Practice: 390 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover

Scenario # 1 **Warm Season Grass w/ Forbs**

Scenario Description: **Louisiana**

Warm Season Grasses with Forbs: This scenario addresses inadequate herbaceous plant community function or diversity within the specific transitional zone between terrestrial and aquatic habitats in rangeland, pasture, cropland, and forest where natural seeding methods and/or management is unlikely to improve the plant community within a reasonable time period. This scenario applies to work not covered under NRCS Conservation Practice Range Planting (528), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Critical Area Planting (342), Filter Strip (393), Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (643), Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580), Vegetated Treatment Area (635), Wetland Enhancement (659), or Wetland Restoration (657). This practice can be used nation wide. The typical setting for this scenario is usually a narrow strip between the aquatic and terrestrial habitats subject to intermittant flooding and saturated soils where the exising plant community has been disturbed, destroyed, or the species diversity is unable to provide proper function and/or adequate habitat. Where the establishment of a diverse riparian herbaceous plant community is desired, an adapted mix of primarily warm season grasses, legumes, and/or forbs tolerant to the site conditions will be planted by broadcast and/or no-till or range drill seeding methods as necessary to accomplish the intended purpose(s). Where chemical control of undesirable vegetation, including invasives, is required to reduce competition for the desired plant community the Herbaceous Weed Control (315) practice should be used. Seedbed preparation may require LIGHT TILLAGE (disking). WHEN POLLINATOR HABITAT IS A CONSIDERATION: Include 5-10 adapted forb species that bloom sequentially throughout the growing season where feasible. To address the high diversity of riparian plant communities and their adjacent stream types that exist from the tropics to the tundra, and the deserts, prairies, mountains, and lowlands across the various regions and/or MLRA's, up to 20 adapted riparian plant community-specific scenarios may be required

Before Practice Situation:

The riparian zone, the specific area between terrestrial and aquatic habitats, is currently an undesirable or inadequate stand of perennial or annual vegetation and natural reseeding or vegetation management is unlikely to improve the plant community within a reasonable amount of time to adequately address streambank and/or shoreline stability, dissipate stream energy and trap sediment, improve and/or maintain water quality, and/or provide adequate habitat corridors, food and/or cover for fish, wildlife, pollinators, and/or livestock resource conern(s). Existing conditions often require suppression or eradication of current vegetation by conventional mechanical or chemical (Herbaceous Weed Control (315)) methods to ensure establishment success of the new planting.

After Practice Situation:

The riparian zone, the transitional zone between the terrestrial and aquatic habitats, is established to an adapted, diverse vegetative plant community and is under close management to insure long term survival and ecological succession. The quality and quantity of the riparian zone components are managed to support the species that depend on it for habitat as well as the functions it performs for stabilizing the streambank and/or shoreline, dissipating stream energy and trapping sediment, and improving and/or maintaining water quality. These functions include: stream temperature moderation through shading, recruitment of non-woody organic matter, habitat for terrestrial insects and other riparian dependent species, streambank integrity, and filtration of contaminants from surface run-off into the stream.

Scenario Feature Measure:

Acres of Riparian Herbaceous Cover

Scenario Typical Size:	0.5	Acre	Unit Cost	$385.66

Cost Category	Component Name	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Cost
Materials	Big Blue Stem (Andropogon gerardii)	0.75	Pound	$11.81	$8.86
Materials	Switchgrass, Blackwell (Panicum virgatum)	0.5	Pound	$9.62	$4.81
Equip./Install.	Seeding Operation, No Till/Grass Drill	1	Acre	$12.90	$12.90
Equip./Install.	Tractor, agricultural, 120 HP	1	Hour	$47.06	$47.06
Equip./Install.	Tillage, Light	1	Acre	$8.86	$8.86
Labor	Equipment Operators, Light	1	Hour	$19.22	$19.22

Mobilization	Mobilization, small equipment	1	Each	$91.12	$91.12
				Total Cost:	$192.83