

Riparian Buffer Project Cost Share Application Instructions

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Hoosier Heartland RC&D is sponsoring a two-year grant project to provide cost share funds to landowners who wish to establish forested buffer plantings along streams, ponds, lakes, and wetlands in portions of the Upper White River Watershed. The project is funded with a Section 319 grant through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the White River Citizen's Advisory Council through the White River Settlement Fund. The project will reimburse for up to 75% of costs required to establish the buffers. The buffers must include tree plantings, however, shrub and grass/clover areas are also acceptable components.

ELIGIBILITY:

Prospective applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Proposed planting area must be within the available Service Area (*see map*).
2. Other federal cost share funding sources cannot be used toward the establishment of the planting.
3. The buffers must be planted immediately adjacent to a stream, pond, lake, or wetland. However, filling in "odd areas" adjacent to existing plantings and reinforcing existing plantings are also acceptable.
4. Buffers must be designed in accordance with the appropriate NRCS standards and specifications.
5. Written approval from county Drainage Board is provided for plantings that lie within a 75' county drainage easement. Starting the planting outside the easement is also acceptable.
6. Planting utilizes native species only.
7. The RC&D will reimburse for 75% of the "establishment cost" of the buffer, not to exceed a maximum payment of \$1,000 per acre. For fractions of an acre, the maximum payment will be calculated proportionally. (Example: a 0.5 acre planting site is eligible for up to \$500)
8. "Establishment costs" include: tree/shrub plant material, understory seed, site preparation, and planting/installation.
9. If landowner provides planting/installation, an in-kind rate of \$10 per man/hour will be used to calculate the final "establishment cost".
10. For the purposes of determining the size of the buffer, the width of a single row buffer (15' to 20' tree spacing), is considered to be 15 feet; a double row buffer is considered to be 30 feet.

PROCEDURE:

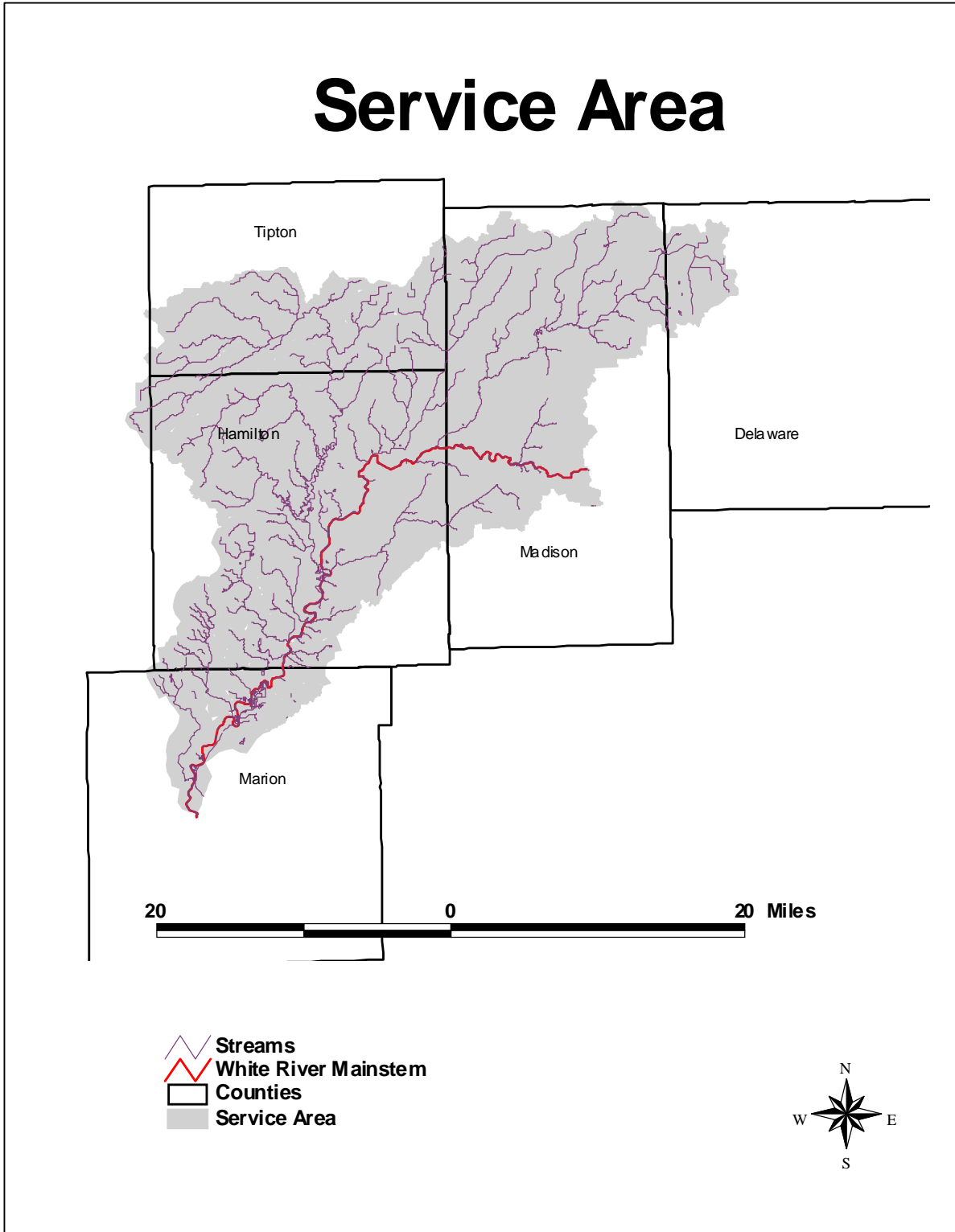
1. Interested landowners are to contact their local Soil & Water Conservation District office, IDNR District Forester, IDNR District Wildlife Biologist, a forestry consultant*, or the HHRC&D Project Coordinator to provide assistance with planting plan development based upon NRCS Technical Practice #391 (*Riparian Buffer*) or #612 (*Tree/Shrub Establishment*).
2. Landowner is to complete the "Application Form" and submit the completed form to the Hoosier Heartland RC&D for approval. The form is available for download at: www.hhrcd.org.
3. The RC&D will review the application and notify the landowner of approval within 10 working days of receipt of a complete application.
4. Landowner responsible for purchasing trees and contracting with planter. A listing of state and local nursery contact information is available for download at: www.hhrcd.org.
5. After installation is complete, landowner will notify RC&D and submit the "Completion/Reimbursement Form" along with copies of invoices/receipts.
6. RC&D will conduct a field verification inspection within 14 working days after receipt of Completion/Reimbursement Form.
7. Upon completion of field verification, RC&D will issue a check to landowner based on the eligibility criteria. Checks to landowners will be issued approximately 6 weeks after inspection.

* List of local forestry consultants available through Hoosier Heartland RC&D.

For more information or to schedule for on-site technical assistance, contact:

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Hoosier Heartland RC&D
(317) 290-3250
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This cost share program is made available through a IDEM 319 Non Point Source Pollution Grant and a grant from the White River Citizens Advisory Council. The Hoosier Heartland RC&D Council and its partnering organizations are equal opportunity program providers and employers.