



Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM13 – Non-forested riparian zone enhancement for fish and wildlife

State Criteria (same as NATIONAL CRITERIA)

Additional Criteria for Nebraska

No trees can be added to the riparian zone under this enhancement but the addition of thickets using native shrub species is permitted. See Enhancement ANM14 “Riparian Forest Buffer, Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Habitat” for sites where use of tree species is desired.

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.

Ponds, Lakes, or Wetlands – provided that they are either semi-permanently flooded (surface water present throughout the growing season in most years) or wetter.

Buffers enrolled into the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program are eligible for this enhancement. Lands enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Program are not eligible to enroll in the Conservation Stewardship Program.

Mixture planted to improve the diversity of native or natural vegetation must contain the following:

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](#).

All 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](#).

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.

Select from one of the following to meet the requirements of this enhancement:

1. Control invasive plant species within the riparian zone from the following list: saltcedar, Russian olive, Eastern red cedar, phragmites, purple loosestrife, hybrid cattail, and reed canarygrass. Attach specifications for adequate control. This will often require multiple treatments used in combination (i.e. mowing followed by spraying, etc.).
2. Limit livestock use of the riparian zone through a prescribed grazing management plan (following establishment of seeded species). Examples include:
 - a. Targeting the suppression of invading cool-season grass (Kentucky bluegrass) by conducting “heavy grazing” pressure within the riparian zone for a short period of time (14 days or less) between April 1st and May 1st of each year and again between September 1st and October 1st of each year. The riparian area would be deferred from grazing the remainder of the year.
 - b. Permitting grazing 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.
3. Control access of people, machinery, and livestock to the riparian zone with fencing. This requires



that no vehicle trails or storage areas for machinery/building materials/hay/etc. exist within the riparian zone and that haying occur not more often than once every three years (following establishment of seeded species) with cutting done after July 15th and prior to September 1st. No livestock grazing (other than using “water gaps”) is allowed under this management action.

4. Provide off-site watering source(s) for livestock to remove reliance on the stream, pond, lake or wetland for watering livestock. This will require that a new water source using a tank be developed a minimum of 300 feet from the stream, pond, etc. AND that livestock access to the stream, pond, etc. be limited by fencing (such as in #3 above) or rotational grazing strategies (such as those used in #2 above) to exclude livestock.

Documentation Requirements (SEE NATIONAL ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY JOBSHEET)

Complete the Table below:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Tract	Field	Acres Planned	Lin. Ft. Planned	Proposed Activity	Approximate Timeframe	Applied Acres Applied	Lin. Ft. Applied	Applied Activity	Date Applied
<i>Ex.100</i>	<i>2b</i>	<i>3.0 Acres</i>	<i>13,075</i>	<i>Control phragmites with mow-spray method</i>	<i>Mow – 4/ 2013 Spray – 8/ 2013</i>	<i>3.0</i>	<i>13,075</i>	<i>Mowed phragmites in March and sprayed regrowth in August</i>	<i>Mow- 4/2013 Spray-8/2013</i>

EX= EXAMPLE, COLUMNS 1-5 NRCS COMPLETES, COLUMNS 7-10 PRODUCER COMPLETES

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

- Completed [NE-CPA-8 Grass Seeding Job Sheet](#) and associated seed tags, and bills as required.
- Site-specific plan for either Invasive Species Control or Grazing Management (attach to this document) which provides the basic information noted below (include job sheets/receipts, etc.):
 - Invasive Species Control – species being targeted, timing of activities, herbicides used, application method, environmental considerations (i.e. migratory birds), follow-up evaluation.
 - Grazing Management Plan – number and class of livestock, timing and duration of grazing events, rotations used, infrastructure needed (i.e. fence and tanks), monitoring parameters.

Certified by: _____ **Date:** _____

URL for “wildlife friendly” plant list:

http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/NE/Wildlife_Friendly_Plant_List.pdf