BuffCAT Compliance Tracking Fields
Buffer Law Implementation Guidance

- **Parcel Compliance Status (Required Field)** – This field determines overall compliance status.
  - **Yes** = Compliant based on field verification, off-site review, or any other means appropriate.
  
    Examples:
    - Buffer is planted & has been field checked and/or shows up on aerial review.
    - Alternative practice has been implemented and field verified
  
  - **Compliance in Progress** = Used when a parcel has not been confirmed compliant, but the landowner has been working with the SWCD towards compliance and there is an agreement to implement the buffer or alternative practice.
  
    Examples:
    - Buffer or alternative practice is planned
    - Landowner has said they will plant buffer or install alt practice.
    - Buffer has been planted, planting failed, will be re-planted at next opportunity
    - Buffer has been installed, bank eroded causing buffer requirement to change
    - Comment made on DNR Map to get status changed. Waiting on response from DNR
    - Buffer has been established but not verified by SWCD
    - Landowner said they will/did seed, SWCD plans to verify to confirm compliance via field or off-site review.
    - SWCDs should handle other situations on a case-by-case basis, gathering all information available to them regarding a compliance plan

  - **No** = SWCD staff has made the determination that the Parcel is not compliant with the State Buffer Law.
  
    Examples:
    - Crops planted in buffer area
    - Landowner has been unresponsive to outreach
    - Landowner has stated they will not plant a buffer
    - Landowner has not seeded buffer or implemented alternative practice and site conditions have been favorable to do so
    - SWCD has been denied access to a property, and remote reviews to determine compliance are inconclusive
**Monitoring Completed** = SWCDs are tasked to review all parcels within a 3-year time period in accordance to their adopted compliance monitoring plan. Once a parcel has been reviewed, it can be marked as “**Monitoring Completed**” in BuffCAT. These parcels are still considered compliant or “**yes**.”

**If you have questions, consult with you Buffer and Soil Loss Specialist**

**N/A** = Used to identify a parcel that is not immediately adjacent to a water body identified on the buffer protection map.

- Are All Alternative Practices Compliant? *(Required Field)*
  - **Yes** = All alternative practices used on a given parcel have been reviewed and deemed compliant and provide comparable water quality benefits in combination with any installed buffers.
  - **N/A** = Alternative Practices are not used on the given parcel.
  - **No** = Practices do not provide comparable water quality benefits or do not meet the applicable practice standards.
  - **Unknown** = used when an alternative practice still needs review.

**Example of alternative practices tracked in BuffCAT:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compliance Tracking Parcels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are Alternative Practices Compliant?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is Parcel Compliant Based on Review?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Validation of Compliance Issued?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes (Optional Field)**

Key words in the notes field can be used when filtering in BuffCAT to help search for fields. Notes on alternative practices can be helpful when filtering.

**Notes field will be overridden when batch editor is used. We recommend attaching a Word document to the parcel to keep detailed notes in BuffCAT**

- **Acres of Buffer Required (Optional Field)**
  Used to estimate the acres of buffer needed for a given parcel.
- **Acres of Buffer Installed** *(Optional Field)*
  Used to estimate the acres of installed buffer for a given parcel

- **Has a Validation of Compliance Been issued?** *(Optional Field)*
  Yes = Used if a Validation of Compliance has been issued for a parcel
  No = Used if no validation of compliance has been issued