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United States Department of Agriculture

FY23 NRCS-WA Riparian Buffer Program

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

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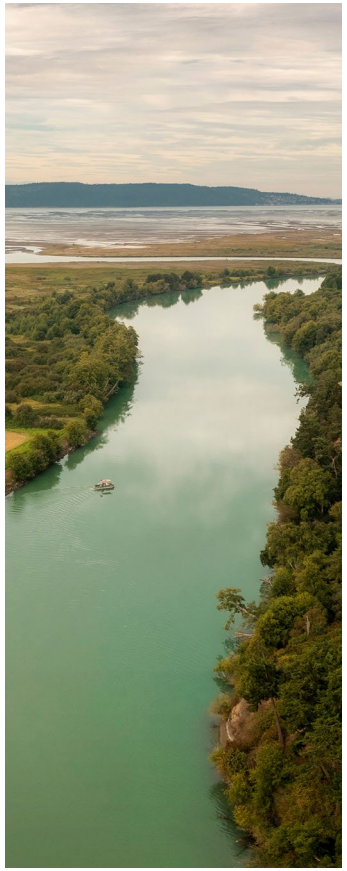
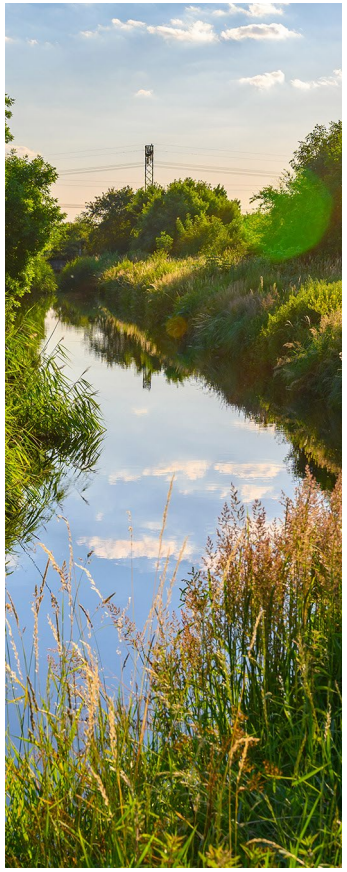
FY23 Riparian Buffer Program

- Riparian Buffers have been a hot topic for years.
- NRCS-WA's goal is to move the needle and help …
  - Improve salmon habitat (lower temps & shade)
  - Improve water quality
  - Reduce sediment
- Buffers start at 35 feet wide & completely voluntary
- Maximum buffer width is 200 feet
- Buffers available on intermittent streams at Tiers 1, 2, & 3



The specifics

- Four "tier" program
- Producers compensated for their **time**, and **materials** required to install the buffers
- Each tier included option to compensate landowners for the **forgone income lost** when they install a buffer



All scenarios and associated payment rates are estimates

Tier 1. Nonnative perennial herbaceous cover

Option 1: Working Land Buffer

Description: Plant perennial vegetation to filter pollutants from adjacent agriculture from entering streams. Allows for forage harvest (working buffer). Treats one or more water quality resource concerns.

Buffer Functions: Filter pollutants and slows bank erosion.

Activity	Code	Scenario	Notes	Incentive *(per year/acre)*	5-Year Contract Total *(per acre)*
Herbaceous Weed Treatment *(1 year only)*	315	8	Two treatments	$116.79	$116.79
Conservation Cover *(1 year only)*	327	1	Introduced species	$168.33	$168.33
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	645	3	High intensity & complexity	$114.92	$574.60

Five-year contract total per acre: **$859.72**

Tier 1. Nonnative perennial herbaceous cover

Option 2: With Forgone Income

Description: Plant perennial vegetation to filter pollutants from adjacent agriculture from entering streams. Treats one or more water quality resource concerns.

Buffer Functions: Filter pollutants and slows bank erosion.

Activity	Code	Scenario	Notes	Incentive *(per year/acre)*	5-Year Contract Total *(per acre)*
Herbaceous Weed Treatment *(1 year only)*	315	8	Two treatments	$116.79	$116.79
Conservation Cover *(1 year only)*	327	1	Introduced species	$168.33	$168.33
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management **w/ FI** *	645	4	High intensity & complexity	$312.99	$1,564.95

Five-year contract total per acre: **$1,850.07**

Tier 2. Native perennial herbaceous cover

Description: Plant perennial native perennial vegetation to improve water quality, plus adds wildlife and/or pollinator habitat with optional harvest.

Buffer Functions: Filter pollutants, slow bank erosion, and terrestrial habitat for wildlife and pollinators.

Activity	Code	Scenario	Notes	Incentive *(per year/acre)*	5-Year Contract Total *(per acre)*
Herbaceous Weed Treatment *(1 year only)*	315	8	Two treatments	$116.79	$116.79
Wildlife Habitat Planting **w/ FI** *(1 year only)*	420	262	Low species diversity	$651.41	$651.41
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management **w/ FI** *	645	4	High intensity & complexity	$312.99	$1,564.95

Five-year contract total per acre: **$2,333.15**

Tier 3. Native woody vegetation

Wildlife and pollinators

Description: **Install narrow riparian buffer of woody shrubs and trees (35 ft wide) to provide terrestrial wildlife and pollinator habitat as in Tier 2 + treats elevated water temperature on small modified streams (<20 ft BFW) & manmade ditches.**

Buffer Functions: **Filter pollutants, slow bank erosion, terrestrial habitat for wildlife and pollinators, shade on small modified channels.**

Activity	Code	Scenario	Notes	Incentive *(per year/acre)*	5-Year Contract Total *(per acre)*
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation *(1 year only)*	490	7	Hand, individual spot spray, light vegetation	$246.21	$246.21
Hedgerow Planting **w/ FI** *(1 year only)* *Example:* *35 ft wide x 800 ft long (one side) = 0.6 acre* *Typical unit = 800 ft long hedgerow*	422	27	2 woody rows	$9.71 *(per foot)*	$7,768.00
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management **w/ FI** *	645	4	High intensity & complexity	$312.99	$1,564.95

Five-year contract total per acre: **$9,579.16**

Tier 4. Native woody vegetation

Riparian forest buffer

Description: Install riparian forest buffer using 391 standard (35 ft minimum width for herbaceous cover and 50 ft minimum width for riparian forest buffer), and man-made ditches.

Buffer Functions: Filter pollutants, slow bank erosion, terrestrial habitat for wildlife and pollinators, shade, overhanging cover, allow channel meander.

Activity	Code	Scenario	Notes	Incentive *(per year/acre)*	5-Year Contract Total *(per acre)*
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation *(1 year only)*	490	7	Hand, individual spot spray, light vegetation	$246.21	$246.21
Riparian Forest Buffer **w/ FI** *(1 year only)*	391	52	Bare-root & hand planted **	$3,302.98	$3,302.98
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management **w/ FI** *	645	4	High intensity & complexity	$312.99	$1,564.95

Five-year contract total per acre: **$5,114.14**

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Questions?

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