**alliance practice worksheet**

NORTH DAKOTA

RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFER (391)

*The conditions and specifications below are adapted from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Producers who are installing these practices under the Alliance will use the conditions and implementation guides below but are exempt from NRCS verification and certification. Completing the Purposes and Practice Specifications on this document is sufficient to self-verify practice installation and completion.*

# Farm Info

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| County | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Alliance Contract Number | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Field Number(s) | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Tract Number(s) | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Practice Area | Click or tap here to enter text. |

# PRACTICE: RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFER (391)

**DEFINITION**: An area predominantly covered by trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and up-gradient from a waterhorse or water body.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFER (391):**

<https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/23692/391_ND_CPS_Riparian_Forest_Buffer_2014> and <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/23695/391_ND_PS_Riparian_Forest_Buffer_2010>

**AT A MINIMUM, PRODUCERS WILL PROVIDE A RECORD OF THE FOLLOWING:**

* Maps indicating planting area – including length and width measurements
	+ Maximum width of 150 feet
* Planting information
	+ Date planted
	+ Planting method
	+ Density and spacing
	+ Species planted – native woody species only – no conifers

# GENERAL CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO ALL PURPOSES

* Existing buffer width shall be at least 35 feet. Maximum enhancement buffer width may be up to 150 feet.
* To the extent possible, the buffer area and extended buffer will be shaped and vegetated to increase overland flow interception.
* Existing functional underground drains through the riparian area will be plugged, removed or replaced with perforated pipe/end plugs or water control structures.
* Dominant vegetation will consist of existing, naturally regenerated, or seeded/planted trees and shrubs suited to the soil and hydrology of the site and the intended purpose of nutrient reduction.
* Use tree and shrub species that are native and non-invasive. Substitution with improved and locally accepted cultivars or purpose-specific species is allowed. For plantings and seeding, only viable, high-quality and adapted plant materials will be used.
* Favor tree and shrub species that have multiple values such as those suited for timber, nuts, fruit, florals, browse, nesting, and aesthetics.
* Necessary site preparation and planting shall be done at a time and manner to insure survival and growth of selected species.
* Harmful plant and animal 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.
* Livestock shall be controlled or excluded as necessary to achieve the buffer’s water quality improvement purpose. If livestock is present, follow a Prescribed Grazing Plan and defer grazing for a minimum of two years.

# Additional Criteria for Increasing Carbon Storage in Biomass and Soils

* Maximize width and length of the riparian forest buffer.
* Select plants that have higher rates of carbon sequestration in soils and plant biomass and are adapted to the site to assure strong health and vigor. Plant the appropriate stocking rate for the site.

# Practice Certification Documentation

*The practice can be certified complete following the planting of the adapted tree and shrub species.*

**RIPARIAN BUFFER**

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| --- | --- |
| Planting Date | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Planting Method | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Density and Spacing | Click or tap here to enter text. |

**ESTABLISHMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Species | Vegetative or Rootstock | Size | Protection (tubes, mats, nets) |
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| **Notes:**Click or tap here to enter text. |

# PRODUCER SELF-CERTIFICATION

By signing below, I certify that I have reviewed all required documentation and have implemented the practice and met all criteria and requirements as defined in the Natural Resources Conservation Service **RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFER (391)** standard and specifications for the identified acres or animal units.

Further, I agree that:

[ ]  I have not received a payment for this conservation practice on these fields and acres from another USDA Conservation Program or another USDA Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities grant partner.

[ ]  I will retain all practice documentation to support this certification for up to 12 months following practice adoption and will provide this documentation to the Alliance if selected for a spot check. *(Up to 10% of enrolled Alliance participants will be randomly selected for spot checks).*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Producer Name:** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Date:** | Click or tap to enter a date. |