



Commodity Buffer Program

New access to financial incentives through the Regional Conservation Participation Program (RCP)



Commodity Buffer program and incentives:

What is a Commodity Buffer? Unlike any other buffer program in the nation, the commodity buffer is an opportunity to showcase a practice that works on all fronts! It compensates a producer for the true value of the ground, can help provide regulatory certainty for the agricultural community, and protects water quality.

- **Eligibility:** Agricultural producers, ranch lands, and Tribes (must control or own eligible land)
 - Currently only available in Washington State
 - Sit down with a SCD conservation planner to explore this opportunity on your land.
 - Check geographic eligibility online at www.sccd.org/rccp
- **Requirements:** Producer must install and maintain required buffer size according to waterway type, tillage practices and associated STIR rating (see table on back).
 - Can utilize EQIP program or SCD riparian program to install buffer.
 - Practice can be a filter strip (grass only) or a native riparian forest (grasses, trees and shrubs).
 - Producer must maintain practice for a minimum of three years.
- **Compensation:** Compensation rates to install buffers at or above adjacent crop rotation values (based on RMA projected prices).
 - Using a customized buffer pricing model, compensation for buffers will change annually, to participate in higher market values.
 - Funding incentives available based on size of buffer, tilling practices, and type of buffer.
- **Benefits:** The commodity buffer can help maintain the financial viability of your most productive land.
 - Can assist producer toward Farmed Smart Certification eligibility.
 - Can help provide regulatory certainty.
 - Reduces suspended solids and associated contaminants (ie. nutrients, pesticides and bio-solids) in runoff.
 - Less ground to work and operate.
 - Can be grazed or hayed (with appropriate planning requirements).

Continuous sign-up available!

Contact Details

- **Contact: Seth Flanders**
RCCP Riparian Coordinator
seth-flanders@sccd.org
(509) 535 -7274 ext 223
- **Contact: Charlie Peterson**
RCCP Manager
charlie-peterson@sccd.org
(509) 535- 7274 ext 220

Apply today and more
information at
www.SCCD.org/rccp

Commodity Buffer Program Chart

Minimum buffer requirement and maximum payment compensation
based on STIR rating

	Enhanced Mulch Till	Enhanced Mulch Till	Mulch Till	High Disturbance
STIR	30 or Less + Farmed SMART Certified	30 or Less	31-80	81+
Ephemeral/ Short Term Intermittent (0-6 Months) Stream Order 1, 2	Low Disturbance/High Residue Field is Buffer No Additional Setback Needed	Low Disturbance/High Residue Field is Buffer No Additional Setback Needed	<i>Payment NA</i> 20 Ft. Setback (Filter Strip Standard)	<i>Payment NA</i> 35 Ft. Setback (Filter Strip Standard)
Intermittent (7-10 months) Stream Order 2, 3	<i>10'+50% Max Payment</i> 10 Ft. Setback (Filter Strip Standard)	<i>20'+50% Max Payment</i> 20 Ft. Setback (Filter Strip Standard)	<i>20' Max payment</i> 35 Ft. Setback (Filter Strip Standard)	<i>20' Max payment</i> 50 Ft. Setback (Filter Strip Standard)
Perennial (11+ Months) Stream Order 3, 4, 5	<i>35'+50% Max Payment</i> 35 Ft. Setback (Filter Strip allowing bank vegetation)	<i>35'+50% Max Payment</i> 35 Ft. Setback (Filter Strip allowing bank vegetation)	<i>35' Max Payment</i> 50 Ft. Setback (Filter Strip allowing bank vegetation)	<i>35' Max Payment</i> 75 Ft. Setback (Filter Strip allowing bank vegetation)
Perennial Major Fish-bearing Stream Order 6+	<i>50'+50% Max Payment</i> 50 Ft. Setback (Filter Strip allowing bank vegetation)	<i>50'+50% Max Payment</i> 50 Ft. Setback (Filter Strip allowing bank vegetation)	<i>35' Max Payment</i> 60 Ft. Setback (Filter Strip allowing bank vegetation)	<i>35' Max Payment</i> 75 Ft. Setback (Filter Strip allowing bank vegetation)
Residue Thresholds	None	None	Min 30% Cover	Min 50% Cover