



# Commodity Buffer Program

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



## 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](http://www.sccd.org/rccp)
  - Can have existing buffers!
- **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 (including existing).
- **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).
  - Compensates early adopters of buffer installation.

## Contact Details

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Apply today and more  
information at  
[www.SCCD.org/rccp](http://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	<b>30 or Less + Farmed SMART Certified</b>	<b>30 or Less</b>	<b>31-80</b>	<b>81+</b>
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