



CP22 - Forest Riparian Buffer - CRP/CREP

Wisconsin Job Sheet 391

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Wisconsin

Landowner: _____ Tract: _____

The CRP contract holder is responsible for maintaining the entire forest riparian buffer area (see C below) in appropriate cover. This includes areas between the top of the streambank and the forest riparian buffer and areas within the forest riparian buffer that are already functioning as a buffer, including brushy areas, wooded areas, pasture areas, etc. The area of the forest riparian buffer under contract must be maintained in the planned cover. The area of the forest riparian buffer not under contract must be maintained in permanent cover. Grazing or mowing with removal of material is not allowed in either area.

During the first few years until the forest riparian buffer is fully established, the vegetation may need to be mowed on a regular basis to allow the forest riparian buffer to function properly. After establishment, mowing is not allowed from May 15 through August 1 which is the primary nesting season. Forest riparian buffers should be inspected on a regular basis and repaired as needed. Sediment accumulations may need to be removed. Regular vehicle traffic is not allowed. Restoration of the forest riparian buffer will be required if so much sediment has accumulated that the forest riparian buffer is no longer effective.

Land within 300 feet of the forest riparian buffer must be managed so that soil loss is at or below Tolerable Soil Loss (T) Levels. Soil loss at levels above T will soon overwhelm a buffer with sediment. Forest riparian buffers may not be installed unless soil loss is at or below T.

Eligible Water Sources. Place a check by qualifying water source.

- Perennial Stream*
- Seasonal Stream*
- Permanent Water Body
- Sinkhole
- Permanently Flooded Wetland
- Intermittently Exposed Wetland
- Semipermanently Flooded Wetland
- Seasonally Flooded Wetland
- Permanent Water Body w/ Seasonal Flow off the farm*

**Only sources eligible for Marginal Pastureland*

**Maximum width for CRP is 180 feet.
Maximum width for CREP is 150 feet.**

Forest Riparian Buffer Width Calculations

| | Field Numbers | | | |
|---|---------------|-----|-----|-----|
| | | | | |
| Calculated Minimum Width for Forest riparian buffer (see page 2): | Ft. | Ft. | Ft. | Ft. |
| A. Planned width for forest riparian buffer: | Ft. | Ft. | Ft. | Ft. |
| B. Length of channel or shoreline of eligible water source adjacent to eligible cropland or marginal pasture: | Ft. | Ft. | Ft. | Ft. |
| C. Total Forest riparian buffer Area: (A) x (B) ÷ 43,560: | Ac. | Ac. | Ac. | Ac. |
| D. Area within the Forest riparian buffer Area (C) that is ineligible for payment: ¹ | Ac. | Ac. | Ac. | Ac. |
| E. Total area eligible for payment (C) - (D): | Ac. | Ac. | Ac. | Ac. |

¹ This may include areas between the top of the streambank and the forest riparian buffer, areas already functioning as a forest riparian buffer, wooded areas, pasture areas, etc. In some cases you may be able to determine this by multiplying (B) by the average ineligible width along the channel or shoreline. In other cases, it may be best to measure this value from aerial photography.

See attached drawing or aerial photograph that depicts forest riparian buffer area.

Use forest riparian buffers:

- at the lower edge of crop fields along streams, ponds, lakes, and drainageways, or in marginal pastures adjacent to streams or ponds with off farm flow and
- where there is sheet or uniform shallow flow (avoid concentrated flow), and
- where conservation practices have reduced soil losses to T or less, and
- in conjunction with conservation practices, such as nutrient management, pest management or prescribed grazing that manages or reduces the sources of contaminants.

Minimum Width Calculations

For Forest Riparian Buffers installed under the CRP or CREP programs, the minimum width of forest riparian buffer is the lesser of 100 feet or 30 percent of the geomorphic floodplain. In no case will the forest riparian buffer be less than 35 feet wide.

Tree Planting

Tree planting shall be done in accordance with the Tree Planting Standard (612). Tree planting densities will be sufficient to establish a wooded corridor. Wisconsin Job Sheet 143 may be used for the tree-planting plan. When forest riparian buffers are planned adjacent to cold water streams located in the driftless area, trees may be planted at a spacing of 18' x 18' in the first 50 feet adjacent to the stream. Where prairie or oak savanna remnants occur on the site, a spacing of 18' x 18' may be maintained for the entire width. Because of the affects of competition, it is always advisable to plant more trees than would be desirable in the final stand.

Hardwood species generally do a better job of removing and storing nutrients. Tree species will be selected that are appropriate to the site. In no case will more than half of the wooded species be shrubs.

Grass and Forb Planting

Grasses and Forbs shall be planted according to the Critical Area Planting Standard (342).