

# BuffCAT Compliance Tracking Fields

## Buffer Law Implementation Guidance

February 2020

- **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:**

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Compliance Tracking Parcels". It contains the following fields:

- Are Alternative Practices Compliant?**: A dropdown menu with "Yes" selected.
- Is Parcel Compliant Based on Review?**: A dropdown menu with "Yes" selected.
- Validation of Compliance Issued?**: A dropdown menu with "No" selected.
- Notes**: A text input field containing "393 Standard (30 Ft. Buffer)".
- Attachments:**: A section with a horizontal line and the text "None" below it.

■ **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