



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM 14 - *Riparian Forest Buffer, Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Habitat*



Riparian Forest Buffer – Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Habitat

The activity consists of the managing forested riparian zones to achieve stream side cover and vegetative diversity and structure to improve terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat.

Land Use Applicability

This enhancement is applicable to forested riparian areas on or adjacent to cropland, pasture land, range land and forest land.

Benefits

Targeted conservation measures are implemented to enhance habitat for aquatic species such as fish, turtles, frogs, salamanders, aquatic insects and other species of concern in riparian zones of rivers or streams and their floodplains. These measures include re-location of equipment or forest management activities out of riparian zones and floodplains, and riparian forest stand management to increase tree canopy cover to streams or rivers and standing snags for riparian wildlife.

Criteria for Riparian Forest Buffer – Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Habitat

This enhancement is implemented mainly by managing existing live trees and shrubs. The producer will apply and maintain management actions specifically for improving or protecting natural riparian zones and their functions associated with terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat. These actions include:

- The width of forested riparian zones must be at least 2.5 times the width of the stream channel.
- Manage the riparian area to maintain a diversity of non-invasive tree, shrub, and herbaceous species by techniques such as selective thinning, controlled grazing, managed burning, selective use of herbicides and/or the planting of native species.
- Retain existing snags or create new snags by girdling live trees of at least one/acre.
- Manage the riparian vegetation to provide tree canopy shade of the stream and good stream side cover.
- Do not use heavy equipment such as bull dozers and tractors within the forested riparian zone to implement enhancement activities.



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Documentation Requirements for Riparian Forest Buffer – Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife Habitat

Following implementation of this activity, the landowner must document:

- Documentation of the management activities in the riparian zone for terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat.
- Delineations on a map or aerial photo indicating the stream channel length where the riparian zone has improved habitat.



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NH State Supplement

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Criteria

For Extending Herbaceous Riparian Buffers:

Do not plant Reed Canary Grass. The following mixes are acceptable for this enhancement. Shrub plantings are also beneficial. Especially in areas where few of the listed shrubs are near to the site so natural regeneration will be slow or unsuccessful. Note: some plantings for pollinators can be toxic to livestock, for more information refer to the Northeast Pollinator Technical Note or the USDA Plants Database.

For moderately well and well drained sites recommended species include:

Species	lbs/ac of seed
Orchardgrass	10
Smooth Bromegrass	5
Medium Red Clover	5
Timothy	5
Redtop	5

For somewhat and poorly drained sites recommended species include:

Species	lbs/ac of seed
Orchardgrass	7
Redtop	5
Red Clover	5
Kentucky Bluegrass	7
Perennial ryegrass	5
Ladino clover	1

For sandy excessively-well drained sites recommended species include:

<u>Species</u>	<u>lbs/ac of seed</u>
Big Blue Stem	3
Little Blue Stem	5
Sand Love Grass	4
Creeping Red Fescue	5
Virginia Wild Rye	5
Red Top	5

Suggested Shrub Species for Riparian Buffer Plantings

Shrub Species		Wet Site	Dry Site	Pollinator	Wildlife Mast
Scientific Name	Common Name				
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	shadblow serviceberry		X	X	X
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	allegheeny serviceberry		X	X	X
<i>Corylus americana</i>	hazelnut		X		X
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	staghorn sumac		X	X	X
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	common elderberry	X		X	X
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	arrowwood viburnum	X		X	X
<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Black Chokeberry		X	X	X
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Grey Dogwood	X		X	X
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Redosier Dogwood	X		X	X
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch Hazel	X		X	X
<i>Rubus</i>	Red and Black Raspberry		X	X	X
<i>Salix</i>	Native Willows (shinning, Bebb's, slender leaf, heart Shapped etc	X		X	
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	high bush blueberry	X	X	X	X
<i>Viburnum Casinoidies</i>	Northern Wild Raisin	X		X	X
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	nannyberry	X		X	X

Suggested Seed Mix for variable Upland/Wetland Conditions

The following type mix can be useful for seeding down past sacrifice areas along streams where topography is undulating. The draw back on native species such as these is they need to be seeded in the fall to cold stratify, other wise they will not germinate. In addition, they are more expensive than the grass mixes above.

Botanical Name	Common Name	Ind.	Lbs/A
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bentgrass	FACW	2.5
<i>Andropogon gerardii</i>	Big Bluestem,	FAC	3.5
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England Aster	FACW-	0.25
<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	Fox Sedge	OBL	1.75
<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	Virginia Wild Rye	FACW-	8.75
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Boneset	FACW	1

Euthamia graminifolia	Grass Leaved Goldenrod	FAC	0.25
Festuca rubra	Creeping Red Fescue	FACU	8.75
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush	FACW+	1
Onoclea sensibilis	Sensitive Fern	FACW	0.25
Panicum virgatum	Switch Grass	FAC	1.75
Schizachyrium scoparium	Little Bluestem	FACU	3.5
Scirpus atrovirens	Green Bulrush	OBL	0.5
Scirpus cyperinus	Wool Grass	FACW	1
Verbena hastata	Blue Vervain	FACW	0.25
		Total	35