



Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM14 – Riparian forest buffer, terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat

State Criteria

Eligible riparian zones include:

Seasonal or Intermittent Streams – must have a defined bed and bank with <2% slope and 30 cumulative days of flow per year causing hydrophytic vegetation in the stream bed OR a scoured, non-vegetated channel.

Perennial Streams/Rivers – must have flow throughout the year in most years.

Wetlands – provided that they are either semi-permanently flooded (surface water present throughout the growing season in most years) or wetter AND are located within the floodplain of a stream or river.

General Elements (required for all managed riparian forest buffers):

Width of the forested riparian zone must be a minimum of 35 feet OR 2.5 times the width of the stream/river channel – whichever is greater.

Manage species diversity using one of the two options listed below (or a combination of the two):

- Invasive species will be removed/suppressed as a part of the management plan. These species include: saltcedar, Russian olive, Eastern red cedar, phragmites, purple loosestrife, hybrid cattail, and reed canarygrass. Use of heavy equipment is allowed, as necessary, for the purpose of invasive species control.
- Improve diversity of riparian forest buffer by planting woody or herbaceous species on a minimum of 25% of the buffer using requirements outlined below.

Requirements for plant materials used to improve diversity:

- Woody species to be planted to maintain/improve diversity will only consist of native (based on Vegetative Zone) deciduous trees and shrubs which are adapted to the site conditions. Use of coniferous trees is not acceptable with this enhancement. One flowering shrub, identified in the pollinator enhancement ([PLT01](#)) must currently exist or be planted within all riparian forest buffers.
- Herbaceous seedings will include a minimum of 5 species of grasses and forbs or legumes used in combination to meet the ([393 Filter Strip](#)) or ([390 Riparian Herbaceous Cover](#)) standards. This requires a minimum seeding rate of 40 PLS/ft² for grasses and 60% of the grass mixture shall consist of sod-forming, stiff-stemmed species. Acceptable grass species are located on the “wildlife friendly” plant list (List A) on the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT). All herbaceous seedings must contain forbs and/or legumes at a seeding rate of 10% to 25% of the grass mixture (4 PLS/ft² to 10 PLS/ft²). Acceptable species are located on the “wildlife friendly” plant list (List A on CMT) OR the list of native forbs to be used with the pollinator enhancement (PLT01).
- Projects that require interseeding into existing vegetation will need specifications developed to suppress growth during the period of establishment for seeded species including techniques such as tillage, herbicides, prescribed burning, etc. Site preparation must be documented on the [NE-CPA-8 Grass Seeding Job Sheet](#). Seeding rates can be lowered to accommodate existing vegetation that is desired and will be maintained.

Optional Elements (may be selected for use by the cooperator and NRCS planner):

- Create snags (standing dead tree) by cutting through cambium layer of undesirable trees. A minimum of one snag should exist per acre of riparian forest buffer with an optimum density of three snags per acre. Each snag should be a minimum of six feet tall and at least six inches in diameter at breast height (4.5 feet above the ground) with an occasional snag being at least ten inches in diameter.
- Create small brush piles and scatter limbs loosely within the riparian forest buffer using downed material and/or removed trees and pruned limbs. Desired brush pile size is approximately five feet tall and 15 feet in diameter. At least one brush pile should exist per acre of riparian forest buffer.



- Remove undesirable tree species (i.e. Siberian elm, white mulberry, honeylocust, etc.) in order to favor desired tree species (i.e. oaks, cottonwood) or release understory plants (i.e. native shrubs, grasses, and forbs or legumes). These species can be used to create the snags or brush piles noted above.

The following activities are allowed for operation/maintenance and management:

No haying or grazing is allowed within any zone planted to trees and shrubs.

Haying is permitted on herbaceous areas (“openings” within the riparian forest buffer) up to once per three year period (following establishment) provided it is conducted after July 15th and prior to September 1st.

Grazing is permitted on larger herbaceous areas up to once per three year period (following establishment) provided it is conducted after July 15th and does not exceed a 30 day period during the growing season OR a 60 day period during the dormant season.

- Specific management practices approved by NRCS and intended to improve plant diversity and vigor are allowed on larger herbaceous areas but are not required during the CSP contract period. These activities include prescribed burning, tillage and interseeding, and site-specific herbicide treatments to accommodate interseeding desired grasses, forbs, or legumes.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Complete the Table below:

To be completed by NRCS and Producer during planning						To be completed by Producer during certification			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Tract	Field	Acres Planned	Lin. Ft. Planned	Proposed Activity	Approximate Time-frame	Acres Applied	Lin. Ft. Applied	Applied Activity	Date Applied
<i>Ex.10</i>	<i>2b</i>	<i>3.0 Ac.</i>	<i>13,075</i>	<i>Remove E. red cedar from cottonwood understory</i>	<i>August 2013</i>	<i>3.0 Ac.</i>	<i>13,075</i>	<i>Cut cedars and created small brush piles for wildlife</i>	<i>Aug.-Sept. 2013</i>

EX= EXAMPLE, COLUMNS 1-6 NRCS COMPLETES, COLUMNS 7-10 PRODUCER COMPLETES

I certify that the enhanced riparian forest buffer meets these specifications including the following documentation as applicable:

- Map with enhanced riparian forest buffer clearly identified (highlighted, outlined, etc.).
- Site-specific management plan (attached to this document) for invasive species control and associated invoices, receipts for implementation of the plan, as required. This includes species being targeted, timing of activities, herbicides used, application method, environmental considerations (i.e. migratory birds), follow-up evaluation, etc.
- Completed [NE-CPA-15](#) Tree Planting Job Sheet and associated invoices for trees/shrubs, as required.
- Completed [NE-CPA-8](#) Grass Seeding Job Sheet and associated seed tags, and bills as required.
- Documentation of the management activity performed – (completed table above).

Certified by: _____ **Date:** _____