**alliance practice worksheet**

MINNESOTA

riparian herbaceous cover (390)

*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 herbaceous cover (390)

**DEFINITION:**Grasses, sedges, rushes, ferns, legumes, and forbs tolerant of intermittent flooding or saturated soils, established or managed as the dominant vegetation in the transitional zone between upland and aquatic habitats.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES:**This practice applies to:

* Areas adjacent to perennial and intermittent watercourses or water bodies where the natural plant community is dominated by herbaceous vegetation that is tolerant of periodic flooding or saturated soils. For seasonal or ephemeral watercourses and water bodies, this zone extends to the center of the channel or basin.
* Where channel and stream bank stability is adequate to support this practice.
* Where the riparian area has been altered and the potential natural plant community has changed.

See [*https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/42351/390\_MN\_CPS\_Riparian\_Herbaceous\_Cover\_2024*](https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/42351/390_MN_CPS_Riparian_Herbaceous_Cover_2024)to access the NRCS Conservation Practice Standard.

**NOTE:** *Riparian Herbaceous Cover has a practice lifespan of 5 years, according to NRCS. Therefore, enrollment is only possible for year one (planting year) of this practice.*

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

* Field number and acres.
* Conservation plan map.
* Map showing the location of plantings and/or natural regeneration areas.
* Method of site preparation and appropriate jobsheet
* Species and seeding rate
* Planting method
* Design dimensions
* Soil information
* CPA-52 Environmental Evaluation Worksheet
  + Please contact your State Implementer for assistance completing the CPA-52.

# GENERAL CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO ALL PURPOSES

* Where available, use Ecological Site Description to guide restoration to appropriate vegetative community phase and include appropriate vegetative functional groups.
* Select perennial plants that are adapted to site and hydrologic conditions and provide the structural and functional diversity preferred by fish and wildlife likely to benefit from the installation of the practice.
* 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.
* Protect riparian vegetation and water quality by reducing or excluding haying and grazing until the desired plant community is well established.
* Stream type and site hydrology must be considered. Selected plant species must be adapted to the projected duration of saturation and inundation of the site.
* 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.
* Management systems applied will be designed to maintain or improve the vigor and reproduction of the desired plant community.
* Necessary site preparation and planting shall be done at a time and manner to insure survival and growth of selected species. Only viable, high quality and site-adapted planting stock will be used.
* Determine the width of the riparian herbaceous cover planting based on the geomorphic potential of the site and project purposes, including the life history requirements of local fish and wildlife species, including pollinators. Minimum width shall be increased to 2.5 times the stream width (based on the horizontal distance between bank-full elevations) or 35 feet for water bodies.
* Existing underground functional drains that pass through these areas shall be replaced with rigid, non perforated pipe through the buffer or equipped with a management regulating structure to allow control of overflow.
* Domestic grazing should be deferred for a minimum of two years or until such time as the desired plant community is established.

# LAYOUT, ATTACH MAP:

**Water body/course type:** Choose one

**Watercourse name:** Click or tap here to enter text.

Minimum buffer widths = shortest allowable width for designed buffer purpose.

Maximum buffer widths = widest width needed for designed buffer purpose.

Locate both Min. and Max. width areas on planned location map.

**Cover Average Width (in feet):** Click or tap here to enter text. **Minimum:** Click or tap here to enter text. **Maximum:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Specify left and/or right side of stream (**from the perspective of looking downstream; for water bodies, such as lakes and ponds, check both). **Left Right**

**Cover Length (in feet)**

**Left:** Click or tap here to enter text. **Right:** Click or tap here to enter text. **Ponds and lakes (continuous):** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Total Acres:** Click or tap here to enter text.

# Specifications

**Planting Method:**

Click or tap here to enter text. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Site Conditions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Soil Type/Soil Texture** | **Soil Drainage Class** | **Current Vegetation or Site Condition** |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |

# method of site preparation

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Chemical/Mechanical (Follow the criteria in the standard Tree & Shrub site Preparation (490)) – Attach Job Sheet and note WINPST ratings are required when chemical site preparation is used. |
|  | Prescribed Burning (Follow the criteria in the standard Prescribed Burning (338) – Attach Job Sheet and burn plan. |
|  | Biological – Grazing (Follow the criteria in the standard Prescribed Grazing (528) – Attach Job Sheet and grazing plan. |
|  | Tree & Shrub plan (Follow the criteria in the standard Tree & Shrub Establishment (612)) – Attach job sheets. |
| Additional comments: | Click or tap here to enter text. |

# Seeding rates and species

Check box to use alternate seed calculation worksheet; or fill out the table below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Plant Species | Lbs. / acre of seed (PLS) | Total lbs. of seed for planned acreage |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
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# Operation and maintenance

Inspect the riparian area periodically to detect adverse impacts and adjust management to maintain the intended purpose.

Control concentrated flow erosion or mass soil movement in the up-gradient area to maintain riparian function.

Assure the intended purpose of the riparian area function is not compromised if any fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals are used.

Control or eliminate harmful pests present on the site as necessary to achieve and maintain the intended purpose.

Conduct pest management in a manner that mitigates impacts on pollinators.

Avoid haying or grazing when streambanks and riparian areas are vulnerable to livestock or mechanical damage.

Manage grazing to sustain riparian functions and values.

Design and apply management systems to maintain or improve the vigor and reproduction of the desired plant community, e.g., the riparian functions and values.

Where the primary purpose of the practice is to provide terrestrial wildlife habitat, the density of the vegetative stand shall be managed for targeted wildlife habitat requirements and shall encourage plant diversity. If mowing is necessary to maintain herbaceous cover, it will occur outside the nesting and fawning season and allow for adequate re-growth for winter cover.

|  |
| --- |
| 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 HERBACEOUS COVER (390)** standard and specifications for the identified acres or animal units.

Further, I agree that:

I am not currently receiving a payment for this conservation practice on these fields and acres from another USDA Conservation Program, another USDA Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities grant partner, or a state cost-share program.

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).*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Participant Name:*** | Click or tap here to enter text. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Participant Signature:*** | Click or tap here to enter text. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Date:*** | Click or tap to enter a date. |