

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN
FOR
RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFER**

Landowner/user: Date:

Address:

A properly operated and maintained **riparian forest buffer** is an asset to your property. This riparian forest buffer was designed and installed to provide one or more of the following: creation of shade to lower or maintain water temperatures, creation or improvement of riparian habitat and as a source of detritus and large woody debris, reduction of excess amounts of sediment, organic material, nutrients and pesticides in surface runoff and reduction of excess nutrients and other chemicals in shallow ground water flow, reduction of pesticide drift entering the water body, restoration of riparian plant communities, and increased carbon storage in plant biomass and soils. The estimated life span of this practice is 15 years. The life of this practice can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. The following are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

Operation and Maintenance

1. Replace dead trees or shrubs and control undesirable vegetative competition until the buffer is, or will progress to, a fully functional condition or 3 years, whichever is longer. If pesticides are used, refer to standard Pest Management, 595.
2. Inspect periodically and protect from adverse impacts such as excessive vehicular and pedestrian traffic, pest infestations, concentrated flows, pesticides, livestock or wildlife damage and fire.
3. Provide supplemental water and periodically apply nutrients as needed to maintain plant vigor and buffer function, without impacting water quality.
4. Continue to control or exclude livestock and harmful wildlife. Refer to the standards Prescribed Grazing, 528, and/or Access Control, 472, as applicable.
5. Any manipulation of species composition, buffer structure, stocking by cutting or killing selected trees and understory vegetation, and pruning shall sustain the intended purpose(s) of buffer. Refer to the standards Riparian Forest Buffer, 391 and Tree/Shrub Pruning, 660.

Specific Recommendations for Your Practice
