



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E391C

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Increase riparian forest buffer width to enhance wildlife habitat

Conservation Practice 391: Riparian Forest Buffer

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

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 15 Years

Enhancement Description

Where an existing riparian forest buffer is located along a river, stream, pond, lake, or other waterbody, increase the diversity of native species, control invasive species, install fencing and relocate equipment operations, trails, and livestock to increase the functional width of the buffer.

Criteria

- Existing buffer width shall be at least 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater. Buffer width shall be increased to 60 feet and may be extended up to 180 feet or the State-allowed maximum width.
- The management plan shall consider habitat and wildlife objectives such as habitat diversity, habitat linkages, daily and seasonal habitat ranges, limiting factors, and native plant communities.
- Establish plant communities that address aquatic, terrestrial wildlife and pollinator needs and have multiple values such as habitat enhancement and nutrient uptake.

E391C-Increase riparian forest buffer width to enhance wildlife habitat	January 2022	Page 1
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CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- Dominant vegetation will consist of existing, naturally regenerated, or seeded/planted trees and shrubs suited to the soil and hydrology of the site.
- 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.
- Periodic removal of some forest products such as high value trees, medicinal herbs, nuts, and fruits is permitted provided the buffer area is not compromised by the loss of vegetation or harvesting disturbance.
- 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.
- Protect riparian vegetation until the desired plant community is well established.
- 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 (CPS 528) and defer grazing for a minimum of two years.
- Design the expanded buffer enhancement for an expected life of at least 15 years.
- The enhancement will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and with States' Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality.



Documentation and Implementation Requirements

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, prepare the planned buffer area according to the planting plan NRCS has developed with you. Refer to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391). (NRCS will provide technical assistance.)
- Prior to implementation, select planting dates, methods, and density/spacing appropriate for the site and soil conditions. (NRCS will provide technical assistance.)

Planting Date	
Planting Method	
Density and spacing	

- Prior to implementation, work closely with NRCS to select diverse native and naturally regenerated or seeded/planted trees and shrubs that are adapted to your specific site and meet the wildlife habitat objectives of this enhancement.

Species	Vegetative or Rootstock	Size	Protection (tubes, mats, nets)

- During implementation, conduct planting of selected species according to dates, methods, spacing and other requirements listed in the planting plan.
- During implementation, install and maintain erosion control measures as needed, such as, silt fencing and mulching.
- During implementation, notify NRCS of any planned changes to allow NRCS to verify that the changes meet NRCS enhancement criteria.
- After Implementation, control harmful pests and vegetation to reduce competition for water, nutrients, and space and in a manner that limits effects to pollinators. Inspect and maintain tubes and protection measures regularly.



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- After implementation, livestock and wildlife may need be controlled or excluded to achieve the buffer’s habitat enhancement purpose. If livestock are present, follow a Prescribed Grazing Plan (Code 528) and defer grazing for a minimum of two years. Wildlife may need to be controlled during establishment of vegetative treatments. Temporary and local population control methods should be used with caution and within state and local regulations.

NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391) to show how it relates to this enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, verify no plants on the Federal or state noxious weeds list are included in the planting list.
- Prior to implementation, NRCS will provide technical assistance on:
 - Site preparation and planting plan that meets NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391) and lists the species, vegetation type, density, protection measures, and planting dates.
 - Selecting planting techniques and timing appropriate for the site and soil conditions.
 - Having the participant consider planting a more diverse number of species that help establish plant communities to address targeted aquatic and terrestrial wildlife and pollinator needs.
 - Preparing specifications for applying this enhancement for each site using approved state implementation requirements, national technical notes, appropriate state technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.
- During implementation, review any planned changes to ensure they meet the enhancement criteria.
- During implementation, verify all erosion control needed for the site is functioning and is maintained to specifications provided to the participant.



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- After implementation, verify the vegetation was established, and any protections required are being maintained according to specifications provided to the participant.
- After implementation verify livestock are controlled or excluded as necessary to achieve the buffer's water quality improvement purpose. If livestock are present, verify a Prescribed Grazing Plan (Code 528) is being followed and grazing is being deferred for a minimum of two years.

NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and all critical path requirements.

Participant Name _____ Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____ Fiscal Year Completed _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Sign _____ Date _____



**OREGON SUPPLEMENT TO
CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT**

**CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM**

ACTIVITY E391C

Additional Recommendations and Guidance

Westside:

A guide to Riparian Tree and Shrub Planting in the Willamette Valley: Steps to Success:
<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/em9040.pdf>

A guide to riparian tree planting in southwest Oregon:
https://knowyourforest.org/sites/default/files/documents/Riparian_planting_OSU.pdf

Suggestions for Installing Hardwood Cuttings and Live Fascines
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/plantmaterials/orpmctn6826.pdf>

Riparian Revegetation – Technology
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/plant-materials/publications/search>

Field Guide for the Identification and Use of Common Riparian Woody Plants of the Intermountain West and Pacific Northwest Regions
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/plantmaterials/idpmcpu12618.pdf>

A guide to Riparian Tree and Shrub Planting in the Willamette Valley: Steps to Success:
<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/em9040.pdf>



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Eastside:

Washington Technical Note 10: Riparian Revegetation Plants:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/wapmctn6334.pdf

Partial List of Shrubs for Conservation Use in the Inland Pacific Northwest

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/plantmaterials/wapmcpo10395.pdf>

Riparian Revegetation – Plants (yes, yes, I should have an Oregon one done).

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/plantmaterials/wapmctn6334.pdf>

Grass, Grass-like, Forb, Legume, and Woody Species for the Intermountain West Plant Identification

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/plantmaterials/wapmctn6326.pdf>

Plants for Pollinators in the Inland Northwest

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/plantmaterials/wapmctn1133.pdf>

Plant Vendors:

Plant and Seed Vendors for Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Northwest California.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_041918.pdf

Native Seed Network: <http://www.nativeseednetwork.org/>

Native Plant Resources for Southwest Oregon:

http://www.ashland.or.us/Files/native%20plant%20resources_1014-2.pdf

Design Approvals & Acknowledgements:

Design Approval	Date	Job Approval Authority
Designed by:		
Approved by:		

Client's Acknowledgement Statement:

The client acknowledges:

- I have received a copy of the specification and understand the contents and requirements.
- It is my responsibility to obtain all necessary permits and/or rights and to comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of this practice.
- I will not begin installation of this practice until I have received appropriate approval to do so. I understand NRCS also has Federal and state laws to comply with that may take some time to address (e.g. cultural resources).

Client's	Date
Signature	

Certification Documentation:

	Field Evaluation: Post-treatment inventory, measurements, notes, as-built, and supporting documentation (document completion in conservation plan), as required.
	Map(s): Including field numbers, fields treated, and units treated (may document on conservation plan map), as required.
	Photos or other supporting documentation (e.g., seed tags, soil tests, receipts, invoices, spray records, fertilizer records, etc.)
Brief Description of Work Accomplished (types of equipment used, date of application, extents and quantities installed, etc.)	

Certification Statement:

The employee certifies the implementation of this conservation practice:

- Meets the purpose, general criteria, and any required additional criteria as documented in the conservation practice standard and/or enhancement sheet.
- Meets the specifications contained herein and is complete.
- Conforms to my existing Job Approval Authority controlling factors and levels.

Name	Date	Job Approval Authority

Field Level Certification – For multiple applications of this design.				
Land Unit/ Contract Item Number	Date	Unit(s)	Amount Installed	Certifier