

Guidelines for Hydrological Disturbance Scoring

This gradient rating is for human disturbances, not natural events (e.g., hurricanes, extreme droughts).

Best 1-2 points	Flow regime as naturally occurs (slow and fairly continual release of water after rains), few impervious surfaces in watershed; high connectivity with ground water and surface features delivering water (e.g., sandhills, wetlands; no ditches, berms, etc.)
Slight disturbance 3-4 points	Flow regime minimally changed; some water withdrawals; some wetland drainage, some impervious surfaces in watershed, some ditching
Moderately altered 5-6 points	Flow regime moderately altered; hydrograph moderately flashy (scouring after rain events with subsequent reductions in flow), groundwater pumping evident; much wetland drainage, topographic alterations reduce natural water input; more impervious surfaces throughout watershed, dams/control structures change normal water delivery schedule
Poor 7-8 points	Flow regime highly altered; hydrograph very flashy (scouring after rain events with subsequent reductions in flow, leading to stagnant or dry conditions, related to large amounts of impervious surfaces and/or ditching throughout watershed); water withdrawals & impoundments/control structures severely alter flows, large amounts of impervious surfaces
Very poor 9-10 points	Flow regime entirely human controlled; hydrograph very flashy (scouring after rain events with subsequent reductions in flow, leading to stagnant or dry conditions, related to impervious surfaces and ditching throughout watershed); water withdrawals & impoundments fundamentally alter the nature of the ecosystem