



MONITORING PLAN FOR BUFFER COMPLIANCE TRACKING

§103F.48 RIPARIAN PROTECTION AND WATER QUALITY PRACTICES

1. COMPLIANCE TRACKING OF ALL PARCELS SUBJECT TO THE BUFFER LAW

MN Statute 103F.48 Requires all parcels in the county to be reviewed within a 3 year timeframe. To track compliance of the more than 12,000 parcels in Becker County subject to Riparian Protection and Water Quality Practices required by the buffer law, Becker SWCD has developed three monitoring regions for evaluation:

Region 1: Buffalo River and Wild Rice Watersheds

Region 2: Otter Tail River Watershed

Region 3: Mississippi Headwaters, Crow Wing and Red Eye River Watersheds

A map defining Becker County's monitoring regions is furnished below as Attachment A. Parcels meeting the criteria of exemptions provided within 103F.48 will be exempt from review.

2. RANDOM SPOT CHECKS

Random spot checks are also required to be performed in addition to the tracking of all parcels within a 3 year span. These checks may be conducted via aerial photo review or on-site review depending on availability of updated aerial photos, the practice that is being checked, and consent for physical access to affected parcels. A combination of both aerial and on-site review may be used.

The SWCD will conduct random spot checks on 25-50 parcels each year outside of each scheduled area.

Additionally, the SWCD will review parcels of emphasis more frequently. Parcels of emphasis may include:

- Previously non-compliant parcels
- No-till/Conservation tillage or cover crop alternative practice plans
- Variable width buffers planned using BWSR approved Decision Support Tools
- Other implemented Alternative Practice Plans
- Cost-share funded projects (years 1,3 & 9 of contract)
- Parcels warranting further emphasis (indications of potential violation)
- Parcels with changes in ownership

3. PROCESS TO HANDLE COMPLAINTS

Complaints brought forward to the SWCD regarding parcel non-compliance will be addressed with initial aerial photo review, landowner contact and on-site review if consent for physical access to the parcel(s) in question is granted. If a parcel is deemed non compliant the SWCD will notify the landowner of legal requirements of 103F.48, explain options and offer available technical and/or financial assistance for achieving compliance. Should all efforts to achieve parcel compliance voluntarily be exhausted non-compliant landowners will be referred to Becker County Planning and Zoning and the Becker County attorney for enforcement proceedings under the provisions of 103F.48 and adopted local ordinance(s).

ATTACHMENT A: BECKER COUNTY BUFFER COMPLIANCE MONITORING REGIONS



Becker County Buffer Compliance Monitoring Regions

