Appendix E. Photo point guidelines

Photo points are highly recommended to document 1) general condition of the SA, 2) dominant plant communities, and 3) stream condition. Photo-point documentation provides a visual record of the condition of the wetland that may be useful for future reference. Photographs are logged in Worksheet 15 and include the photograph number, photo point coordinates, and direction should be recorded, along with a general description.

SA Condition

The general condition of the SA and the surrounding buffer area should be documented to support the assessment, e.g., evidence of recent flooding, and human impacts (Figure E1). In addition, photos that provide an overview of the SA and surrounding landscape,

including panoramas, can be helpful in describing the site.

Figure E1. Example photos of a general conditions along a channels of the SA and after a recent flood event that affected features on the floodplain to support metrics such a Floodplain Hydrological Connectivity.

Vegetation Communities

Documenting the dominant vegetation communities during the mapping process is highly recommended. Photographs should be taken to capture the central character of the vegetation stand composition and structure types (Figure E2).

Figure E2 Example photo of vegetation communities to support the mapping and biotic metric ratings. Record the photo number, photo-point coordinates, and direction are recorded on the photo point log along with a brief description. Note the placement of a photo board in an inconspicuous position in the photo frame.

Stream channel documentation

At the channel location of each floodplain traverse, a series of photographs are taken to document the condition of the river segment. Photographs should be taken facing upstream, downstream, and of both banks to capture the bank armoring and floodplain condition on each side of the river at that location (Figure E3). Additional photos of floodplain characteristics are recommended.

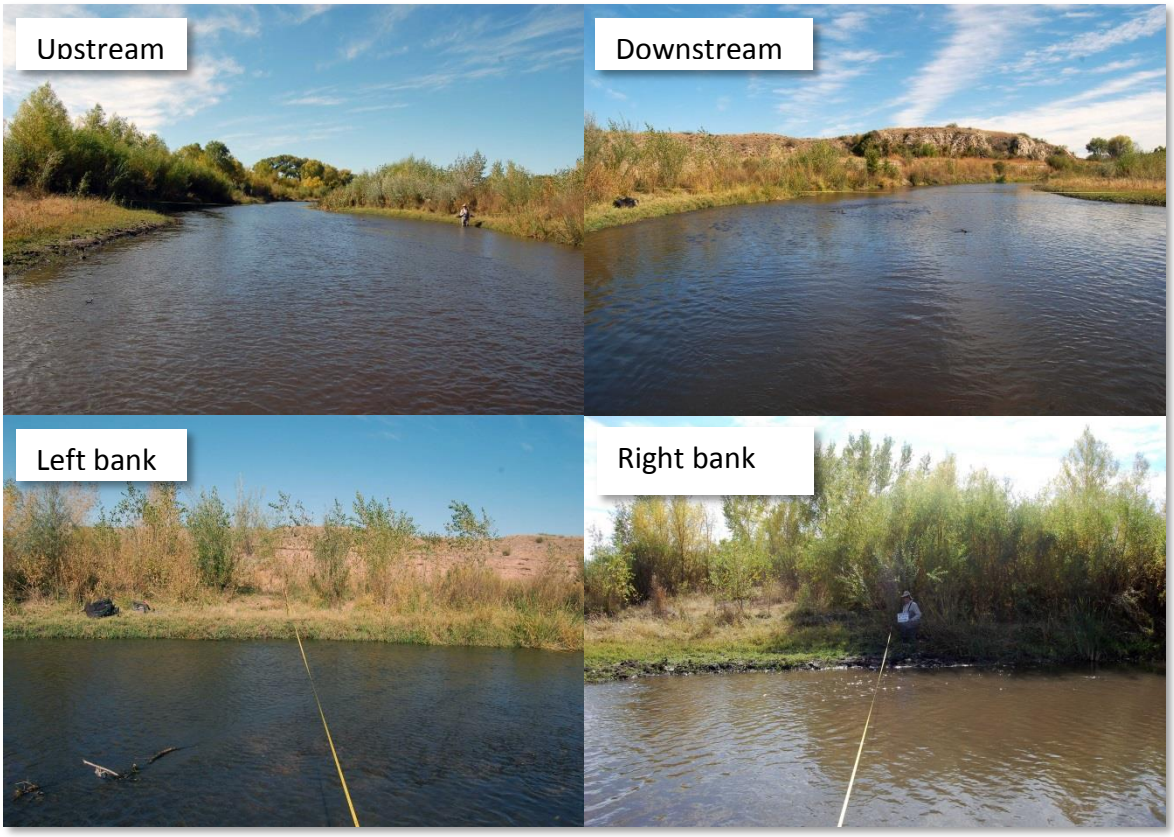

Figure E3. Examples of stream channel photo points.