BuffCAT Compliance Tracking Fields

Buffer Law Implementation Guidance

March 2022

- **Parcel Compliance Status** – “Is Parcel Compliant Based on Review?” (Required Field) – This field determines overall compliance status as tracked in BuffCAT.

  **Yes** = Compliant based on field verification, off-site review, or other means deemed appropriate.
  
  Examples:
  - Buffer is planted and has been field checked and/or shows up on aerial review.
  - Alternative practice has been implemented and field verified.
  - Landowner confirmation via seed tags, photographs, and other evidence.
  - Documentation of CRP or CREP contract, or other conservation practice agreement that qualifies for an exemption.

  **No** = SWCD staff has made the determination that the Parcel is not compliant with the State Buffer Law.

  Examples:
  - Crops planted or cultivation for crops 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 an alternative practice.
  - SWCD has been denied access to a property, and/or off-site resources to determine compliance are inconclusive.

Parcels previously marked as **Compliance in Progress** but are now marked as **No** in BuffCAT (since compliance had not been achieved when the Compliance in Progress category was removed). The SWCD may continue to work with these landowners for a reasonable period of time before issuing a Notification of Noncompliance (if voluntary compliance is expected to occur as documented by the SWCD).

Examples:
- Buffer or alternative practice is planned to be established (written confirmation in place).
- Landowner has said they will plant buffer or install an alternative practice.
- Buffer has been planted, planting failed, will be re-planted at next opportunity.
- Buffer had been established; bank eroded causing buffer location to change.
- DNR Buffer Protection Map is in the process of being reviewed for suggested corrections.
- Landowner said they will/did seed, SWCD plans to verify to confirm compliance via field or off-site review.
**Monitoring Complete** = SWCDs are tasked to review all parcels once every 3 years in accordance with their adopted compliance monitoring plan. Once a parcel has been reviewed, it can be marked as “**Monitoring Complete**” in BuffCAT. These parcels are still considered compliant or “**Yes**.”

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

**Not Applicable** = Used to identify a parcel that is not immediately adjacent to a water body identified on the buffer protection map. Both “**Is Parcel Compliant Based on Review?**” AND “**Buffer Width Requirement**” must be changed to “**Not Applicable**.”

- **Are All Alternative Practices Compliant?** *(Optional Field)* If an Alternative Practice is being implemented on a parcel, fill out this 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.
  - **Not Applicable** = 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

- **Alternative Practices** *(Optional Field)* If an Alternative Practice is being implemented on a parcel, fill out this field, use this dropdown to record what kind of Alternative Practice
  - MAWQCP
  - NRCS 393/391 Practice Standard
  - Grassed Waterway/Cultivated Watercourses
  - Negative Slope or Concentrated Flow (Public Water & Public Ditches)
  - Negative Slope with setback
  - Glacial Lake Plain Areas (Public Ditches)
  - Conservation Tillage/Cover Crops
  - Decision Support Tool
  - Other (Locally Approved)

**Example of alternative practices tracked in BuffCAT:**
- **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. We recommend keeping a copy of notes outside of BuffCAT as well.

  *Notes field will be overwritten when batch editor is used*

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

  *If you have questions or need assistance, please contact your BWSR Buffer and Soil Loss Specialist*

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_**How it looks in BuffCAT**_

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- **Is Parcel Compliant Based on Review?**
  - Yes
  - No
  - Monitoring Complete