Field Procedure for the Ephemeral Drainage Line (EDL) monitoring method

* Be aware of the size of the EDL: long creek lines could use GPS locations to map changes in stream function; intermediate length EDLs could use a measuring wheel if the terrain permits; rills or gullies on constructed land forms might need a 50 or 100-m tape. As repeated measurements might be planned, this aspect is important to get right for comparative purposes. If high quality remote sensing is available in the field, the EDL data could be entered directly
* I always start at an appropriate upslope or up-stream position and work down-stream.
* Zones of stream damage may not extend far down stream before adequate function is resumed. Some damage may be virtual “point-source” objects.
* Both banks of the EDL are assessed. Some banks are the same on either side of the stream, some are quite different. The data should be kept separate and not be averaged.
* Tortuosity is not normally measured, as imagery usually provides this. However, if the tortuosity is not visible from remote sensing, it could be recorded using a compass and tape on a separate data sheet.
* Assess each indicator at the start point using distance = zero. Traverse the EDL whilst observing the set of indicators. When a change occurs, mark this location and record the indicator values for the altered state. Sometimes one bank state will remain the same but the other one changes. I use the convention of assigning left and right hand banks when looking down-stream.
* The index of EDL function is the simple addition of each of the indicators. There are five classes
* When mapping the data onto a photo, different colours can be used for each index class