

## PART 411.3-D.1 – INDIANA WOODY VEGETATION REMOVAL IN RIPARIAN AREAS POLICY

### 411.3-D.1

This policy and procedure applies to conservation planning decisions and practice implementation in riparian areas.

This policy and procedure does not supersede any requirements as outlined by other USDA policy or laws (such as the Food Security Act and those that fall under the National Environmental Policy Act, including the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and others).

The following policy and procedure applies to planned conservation practices that require the removal (or felling) of native woody vegetation within a riparian area. For the purposes of this policy, “riparian areas” apply to areas that occur along watercourses or water bodies including floodplains, perennial and intermittent streambanks, ditch banks, wetlands, lake shores, etc.

#### **Policy:**

1. Practices in riparian areas that will disturb less than 100 linear feet of total planned length measured along the edge of the water body will be planned, designed, and completed to minimize woody vegetation removal. **For the purposes of this policy, this includes the practice extent itself and any associated work areas.**
2. Practices in riparian areas that will disturb greater than 100 linear feet of total planned length measured along the edge of the water body, and where 6 (six) or more established trees per 100 linear feet will be removed, must have approval of the NRCS State Office. Established trees are native tree species of greater than 3 inch DBH (Diameter at Breast Height). Approval is required before planning can be completed. **For the purposes of this policy, this includes the practice extent itself and any associated work areas.**

As needed, an NRCS State Office team consisting of engineering, forestry, and biology disciplines will evaluate the existing environmental values of the woody vegetation planned to be removed using elements of the Stream Visual Assessment Protocol Version 2 (SVAP2 - [Part 614.00 - Stream Visual Assessment Protocol Version 2](#)) to ensure consistency.

#### **References**

- General Manual: [GM 190 411 - Part 411 - Riparian Area Recognition and Management](#)
- National Biology Handbook: [Part 614.00 - Stream Visual Assessment Protocol Version 2](#)
- Indiana NRCS Indiana Bat Guidelines:  
([http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/IN/BFO\\_Forest\\_Management\\_Guidelines2-14-08.pdf](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/IN/BFO_Forest_Management_Guidelines2-14-08.pdf))