

TRAVERSE COUNTY SWCD 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

All parcels in the county are to be reviewed within a 3-year timeframe. The SWCD will conduct these reviews using the following process:

- Wrap up of initial buffer compliance through 2019. Monitoring will begin in 2020.
- Review of 1/3 of parcels each year based on a map (attachment A)
 - Most recent aerial imagery will be used to conduct compliance monitoring.
 - In areas with questionable buffer widths ground truthing may be conducted (per landowner permission).

2. RANDOM SPOT CHECKS

Random spot checks will be done in addition to the tracking of all parcels within a 3-year span. These checks will be conducted via aerial photo review or on-site review depending on availability of updated aerial photos and the practice that is being checked/access to farms. A combination of both aerial and on-site review may also be used.

- Traverse County SWCD will conduct random spot checks on 25 parcels per year outside of the scheduled area for compliance monitoring each year.
 - Traverse County SWCD will review and inspect select parcels based on the following prioritization:
 - Previously noncompliant
 - Variable width buffers
 - Parcels with alternative practices
 - Critical area seeding
 - No-till and strip till practices
 - Negative slope
 - Or other alternative practices
 - Cost-share funded projects
 - Whistle blower complaints

3. PROCESS TO DOCUMENT SPOT CHECKS

- Traverse County SWCD will use a separate spreadsheet, along with BuffCAT to track the compliance status of the parcels monitored each year.

4. PROCESS TO HANDLE NONCOMPLIANCE

- Traverse County SWCD will gather the noncompliant parcels throughout the year whether by aerial photo, spot check, or whistle blower complaints.
 - Issue a notification of noncompliance to the Landowner, County/Watershed District (whomever has enforcement jurisdiction for that waterbody), and BWSR