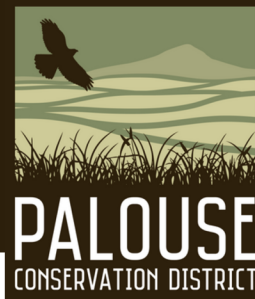


COMMODITY BUFFER PROGRAM



What is a Commodity Buffer?

A Commodity Buffer is a practice that compensates producers for the true value of the ground that is converted into streamside buffers. This practice protects water quality, and it can help provide regulatory certainty for the agricultural community.



This program is currently only available in Washington State. To check geographic eligibility and stream order classification, scan the QR code or visit the link below.



<https://tinyurl.com/mrxm2hha>

Program Details

- Practice can be a filter strip (grass only or grass/forb mix) or a native riparian forest (grasses, trees, and shrubs).
- Buffer can be grazed or hayed, with appropriate planning requirements.
- EQIP and other state-funded programs can be utilized to install the buffer.
- Incentive payments are based on buffer size and type, tillage practices, and addition of optional planted woody species. Compensation rate to replace crop ground with a buffer is valued at or above adjacent crop rotations' prices.

Producer Requirements

- Producers must maintain the selected practice for a minimum of three years.
- Producers must install and maintain the required buffer size according to the type of waterway, tillage practice, and Soil Tillage Intensity Rating (see table on reverse page).
- Existing buffers are eligible as long as they meet program specifications!
- Landowners or operators must provide documentation of having control or ownership of eligible land.

Commodity Buffer Program Table

Buffer requirements and payment compensation based on STIR rating and stream type

	Stream Order (1,2) Flows 0-6 months	Stream Order (2, 3) Flows 7 -10 months	Stream Order (3, 4, 5) Perennial	Stream Order (6+) Perennial & Fish Bearing
Direct Seed/No-Till (STIR: 20 or less)	No Minimum Buffer Width <i>30' Maximum Payment Width</i>	20' Minimum Buffer Width <i>30' Maximum Payment Width</i>	35' Minimum Buffer Width <i>52.5' Maximum Payment Width</i>	50' Minimum Buffer Width <i>75' Maximum Payment Width</i>
Enhanced Mulch Till (STIR: 21 to 40)	No Minimum Buffer Width <i>30' Maximum Payment Width</i>	20' Minimum Buffer Width <i>30' Maximum Payment Width</i>	35' Minimum Buffer Width <i>52.5' Maximum Payment Width</i>	50' Minimum Buffer Width <i>75' Maximum Payment Width</i>
Mulch Till (STIR: 41 - 80)	35' Minimum Buffer Width <i>20' Maximum Payment Width</i>	35' Minimum Buffer Width <i>20' Maximum Payment Width</i>	50' Minimum Buffer Width <i>35' Maximum Payment Width</i>	60' Minimum Buffer Width <i>35' Maximum Payment Width</i>
High Disturbance (STIR: 81+)	35' Minimum Buffer Width <i>10' Maximum Payment Width</i>	50' Minimum Buffer Width <i>20' Maximum Payment Width</i>	75' Minimum Buffer Width <i>35' Maximum Payment Width</i>	75' Minimum Buffer Width <i>35' Maximum Payment Width</i>

Notes:

- Buffer practices adhere to NRCS practice standards for Field Border (386), Filter Strip (393), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), or Riparian Forest Buffer (391).
- Additional incentive of 10% Actual Proven History (APH) is provided for every 10' of trees and shrubs incorporated into the buffer. Woody species can be progressively added after grass buffer is established.
- There is a \$200 per acre minimum payment for all eligible acres.

For more information, please contact:

Blake Rimmelspacher, Conservation Planner

BlakeR@PalouseCD.org | 509-553-1855

