



Operation & Maintenance Plan Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391)

Landowner/Operator:

Date:

NRCS Service Center:

Conservation District:

Practice Location:

Tract/Field ID:

(Lat/Long or UTM Coord, or Sec/TS/R)

Expected Lifespan

The minimum expected lifespan of this practice is at least 15 years.

A properly operated and maintained **Riparian Forest Buffer Practice** is an asset to your farm operation and your agricultural land. Implementation of Riparian Forest Buffer will help you to improve resource conditions including protection of water quality, improvements to wildlife habitat and restoration of riparian plant communities.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. The following are some requirements of the operation and maintenance program.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

- The riparian forest buffer will be inspected periodically and protected from adverse impacts such as excessive vehicular and pedestrian traffic, pest infestations, concentrated flows, pesticides, livestock or wildlife damage and fire.
- Replacement of dead trees or shrubs and control of undesirable vegetative competition will be continued until the buffer is, or will progress to, a fully functional condition. Keep large dead and dying trees for cavity nesting birds and as a source of large wood in aquatic habitats.
- Any manipulation of species composition, stand structure and stocking by cutting or killing selected trees and understory vegetation shall sustain the intended purpose(s). Refer to the standard Forest Stand Improvement, 666.
- Control or exclusion of livestock and harmful wildlife shall continue. Refer to the standards Prescribed Grazing, 528, and/or Access Control, 472, as applicable.
- Fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals used to maintain buffer function shall not impact water quality.

Specific Site Requirements