

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN
FOR
RIPARIAN HERBACEOUS COVER (390)**

Landowner/user:

Date:

Address:

A properly operated and maintained **Riparian Herbaceous Cover Practice** is an asset to your farm operation and your agricultural land. Implementation of Riparian Herbaceous Cover will help you to achieve and maintain desired resource conditions by accomplishing one or more of the following purposes:

- Provide or improve food and cover for fish, wildlife and livestock,
- Improve and maintain water quality.
- Establish and maintain habitat corridors.
- Increase water storage on floodplains.
- Reduce erosion and improve stability to stream banks and shorelines.
- Increase net carbon storage in the biomass and soil.
- Enhance pollen, nectar, and nesting habitat for pollinators.
- Restore, improve or maintain the desired plant communities.
- Dissipate stream energy and trap sediment.
- Enhance stream bank protection as part of stream bank soil bioengineering practices.

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

Lifespan 5 Years

The purpose of operation, maintenance and management is to insure that the practice functions as intended over time. The following are requirements of the O&M for this practice:

- The riparian area will be inspected periodically in order to detect adverse impacts and make adjustments in management to maintain the intended purpose.
- Control of concentrated flow erosion or mass soil movement shall be continued in the up-gradient area to maintain riparian function.
- Any use of fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals to assure riparian area function shall not compromise the intended purpose.
- Harmful pests present on the site will be controlled or eliminated as necessary to achieve and maintain the intended purpose.
- Pest management will be conducted in a manner that mitigates impacts to pollinators.
- Avoid haying or grazing when streambanks and riparian areas are vulnerable to livestock or mechanical damage.

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN
FOR
RIPARIAN HERBACEOUS COVER (390)**

- Manage grazing to sustain riparian functions and values.
- Management systems will be designed and applied to maintain or improve the vigor and reproduction of the desired plant community, e.g., the riparian functions and values.
- Where the primary purpose of the practice is to provide terrestrial wildlife habitat, the density of the vegetative stand shall be managed for targeted wildlife habitat requirements and shall encourage plant diversity. If mowing is necessary to maintain herbaceous cover, it will occur outside the nesting and fawning season and allow for adequate re-growth for winter cover.

Specific Additional Requirements for Your Practice: