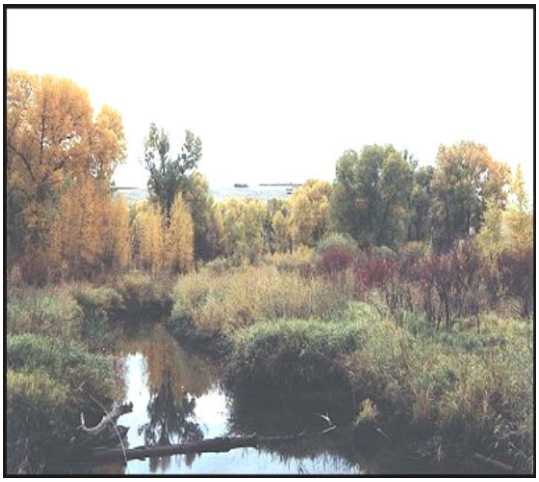
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2011 Ranking Period 1

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 steams, ponds, lakes, or wetlands.

Land Use Applicability
Cropland, pastureland 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

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 to a maximum width of 150 feet. Improve the diversity of native or natural shrub 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 through a grazing management plan or suitable pest management techniques.
2. Limit livestock use of riparian zone through 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

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