

COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE
Ranking Category – CENTRAL GREAT PLAINS FORESTED RIPARIAN BUFFERS

Primary Resource Concern –

- **Plant Condition – Productivity, Health, and Vigor (Forestland)**
- **Soil Erosion – Streambank**
- **Water Quality – Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water**

Eligible Land Uses –

- **Crop, Forest, Grazed Range, Hay, Headquarters, Pasture, Wildlife**

Additional Requirements for this Category –

- **The 2008 Farm Bill requires that a producer must develop and implement a Forest Stewardship/Management Plan with the Kansas Forest Service (KFS).**

State Issues –

If applicable, answer ONE of the following questions related to the KFS Potential for Forest Stewardship Program Benefits. If none apply, leave the answers “NO”:

- (1a) A HIGH forest stewardship potential exists for greater than or equal to 50.0 percent of the unit of concern. (440 points)
- (1b) A combination of MEDIUM and HIGH forest stewardship potential exists for greater than or equal to 50.0 percent of the unit of concern. (330 points)
- (1c) A MEDIUM forest stewardship potential exists for greater than or equal to 50.0 percent of the unit of concern. (220 points)
- (1d) A combination of LOW and MEDIUM forest stewardship potential exists for greater than or equal to 50.0 percent of the unit of concern. (110 points)

If applicable, answer ONE of the following questions related to Tree/Shrub Soils Suitability Group. If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”:

- (2a) Greater than or equal to 50.0 percent of the unit of concern is located on soils in Conservation Tree/Shrub and Windbreak Suitability Group 1 or 2, based on acreage. (75 points)
- (2b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 50.0 percent, is located on soils in Conservation Tree/Shrub and Windbreak Suitability Group 1 or 2, based on acreage. (40 points)

If applicable, answer ONE of the following questions related to threatened and endangered species. If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”:

- (3a) The entire unit of concern (100.0 percent) is located within a threatened or endangered species habitat area for Arkansas darter, Arkansas River shiner, Bald eagle, Neosho madtom, Neosho mucket mussel, Eastern Spotted skunk, and/or Topeka shiner. (20 points)

- (3b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 100.0 percent, is located within a threatened or endangered species habitat area for Arkansas darter, Arkansas River shiner, Bald eagle, Neosho madtom, Neosho mucket mussel, Eastern Spotted skunk, and/or Topeka shiner. (15 points)

If applicable, answer ONE of the following questions related to declining species or species of concern. If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”:

- (4a) The entire unit of concern (100.0 percent) is located within a declining species habitat area for Bobwhite quail. (10 points)
- (4b) Any part of the unit of concern, but less than 100.0 percent, is located within a declining species habitat area for Bobwhite quail. (5 points)

Answer the following question related to partner funding assistance:

- (5) Producer has secured funding for portions of the project from other contributors, which may include, but is not limited to, conservation districts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, or other cost-share programs. (3 points)

Local Issues –

Determine the condition of the riparian area based on the following attributes (refer to Conservation Practice Standard (391) Riparian Forest Buffer criteria):

- Provides detritus and large woody debris for aquatic and terrestrial organisms
- Creates wildlife habitat and establishes wildlife corridors
- Reduces excess contaminants in surface and subsurface runoff
- Provides sustainable harvestable crops of timber, fiber, forage, or fruit
- Protects against scour erosion within floodplain
- Practice restores natural plant communities
- Increases carbon storage

If applicable, answer ONE of the following questions related to the condition of the forested riparian buffer. If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”:

- (1a) Forested riparian buffer is in POOR condition (meets less than four attributes above). (35 points)
- (1b) Forested riparian buffer is in FAIR condition (meets four or five attributes above). (15 points)

If applicable, answer only ONE of the following questions related to the location of the application “YES.” If neither applies, leave the answers “NO”:

- (2a) Any part of the unit of concern is located within a Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) identified high priority Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) watershed for eutrophication, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, and/or pesticides. (35 points)

- (2b) Any part of the unit of concern contains land with an water erodibility index of 8.0 or above. (15 points)

If applicable, answer ONE of the following questions related to the function of the forested riparian buffer. If neither applies, leave the answers "NO":

- (3a) Forested riparian buffer will be fenced to prohibit use by livestock and will provide wildlife habitat for threatened or endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act. (30 points)
- (3b) Forested riparian buffer will be fenced to prohibit use by livestock and will provide wildlife habitat. (15 points)