SECTION 4

Conclusions

A stream physical assessment project to support the development of watershed management plans was initiated by Fairfax County in August 2002. Data obtained from this project provided a detailed understanding of stream and watersheds in the County through the evaluation of stream habitats and an account of such features as stream crossings, drainage pipes, utility crossings, stream bank erosion, deficient buffers, and stream obstructions.

The analysis characterized stream habitat conditions in 30 watersheds and indicated that many of the streams in Fairfax County have fair or good habitat . On the basis of the length-weighted average total habitat score, one watershed (Ryans Dam) was rated to have excellent habitat, six watersheds (Bull Neck Run, High Point, Kane Creek, Nichol Run, Occoquan, and Turkey Run) had good habitat, and two watersheds (Belle Haven and Little Hunting Creek) had poor habitat. The remaining watersheds were rated to have fair habitat.

SECTION 5

References

Barbour, M.T., J. Gerritsen, B.D. Snyder, and J.B. Stribling. 1999. *Rapid Bioassessment Protocols for Use in Streams and Wadeable Rivers: Periphyton, Benthic Macroinvertebrates and Fish, Second Edition.* EPA 841-B-99-002. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Office of Water; Washington, D.C.

Fairfax County. 2001. *Fairfax County Stream Protection Strategy Baseline Study*. Stormwater Management Branch, Stormwater Planning Division, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. Fairfax County, Va.

Schumm, S. A., M. D. Harvey, and C. C. Watson. 1984. *Incised Channels: Morphology, Dynamics, and Control.* Water Resources Publications, Littleton, Colorado.