Phinizy Center for Water Sciences
Stream Ecology Data Sheet – Physical Properties

1. Rocky Bottom Stream_____ or Muddy/Sandy Bottom Stream_____

2. What is the water clarity? Check all that apply.

_____ turbid (suspended matter in water)
_____ tannic (naturally stained orange/brownish due to organic acids in water)
_____ no staining
_____ blue-green algae
_____ other (dyes, chemicals, etc.)

3. Water odor:
_____ natural/none _____ gasoline _____ rotten egg
_____ sewage _____ chlorine _____ chemical _____
other_____

4. Water surface:
_____ clear _____ natural oily sheen
_____ foamy _____ other _____
_____ oily sheen (petroleum product)

5. Stream shade cover: How well is the water surface shaded by vegetation?

total shading ----------full sun Score___

10 ----------5----------0

6. What is the presence of naturally occurring organic material in the stream?

Abundant logs /woody debris/ leaf packs ---------- none Score____

10 ----------5----------0

7. Are the stream banks covered with a variety of vegetation?

Many trees, shrubs, grasses ----------very little vegetation Score____

10 ----------5----------0

TOTAL SCORE_____

Excellent (24 – 30) Good (16 – 23) Fair (8 – 15) Poor (0 – 7)