Questions in the NH Method That Can Indicate Potential Need for Restoration or Improved Ecological Management

Note: This list is meant to identify opportunities for wetland restoration or improved management. It does not include questions relative to management that could enhance "social" rather than ecological functions and values, such as improved parking near a wetland for better educational use.

Superscript numbers reference *Potential Restoration or Improved Management Practices*, listed on page 2.

Section 1 – Ecological Integrity

1. Are there land uses **in the wetland's watershed** that could degrade water quality in the wetland? (Used again in Section 2, Question 3 and Section 3, Question 2) [1]
2. Is there evidence of fill **in the wetland**? [2]
3. What percentage **of the wetland** has been altered by agricultural activities? [3]
4. What percentage **of the wetland** has been adversely impacted by logging activity within the last 10 years? [4]
5. How much human activity is taking place in the wetland (e.g. ATV use, trails, cars, dumping, etc.)? [5]
6. What percentage of the wetland is occupied by invasive species? [1, 6]
7. Are there roads, driveways and/or railroads crossing or adjacent to the wetland or within 500 ft. of the wetland? [7, 8]
8. How much human activity is taking place **in the upland** within 500 feet of the wetland edge? [5]
9. What is the percent of impervious surface within 500 feet of the wetland edge? [3,7,10,11]
10. Is there a human-made structure that controls water level or is undersized present in the wetland, or in the water body directly connected to the wetland? [9]

Section 2 – Wetland-Dependent Wildlife Habitat

8. Are there wildlife travel corridors allowing access between wetlands? [10]
9. What percentage of the wetland edge is bordered by undisturbed woodland or idle land (e.g. shrub land or abandoned fields) at least 500 feet in width? (Repeated in Section 11, Question 4) [11]
10. What percentage of the wetland is occupied by invasive plant species? [6]

Section 3 – Fish and Aquatic Habitat

2. Could water quality in the wetland been degraded by land use in the watershed? [1,3,4,8,10,11,12,13]
6. Does the stream channel appear to have been recently altered? [12]
8. How abundant are coarse woody material and large rocks? [14]

10. Barrier(s) to aquatic life, especially anadromous fish (such as dams, elevated culverts, bridge with a width less than the natural stream channel, road crossings, etc.) along the stream reach associated with the wetland. [8, 9]
11. Presence of rare or endangered fish or aquatic life [13]

Section 12- Noteworthiness

4. Does the wetland have known biological, geological, or other features that are locally or regionally rare or unique? [13]
5. Is the wetland known to contain an important historical or archaeological site? [13]
7. Is the wetland one of just a few left in an urban setting? [13]

Potential Restoration or Improved Management Practices

1. Improved stormwater management in the watershed
2. Remove fill
3. Restore topography, fill drainage ditches, exclude livestock
4. Stabilize erosion areas, especially roads and stream crossings
5. Remove trash, litter, regularly monitor property, restrict access
6. Remove Invasive species, if detected early
7. Close roads or driveways if possible
8. Install adequately sized bridge, culvert or other structure
9. Remove dam & allow wetland to revegetate
10. Restore vegetation in potential wildlife travel routes areas
11. Restore vegetation in riparian areas
12. Restore stream channel
13. Monitoring and/or improved management
14. Add woody material to wetland (trees felled at edge, etc.) if practical

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