1. Measure a 100 foot stretch along the stream. Place a flag near the water at the beginning and end points.

2. Standing at the first flag, note the vegetation type that is closest to the water and record it in row 1 of the worksheet.

3. Take one pace toward the other flag and stop. A pace is a normal stride you would take while walking. Look toward the water and record the vegetation type closest to the water by placing a slash mark in the appropriate box. See the Teacher Resource page for definitions of vegetation types.

4. Repeat these steps until you reach the other flag.

5. Tally the number of slash marks in each box and record this for each category in row 2.

6. Add up all the observations and record that total in row 3.

7. For each vegetation category, divide the number in row 2 by the number in row 3, and record in row 4. This will give the proportion of the greenline that is made up of that vegetation category.

8. For each vegetation category, multiply the number in row 4 by the factor in row 5 and record in row 6. This will give you the “site score” for each vegetation category. Because sedges and rushes have the strongest roots and prevent erosion the best, they receive the highest factor - “10.” Bare ground doesn’t prevent erosion so it receives the lowest factor - “1.”

9. Add the individual site scores in row 6 to get the “total site score” for that stretch of stream.

10. Compare the site score to the “Site Scores” box on the worksheet to determine the health of the greenline.