



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM 14 - *Riparian Forest Buffer, Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Habitat*



Riparian Forest Buffer – Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Habitat

The activity consists of the managing forested riparian zones to achieve stream side cover and vegetative diversity and structure to improve terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat.

Land Use Applicability

This enhancement is applicable to forested riparian areas on or adjacent to cropland, pasture land, range land and forest land.

Benefits

Targeted conservation measures are implemented to enhance habitat for aquatic species such as fish, turtles, frogs, salamanders, aquatic insects and other species of concern in riparian zones of rivers or streams and their floodplains. These measures include re-location of equipment or forest management activities out of riparian zones and floodplains, and riparian forest stand management to increase tree canopy cover to streams or rivers and standing snags for riparian wildlife.

Criteria for Riparian Forest Buffer – Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Habitat

This enhancement is implemented mainly by managing existing live trees and shrubs. The producer will apply and maintain management actions specifically for improving or protecting natural riparian zones and their functions associated with terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat. These actions include:

- The width of forested riparian zones must be at least 2.5 times the width of the stream channel.
- Manage the riparian area to maintain a diversity of non-invasive tree, shrub, and herbaceous species by techniques such as selective thinning, controlled grazing, managed burning, selective use of herbicides and/or the planting of native species.
- Retain existing snags or create new snags by girdling live trees of at least one/acre.
- Manage the riparian vegetation to provide tree canopy shade of the stream and good stream side cover.
- Do not use heavy equipment such as bull dozers and tractors within the forested riparian zone to implement enhancement activities.



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Documentation Requirements for Riparian Forest Buffer – Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Habitat

Following implementation of this activity, the landowner must document:

- Documentation of the management activities in the riparian zone for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat.
- Delineations on a map or aerial photo indicating the stream channel length where the riparian zone has improved habitat.