

Elk and Duck Rivers Watershed Buffer Initiative Guide Sheet

The Elk and Duck Rivers Watershed Buffer Initiative came about several years ago. A partnership was formed among several agencies that wanted to make a large scale impact on water quality in both of these watersheds. This group determined that installing riparian forest buffers throughout these watersheds was the best way to approach the objective. We applied for grant funding and were approved to offer financial incentives to private landowners willing to install riparian buffers within these watersheds. We were very successful implementing this initiative in recent years, which has allowed us to continue the initiative into its third funding cycle. To qualify for the offered \$1700/acre financial incentive, landowners must plant Riparian Forest Buffers on eligible land. Several state and federal conservation programs are available to eligible landowners, these programs provide opportunity for financial assistance in addition to the \$1,700/acre incentive payment. These conservation programs may be used to establish riparian forest buffers and associated practices that may be needed (e.g. exclusion fence, alternative water sources for livestock, etc.). A new funding opportunity specific to the treatment of invasive species in existing riparian forest buffers has also been included to this version of the buffer initiative through USFWS. Below you will see the programs that are currently being offered as of today's date: **9/25/2018**. Other programs may be offered in the future but these are the ones that are currently available.

***Note – All participants are required to sign 10 year USFWS Partners agreement in order to receive incentive money.**

- 1. TDA – ARCF (Tennessee Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund): TDA will pay 75% of the \$3,596 = \$2,697.00- use EQIP spreadsheet to come up with the prices**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Tree & Transport	\$0.50
Tree Mat (optional - use as needed)	\$0.50
Tree Tube & Stake	\$2.50
Labor	\$2.00
Layout, Supervision	<u>\$2.50</u>
Estimated cost per tree	\$8.00
10 ft. x 10 ft. spacing = 436 trees/acre	
Tree Planting cost (per acre)	\$3,488.00
Site Preparation - Mow & Spray (acre)	<u>\$108.00</u>
Total Installation Cost (per acre)	\$3,596.00

2. EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program):

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1. 315 Herbaceous Weed Control at the 75% rate)	* See attached Excel Cost List (already
2. 382 Fence	
3. 391 Riparian Forest Buffer	
4. 472 Access Control	
5. 490 Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	
6. 516 Livestock Pipeline	
7. 533 Pumping Plant	
8. 561 Heavy Use Area	
9. 574 Spring Development	
10. 578 Stream Crossing	
11. 614 Watering Facility	
12. 642 Water Well	

3. USFWS Partners Money:

You can use either EQIP or TDA cost estimates and practices list. Get in contact with Clint or Watkins/Emily G. to use this money.

4. American Tree Farm

Please direct any landowners interested in Tree Farm to:

Brian Hughett

Forest Stewardship Forester
Ellington Agricultural Center
440 Hogan Road
P.O. Box 40627, Melrose Station
Nashville, TN 37204
O: (615)837-5550
C: (615)969-1365
brian.hughett@tn.gov

