



Pasture and Riparian Management

Home-Owner Risk Assessment Sheet

Keeping Hauser Lake Clean

WORKSHEET 9

ASSESSMENT 1 – Pasture and Riparian Management – The assessment table below will help you identify potential environmental risks related to Hauser Lake and the way you manage your pasture and riparian areas. For each question indicate your risk level in the right-hand column. Your goal is to lower your risks. Some choices may not correspond exactly to your situation. Choose the response that best fits. When finished turn to the **Action Checklist** on page 9-8 and record your medium and high-risk practices. Use the BMP recommendations in Section #9 *Pasture and Riparian Management* to help you decide how to best reduce pollution.

	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK	YOUR RISK
Streambank condition:	More than 90% of the streambanks are stable with plant cover or large rocks. Little or no active erosion.	70-90% of the streambanks are stable with plant cover or large rocks. Some active erosion.	Less than 70% of the streambanks are stable with plant cover or large rocks. Active erosion very evident.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Livestock access to stream:	Stream fenced to exclude livestock.	Limited livestock access to stream.	Unlimited livestock access to stream.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Streamside (riparian) vegetation:	Stream well shaded with trees and/or shrubs. Perennial plants dominate with few or no annual plants.	Trees and/or shrubs providing some shade. Perennial plants dominate with some annual plants.	Little or no shade provided by trees and/or shrubs. Perennial or annual plants may dominate.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High

ASSESSMENT 1 CONTINUED – Pasture and Riparian Management – Use the table below to rate your risks related to managing your pasture and riparian areas.

	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK	YOUR RISK
Streamside (riparian) vegetation trend:	Streamside tree and/or shrub seedlings present and growing well.	Streamside tree and/or shrub seedlings present but not growing well.	Streamside tree and/or shrub seedlings not present.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Grazing management:	Two or more pastures used in rotation to allow plant rest. Grazing period begins at a 6" leaf length and ends at 3". Plant height at least 3" going into winter.	Two or more pastures used in rotation to allow low plant rest but grazing period begins at less than a 6" leaf length and/or plants grazed shorter than 3". Plant height less than 3" going into winter.	Pastures not allowed rest. Grazing period begins at less than a 6" leaf length and/or plants grazed shorter than 3". Plant height less than 3" going into winter.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Plant health:	Forage plants are healthy with dark green leaves, deep roots, and vigorous regrowth. Very few weeds. High production.	Forage plants somewhat unhealthy. Plant production beginning to decrease. Weeds increasing.	Forage plants are unhealthy and may have yellowish colored leaves, shallow roots, small size, or slow regrowth. Weeds common. Low production.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Heavy use area(s) (corrals, troughs, or salt areas with little or no protective plant cover):	Heavy use area(s) established well away from stream or irrigation ditch.	Heavy use area(s) near stream or irrigation ditch and runoff is not diverted or captured.	Heavy use area(s) located adjacent to stream or irrigation ditch.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High

ASSESSMENT 2 – Pasture and Riparian Management – Use the table below to rate your risks relating to pasture and riparian areas. When finished turn to the **Action Checklist** on page 9-8 and record your medium and high-risk practices.

	LOW RISK	MEDIUM RISK	HIGH RISK	YOUR RISK
Irrigation (complete only if irrigated):	Sprinkler irrigated with little runoff, OR surface irrigated with no stream in or adjacent to pasture, OR surface irrigated with tailwater captured.	Surface irrigated with 20' wide or greater buffer of ungrazed vegetation along the stream.	Surface irrigated with no buffer along the stream; tailwater is not captured.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Fertilizers:	Fertilizers applied based on soil test or County Extension guidelines and manure scattered with harrow, OR fertilizer not used and manure scattered.	Fertilizer applied without soil test or County Extension guidelines, but manure is scattered.	Fertilizer applied without soil test or County Extension guidelines and manure is not scattered.	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High

