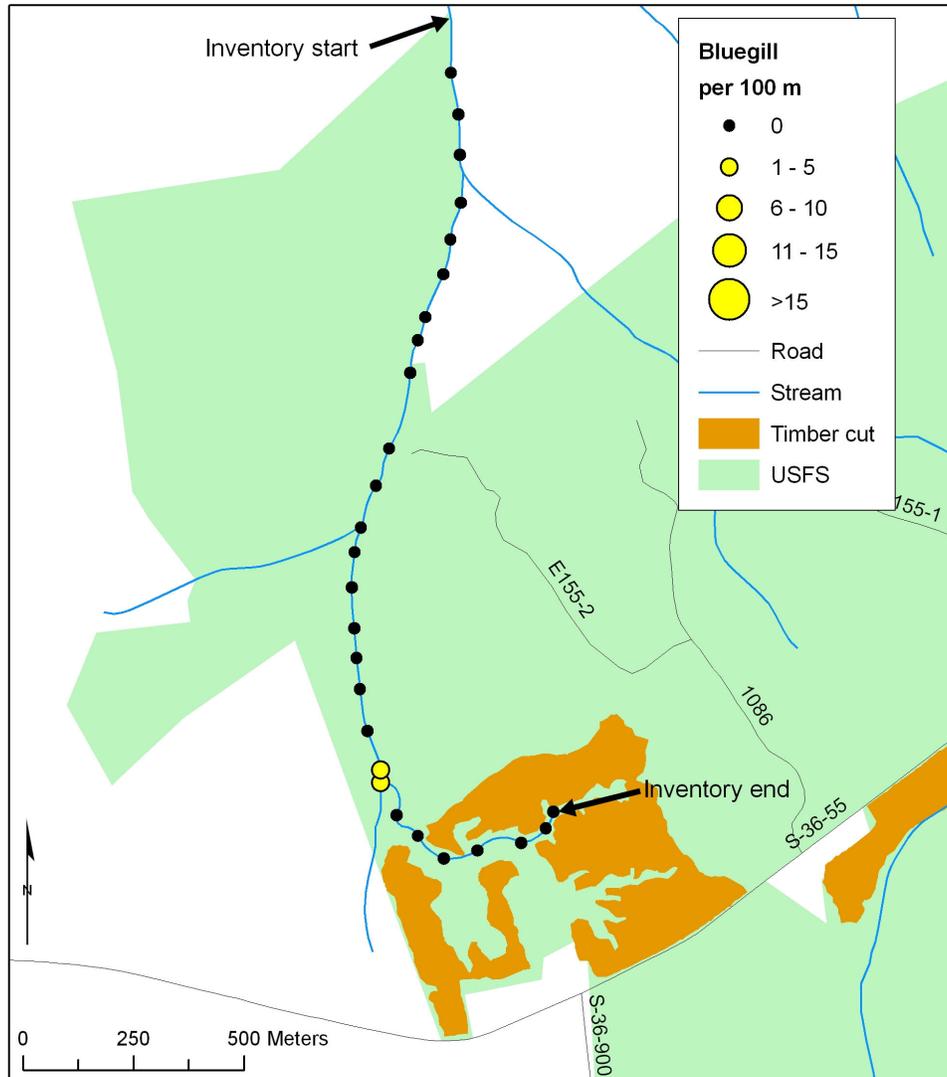


Figure A6. Number of bluegill collected in sample reaches in the unnamed tributary to Enoree Creek (Enoree Ranger District, SC). Symbols are located at the upstream end of each sample reach.

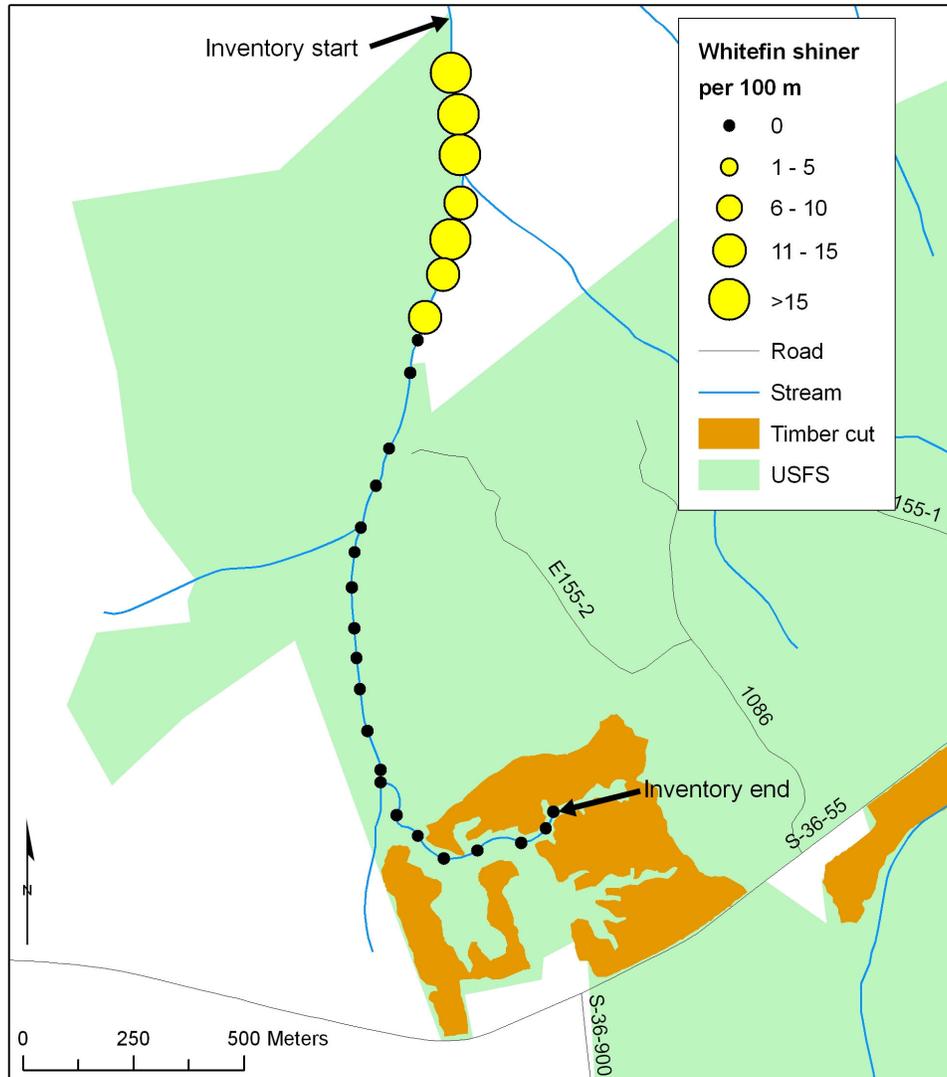


Figure A7. Number of whitefin shiner collected in sample reaches in the unnamed tributary to Enoree Creek (Enoree Ranger District, SC). Symbols are located at the upstream end of each sample reach.

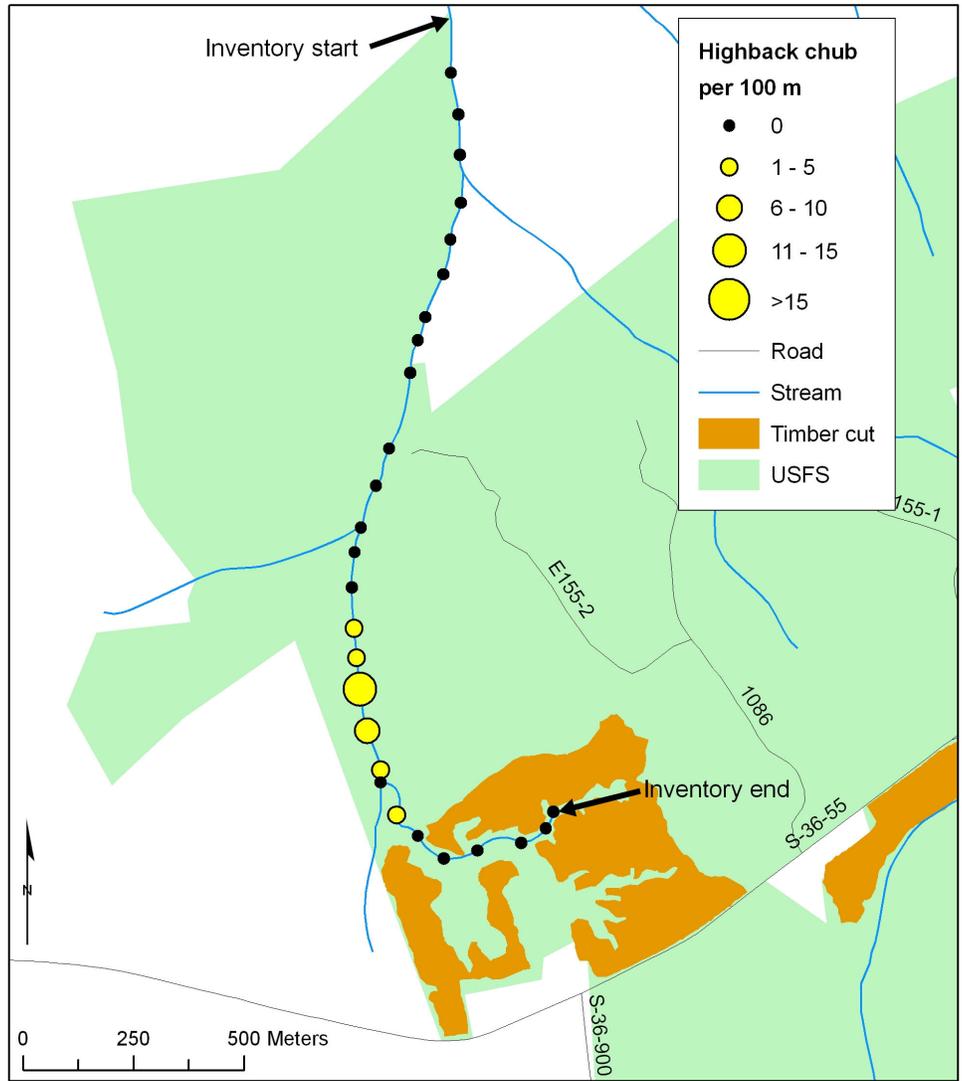


Figure A8. Number of highback chub collected in sample reaches in the unnamed tributary to Enoree Creek (Enoree Ranger District, SC). Symbols are located at the upstream end of each sample reach.

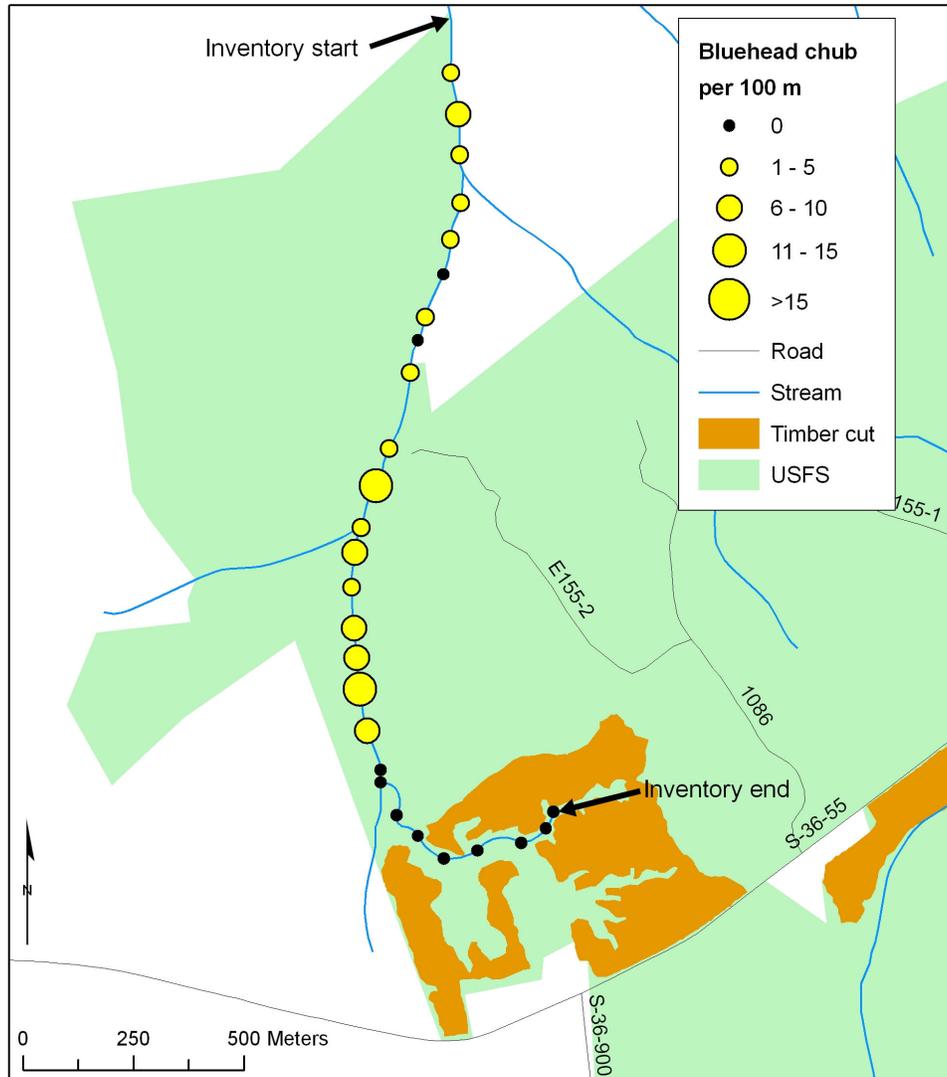


Figure A9. Number of bluehead chub collected in sample reaches in the unnamed tributary to Enoree Creek (Enoree Ranger District, SC). Symbols are located at the upstream end of each sample reach.

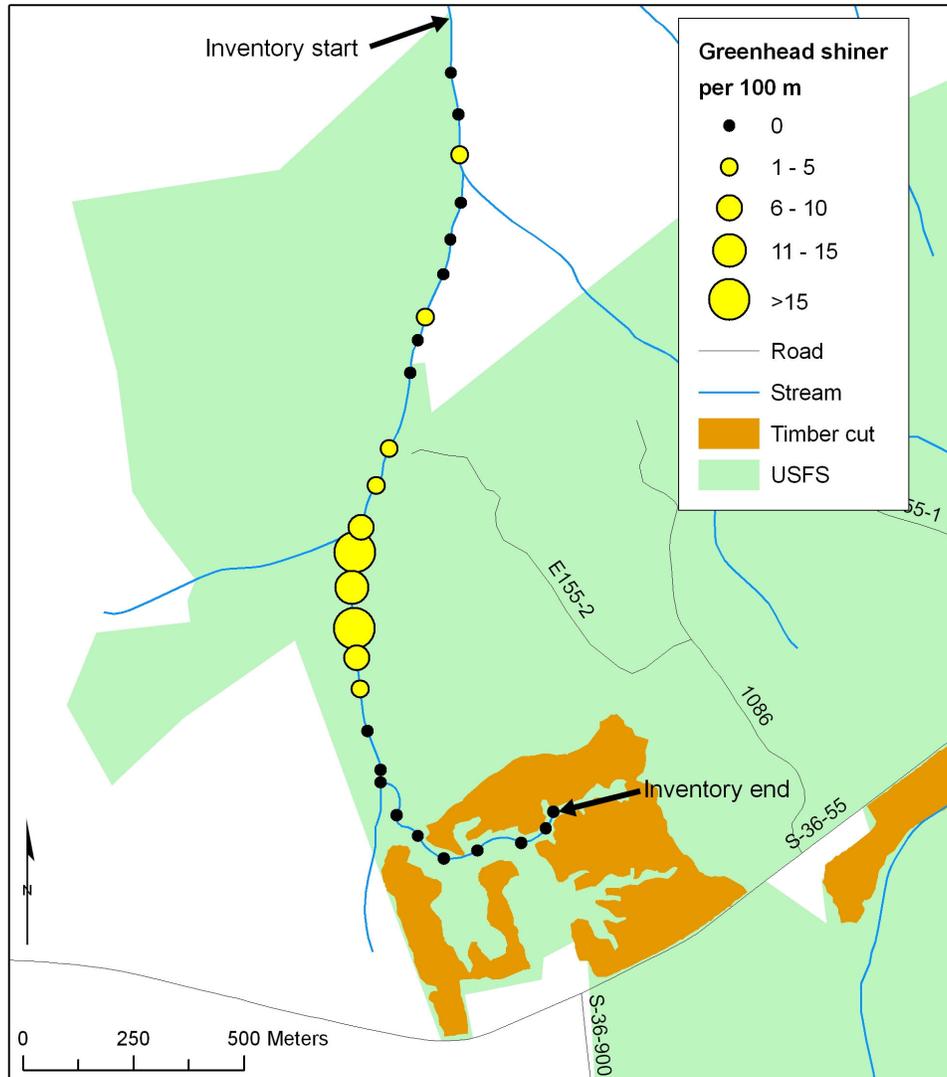


Figure A10. Number of greenhead shiner collected in sample reaches in the unnamed tributary to Enoree Creek (Enoree Ranger District, SC). Symbols are located at the upstream end of each sample reach.

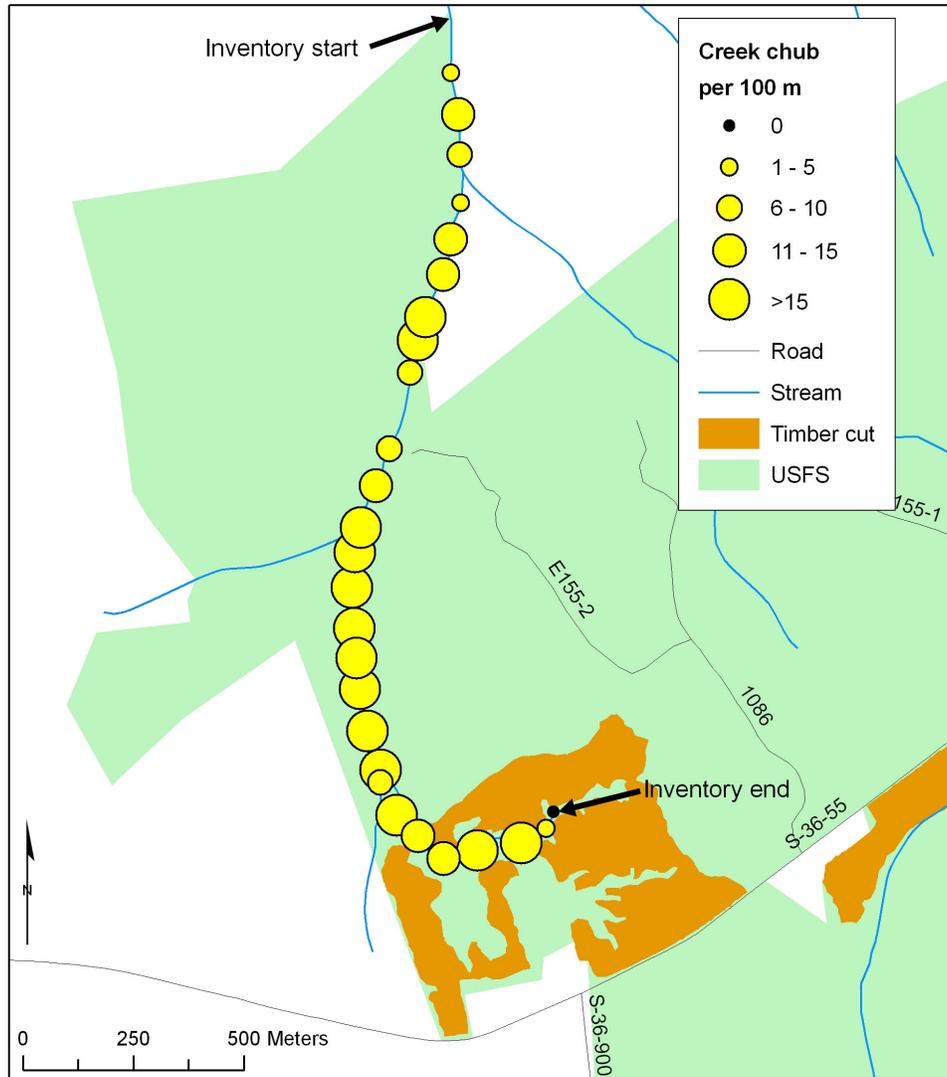


Figure A11. Number of creek chub collected in sample reaches in the unnamed tributary to Enoree Creek (Enoree Ranger District, SC). Symbols are located at the upstream end of each sample reach.

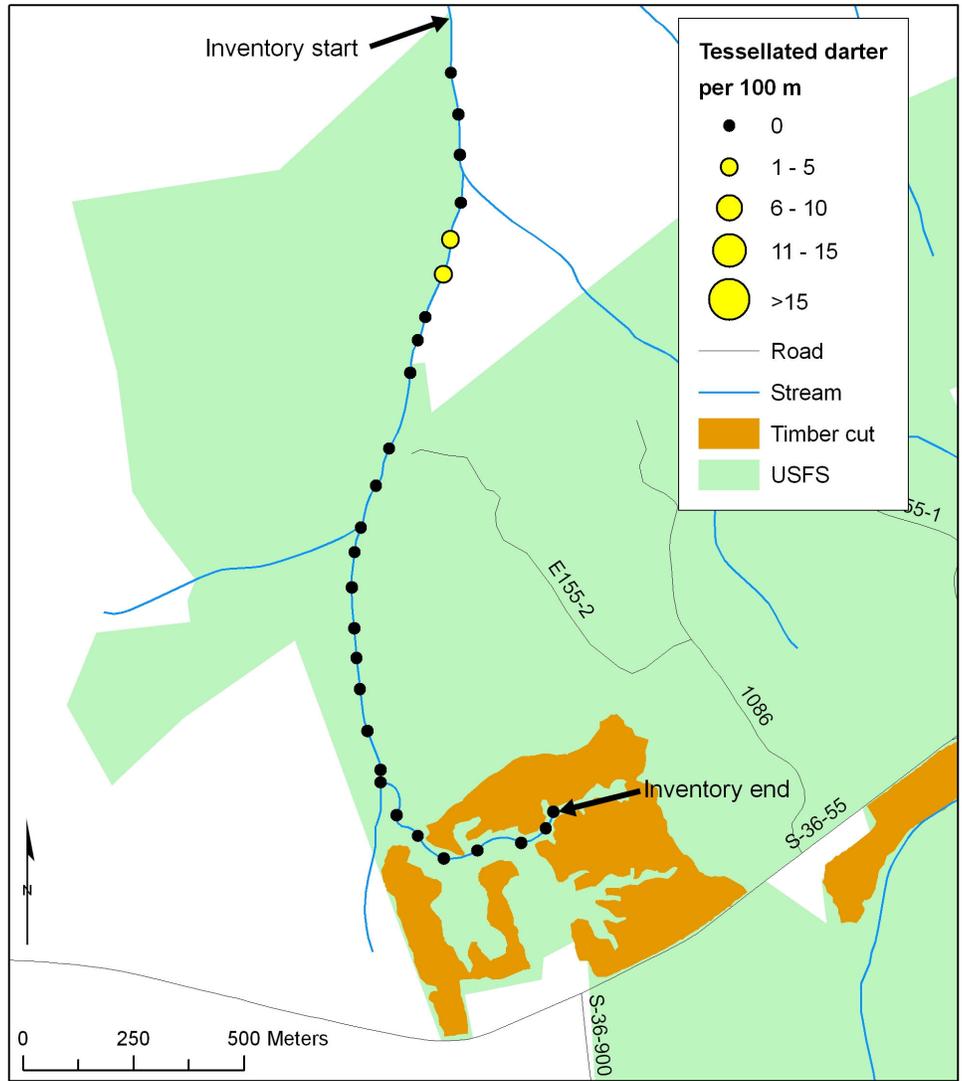


Figure A12. Number of tessellated darter collected in sample reaches in the unnamed tributary to Enoree Creek (Enoree Ranger District, SC). Symbols are located at the upstream end of each sample reach.

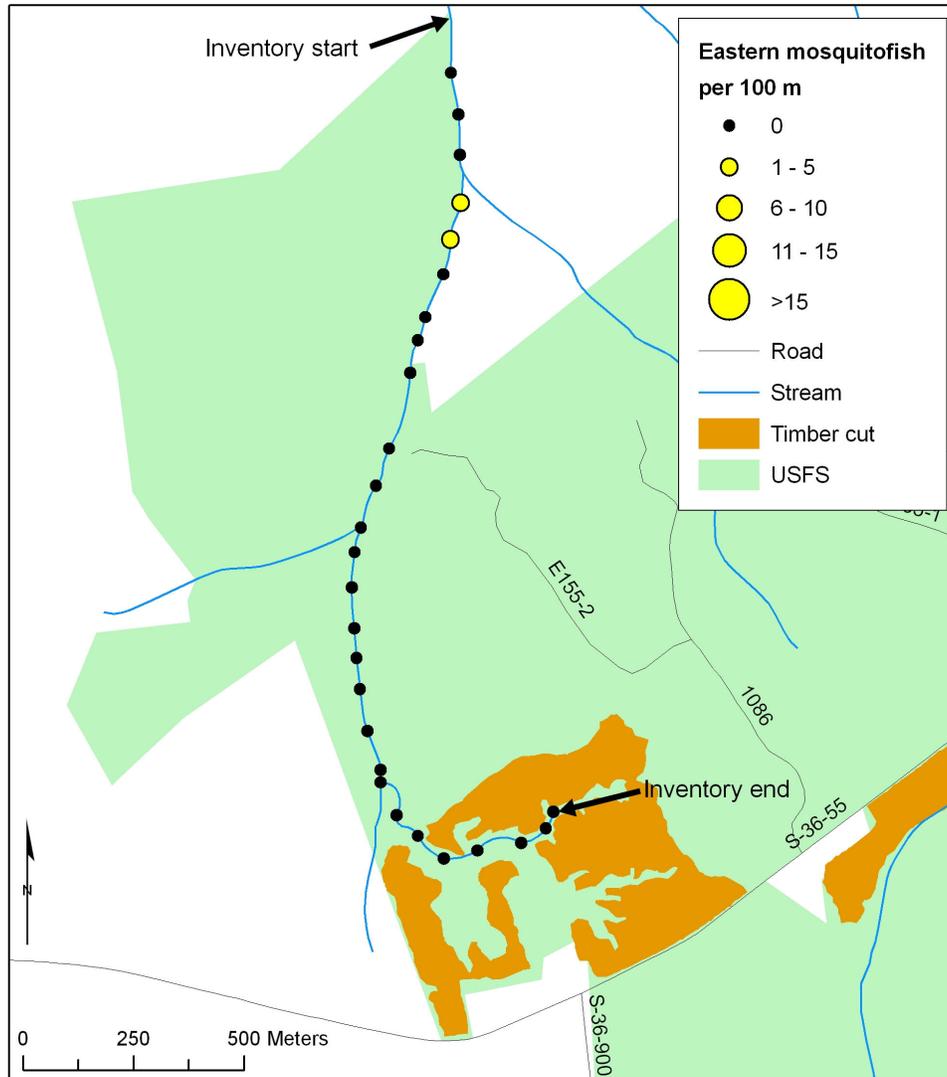
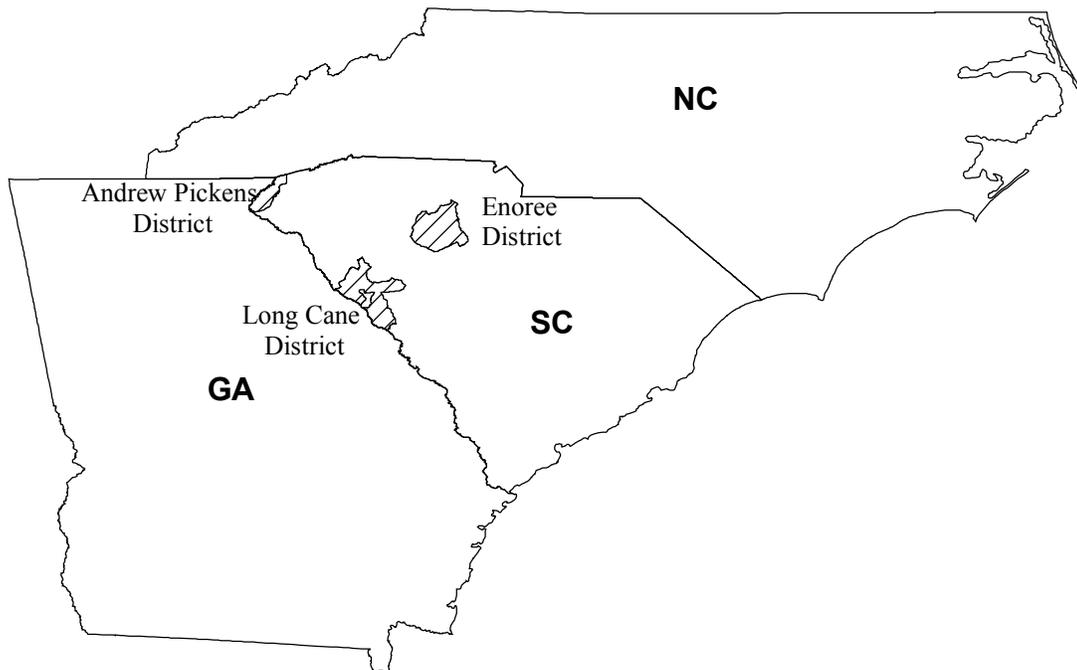


Figure A13. Number of eastern mosquitofish collected in sample reaches in the unnamed tributary to Enoree Creek (Enoree Ranger District, SC). Symbols are located at the upstream end of each sample reach.

## **Appendix B : Field Methods for Habitat Inventory**

**Guide to Stream Habitat Characterization using the BVET Methodology in Piedmont and Mountain Streams on the Sumter National Forest, SC**



**Prepared by:**



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2008

## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
References cited in this manual: .....	3
Changes to BVET survey in 2008.....	4
Outline of BVET Habitat Survey.....	5
Section 1: Getting Started .....	6
Equipment List .....	6
Duties.....	6
Header Information.....	6
Random Numbers.....	7
Starting the Survey .....	7
Section 2: Stream Attributes .....	8
Unit Type (see abbreviations).....	8
Unit Number (#) .....	9
Distance (m) .....	10
Estimated Width (m) .....	10
Maximum and Average Depth (cm) .....	11
Riffle Crest Depth (cm).....	11
Dominant and Subdominant Substrate (1-9) .....	12
Percent Fines (%).....	13
Bank Instability (%).....	13
Large Wood (1-4 and rootwad) .....	14
Actual Width (m).....	15
Bankfull Channel Width (m) .....	15
Riparian Width (m).....	16
Bank Height (m) .....	17
Canopy Cover (%).....	17
Water Temperature (C).....	17
Gradient (%).....	18
Features.....	19
Section 3: Dry Stream.....	20
Section 4: Wrapping Up.....	21
Section 5: Summary.....	22
Appendix: Field Guide, Random Numbers Table, Equipment Checklist.....	23

## **Introduction**

The basinwide visual estimation technique (BVET) is a versatile tool used to assess streamwide habitat conditions in wadeable size streams and rivers. A crew of two individuals performs the survey using two-stage visual estimation techniques described in Hankin and Reeves (1988) and Dolloff et al. (1993). In its most basic form the BVET combines visual estimates with actual measurements to provide a calibrated estimate of stream area with confidence intervals, however the crew may inventory any number of other habitat characteristics as they walk length of the stream. Experienced crews can survey an average of 2.0 – 3.0 km per day, but this will vary depending on stream size and the number of stream characteristics inventoried.

Before a crew begins a BVET survey they must receive adequate training, both in the classroom and in the field. Estimating and measuring a large number of habitat characteristics can confuse and overwhelm an inexperienced crew. Individuals must have an understanding of the basic concepts behind the BVET and be familiar with habitat characteristics before they can effectively and efficiently perform a survey.

The USFS Center for Aquatic Technology Transfer (CATT) has been working directly with resource managers on the Sumter National Forest (SNF) since the 2001 to implement BVET surveys and adapt them to the Forest's specific needs. More than 15 habitat characteristics are currently estimated or measured during SNF BVET habitat surveys. We review the survey annually and add and remove attributes as needed to maximize efficiency and relevancy with regards to emerging techniques and Forest issues. Changes are made only after careful review to ensure consistency with data collected in the past. See 'Changes to BVET survey for 2004' for a list of survey changes.

This document was developed to serve as a guide for classroom and field instruction for the SNF BVET habitat survey and to provide a post-training reference for field crews. It includes an overview of the BVET survey, defines habitat characteristics, instructs how to measure and when to record characteristics, and provides reference sheets for use in the field. Each trainee should receive a copy of this manual and is encouraged to take notes in the spaces provided.

### **References cited in this manual:**

- Armantrout, N. B., compiler. 1998. Glossary of aquatic habitat inventory terminology. American Fisheries Society, Bethesda, Maryland.
- Dolloff, C. A., D. G. Hankin, and G. H. Reeves. 1993. Basinwide estimation of habitat and fish populations in streams. General Technical Report SE-83. Asheville, North Carolina: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Southeastern Forest Experimental Station.
- Hankin, D. G., and G. H. Reeves. 1988. Estimating total fish abundance and total habitat area in small streams based on visual estimation methods. *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* 45:834-844.
- Rosgen, D.L. 1996. *Applied River Morphology*. Wildland Hydrology Books, Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

### **Changes to BVET survey in 2008**

Inventory modified for dry streams to increase number of attributes data is collected for.

Other minor changes, mostly modifications in terminology and definitions to provide increased clarity, are found throughout the manual.

## Outline of BVET Habitat Survey

The survey is comprised of the following steps:

- 1) Enter 'header' information in the data sheet
  - 'Header' information includes date, stream, start location, crew, etc. and is **vital** important to record for future reference
- 2) Select an appropriate measurement interval and a random number
  - In streams < 1.0 km measure every 5<sup>th</sup> unit (random number 1-5), in streams > 1.0 km measure every 10<sup>th</sup> unit (random number 1-10)
  - The random number designates the first habitat unit (i.e. the n<sup>th</sup> unit) in which the crew will perform measurements
- 3) Enter downstream of the starting point, then move upstream and begin the survey
  - Tie off the hipchain, proceed upstream to the starting point, reset the hipchain to zero, and proceed upstream estimating parameters and recording data in every habitat unit
- 4) At the n<sup>th</sup> unit perform visual estimates, then perform measurements
  - If the random number '3' were chosen, the crew would stop after making estimates in the 3<sup>rd</sup> pool (and 3<sup>rd</sup> riffle) and perform the necessary measurements
- 5) Progress upstream estimating characteristics for every unit until the next n<sup>th</sup> unit is reached, then repeat step 4
  - In the above example, if the interval were 10 units, the crew would stop at the 13<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 33<sup>rd</sup>, etc. pool (and 13<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 33<sup>rd</sup>, etc. riffle) and repeat measurements done in pool 3 and riffle 3.
  - The crew should also take care to record roads, trails, tributaries, dams, waterfalls, road crossing types, riparian features (wildlife openings, trails, campsites, roads, timber harvest, etc.), and other pertinent stream features as they progress upstream. Be sure to record hipchain distances when noting such features.

Repeat steps 4 and 5 until the end of the stream is reached.

The following sections describe the BVET habitat survey in detail:

**Section 1:** Getting Started – equipment lists, header information, random numbers, starting the survey

**Section 2:** Habitat Characteristics – definitions, how to estimate or measure, when to record

**Section 3:** Wrapping Up – what to do when the survey is completed

**Appendix:** field guide, random number tables, equipment checklist

## Section 1: Getting Started

### Equipment List

---

hipchain	compass
extra string for hipchain	backpack
wading rod	pencils
50 m tape measure	flagging
clinometer	markers
thermometer	waterproof backup datasheets
convex densiometer	clipboard
datalogger	BVET manual and field guide
GPS unit	felt bottom wading boots or waders
topographic map	

---

Other useful equipment: lunch, water, water filter, 1<sup>st</sup> aid kit, toilet paper, rain gear, radio/cell phone

The crew consists of two individuals, the ‘observer’ and the ‘recorder’. The observer wears the hipchain and carries the wading rod. The recorder wears the data logger and carries other equipment in the backpack. The duties of each individual are listed below.

### Duties

---

Observer	Recorder
Designate habitat units	Record data
Measure distance	Determine n <sup>th</sup> unit location
Estimate width	Classify and count LWD
Estimate depths	Document features
Classify substrates	
Estimate percent fines	
Estimate bank instability	

---

Both crew members are needed to measure actual widths, channel widths, riparian widths, bank height, canopy cover, water temperature, and gradient at designated units. Although the crew has assigned duties, they should not hesitate to consult with each other if they have questions or feel that a mistake may have been made. Working as a team will provide the best possible results.

### Header Information

Header information is **vitaly important** for future reference. Take the time to record all categories completely and accurately.

---

Stream Name	Full name of stream
District	National Forest District name
Quad	USGS 1:24,000 quadrangle name
Date	Record date(s) of survey
Recorder	Full name of recorder
Observer	Full name of observer
GPS	coordinates at survey start and end, always record in NAD27 CONUS, UTM
Start Location	<b>Detailed</b> written description of start point
Notes	Record signs of activity in area, water conditions, other pertinent information

---

## **Random Numbers**

Before beginning the survey, select a number from a random numbers table (see Appendix) to determine the first habitat unit at which to make measurements. For long surveys (> 1.0 km) select a random number between 1 and 10 (i.e. measure every 10 unit), for shorter streams use a number between 1 and 5 (i.e. measure every 5<sup>th</sup> unit). See the appendix for random numbers tables.

The crew needs to measure units more frequently during shorter surveys to provide enough paired samples for data analysis. Paired samples are units in which both visual estimates and actual measurements are made. The more paired samples, the tighter the confidence intervals for stream area estimates.

After the crew records a paired sample they continue upstream making visual estimates and stopping to make additional measurements at the pre-determined interval. For example, if the random number was 3 and the crew was measuring every 5<sup>th</sup> unit, the crew would make measurements on the 3<sup>rd</sup> pool and 3<sup>rd</sup> riffle and then every 5<sup>th</sup> pool and riffle thereafter (8, 13, 18, 23, etc).

## **Starting the Survey**

After the crew has organized their gear, determined their measurement interval, selected a random number, and recorded all the header information they are ready to begin the habitat survey. The observer should enter the stream slightly downstream of the starting point, tie off the hipchain, progress upstream to the starting point, reset the hipchain to zero and begin walking upstream through the first habitat unit. As the observer moves upstream they use the wading rod to measure depth at several locations in the habitat unit and make observations of unit type, width, substrates, embeddedness, and bank instability. When they reach the upstream end of the habitat unit they stop, report the distance, then turn to face the unit and report the unit type, estimated width, maximum and average depth, riffle crest depth (where appropriate), dominant and subdominant substrate classes, percent embeddedness, and bank instability to the recorder.

As the observer moves upstream through the unit, the recorder follows behind, recording the amount of LWD in the habitat unit. The recorder also assigns a number to the habitat unit. The recorder tells the observer if a unit is designated for measurements (i.e. if it is the n<sup>th</sup> unit) only after they have recorded visual estimates.

The crew continues upstream making estimates in every habitat unit and making estimates and measurements in every n<sup>th</sup> unit until the survey endpoint is reached.

Definitions of habitat characteristics, how to measure and when to record them, and what to do when the survey is complete are covered in the following sections.

## Section 2: Stream Attributes

### Unit Type (see abbreviations)

*Definitions\*:*

Unit Type	Abbreviation	Definition
Riffle	R	<b>Fast water, turbulent, gradient &lt;12%</b> ; shallow reaches characterized by water flowing over or around rough bed materials that break the surface during low flows; also <b>include rapids</b> (turbulent with intermittent whitewater, breaking waves, and exposed boulders), <b>chutes</b> (rapidly flowing water within narrow, steep slots of bedrock), and <b>sheets</b> (shallow water flowing over bedrock) if gradient <12%
Cascade	C	<b>Fast water, turbulent, gradient ≥12%</b> ; highly turbulent series of short falls and small scour basins, with very rapid water movement; also <b>include sheets</b> (shallow water flowing over bedrock) and <b>chutes</b> (rapidly flowing water within narrow, steep slots of bedrock) if gradient ≥12%
Run	RN	<b>Fast water, non-turbulent, gradient &lt;12%</b> ; deeper than riffles with little or no surface agitation or flow obstructions and a flat bottom profile
Pool	P	<b>Slow water, surface turbulence may or may not be present, gradient &lt;1%</b> ; generally deeper and wider than habitat immediately upstream and downstream, concave bottom profile; <b>includes dammed pools, scour pools, and plunge pools</b>
Glide	G	<b>Slow water, no surface turbulence, gradient &lt;1%</b> ; shallow with little to no flow and flat bottom profile
Swamp	S	Channel poorly defined or non-existent, water dispersed across wide area
Underground	UNGR	Stream channel is dry or not containing enough water to form distinguishable habitat units

\*modified from Armantrout (1998)

*How to estimate:*

Habitat units are separated by ‘breaks’. Breaks can be obvious physical barriers, such as a debris dam separating two pools or a small waterfall separating a pool and riffle, or may be less obvious transitional areas. Questions often arise as to whether a break is substantial enough to split two habitat units and where the exact location of the break occurs. When in doubt, the observer should consult with the recorder and the team should ‘think like a fish’. To determine if a break should be made, consider whether a fish would have to make an effort to move across the break and into the next habitat unit. If not, then it is probably a single habitat unit.

The channel may have both pool and riffle type habitat in the same cross-sectional area. Determine the predominate habitat type and record it as the unit type. For example if an area contains both pool and riffle, but the majority of the flow is into and out of the pool habitat, then call a pool.

Questions also often arise as to the minimum size of individual habitat units. Generally, if a habitat unit is not at least as long as the wetted channel is wide, then do not count it as a separate habitat unit. This rule may need to be adjusted for streams wider than 5 m. Use best professional judgment in such cases.

See the section 2.1 for a list of features that should also be recorded while performing the survey.

*When to record:* every habitat unit

**Unit Number (#)**

*Definition:*

Count of habitat units of similar types, used to determine location of n<sup>th</sup> units

*How to estimate:*

When counting habitat units, group pools and glides (slow water) together, and group riffles, runs, and cascades (fast water) together. For example, consider the following series of habitat units:

**Pool – Riffle – Pool – Pool – Riffle - Cascade – Riffle - Glide – Riffle – Pool – Run – Pool – Riffle**

Habitat units in this series would be counted in the following manner (similar types are shaded same color):

<b>Unit Type</b>	<b>Unit Number</b>
P	1
R	1
P	2
P	3
R	2
C	3
R	4
G	4
R	5
P	5
RN	6
P	6
R	7

In the above example, the crew has counted six slow water (pool/glide) units and seven fast water (riffle/run/cascade) units.

If ‘3’ were chosen as the random number, the crew would estimate and then measure habitat data for Pool 3 and Cascade 3. When the crew reaches pool or glide 13 and riffle, run, or cascade 13, they would repeat procedures followed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> units.

*When to record:* every habitat unit

## **Distance (m)**

### *Definition:*

Number of meters from the start of the survey to the upstream end of the habitat unit or distance from the start of the survey to upstream end of a feature, used as spatial reference for data analysis and to locate features in the future.

### *How to estimate:*

The observer walks upstream in the middle of the stream channel with a hipchain measuring device. When they reach the upstream break between habitat units or the upstream end of a feature they stop and report the distance to the recorder.

Care should be taken to keep the hipchain string in the middle of the stream, especially around bends and meanders. If the hipchain should break, retreat to the location where the break occurred, tie off the hipchain, and continue. If the hipchain is reset for any reason be sure to note it in the comments.

*When to record:* every habitat unit or feature

## **Estimated Width (m)**

### *Definition:*

Average wetted width of the habitat unit as estimated visually, used to calculate stream area. Wetted width is the distance from the edge of the water on one side of the main channel to the edge of the water on the opposite side of the main channel.

### *How to estimate:*

The observer notes the general shape and width of the unit while walking to the upstream end. When they reach the upstream end of the unit the observer stops, turns to face the unit, and estimates the average wetted width. Measure the wetted width of the stream before starting each day to calibrate yourself.

*When to record:* every habitat unit

## **Maximum and Average Depth (cm)**

### *Definitions:*

Maximum Depth – vertical distance from substrate to water surface at deepest point in habitat unit

Average Depth – average vertical distance from substrate to water surface in habitat unit

### *How to estimate:*

The observer uses a wading rod marked in 5 cm increments to measure water depth as they walk upstream through the habitat unit. Water depth in deepest spot is recorded as the maximum depth. Average depth is the average of several depth measurements taken throughout the habitat unit.

*When to record:* every habitat unit

## **Riffle Crest Depth (cm)**

### *Definition:*

Vertical distance from the substrate to the water surface at the deepest point in the riffle crest. The riffle crest is the shallowest continuous line (usually not straight) across the channel where the water surface becomes continuously riffled in the transition area between a riffle (or a run or cascade) and a pool (or glide) (Armantrout 1998); think of it as the last place water would flow out of the pool if the riffle ran dry.

### *How to estimate:*

When the observer reaches the upstream end of a riffle (or a run or cascade) leading into a pool (or glide), they use the wading rod to measure the deepest point in the riffle crest. Record the depth in the RCD column for the riffle habitat row.

*When to record:* at the upstream end of any riffle, run, or cascade leading into a pool or glide

## Dominant and Subdominant Substrate (1-9)

### Definitions:

Dominant Substrate: size class of material that covers the greatest amount of surface area in the wetted channel of the habitat unit

Subdominant Substrate: size class of material that covers the 2<sup>nd</sup> greatest amount of surface area in the wetted channel of the habitat unit

### How to estimate:

The following size classes are used to categorize substrates\*. The substrate 'Number' is entered into the dominant and subdominant substrate columns on the datasheet.

Type	Number	Size (mm)	Description
<b>Organic Matter</b>	1		dead leaves, detritus, etc. – <b>not live plants</b>
<b>Clay</b>	2		sticky, holds form when rolled into a ball
<b>Silt</b>	3		slippery, does not hold form when rolled into a ball
<b>Sand</b>	4	silt – 2	grainy, does not hold form when rolled into ball
<b>Small Gravel</b>	5	3-16	sand to thumbnail
<b>Large Gravel</b>	6	17-64	thumbnail to fist
<b>Cobble</b>	7	65-256	fist to head
<b>Boulder</b>	8	>256	larger than head
<b>Bedrock</b>	9		solid rock, parent material, may extend into bank

\* these size classes are based on the modified Wentworth scale

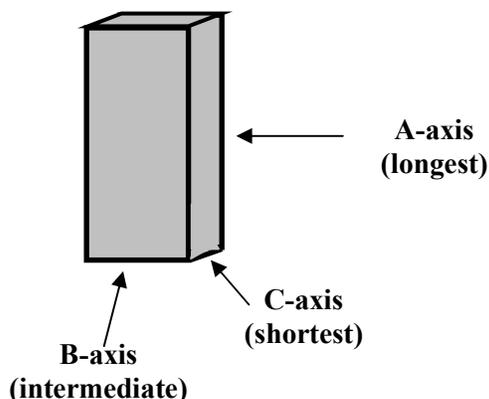
As the observer walks through the unit they scan the substrate. When they reach the upstream end of the unit they stop, turn to face the unit, and determine the dominant and subdominant substrate classes.

Estimate substrate size along the intermediate axis (b-axis). The b-axis is not the longest or shortest axis, but the intermediate length axis (see below). It is the axis that determines what size sieve the particle could pass through. Remember that your eyes are naturally drawn to larger size substrates. Be careful not to bias your estimate by focusing on the large size substrate.

Some units will contain a mixture of particle sizes. Consult with the recorder and use your best professional judgment to choose the dominant and subdominant sizes.

In units where the substrate is covered in moss, algae, or macrophytes classify the underlying substrate and make note of the plant growth in the comments. Only call organic substrate where there is dead and down leaves or other detritus covering the bottom of the unit.

When to record: every habitat unit



### **Percent Fines (%)**

*Definition:*

Percent of the total surface area of the stream bed in the wetted area of the habitat unit that consists of sand, silt, or clay substrate particles (i.e. particles < 2 mm diameter).

*How to estimate:*

As the observer walks through the habitat unit they note the amount of sand, silt, and clay in the habitat unit. When they reach the upstream end of the unit, they stop, turn to face the unit and estimate the amount of the total surface area within the wetted channel that consists of sand, silt, or clay.

*Where to estimate:* every habitat unit

### **Bank Instability (%)**

*Definition:*

Percent of bank material between the edge of the wetted channel and the top of the bankfull channel that consists of exposed erodible materials, estimated separately for left and right banks (left and right as looking upstream). Erodible materials are any material that is part of the bank structure that may become mobile during bankfull flows, for example: clay, silt, sand, or soil not held in place by rooted vegetation.

*How to estimate:*

As the observer walks through the habitat unit or section they note areas containing exposed erodible bank materials. When they reach the upstream end of the unit they stop, turn to face the unit, and estimate the percent of left and right banks that consist of exposed erodible materials

*When to record:* every habitat unit

## Large Wood (1-4 and rootwad)

### *Definition:*

Count of dead and down wood within the bankfull channel of a habitat unit

### *How to estimate:*

The recorder classifies and counts LW as they walk through the habitat unit. LW counts are grouped by the size classes listed below:

Category	Length (m)	Diameter (cm)	Description
1	<5	10-55	short, skinny
2	<5	>55	short, fat
3	>5	10-55	long, skinny
4	>5	>55	long, fat
RW	rootwad	rootwad	roots on dead and down tree

Only count woody debris that is:

- > 1.0 m in length and > 5.0 cm in diameter
  - within the bankfull channel
  - fallen, not standing dead
- 
- Count rootwads separately from attached pieces of LW
  - Estimate the diameter of LW at the widest end of the piece
  - A piece that is forked, but is still joined counts as only one piece of LW
  - Only count each piece one time, do not count a piece that is in two habitat units twice
  - Enter the total count for each size category into the appropriate column on the datasheet

*Where to estimate:* every habitat unit

**Actual Width (m)***Definition:*

Average wetted width of the habitat unit as measured with 50 m tape, used to calculate stream area. Wetted width is the distance from the edge of the water on one side of the main channel to the edge of the water on the opposite side of the main channel.

*How to measure:*

Use a meter tape to measure the wetted width of the stream in at least three locations. Average the measurements to obtain the average wetted width.

*Where to measure:* n<sup>th</sup> habitat units

**Bankfull Channel Width (m)***Definition:*

Average width of channel at bankfull elevation as measured with meter tape. Depending on channel type, bankfull may or may not be represented by the top of the banks. Use bankfull indicators to locate the top of the bankfull channel (Rosgen 1996).

*How to measure:*

Determine the location of bankfull water depth on both banks of the habitat unit and measure across the channel perpendicular to flow from bankfull to bankfull. Make at least three measurements across the bankfull channel.

*Where to measure:* n<sup>th</sup> riffles, runs, or cascades

## Riparian Width (m)

### *Definition:*

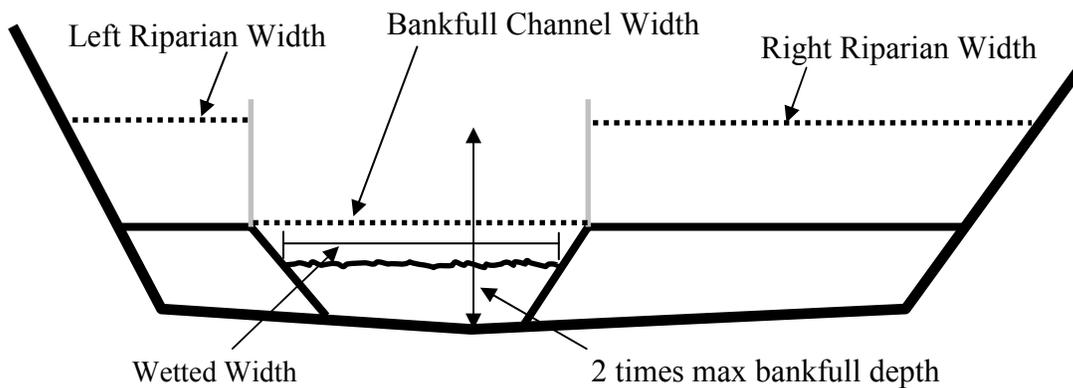
Width of the riparian area at an elevation of two times the maximum bankfull depth, measured for both left and right banks (left and right as oriented facing upstream). Maximum bankfull depth is the greatest vertical distance from the substrate to the top of the bankfull channel across a bankfull transect.

### *How to measure:*

1. Stretch a measuring tape across the top of the bankfull channel – this is your bankfull transect
2. Use a wading rod to find the maximum bankfull depth
3. Place the clinometer against the wading rod at two-times the maximum bankfull depth
4. Using the clinometer to maintain a slope of zero degrees, site perpendicular to the channel to the intersection with the nearest landform. It may be necessary to site to an intermediate point, move the wading and clinometer, and site again if the tape measure is too short or the view is obstructed
5. Measure the distance from the edge of the bankfull channel to the landform – do this separately for the left and right (as facing upstream) riparian areas

Note: if riparian width is more than 50 m, record 51 as the riparian width and note in ‘Comments’ that riparian width was longer than meter tape

*Where to measure:* n<sup>th</sup> riffles, runs, or cascades



## **Bank Height (m)**

### *Definition:*

Vertical distance from edge of bankfull channel to top of bank, measured for both left and right (as facing upstream) banks

### *How to measure:*

Measure with wading rod or tape measure the vertical distance from the edge of the bankfull channel to the top of the bank (these will be different in entrenched channels), record left and right banks separately

*When to record:* n<sup>th</sup> riffles, runs, or cascades

## **Canopy Cover (%)**

### *Definition:*

Percent of overhead area covered by tree canopy, measured with convex spherical densiometer

### *How to measure:*

- 1) stand in center of stream channel with the densiometer laid flat in palm of hand
- 2) count the number of squares that are completely covered by canopy
- 3) add in the squares that are partially covered
- 4) multiply by four to get percent canopy cover (there are approximately 25 squares on the densiometer)
  - For example, if 3 squares were completely covered, 8 squares were half covered, and 12 squares were a quarter covered and the correction factor were 4, then the percent canopy cover would be  $(3+4+3)*4 = 40\%$ .

*Be sure to consult the densiometer instructions for variations in use and correction factors between different densiometer manufacturers*

*When to record:* n<sup>th</sup> riffles, runs, or cascades

## **Water Temperature (C)**

### *Definition:*

Temperature of the water in degrees Celsius.

### *How to measure:*

Place the thermometer in moving water in an area not exposed to direct sunlight. Leave the thermometer sit for at least three minutes, then record the water temperature in degrees Celsius.

*Where to measure:* n<sup>th</sup> riffles, runs, or cascades

## **Gradient (%)**

### *Definition:*

Change in vertical elevation per unit of horizontal distance of the water surface (Armantrout 1998)

### *How to measure:*

Gradient is measured in riffles with a clinometer using the following steps:

- 1) observer stands at upstream end of riffle, recorder stands at downstream end of riffle
- 2) recorder sites upstream to the height of their eye on the observer using clinometer
- 3) record the **percent** slope, **not the degrees** (tip the clinometer all the way back to determine which side of the scale is percent)

The recorder should determine the height of their eye on the observer at the beginning of the survey. Be certain that the observer and recorder are standing with their feet in the same position (preferably with feet at top of water surface) within the stream channel. If the observer is standing on top of a boulder and the recorder is standing in a depression, the measured gradient will be incorrect.

*Where to measure:* n<sup>th</sup> riffles, runs, or cascades

## Features

*Definition:* points on a stream that could potentially serve as landmarks, may be natural or manmade

*How to measure:* record the distance to the upstream end of a feature; measure characteristics of features and record them in the 'Comments' section of datasheet

*When to record:* wherever found, record distance to most upstream point of feature

Feature	Abbreviation	What to Record
<i>Channel Features</i>		
<b>Waterfall<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>FALL</b>	Distance, estimated height
<b>Tributary</b>	<b>TRIB</b>	Distance, average wetted width, into main channel on left or right (as facing upstream)
<b>Gully<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>GU</b>	Distance, width, bank height, on left or right (as facing upstream)
<b>Side channel<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>SCH</b>	Distance, average wetted width, whether it is flowing into or out of main channel on left or right (as facing upstream)
<b>Braid<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>BRD</b>	Distance at start and distance at end; continue with normal survey up channel with greatest discharge
<b>Seep (Spring)</b>	<b>SEEP</b>	Distance, left or right bank (as facing upstream), size, coloration
<b>Landslide</b>	<b>SLID</b>	Distance, left or right bank (as facing upstream), estimated size
<i>Crossing Features</i>		
<b>Culvert<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>V</b>	Distance, length, type (single pipe, cement box, etc.), size (diameter or height), road or trail name and type (gravel, paved, unpaved horse trail, ATV, etc.), perched or not perched, slope
<b>Bridge</b>	<b>BRG</b>	Distance, width, height, road or trail name and type (gravel, paved, dirt, horse, ATV, etc.)
<b>Ford</b>	<b>FORD</b>	Distance, road or trail name and type (gravel, paved, dirt, horse, ATV, etc.)
<b>Dam</b>	<b>DAM</b>	Distance, type, condition, estimated height, dam use, name of road or trail, if applicable; include beaver dams
<b>Other</b>	<b>OTR</b>	Distance, description of feature not listed above, example: found water intake pipe going to house here; old burned out shack on side of stream; Big Gap campground on left; alligator slide here, etc.

1 must be vertical with water falling through air to be a waterfall and not a cascade, do not record unless >1m high

2 narrow channel formed by rapid erosion, may be several meters deep, carry water only during and immediately after rain, perennial flowing channels should be recorded as tributaries-note that they are entrenched in 'Comments'

3 two channels, continue with normal survey up channel with most volume

4 three or more channels intertwined, continue with normal survey up channel with most volume

5 continue with normal survey through culverts, if you can't walk through it then determine the habitat type, water depth, substrate (if any; you can leave substrate blank on culverts if none present, note this in comments), etc. by looking into the pipe and walk over the top of it with the hipchain

The abbreviation is recorded in 'Unit Type' and other information is recorded in appropriate location on datasheet or in 'Comments'. Features are not assigned a unit number. These features serve as landmarks for future surveys and can be important in data interpretation. Crews are encouraged to use the 'Comments' and 'Other' to help fully describe stream conditions.

**We cannot stress enough the importance of fully and accurately describing features. This means getting out a quadrangle map and finding road, trail, and tributary names and recording them in 'Comments' and taking the time to describe the location of features in relation to landmarks found on quadrangle maps.**

### Section 3: Dry Stream

If the stream is dry the inventory will change from a habitat unit based approach to a reach approach. Data is collected over 50m reaches and at each 50m interval additional attributes are measured.

The following attributes will be recorded over 50m reaches:

- **Unit Type** is recorded as Underground
- **Distance (m)** (50m, 100m, 150m...)
- **Dominant and Subdominant Substrate**
- **Bank Instability (%)**
- **Large Wood**
- **Features**
- **Isolated units** (pools, glides, riffles...) should be recorded in the comments along with the following information
  - Distance at unit start (m)
  - Distance at unit end (m)
  - Wetted width (m)
  - Max depth (cm)
  - Avg depth (cm)
  - Percent fines

At the end of each 50m reach (i.e. each 50m interval) the following attributes are measured:

- **Bankfull Channel Width (m)**
- **Bank Height (m)** for both left and right bank

## Section 4: Wrapping Up

End the survey where:

- Forest Service property ends
- stream is dry for more than 1000 m
- stream channel is < 1.0 m wide for more than 500 m

Record the following in the Comments:

- Time and date
- Reason for ending the survey
- GPS coordinates
- Detailed written description of location using landmarks for reference

\*\* be sure the header information is completed \*\*

When you return to home base:

- Immediately download the data and check file to be sure all data downloaded
- Check header information to be sure it is complete
- Note in all files if more than one file was used during the survey
- Save to the computer and create a backup copy
- If using paper, make a photocopy of the data and store in secure location
- Record on master list that survey is complete, with data and names of crewmembers

## Section 5: Summary

Before starting, determine interval, select random number, fill in header information

Record for every habitat unit:

- Reach Number – when entering a new reach
- Unit Type
- Unit Number
- Distance
- Estimated Width
- Maximum Depth
- Average Depth
- Dominant Substrate
- Subdominant Substrate
- Rosgen Channel Type
- Percent Fines
- Bank instability
- Large Woody Debris

Record for every riffle, run, or cascade leading into a pool or glide:

- Riffle Crest Depth

Record for every n<sup>th</sup> pool:

- Measured Width

Record for every n<sup>th</sup> riffle:

- Measured Width
- Channel Width
- Riparian Width (left and right)
- Bank height
- Gradient
- Water temperature

Record features and full feature descriptions wherever they are encountered.

When end of survey is reached, record reason for ending, date, and time, be sure data is saved in safe location, and record survey start and end points on master maps.

**Appendix: Field Guide, Random Numbers Table, Equipment Checklist**

**Record for every habitat unit:**

- Unit Type:** pool, riffle, run, cascade, glide, feature (see below)
- Unit Number:** group pools & glides; group riffles, runs, cascades
- Distance:** (m) at upstream end of unit
- Estimated Width:** (m) visual estimate of average wetted width
- Maximum Depth:** (cm) deepest spot in unit
- Average Depth:** (cm) average depth of unit
- Dominant Substrate:** (1-9) covers greatest amount of surface area in unit
- Subdominant Substrate:** (1-9) covers 2<sup>nd</sup> most surface area in unit
- Percent Fines:** (%) percent of bottom consisting of sand, silt, or clay
- Bank Instability (L & R):** (%) percent of bank with exposed erodible material between wetted and bankfull
- Large Woody Debris:** (1-4) count of dead and down wood in the bankfull channel

**Record in every riffle, run, or cascade leading into a pool or glide:**

- Riffle Crest Depth: (cm)** maximum depth in riffle crest between riffle and pool, last place water would run out of pool if riffle ran dry

**Record for every nth pool:**

- Actual (Measured) Width:** (m) measurement of average wetted width

**Record for every nth riffle, run, or cascade:**

- Actual (Measured) Width:** (m) measurement of average wetted width
- Bankfull Channel Width:** (m) measurement of bankfull channel width
- Riparian Width:** (L&R) (m) measurement of floodplain
- Bank Height:** (m) vertical distance from bankfull to top of bank
- Gradient:** (%) slope of the water surface from upstream to downstream end of riffle
- Canopy Cover:** (%) percent of overhead area covered by tree canopy, measured with densiometer
- Water Temperature:** (C) temperature of water in main channel

**Unit Types**

- Riffle (R)** fast water, turbulent, gradient <12%; includes rapids, chutes, and sheets if gradient <12%
- Cascade (C)** fast water, turbulent, gradient ≥12%, includes sheets and chutes if gradient ≥12%
- Run (RN)** fast water, little to no turbulence, gradient <12%, flat bottom profile, deeper than riffles
- Pool (P)** slow water, may or may not be turbulent, gradient <1%, includes dammed, scour, and plunge pools
- Glide (G)** slow water, no surface turbulence, gradient <1%, shallow with little flow and flat bottom profile
- Swamp (S)** channel poorly defined or non-existent, water dispersed across wide area
- Underground (UNGR)** distance at upstream end, why dry

**Stream Features**

- Waterfall (FALL)** distance, height
- Tributary (TRIB)** distance, width, in on L or R
- Gully (GU)** distance, width, bank height, on L or R
- Side Channel (SCH)** distance, width, in or out on L or R
- Braid (BRD)** distance at downstream and upstream ends
- Seep or Spring (SEEP)** distance, on left or right, amount of flow
- Landslide (SLID)** distance, L or R, est. size and cause
- Culvert (V)** distance, type, size, road or trail name & type
- Bridge (BRG)** distance, height, width, road or trail name & type
- Dam (DAM)** distance, type, est. height, road or trail name & type
- Ford (FORD)** distance, road or trail name & type
- Other (OTR)** record distance, describe feature in comments

**Substrates**

1. **Organic Matter**, dead leaves detritus, etc., not living plants
2. **Clay**, sticky, holds form when balled
3. **Silt**, slick, does not hold form when balled
4. **Sand**, >silt-2mm, gritty, doesn't hold form
5. **Small Gravel**, 3-16mm, sand to thumbnail
6. **Large Gravel**, 17-64mm, thumbnail to fist
7. **Cobble**, 65-256mm, fist to head
8. **Boulder**, >256, > head
9. **Bedrock**, solid parent material

**Large Wood**

1. <5m long, 10-55cm diameter
  2. <5m long, >55cm diameter
  3. >5m long, 10-55cm diameter
  4. >5m long, >55cm diameter
- rootwad – count separately from attached LWD and record in comments
- wood must be >1.0m long, >5cm diameter to be counted

**Measuring Riparian Width**

- Place clinometer against the wading rod at two times max bankfull depth
- Use the clinometer as a level – keep the slope at 0.0 – and site to the nearest landform perpendicular to the channel
- Measure the distance from the edge of the bankfull channel to the intersection with the landform
- Do this for both the left and right banks
- If riparian width in more than 50 m, record 51 as the riparian width and in 'Comments' note that riparian was > 50 m wide

**End survey**

- Where stream is less than 0.5 m wide for more than 500 m, where the channel runs dry for more than 500 m, is swamp for more than 500 m or where forest boundary is reached. Comment on why survey was ended. Record time of day, detailed description of location, and GPS coordinates at endpoint, and be sure all header info is filled in on datasheets.

Random numbers for measuring every 5<sup>th</sup> unit

4	3	5	1	5	1	2	5	2	3
2	5	2	5	2	2	1	5	4	1
3	2	5	1	2	1	3	1	5	3
5	4	1	5	1	3	5	4	2	5
4	2	2	5	2	2	5	5	2	1
4	2	5	2	2	4	5	5	5	2
3	5	4	1	5	1	4	1	3	3
1	4	2	2	1	4	3	1	5	3
5	4	3	3	2	4	1	2	5	1
4	4	1	1	3	5	1	5	5	4

Random numbers for measuring every 10<sup>th</sup> unit

3	7	10	5	1	2	2	7	10	6
4	2	3	8	9	2	4	4	6	9
3	3	8	4	3	9	9	7	5	5
1	3	5	5	2	6	5	2	2	6
3	7	8	6	3	8	8	5	2	10
10	9	6	9	4	3	10	7	2	10
6	10	5	4	8	10	4	1	4	10
4	3	4	3	2	3	4	4	3	7
5	1	7	9	7	3	10	7	10	3
9	6	8	6	2	2	1	9	10	5

Choose a new random number at the beginning of each stream survey

Use the number for the entire stream

Use the first table for streams < 1.0 km long, the second table for streams > 1.0 km long

## Equipment Checklist

hipchain
extra string for hipchain
wading rod
tape measure
clinometer
thermometer
convex densiometer
datalogger
backup battery for datalogger
GPS unit
backpack
pencils
flagging
markers
waterproof backup datasheets
clipboard
BVET manual
BVET field guide on waterproof paper
topographic maps
compass
water
water filter
lunch
first aid kit
radio/cell phone
toilet paper
felt bottom wading boots
raingear

Remember the following for the start of each new stream or reach:

- Select a random number
- Determine measuring interval
- Fill in header information completely