Catchment Description Form

Recorded by _____ Date _____

Catchment name _____ Catchment size (km^2)_____

Subcatchment (if applicable)

Name _____ Subcatchment size (km^2) _____

Stream begins in* _____ Flows through* _____

Stream ends in* _____ Drains into (body of water) _____

* *List the suburb, town, district, region, etc. (choose most applicable descriptor)*

Climate

Average annual rain and/or snow (mm) _____

Month(s) with most rain and/or snow _____ Month(s) with least rain and/or snow _____

Average annual air temperature _____ Yearly air temperature range_____

Topography

Altitude at highest point in catchment _____ Altitude at lowest point _____

Describe the physical characteristics of your stream from the upper reaches* (see quick glossary below) at the top of your catchment through to the middle and lower reaches where the stream mouth empties into another waterbody.

	Upper reaches	Middle reaches	Lower reaches
Shape of valley (V, U or wide-flat)			
Slope (steep, medium, gentle)			
Channel sinuosity, i.e. shape from above (nearly straight, slight meander, strong meander)			
Stream bed type (cobble, gravel, silt, etc)			

Water Resources

Stream originates from (check one or more):

□ Glaciers/snowmelt □ Rain □ Wetlands □ Lake □ Groundwater/spring

Length of your stream (km) _____ Stream order at outlet point of catchment _____

Names of tributaries: _____

_____

_____

Names of lakes _____

_____ _____

Number of wetlands _____ Names of large wetlands (if any) _____

_____

Areas with aquifers* underneath (if any)

_____

Soils

Predominant soil types _____

Areas with soil erosion/stability problems _____

_____

Natural habitat

Location of protected areas or areas of ecological significance _____

_____

Catchment covered with native vegetation (%) _____

Reasons for the loss of native vegetation _____

_____

Exotic/invasive aquatic plants present _____

_____

Native fish species present _____

Exotic/invasive fish species present _____

Demographics

Population size of your catchment _____

Most populated areas _____

Impact on waterbodies _____

_____

_____

What makes people want to live (or not) in your catchment _____

_____

_____

_____

Land and Water Uses

Check all land use activities present in your catchment and estimate the percent of your catchment zoned for each land use listed below.

Land use (as a %)	**Check all types that apply**
Lifestyle blocks (%)	
Urban residential (%)	
Commercial (%)	□ light commercial □ heavy commercial
Industrial (%)	□ light industry □ heavy industry
Agricultural (%)	□ grazing □ crops □ feedlots □ dairy
Foresty (%)	□ clear-cut □ selective □ farm forestry
Quarrying/Mining (%)	Type of quarrying/mining _____
Parks/open space (%)	

Total catchment that is:

public land (%) _____ private land (%) _____ impervious surfaces* (%) _____

Location of sewage treatment plants (if any) _____

Location of dams _____

List any pollutants of concern in your catchment and their potential sources (e.g., heavy metals from a landfill, faecal pollution from faulty septic tanks etc.):

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Monitoring sites

List the location of any existing monitoring sites in your catchment or in nearby catchments.

Hydrometric (streamflow) station(s) _____

Climate station(s) _____

National Rivers Water Quality Network (NRWQN) monitoring site _____

Council stream monitoring sites _____

Community-led stream monitoring sites _____

Other stream monitoring sites _____

_____