



Riparian Forest Buffer Data Sheet

Student Names: _____

Stream Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructions

While conducting the riparian forest buffer experiments, complete the information and answer the questions below.

Soils

Using the USDA Soil Texturing Field Flow Chart and ribbon test, identify the type of soil found in this riparian forest buffer. Record your answer here:

#1 _____

Using a different soil sample, conduct the ribbon test again and record your identification of its soil type here:

#2 _____

Trees

Find the three trees that are flagged at your site, and using the tree identification guides, record the information in this table:

Tree Number	Species	Diameter in inches (measured at 4 ½ feet height)
1		
2		
3		

Site Characteristics

Circle the general site characteristics.

Soil: Wet Moist Dry

Slope: Flat Gentle Steep



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Vegetation

Describe the other types of (non-tree) plants that make up the riparian forest buffer.

Plant species (describe, if name unknown)	Number of individual plants of this species

Questions

1. How might the soil type and quantity affect the plants and trees at this site? _____

2. How do trees and other vegetation help promote healthy water quality in this stream? _____

3. What would you recommend this site be used for and why? (Examples may include wildlife habitat; recreational use by people; protection of water quality; or a combination of these uses.) _____

Remember to turn this data sheet in to your station leader before you leave this station!