

**OTTER TAIL COUNTY**  
**MONITORING PLAN FOR BUFFER COMPLIANCE TRACKING**

§103F.48 RIPARIAN PROTECTION AND WATER QUALITY PRACTICES

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**1. COMPLIANCE TRACKING OF ALL PARCELS SUBJECT TO THE BUFFER LAW**

All parcels in the county are to be reviewed within a 3 year timeframe beginning 1/1/2019. The County will be broken into six portions, areas A, B, and C, in each district. The SWCDs will review either area A, B, or C each year, with all areas being checked in a three-year timeframe. (Attach Map). When current aerial imagery is available for Otter Tail County, the SWCDs may review the entire county that year. West Otter Tail SWCD will serve as the main contact with the county and state as stated in the Otter Tail County Riparian Buffer Aid Funding Budget. WOT SWCD Staff will work annually with Otter Tail County Land and Resource Management, OTC Ditch Inspector and East Otter Tail SWCD for continuing compliance tracking.

**2. RANDOM SPOT CHECKS**

Random spot checks may be done in addition to the tracking of all parcels within a 3 year span. These checks will be conducted via aerial photo review or on-site review depending on availability of updated aerial photos and the practice that is being checked/access to farms. A combination of both aerial and on-site review may also be used.

- a. Aerial imagery review will be conducted for the entire county when new imagery is available.
- b. The SWCD will conduct random spot checks on 25-50 parcels each year outside of the scheduled area.
- c. The SWCD will conduct spot check reviews when responding to complaints or reports of noncompliance.
- d. Additionally, the SWCD will review parcels of emphasis more frequently. This may include:
  - Previously non-compliant
  - No-till/Conservation tillage or cover crop alternative practice plans
  - Other Alternative Practice Plans
  - Cost-share funded projects (years 1,3,9 of contract)
  - Parcels of further emphasis (potential violators)

**3. PROCESS TO HANDLE COMPLAINTS**

All complaints made regarding compliance with the Minnesota Buffer Law (Minn. Stat. §103F.48) should first be directed to the SWCD. When a complaint is received by the SWCD, staff will determine compliance status by contacting landowner and conducting an onsite review of the parcel in question. If landowner is found out of compliance, SWCD staff will work with them to come into compliance as soon as possible. If landowner does not come into compliance after 90 days (dependent upon planting timeframe) of the complaint being filed. The WOT SWCD will turn over the landowner's information to Otter Tail County Land and Resource Management and BWSR to begin the Corrective Action Notice process. All complaints, notifications and responses will be documented by SWCD and Land Resource Office staff.