

**Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM13- Non-forested Riparian Zone
 Enhancement for Fish and Wildlife**



Enhancement Description

Utilizing select conservation measures such as re-locating equipment operations, trails, or livestock; establishing diverse native vegetation and controlling invasive species; fencing; and extending the width of the riparian zone to enhance wildlife habitat adjacent to riparian zones of streams, ponds, lakes, or wetlands.

Land Use Applicability

This enhancement is applicable on cropland, pasture land and rangeland.

Benefits

Intact riparian zones with a natural and diverse mix of herbaceous and /or woody vegetation of different ages are important landscape features for sustaining fish and wildlife populations. Maintaining vigorous native or natural riparian vegetation of diverse age classes and species will benefit riparian and aquatic fauna by providing: (a) thermal, nesting/fawning, and hiding cover in riparian zones, stream banks, and shorelines; (b) diverse food sources; (c) a steady source of leaves, brush, small woody material for aquatic food webs at and downstream of the site; (d) root systems to enhance bank stability, and (e) vegetative filters for surface water run-off.

Criteria for Non-forested Riparian Zone Enhancement for Fish and Wildlife

1. For streams, rivers, or floodplains adjacent to pastures, cropland, hayland, or rangeland, enhance and maintain a well-vegetated riparian zone that is 2.5 times the width of the stream channel or 35 feet, whichever is greater. Improve the diversity of native or natural woody and/or herbaceous plant species suitable for the site and appropriate for the riparian and aquatic species that inhabit the area by planting appropriate species. In addition, implement at least one of the management actions from the list below.

2. For ponds, floodplain wetlands, or lakes adjacent to pastures, cropland, hayland or rangeland, enhance and maintain a well-vegetated riparian zone that is 35 feet wide or greater. Improve the diversity of native or natural woody and/or herbaceous plant species suitable for the site and appropriate for the riparian and aquatic species that inhabit the area by planting appropriate species. In addition, implement at least one of the management actions from the list below.

Additional management actions for enhancing non-wooded riparian zones:

1. Control invasive species thru a grazing management plan or suitable pest management techniques.



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2. Limit livestock use of riparian zone thru a prescribed grazing management plan
3. Control access of people, machinery, and livestock to the riparian zone with fencing.
4. Provide off-site watering source(s) for livestock.

Documentation Requirements

- Provide written documentation, including a map, of all riparian zone activities implemented to meet the requirements of this enhancement.
- List of maintenance activities carried out on riparian acres as prescribed under the practice used, and its specific fish and wildlife considerations.



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Additional guidance for riparian zone enhancement:

Wildlife Friendly Species

Wildlife friendly grass, forb, shrub and tree species include all native perennial plant species typically represented by a diverse mixture as described in the representative ecological site description. Native grass species typically include plant species that are known to favor the kinds of wildlife typically adapted to the site. Native grass species typically include streambank wheatgrass, thickspike wheatgrass, tufted hairgrass, mannagrass, western wheatgrass, prairie cordgrass, blue-joint reed grass and basin wildrye. Native forbs and legumes can include yarrow, globemallow species, flax, lupine, American vetch, and penstemon species. Introduced grass species that can be considered wildlife friendly include redtop, orchardgrass, regar brome, meadow foxtail, intermediate wheatgrass, pubescent wheatgrass, tall wheatgrass, and Russian wildrye. Introduced forbs and legumes include alfalfa, small burnet, clover sp., sainfoin and yellow sweetclover.

Native shrubs include chokecherry, golden current, shrubby cinquefoil, juniper, serviceberry, woods rose, silver buffaloberry, redosier dogwood, native willow sp. Native trees include cottonwood, water birch, quaking aspen, Douglas and black hawthorn and tree willows. Introduced woody species include Nanking cherry, cotoneaster and Siberian peashrub.

For additional information, refer to the following documents:

Idaho NRCS Plant Materials Technical Note 24, *Grass, Grass-like, Forb, Legume and Woody Species for the Intermountain West*. ftp://ftp-fc.sc.gov.usda.gov/ID/programs/technotes/tn24_seedspecies

Idaho NRCS Plant Material Technical Note 24, Supplement: *Intermountain Planting Guide*, USDA-ARS Forage and Range Research Lab/Utah State Extension, AG 510. <ftp://ftp-fc.sc.gov.usda.gov/ID/programs/technotes/tn24supplement>.

Idaho NRCS Plant Materials Technical Note 32, *Native Shrubs and Trees for Riparian Areas*. ftp://ftp-fc.sc.gov.usda.gov/ID/programs/technotes/riparian_woodys.pdf

Idaho NRCS Plant Materials Technical Note 38, *Wetland Species and Grasses for Riparian Areas*. ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/ID/programs/technotes/herb_wetland_plants.pdf

USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. *Riparian Buffer Design Guidelines for Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat Functions on Agricultural Landscapes in the Intermountain west*. General Technical Report GTR-203. www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs/rmrs_gtr203.pdf

USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station. *Conservation Buffers: Design Guidelines for Buffers, Corridors and Greenways*. General Technical Report SRS-109. http://www.unl.edu/nac/bufferguidelines/docs/conservation_buffers.pdf.