



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E390126Z

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Increase riparian herbaceous cover width to reduce sediment loading

Conservation Practice 390: Riparian Herbaceous Cover

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed); Crop (Perennial); Associated Ag Land; Farmstead

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Water Quality Degradation

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 5 Years

Enhancement Description

Where an existing herbaceous riparian buffer is located along a river, stream, pond, lake, or other waterbody, increase the width of the buffer in order to allow a greater percentage of sediment removal from surface flows.

Criteria

- Existing buffer width shall be at least 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater. Maximum enhancement buffer width may be increased up to the greater of 100 feet or the State-allowed maximum width, but no greater than the width of the geomorphic floodplain.
- To the extent possible, the buffer area and extended buffer will be shaped and vegetated to increase overland flow interception.
- Concentrated flow erosion or mass soil movement shall be controlled in the up gradient area prior to establishment of the riparian herbaceous cover.
- Species selected shall have stiff stems and high stem density near the ground surface to reduce water velocities and facilitate infiltration into the floodplain. Only viable, high



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

quality and site-adapted planting stock will be used. Selection of native plants is recommended.

- In areas where native seeds and propagules are present, natural regeneration can be used in lieu of planting. Planting is required if no native seed bank is present.
- Selected plant species must be adapted to the projected duration of saturation and inundation of the site.
- Where available, use Ecological Site Description to guide restoration to appropriate vegetative community phase and include appropriate vegetative functional groups.
- Necessary site preparation and planting shall be done at a time and manner to insure survival and growth of selected species.
- Management systems applied will be designed to maintain or improve the vigor and reproduction of the desired plant community.
- Harmful pests present on the site will be controlled or eliminated as necessary to achieve and maintain the intended purpose. Pest management will be conducted in a manner that mitigates impacts to pollinators.
- Protect riparian vegetation by reducing or excluding haying and grazing until the desired plant community is well established, with grazing deferred for a minimum of two years.
- Design the expanded buffer enhancement for an expected life of at least 5 years.

Documentation Requirements

- Specifications for this practice shall be prepared for each site. Specification shall be recorded using approved specifications sheets, job sheets, narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.