**Vocabulary list**

Macroinvertebrate: Organisms without backbones, that are visible to the eye without the aid of a microscope.

Ecosystem: The biotic community and its abiotic environment functioning as a system. 1

Functional feeding group: A means of classification of macroinvertebrates according to the different morphological-behavioral adaptations used to harvest nutritional resources. 3

Ecosystem attribute: Specific ecosystem conditions such as the relative importance of autotrophy to heterotrophy, as a basis for aquatic food chains in streams/rivers. 4

Consumers: Any organism that lives on other organisms, dead or alive. 1

Producers: A green plant or certain chemosyntheitc bacteria that converts light or chemical energy into organismal tissue. 1

Substrate type: All natural materials on the stream bottom like clay, silt, sand, gravel, boulders bedrock, logs, and roots. 5

Organic matter: Matter derived from living organisms.

Particulate organic matter: Organic matter consisting of either terrestrial plant parts or unattached living or detrital material that is created through physical and biological processes. 3

Biotic factors: Pertaining to the living factors—the organisms—in an environment. 2

Abiotic factors: Pertaining to the nonliving components of the environment, including soil, water, air, light, nutrients, and the like. 1

Riparian habitat: Area along banks of rivers and streams. 1

**Stream terms:**

Reaches: A general term for length of a stream.

Stream discharge: The volume of water passing through a stream channel at any given second.

Pool: Deep, slow-moving portions of a stream or river.

Riffle: Shallow, fast, turbulent water running over rocks.

Substrate: The material that makes up the bottom of the stream.

Habitat: A place where a plant or animal lives. 1

Shredder: Macroinvertebrates that primarily feed on coarse particulate organic matter. 3

Scraper: Macroinvertebrates that primarily feed on periphyton. 3

Collectors: Macroinvertebrates that primarily feed on fine particulate organic matter. 3

Predators: Macroinvertebrates that primarily feed by ingesting prey. 3

Food web: the interlocking pattern formed by a series of interconnecting food chains. 1

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