



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

# Conservation Security Program

Third Resource Concern for Tier II

Minnesota, 2005

***For Tier II Contracts, participants must agree to or have already addressed a THIRD RESOURCE CONCERN on their entire agricultural operation.***

The third resource concern is watershed specific and the identified third resource concern by watershed is listed in the following table.

Watershed	Third Resource Concern
Blue Earth	Wildlife
Red Lake	Water Quality – Excessive Turbidity in Surface Waters
Redeye	Wildlife
Redwood	Wildlife
Root	Wildlife
Sauk	Water Quality – Excessive Turbidity in Surface Waters

Applicants are eligible for Tier 2 if:

- they meet the minimum eligibility criteria for soil and water quality on their entire agricultural operation; and
- they have either already achieved the third resource concern criteria for the designated resource concern, agree to achieve the criteria for the designated resource concern, OR if the designated resource concern does not pertain to their agricultural operation.

For example, in the Sauk Watershed, an agricultural operation without a need for any riparian buffers qualifies for Tier 2 status, assuming they met the minimum eligibility criteria for soil and water quality on their entire agricultural operation.

To achieve Tier 2 status, applicants must first be determined to have met the minimum eligibility criteria on all cropland, hayland and pasture fields (their entire ag-operation). Those applicants that must address a 3rd resource concern and who have not currently achieved the criteria must agree to perform the minimum activities to achieve the required criteria by the end of the contract. The following requirements apply to Tier II plan/contracts:

- All required activities need to be scheduled into their plan/contract.
- The producer is eligible for cost share if applicable (CSP new practice, EQIP, CCRP, WHIP).
- All required activities must be fully functional 2 years prior to the end of their contract



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**All applicants that meet OR agree to address the third resource concern for Tier 2 immediately receive Tier 2 payments.**

## **Wildlife as the Third Resource Concern for Tier II**

The applicant must have achieved a 0.5 Habitat Suitability Index from the CSP wildlife self evaluation or agree to perform those activities that will reach the 0.5 Habitat Suitability Score on their entire agricultural operation.

Attached is the link to the CSP Wildlife Self-Assessment Tool

[Wildlife Self-Assessment Tool - Blue Earth, Redwood and Red Lake Watersheds](#)

[Wildlife Self-Assessment Tool - Sauk, Redeye and Root Watersheds](#)

## **Water Quality – Excessive Turbidity in Surface Waters**

Applicants must either have in place or agree to establish a buffer which meets either the requirements of the NRCS practice standard 393 (Filter Strip) or NRCS practice standard 391 (Riparian Buffer). Buffers must be established immediately adjacent to all (both sides if applicable) of the following waters:

- Perennial streams
- Seasonal streams (streams will be identified by either the soil survey or USGS Topographic Survey)
- Permanent Water bodies containing water year-round
- Wetlands - identified from the Cowardin Wetland Classification System, types PEMC, PEMF,PEMG, and/or PEMH.