

Appendix 8—Information and Data Form for Assessing Disturbance in the Field

This appendix provides the data form for the disturbance assessment. Disturbance data are collected for assessments of both riparian and meadow ecosystems using the form A.8.1. One form is used for each reach. At each sampled stream reach, identifying information is recorded on the data form. This includes the date, observer, watershed name, the watershed code in the Great Basin watershed database, location within the watershed (e.g., high, mid, low), and the reach length of the observations (typically 30 m). A GPS is used to record the UTM coordinates and elevation where the stream cross section is drawn for the sampled reach.

Common disturbances in the Great Basin are described in the section on “What are the Effects of Human-caused Disturbances?” in Part 1 of this report. Disturbances that are not in the list provided as well as those present in the sample reach and adjacent upstream and downstream reaches are recorded. Any negative effects of the disturbance on the stream channel, stream bank, or riparian vegetation of the sample reach are then recorded. The effects of the disturbance are recorded as none (no negative effect); low (the disturbance is having a minor negative effect on the stream channel, stream banks, or vegetation); moderate (the disturbance is having a clear negative effect on geomorphic processes or riparian vegetation); and high (the disturbance has significantly altered geomorphic processes or the riparian vegetation in a negative way).

The disturbance data collected in the field are summarized for the sampled stream reaches in the ecological integrity form in appendix 11. Combining summaries of disturbance data with those for the geomorphic and vegetation data can provide a clear picture of the type and magnitude of disturbances and, thus, the types of management actions needed to improve the ecological conditions or integrity of the stream reach.

Form A.8.1– DISTURBANCE DATA		Date:	Observer:	
Watershed Name:		Database Code:		
UTM Zone:		Elevation (m):		
UTMs: Northing		Easting		
Location in Basin: Low / Mid / High		Reach Length of Observations (m):		
Camera ID and Nos.				
Yes/No: enter Y if the disturbance is present in the sample reach or in adjacent upstream and downstream reaches and N if it is not. Location of disturbance: record as sample reach/meadow (SR/SM), upstream (UPS), or downstream (DST). Component(s) affected by disturbance: record as stream channel (SC), stream bank (SB), and/or riparian/meadow vegetation (RV/MV). Negative effects of disturbance on sample reach: record as none (N), low (L), moderate (M), or high (H). Other: list other disturbances affecting the stream reach, their location, and their relative effect.				
Disturbance Type	Yes / No	Location	Component	Effect
Road in the valley bottom				
Road channel in-stream crossings				
Culverts				
Road captures (stream diverted onto road)				
Developed campsites				
Undeveloped campsites				
Human developments (houses/cabins)				
Mining activity on hillslopes (circle: historic, active)				
Mining activity in valley bottom (circle: historic, active)				
Surface water manipulation (ditches, spring boxes, etc.)				
Groundwater extraction (wells)				
Water diversion (dams/canals)				
Inactive beaver dams (erosion, low water quality, etc.)				
Active beaver dams (appropriate channel location, continued maintenance, redundant structures, etc.)				
Wildfire - Fire name/ date if known:				
Prescribed fire				
Livestock effects on vegetation (circle: sheep, cattle)				
Livestock effects on bank and channel				
Wild horse effects on vegetation				
Wild horse effects on bank and channel				
Other disturbances:				
Notes:				