

# BuffCAT Compliance Tracking Fields

## Buffer Law Implementation Guidance

June 2024

- **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

- **Needs Review** = This was done to flag parcels that have had significant boundary changes from the previous parcel data. These parcels will need to be reviewed to determine if they are compliant, or if they are Not Applicable. Some parcels in your work area, may have been split to where a portion of the parcel is no longer adjacent to a public water or public ditch and may not be subject to the buffer law. If that is the case, the parcels deemed not subject to the buffer law will need to be changed from **Needs Review** to **Not Applicable**.

**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 bufferprotection 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.
  
- **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:**



Compliance and Tracking Parcels	
Buffer Acres Installed	
Alternative Practice	NRCS 393/391 Practice Stand
Are Alternative Practices Compliant?	Yes
Is Parcel Compliant Based on Review?	Monitoring Complete
Validation of Compliance Issued?	No
Notes	2020 aerial imagery reviewed-JH

■ **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*

**How it looks in BuffCAT**

