

**SOUTH DAKOTA
WATERSHED PROJECT
FUNDING AND TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE GUIDE**

**SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501**

2004

Electronic copy available by visiting: <http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/WQInfo.htm>

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INTRODUCTION

Nonpoint source pollution (NPS) projects are often complex. They commonly require participation by several agencies, groups, and organizations. Because NPS issues are complicated, individuals working in this area are often at a loss as to where assistance can be obtained. This guide was prepared by the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Financial and Technical Assistance to provide NPS Project Sponsors information about sources of financial and technical assistance that may be useful as they plan and complete a NPS project.

The guide is divided into four sections:

- Financial assistance,
- Technical assistance,
- Regulatory programs, and
- Special interest groups

Identification of the responsible agency, group, or organization; a brief description of the assistance program; and contact information about how to obtain additional information is listed for each assistance source described. The guide also provides Internet addresses to the assistance program's home pages. Users of this guide are encouraged to contact the program of interest to obtain more detailed information.

This guide should not be viewed as providing information about all of the financial or technical assistance opportunities available for a project. Coordinators and project sponsors are encouraged to search for other financial and technical assistance sources.

Inclusion of programs or assistance sources in this guide does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use by the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). Conversely, exclusion of a program or assistance sources from this manual does not constitute a negative view of the program or assistance source by DENR. Persons wishing to have a program included in revised editions of this guide should contact the DENR Nonpoint Source Program at:

Telephone: (605) 773-4254
<http://www.state.sd.us/denr>

GRANTS

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution problems may be expensive to solve. A project sponsor may not have the financial resources to implement the solutions. Many state and federal agencies, large companies, communities, counties, special organized districts, special interest groups and foundations offer grants, which can provide financial assistance. **A grant is a sum of money**

provided by one entity to another for a designated purpose. Most water quality assessment and implementation project grants require matching funds from the receiving party.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Grants must usually be developed following the guidance and format specific to the grant program. Some grant programs offer assistance to help develop the grant proposal. Others must be developed with little or no assistance. Still other grants are a part of a program where the granting agency provides assistance to obtain the funds and the applicant's only requirement is providing the connection between the grant recipient and the grant provider. Project sponsors will probably be involved in preparing all types of funding requests.

GRANT PROVIDERS

Grants are provided by a seemingly unlimited number of sources. Federal agencies and state government programs are the most common sources of NPS grants. Other sources are local government (cities, counties and townships), special interest groups (Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Audubon Society), local groups (lake associations, local wildlife groups), individuals, private corporations, and foundations. The following pages describe some of the grant sources that may help fund a project.

MATCHING FUNDS

Grant programs often require that the funds awarded must be matched proportionately with non-grant funds. For example, the 319 program requires that no more than 60 percent of the project can be funded through the program. The sponsor must find other sources to provide the remaining 40 percent. The 60 percent refers to the total cost of the project and is not a limitation for individual parts of the project. It is possible to exceed the 60 percent 319 funds for a given item within the total project as long as the 40 percent of match requirement is made up in some other part of the project.

Costs used to satisfy a grantee's match requirements can be provided using any of the following:

- Project related costs incurred by the grantee.
- The value of in-kind contributions of the grantee or other third party project participants.
- The value of funding from other third party participants.

A third party participant is any agency, group, or individual that provides financial or technical assistance to the project that is not the grantor or grantee.

GOVERNMENTAL

SOURCES

OF

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Many sources of funding for nonpoint projects exist. Common sources are state and federal agencies, municipalities, counties, special interest groups, and foundations. Financial assistance is usually in the form of money (dollars) but can also include in-kind assistance such as materials, labor, equipment and other types of services.

All project implementation plans (PIP) have a budget, which identifies the funding sources for the project. New projects may include funding sources that have not been finalized at the start of the project. Therefore, it is prudent that the project coordinator check with the project sponsor(s) to make sure what funding has been approved and what funding sources need to be contacted to finalize funding approval. As a project moves forward, other funding sources may be identified.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Several state and federal agency programs provide financial assistance for nonpoint source projects. Financial assistance from these programs is provided through a contract based on the guidelines that are in effect for that program when the contract is signed. Program guidelines are constantly changing and must be reviewed frequently by the people providing technical assistance to make sure the information provided to the project landowners is current. The following programs are presently available.

**SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501**
<http://www.state.sd.us/denr>
Telephone: 605-773-3151
Fax: 605-773-4068

DIVISION OF FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The mission of the Division of Financial and Technical Assistance is to evaluate the natural resources of the state and to provide technical and financial assistance in a customer service oriented manner for the protection, restoration, and development of those resources. The division can be reached at:

Telephone: (605) 773-4216
<http://www.state.sd.us/denr/dfta.htm>

STATE WATER FACILITIES PLAN

NPS projects requesting any type of state funding must be on the State Water Facilities Plan (Facilities Plan). The Facilities Plan is a list of potential water projects, such as rural and municipal water supplies, wastewater facilities, storm sewer systems, and watershed restoration implementation projects. Inclusion on the plan is required before a project sponsor can apply for funding from the Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program or Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program.

To be placed on the Facilities Plan a project sponsor must have completed a preliminary engineering study or a watershed assessment and be able to initiate construction within two years. Placement on the Facilities Plan does not guarantee funding.

Eligible applicants include special purpose governmental entities, counties, municipalities, federally recognized Indian tribes, and non-profit corporations.

Applications for the Facilities Plan must be postmarked or received by the first of October. The Board of Water and Natural Resources makes Facilities Plan decisions during November. Once approved, a project remains on the Facilities Plan for two years.

Amendments to the State Water Facilities Plan are considered quarterly. Amendment applications must be postmarked or received by the first of February, May, or August. Projects placed on the Facilities Plan through the amendment process remain on the plan through the following calendar year.

CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND (SRF) PROGRAM

The Clean Water SRF Program provides low interest loans to governmental entities for wastewater, storm water, and nonpoint source pollution control projects. Projects with regulatory compliance or health and safety concerns receive highest priority.

The Board of Water and Natural Resources establishes the loan interest rate each year. During 2003, the interest rate and term were 3.5 percent for up to 20 years. Over the past few years, the rate has varied from 3.5 to 5 percent.

Bond counsel must be retained when the application is submitted to the department. The bond counsel prepares the loan guides for the applicant, as well as the necessary resolutions, opinions, and ordinances.

Eligible applicants include governmental entities with the authority to generate revenue to repay a general obligation, revenue obligation, or sales tax obligation. Projects must be on the State Water Facilities Plan prior to submitting an application.

Applications must be postmarked or received on or before the fifteenth day of January, April, July, or October. The department presents applications to the board after a required technical review and financial analysis by the department have been completed. The department notifies applicants of the date of the board meeting at which applications will be considered.

CONSOLIDATED WATER FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM (CONSOLIDATED)

The Consolidated Program provides grants and low interest loans for projects listed on the State Water Facilities Plan. Community infrastructure projects such as drinking water, wastewater, storm water and groundwater protection, and watershed restoration projects, may be funded using this program. A preliminary design or watershed implementation plan, which includes detailed cost estimates, must be included with the application.

The Board of Water and Natural Resources establishes the loan interest rates. During 2003, the interest rate and term were 5 percent for up to 20 years. Over the past few years, the rate has varied from 5 to 7 percent.

Applicants must meet minimum water and wastewater rates or obtain a department waiver to be eligible for grants. The minimum rates are:

- Municipal drinking water - \$20 per 5,000 gallons
- Municipal wastewater - \$17 per 5,000 gallons
- Rural water system - \$50 per 7,000 gallons
- Rural wastewater system - \$35 per 7,000 gallons

Eligible applicants include special purpose governmental entities, counties, municipalities, federally recognized Indian tribes, and non-profit corporations. Projects must be on the State Water Facilities Plan prior to submitting an application.

The program has quarterly funding rounds. Applications must be postmarked or received by the first of January, April, July, or October. The department presents applications to the board after a required technical review and financial analysis by the department have been completed. The department notifies applicants of the date of the board meeting at which applications will be considered.

SMALL COMMUNITY PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

The Small Community Planning Grant Program provides communities with funds to hire an engineer to develop a water or wastewater project report. Communities are reimbursed 80 percent of the cost of the engineering study up to \$4,000. Community or other nonstate funds pay the remainder of the cost. Communities completing a wastewater study may be eligible to increase the maximum reimbursement allowed to \$6,400 if infiltration and inflow are studied.

Systems that serve a population of 1,000 or fewer are eligible for this grant. Eligible applicants include special purpose governmental entities, counties, municipalities, and certain nonprofit corporations. Nonprofit entities are eligible provided they have the legal authority to provide water or sanitary services. Nonprofit water systems must be a community water system (a public water system serving at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents). This grant is not available for projects already on the State Water Plan. Grants are made on a first come, first served basis.

Applicants must submit an original application to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Department staff reviews the application for completeness and technical merit and provides assistance needed to correct any deficiencies identified. A Small Community Planning Grant Program award can be made at any time following department review of the application.

SECTION 319 NONPOINT SOURCE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act provides grants to reduce water pollution originating from nonpoint sources such as the run-off from urban, agriculture, and forest lands. Grants are available for water quality monitoring, total maximum daily load (TMDL) assessment and implementation projects, demonstration projects, and information and education efforts that address NPS pollution. A TMDL is the amount of specific pollutants that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards.

Eligible applicants include governmental agencies, conservation districts, municipalities, special purpose governmental entities, incorporated lake associations and eligible non-profits.

Up to 60 percent of the total cost of the project can be funded through the Section 319 Program with the other 40 percent funded through nonfederal sources as cash or in-kind services. There is

no maximum limit on the amount requested although there is a limited amount of funds available on an annual basis.

Typically applications are submitted August 1. Another funding round may be held during February. Guidance, application format, examples, and application deadlines are available from the department's Watershed Protection section at:

Telephone: (605) 773-4254
<http://www.state.sd.us/denr/dfta.htm>

Refer questions about the 319 and other funding programs to the state DENR office in Pierre (see above) or any of the DENR Regional Offices listed below.

Rapid City DENR Regional Office

2050 West Main, Suite 1
Rapid City, SD 57702-2439
Telephone: (605) 394-2229
Fax: (605) 394-5317

Sioux Falls DENR Regional Office

4300 South Louise
Sioux Falls, SD 57106
Telephone: (605) 362-3500
Fax: (605) 362-2766

Watertown DENR Regional Office

913 5th Street SE
Watertown, SD 57201-5134
Telephone: (605) 882-5111
Fax: (605) 882-5066

SD Geological Survey Office

Akeley-Lawrence Science Center
414 E Clark
Vermillion, SD 57069-2390
Telephone: (605) 677-5227
Fax: (605) 677-5895

**SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501**
<http://www.state.sd.us/doa/doa.html>
Telephone: (605) 773-5425
Fax: (605) 773-3481

DIVISION OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION & FORESTRY

Telephone: (605) 773-3623

COORDINATED SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION GRANT FUND

Coordinated Soil & Water Conservation Grant Fund grants are available for projects that show a natural resource conservation benefit to the state. Any organized conservation district within the state may submit an application. The grants are competitive in nature. There is limited funding available each year.

The application must be submitted to the State Conservation Commission using an approved application form. A 319 project proposal with a Coordinated Soil & Water Conservation Grant Fund cover sheet attached is acceptable. Grants are awarded twice each calendar year -- May and November. The SD Department of Agriculture, Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry must receive the applications no later than April 1 for the May award period; October 1 for the November award period.

For a copy of the application form or assistance in completing the form, contact the Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry at (605) 773-3623 or 1-800-228-5254 (South Dakota only). To download an application form visit the South Dakota Department of Agriculture's Homepage (<http://www.state.sd.us/doa/doa.html>), click on Resource Conservation and Forestry, select State Conservation Programs, and finally click on Consolidated Soil and Water Conservation Grants.

LIVING SNOW FENCE PROGRAM

A living snow fence is a tree planting specifically located in a critical area along a state or federal highway in need of protection from snowdrifts that may block the road. Personnel from the South Dakota Departments of Transportation and Agriculture or a local conservation district determine the locations of critical areas. If owners of the land adjacent to the critical areas agree to participate in the program, the only requirement is they provide the property and agree to leave the living snow fence in place for 20 years.

Landowners may be asked to prepare the site for planting trees, maintain the planting until the trees are established, and protect the site from livestock use. Landowners can perform the work themselves or contract for planting and maintenance. Regardless of which, they will be reimbursed for costs incurred. The installation of fabric weed barrier may be a viable option to consider for weed control. The installation of a drip irrigation system may also be considered on a site by site basis.

Participating landowners are also eligible to receive easement payments based on cash rental value, as well as class, use and value of the property for up to ten years, and possibly another ten years if the planting continues to function well. This practice is only eligible to be used as match for a 319 project if it improves water quality.

**SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH AND PARKS**

523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501
www.state.sd.us/gfp
Telephone: (605) 773-3318
Fax: (605) 773-6245

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Telephone: (605) 773-3381

The Department of Game, Fish and Parks regional wildlife offices are often a good source of information and data needed by NPS projects sponsors. A directory of regional offices appears below.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE OFFICES

Aberdeen Regional Office
5850 East Highway 12
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Telephone: (605) 626-2391

Huron Regional Office
895 3rd St. SW
Huron, SD 57350
Telephone: (605) 353-7145

Rapid City Regional Office
3305 W. South St.
Rapid City, SD 57702
Telephone: (605) 394-2391

Watertown Regional Office
400 West Kemp
Watertown, SD 57201
Telephone: (605) 882-5200

Information
412 West Missouri
Pierre, SD 57501
Telephone: (605) 773-3485

Chamberlain Regional Office
715 N. Main St.
Chamberlain, SD 57325
Telephone: (605) 734-4530

Mobridge Regional Office
1019 E. Grand Crossing
Mobridge, SD 57601
Telephone: (605) 845-7814

Sioux Falls Regional Office
4500 S. Oxbow
Sioux Falls, SD 57106
Telephone: (605) 362-2700

Webster Regional Office
603 E. 8th Ave.
Webster, SD 57274
Telephone: (605) 345-3381

Licensing
412 West Missouri Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
Telephone: (605) 773-3393

PRIVATE LANDS PROGRAMS

Because about 90 percent of the land in South Dakota is privately owned, the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) focuses considerable attention on managing wildlife habitats on private land.

GFP has limited funding available to manage habitat on private lands. The funds are from license fees paid by hunters and anglers. To stretch the funding, GFP has developed programs that take advantage of or improve programs already available to landowners. The department also maintains partnerships with a number of government and private organizations.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) administered by the USDA is the best example of a program used to stretch the funds. For instance, a landowner may enroll a field in CRP, then establish a food plot and shelterbelt, and then earn additional revenue by opening the land for public hunting. GFP has programs to help in all of these areas. The practices listed below have been tailored to either improve or expand the wildlife values of CRP lands.

To review GFP's funded practices, visit the Privatelands Program website at www.state.sd.us/gfp/DivisionWildlife/privatelands or contact a local Wildlife Conservation Officer.

Habitat Practices include:

[Dense Nesting Cover Establishment](#)

[Food Habitat Plots Establishment](#)

[Habitat Fence Construction](#)

[Native Warm Season Grass Establishment](#)

[Shelterbelt Renovation](#)

[New Tree Maintenance](#)

[Wetland Restoration](#)

LAND ACQUISITION PROGRAM

The Department of GFP purchases land to provide outdoor recreational opportunities to the state's residents. The Department responds to landowners who want to sell land rather than seeking land to purchase. Landowners wishing to sell lands to the GFP should contact a local conservation officer.

After the Department is offered a parcel of land, a conservation officer surveys the land and completes a technical report describing the condition of the natural resources present. A recommendation is developed by the conservation officer and presented to GFP administrative personnel for further consideration. The Game, Fish and Parks Commission then completes a final review and makes a decision of whether or not to purchase the property.

Prices paid for land are dependant, in part, on the assessed value of the land and if the property meets Department needs.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Telephone: (605) 773-3391

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Land and Water Conservation Fund provides financial assistance to public agencies and municipalities for the development of outdoor recreational facilities or land acquisition. These funds can be used for a wide range of projects including; picnic areas, swimming pools and pool renovation, campgrounds, parks, tennis courts, boat ramps, trails, ball diamonds, play equipment, land acquisition for parks and playgrounds, and certain supportive facilities. Facilities developed with these funds must be on public land and remain perpetually dedicated to outdoor recreation use. The funds cannot be used for operation and maintenance (O&M) of the facilities or the land or for the purchase of equipment used for O&M.

The program is currently offered to recognized governmental entities every other year (the State retains the fund on alternate years). The availability of funds is announced through a mailing to municipalities listed in the South Dakota Municipal League Directory and to planning and development districts, and through a statewide press release. Interested persons may contact GFP directly or a planning district or municipality listed in the directory.

Application materials and a program manual are available from GFP. It is recommended that the project sponsor contact GFP prior to submittal of an application to discuss the proposed activities. It is advisable to work through a planning district. GFP reviews and ranks the applications and prepares a recommendation to the Game, Fish, and Parks Commission. The Commission then recommends applications to either the Governor or the National Parks Service.

The program requires a minimum of 50 percent local match.

**SOUTH DAKOTA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3369

www.sdgreatprofits.com

Telephone: 800-872-6190 or 605-773-3256

Fax: (605) 773-3256

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS PROGRAM (CDBG)

This program provides financial assistance for the construction of community projects such as water and sewer facilities and other activities that benefits health, safety or economic development (job creation). Counties and municipalities with projects that benefit primarily low and moderate income persons are eligible to receive CDBG funds.

All water related projects must be on the State Water Facilities Plan. Preliminary design information, including detailed cost estimates, must be included in the application. Application forms are available through the Governor's Office of Economic Development or from planning district offices (see web address above). Planning district personnel are a good source of assistance for the development of these applications. Applications are reviewed three times a year. Application deadlines are March 1, June 1, and October 15.

Counties and municipalities can be awarded up to 60 percent of the project costs for eligible projects from CDBG Program funds. A maximum of \$300,000 can be requested. A waiver of this limit may be given under certain circumstances. Projects must be completed within 18 months after notification of funding.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FARM SERVICE AGENCY

**200 Fourth St SW, Federal Building, Room 308
Huron, SD 57350
www.fsa.usda.gov
Telephone: (605) 352-1163**

AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2003

The Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003 (the Act) provides assistance to producers who have incurred losses due to weather-related disasters or other emergency conditions. The following programs were authorized in the Act.

CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

CRP is a voluntary program that offers annual rental payments, incentive payments, and annual maintenance payments for certain activities, and cost-share assistance to establish approved cover on eligible cropland.

The program encourages farmers to plant long-term resource-conserving covers to improve soil, water, and wildlife resources. The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) can provide cost-share assistance in an amount equal to but not more than 50 percent of the participant's costs of establishing approved practices. Contract duration is 10 or 15 years.

CRP is administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). The Natural Resources Conservation Service, Cooperative Extension Service, state forestry agencies, and local soil and water conservation districts provide technical support. Private sector technical assistance vendors may also provide planning assistance and/or eligibility determinations.

CONTINUOUS SIGNUP CRP

Eligible acreage devoted to certain special conservation practices, such as riparian buffers, filter strips, grass waterways, shelterbelts, living snow fences, contour grass strips, salt tolerant vegetation, and shallow water areas for wildlife, may be enrolled at any time under the CCC's continuous signup CRP program and are not subject to competitive bidding. In addition, land within a designated public wellhead protection area may be eligible to be enrolled on a continuous basis.

Continuous signup CRP is administered by FSA with assistance from Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, state agencies, and local soil and water conservation districts. Producers can learn about program details and offer acreage for enrollment at local FSA or NRCS offices.

FARMABLE WETLANDS PILOT PROGRAM

The Farmable Wetlands Pilot (FWP) Program is a voluntary program designed to restore up to 500,000 acres of farmable wetlands and associated buffers by improving the land's hydrology and vegetation. Producers in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota are eligible to enroll eligible land in the FWP through the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). FWP is limited to no more than 500,000 acres in the six states, with no more than 150,000 acres enrolled in any one state.

Offers are accepted on a continuous signup basis and are automatically accepted provided that the acreage and producer meet eligibility requirements. The maximum acreage for enrollment of wetlands and buffers is 40 acres per tract. The property offered must meet the following requirements:

- Land must be cropland planted to an agricultural commodity three of the 10 most recent crop years and is physically and legally capable of being planted in a normal manner to an agricultural commodity.
- A wetland must be five acres or less.
- A buffer may not exceed the greater of three times the size of the wetland or an average of 150 feet on either side of the wetland.
- Participants must agree to restore the hydrology of the wetland to the maximum extent possible.

Producers accepted for the program may receive the following types of payments:

- Annual rental payments for a 10 or 15 year period. The rental rate is based on the weighted average dryland cash rent.
- Upfront CRP signing incentive payment of \$100 to \$150 per acre depending on contract length. This one-time payment is made after the contract is approved and all payment eligibility criteria are met.
- Practice incentive payment equal to 40 percent of the eligible costs of installing the practice. This one-time payment is made after the practice is installed, eligible costs are verified, and other payment eligibility criteria are met.
- Incentive payments equal to 20 percent of the weighted average dryland cash rent.
- Up to 50 percent cost-share for establishing permanent cover.

Sign up is continuous. Producers can learn about the program and sign up at a local FSA or NRCS office.

GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program that helps landowners and operators restore and protect grassland, including rangeland and pastureland, and certain other lands, while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. The program emphasizes support for grazing

operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion.

NRCS and FSA administer the program in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service. Funding for GRP comes from the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The program offers several enrollment options:

- Permanent Easements. This is an easement in perpetuity. Easement payments for this option equal the fair market value, less the grazing value of the land encumbered by the easement. These values are determined using an appraisal.
- Thirty-year Easements. USDA will provide an easement payment equal to 30 percent of the fair market value of the land, less the grazing value of the land for the period during which the land is encumbered by the easement.

For both easement options, USDA pays all administrative costs associated with recording the easement, including appraisal fees, survey costs, title insurance, and recording fees. Easement payments may be provided, at the participant's request, as a lump sum or annual payments (equal or unequal amounts) for up to 10 years.

- Rental Agreements. Participants may choose a 10-year, 15-year, 20-year, or 30-year contract. USDA provides annual payments in an amount that is not more than 75 percent of the grazing value of the land covered by the agreement for the life of the agreement. Payments are disbursed on the agreement anniversary date each year.
- Restoration agreements. If restoration is determined necessary by NRCS, a restoration agreement is incorporated into the rental agreement or easement. CCC provides up to 90 percent of the restoration costs on lands that have never been cultivated, and up to 75 percent of the cost on restored grasslands. Participants are paid upon certification of the completion of the approved practice(s). NRCS or an approved third party certifies practice completion. Participants may use in-kind contributions as a part or all of their cost-share for the installation of a practice.

Landowners who can provide clear title are eligible to participate for either easement option. Landowners and others who have general control of the acreage may submit an application for a rental agreement. There is no national maximum limitation on the amount of land that may be offered for the program. However, there is a minimum requirement established in law. Offers for enrollment must contain at least 40 contiguous acres, unless special circumstances exist to accept a lesser amount. The NRCS State Conservationist determines these circumstances.

Eligible land includes grassland or land that contains forbs or shrubs (including improved rangeland and pastureland); and grassland or land that is located in an area that historically has been dominated by grassland, forbs, and shrubs and has potential to provide habitat for animal or plant populations of significant ecological value if the land is retained in its current use or restored to a natural condition. Incidental lands may be included to allow for the efficient administration of an agreement or easement.

Applications for an easement or rental agreement may be filed at any time with NRCS or FSA. Participants voluntarily limit future use of the land while retaining the right to conduct common grazing practices; produce hay, mow, or harvest for seed production (subject to certain restrictions during the nesting season of bird species that are in significant decline or those that are protected under Federal or State law); conduct fire rehabilitation; and construct firebreaks and fences.

FARM LOAN INFORMATION

FSA offers direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loans to farmers who are temporarily unable to obtain private, commercial credit. Often, FSA borrowers are beginning farmers who cannot qualify for conventional loans because they have insufficient financial resources. The Agency also helps established farmers who have suffered financial setbacks from natural disasters or whose resources are too limited to maintain profitable farming operations. Additional information about FSA loan programs is available at FSA offices located in local USDA Service Centers.

FSA ownership and operating loans will not provide any direct funds to NPS projects. However, ownership or operating loans may provide a funding avenue for landowners to implement practices that will benefit a watershed project. Loan applications should be made at the FSA county office servicing the area in which eligible farmers expect to carry out their operations. Some of the loans that may be useful in funding 319 projects are:

DIRECT FARM OWNERSHIP LOAN

Maximum Loan Amount: \$200,000

Rates and Terms:

- Up to 40 years
- Rates based on agency borrowing costs
- Temporary limited resource interest rates are available for those unable to repay at regular rates
- Interest rate five percent if 50 percent of loan amount provided by other lender

Use of Proceeds:

- Purchase land
- Construct buildings or other improvements
- Soil and water conservation practices

DIRECT OPERATING LOAN

Maximum Loan Amount: \$200,000

Rates and Terms:

- From one to seven years
- Rates are based on agency borrowing cost
- Temporary limited resource interest rates are available for those unable to repay at regular rates

Use of Proceeds:

- Purchase livestock, poultry, equipment, feed, seed, farm chemicals, and supplies
- Soil and water conservation practices
- Refinancing indebtedness with certain limitations

GUARANTEED OPERATING LOAN

Maximum Loan Amount: \$762,000 (Adjusted annually for inflation)

Rates and Terms:

- From one to seven years
- Rates can not exceed those lenders charge average farm customers
- Temporary limited resource interest rates are available for those unable to repay at regular rates

Use of Proceeds:

- Same as Direct Operating Loan except the loan may be used to refinance debts

GUARANTEED FARM OWNERSHIP LOAN

Maximum Loan Amount: \$762,000 (Adjusted annually for inflation)

- Rates and Terms:
- From one to seven years
- Rates can not exceed those lenders charge average farm customers

Use of Proceeds:

- Same as Direct Farm Ownership Loan except the loan may be used to refinance debts

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE

200 Fourth St SW, Federal Building, Room 203

Huron, SD 57350

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

Telephone: (605) 352-1200

Fax: (605) 352-1288

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. Through EQIP, farmers and ranchers may receive financial and technical help to install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

EQIP activities are carried out according to an EQIP plan of operations developed cooperatively by the NRCS and the producer. Farmers and ranchers may elect to use an approved third-party provider for technical assistance. EQIP applications are accepted throughout the year. NRCS evaluates each application using a state and local ranking process. Higher priorities are given to applications that encourage the use of cost-effective conservation practices, address National conservation priorities, and optimize environmental benefits.

EQIP may provide cost share assistance for implementing certain conservation practices important to improving and maintaining the health of natural resources in the area. Incentive payments may be made to encourage a producer to adopt land management practices, such as nutrient management, manure management, integrated pest management, irrigation water management, and wildlife habitat management or to develop a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP). Contracts that include an animal waste storage system require the development and implementation of a CNMP. Practices are subject to NRCS technical standards adapted for local conditions. Although cost-share rates can vary, the rate cannot exceed 75 percent of program funds except for limited resource producers and beginning farmers and ranchers who are eligible for up to a 90 percent cost share rate.

EQIP offers contracts with a minimum term of one year after implementation of the last scheduled practice. EQIP contracts can be developed for a maximum term of ten years. These contracts provide incentive payments and cost share payments for implementing conservation practices. Total cost-share and incentive payments cannot exceed an upper limit per individual over the period of the 2002 Farm Bill, regardless of the number of farms or contracts. The limit is set annually. The National NRCS homepage (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>) provides access to facts sheets that provide additional information about the 2002 farm bill.

Producers engaged in livestock or crop production on eligible land may apply for the program. Eligible land includes cropland; rangeland; pasture; private non-industrial forestland; and other farm or ranch lands, as determined by the United States Secretary of Agriculture.

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that encourages the creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of national, state, tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, the NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property. Funding for WHIP comes from the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Persons interested in entering into a cost-share agreement to develop wildlife habitat may file an application at any time. Participants voluntarily limit future use of the land for a period of time but retain private ownership. NRCS works with the participant to develop a wildlife habitat development plan. The plan becomes the basis of the cost-share agreement between NRCS and the participant. Cost-share payments to landowners under these agreements are usually 5 to 10 years in duration. The length of the agreement depends on the practices to be installed. Although cost-share rates vary, they can not exceed 75 percent.

Applications are accepted through a continuous sign-up process. Applications may be obtained and filed at any time at a local USDA Service Center or conservation district office.

Lands eligible for the program are:

- Privately owned land;
- Federal land when the primary benefit is on private or tribal land;
- State and local government land on a limited basis; and
- Tribal land.

If land is determined eligible, NRCS places emphasis on installing:

- Habitat areas for wildlife species experiencing declining or significantly reduced populations.
- Practices beneficial to fish and wildlife that may not otherwise be funded; and
- Wildlife and fishery habitats identified by local and state partners and Indian Tribes in each state

WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on private lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The program provides an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives to enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring marginal land from crop production.

Landowners and tribes may file an application for a conservation easement or a cost-share restoration agreement with the USDA to restore and protect wetlands. Participants voluntarily

limit future use of the land but retain private ownership. Applications are accepted through a continuous sign-up process. Applications may be obtained and filed at any time at a local USDA Service Center or conservation district office.

The program offers three enrollment options:

Permanent Easement. This is a conservation easement in perpetuity. Payments for this option equal the lowest of three amounts: the agricultural value of the land, an established payment cap, or an amount offered by the landowner. In addition to paying for the easement, USDA pays 100 percent of the costs of restoring the wetland.

30-Year Easement. Payments through this option are 75 percent of the amount paid for a permanent easement. USDA also pays 75 percent of restoration costs. For both permanent and 30-year easements, USDA pays all costs associated with recording the easement in the local land records office, including recording fees, charges for abstracts, survey and appraisal fees, and title insurance.

Restoration Cost-Share Agreement. This is an agreement, generally for a minimum of 10 years, to re-establish degraded or lost wetland habitat. USDA pays 75 percent of the cost of the restoration activity. This enrollment option does not place an easement on the property. Other agencies, conservation districts, and private conservation organizations may provide additional assistance for easement payments and wetland restoration costs as a way to reduce the landowner's share of the costs. Such special partnership efforts are encouraged.

To be eligible for WRP, land must be restorable and provide wildlife benefits. Lands that are eligible include:

- Wetlands farmed under natural conditions;
- Farmed wetlands;
- Prior converted cropland;
- Farmed wetland pasture;
- Farmland that has become a wetland as a result of flooding;
- Rangeland, pasture, or production forestland where the hydrology has been significantly degraded and can be restored;
- Riparian areas that link protected wetlands;
- Lands adjacent to protected wetlands that contribute significantly to wetland functions and values; and
- Previously restored wetlands that need long-term protection.

Wetlands converted after December 23, 1985; lands with timber stands established under a Conservation Reserve Program contract; federal lands; and lands where conditions make restoration impossible are not eligible for WRP.

On acreage subject to a WRP easement, participants control access to the land and may lease the land for hunting, fishing, and other undeveloped recreational activities.

CONSERVATION PLANT MATERIAL CENTERS

Scientists at the [Plant Materials Centers](#) seek out plants that show promise for meeting an identified conservation need and test the plants performance. The program is designed to provide native plants to help solve natural resource problems.

After species are proven, they are released to the private sector for commercial production. The work at the 26 Conservation Plant Materials Centers is carried out cooperatively with state and federal agencies, commercial businesses, and seed and nursery associations. South Dakota works with the plant materials center at Bismarck, North Dakota.

Beneficial uses for which plant material may be developed include biomass production, carbon sequestration, erosion reduction, wetland restoration, water quality improvement, streambank and riparian area protection, coastal dune stabilization, and other special conservation treatment needs.

The Bismarck Plant Materials Center is addressing the following priority resource issues:

- Improve water quality by enhancing wetlands and stabilizing streambanks
- Develop new plants and technology for stabilizing critical areas
- Improve the productivity of range and pasture lands
- Reduce erosion using trees and shrubs for windbreaks
- Enhance wildlife habitats
- Restore native prairie ecosystems

PLANT MATERIALS FOR CONSERVATION

This program provides plant materials that are being evaluated by the center for use in soil and water conservation projects including erosion control, sediment reduction, roadside and streambank protection, mine reclamation, wildlife programs, and beautification. Conservation districts and cooperating State and Federal agencies are eligible for this program.

A variety of plants are available. The applicant should visit a local NRCS office to check on the availability of desired plant materials. Plant materials can be used to establish conservation practices. Cost share is based on the practice installed.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

530-B, 3 rd Avenue, North
Brookings, South Dakota 57006

<http://www.fws.gov>

(605) 697-2500

PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE (PFFW)

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is a voluntary habitat program that provides funding and technical assistance for the design, layout and construction of different types of habitat development. Funding is provided for:

Wetland habitat developments:

Wetland restoration and enhancement

- Wildlife/livestock ponds

Upland habitat developments:

- Livestock grazing systems
- Native and tame grass seeding
- Riparian restoration and enhancement

Technical Assistance for habitat development is provided to:

- Private landowners
- Local, State, and Federal agencies
- Native American Tribes
- Private conservation organizations

NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The plan implements an international agreement between Canada, the United States, and Mexico signed during 1986. The goal of the plan is to return continental waterfowl populations to the levels of mid 1970's. The plan's objective is to achieve population goals by protecting, restoring, and enhancing wetland and grassland habitat.

This program forms partnerships between private landowners, nonprofit organizations, corporations, and local, state, and federal government agencies. The overall plan includes 12 habitat joint ventures and two species joint ventures in the US, Canada, and Mexico.

South Dakota projects include: Arikara Wetland, Columbia Marsh, Lake Thompson watershed, northeast South Dakota prairie pothole, northern tallgrass prairie restoration, Stratford Slough, and wetland development on private lands. Questions about the plan and opportunities available through the program should be addressed to the Huron or Madison Wetland Management Offices. Contact information is listed on page 28.

WILDLIFE HABITAT ACQUISITION

The Fish and Wildlife Service acquires wildlife habitat using fee title acquisition and conservation easements. Conservation easements include both wetland and grassland easements. Easements provide protection of the habitat, but most surface ownership and taxes remain the responsibility of the landowner.

Fee title is acquired for Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA). WPAs are open to hunting, fishing and trapping and contribute to nesting cover for waterfowl. Acquisition is under the authority of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act of 1934. Waterfowl production is the primary purpose and benefit of acquisition.

Landowners interested in this program should contact the Wildlife Habitat Acquisition Offices located in Huron and Aberdeen.

HURON WETLAND MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Kathy Baer, Acting Project Leader
Federal Building, Room 309
200 4th Street SW
Huron, South Dakota 57350

Telephone: (605) 352-5894
Fax: (605) 352-6709
E-mail: kathy_baer@fws.gov

MADISON WETLAND MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Tom Tornow, Refuge Manager
Address: P.O. Box 48
Madison, South Dakota 57042

Telephone: (605) 256-2974
Fax: (605) 256-9432
E-mail: tom_tornow@fws.gov

WILDLIFE HABITAT ACQUISITION OFFICES (Aberdeen and Huron)

Patrick Russell, Project Leader
Federal Building, Room 109
P.O. Box 1514
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57402-1514

Telephone: (605) 226-7588
Fax: (605) 226-7551
E-mail: patrick_russell@fws.gov

Contact: Tonna Hughes, Project Leader
Federal Building, Room 307
200 4 th Street, SW
Huron, South Dakota 57350-2470

Telephone: (605) 352-7014
Fax: (605) 352-7015
E-mail: tonna_hughes@fws.gov

PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE

Contact: Kurt Forman, Project Leader
530-B, 3 rd Avenue, North
Brookings, South Dakota 57006

Telephone: (605) 697-2500
Fax: (605) 697-2505
E-mail: kurt_forman@fws.gov

SOUTH DAKOTA WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

Water Development Districts (WDD) are special purpose units of local governments that represent water development and protection interests. The 1984 South Dakota Legislature authorized WDDs as a political subdivision of the state. Water development districts plan and coordinate water development activities over a regional area. A district may levy a general tax up to the lesser of 0.3 mill or \$200,000 and may make special assessments on behalf of local sponsors if requested. Districts typically show strong support for water quality projects in their area of jurisdiction. Recent projects with district participation include lake and river restoration, erosion and sediment control, wellhead protection, groundwater protection, information and education efforts, and water quality monitoring activities.

Financial assistance may be available from any of the state's seven water development districts. Persons desiring further information should contact the district office in their area. Each district is under the direction of a manager and has a Board that determines policy and expenditures. Further information can be obtained from:

East Dakota Water Development District

Jay Gilbertson, Manager
132B Airport Avenue
Brookings, SD 57006
Telephone: (605) 688-6741
edwdd@brookings.net

James River Water Development District

Darrell Raschke, Manager
P.O. Box 849
Huron, SD 57350-0849
Telephone: (605) 353-0600
jrwdd@basec.net

Central Plains Water Development District

(Formerly Mid-Dakota WDD)
David Hauschild, Manager
P.O. Box 7011
Pierre, SD 57501
Telephone: (605) 945-0611
davidhauschild@csded.org

South Central Water Development District

(Formerly Southern Missouri WDD)
Cheryle Van Zee, Manager
27497 US Highway 281
Corsica, SD 57328
Telephone: (605) 946-5261
scwdd@unitelsd.com

Vermillion Basin Water Development District

Brad Preheim, Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 408
Centerville, SD 57014-0408
Telephone: (605) 563-2883
bpreh@byelectric.com

West Dakota Water Development District

Van Lindquist, Manager
P.O. Box 9633
1602 Mt. View Road
Rapid City, SD 57709-9633
Telephone: (605) 394-2685
vlindqst@iw.net

West River Water Development District

Mike Kurlle, Manager
P.O. Box 523
Murdo, SD 57559-0523
Telephone: (605) 669-2931
wrljh20@wccenet.com

SOUTH DAKOTA COUNTIES, MUNICIPALITIES AND OTHER UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Counties, municipalities and other units of local government may provide financial assistance for certain activities including nonpoint source pollution control. Procedures for obtaining financial assistance vary. Project sponsors should contact the entity of interest as early as possible to obtain further information. Township boards, county commissions, and city commissions or boards are examples of entities that should be contacted.

The usual approach to contacting these groups is to call and make an appointment to appear before the board or commission during a scheduled meeting. Contact the county auditor for appointments with the county commission; the city finance officer for appointments with the city board or commission. The coordinator should have a sponsor representative accompany him when attending the meeting. These boards and commissions often have a full agenda, so be sure to have a concise, prepared presentation.

FOUNDATIONS

A foundation is a nonprofit, nongovernmental corporation that supports charitable and planned giving activities that serve the common good. Foundations are often created with endowments given by individuals, families, or corporations. They generally make grants or operate programs with the income earned from investing the endowments or from nonendowment charitable gifts of cash, land or other assets. Foundations may also serve as administrators of conservation easements, donor advised funds and as a support organization for other entities.

There are four basic types of grant making foundations:

Independent Foundations: Independent foundations are the most common type of private foundation. An individual, a family or a group of individuals generally establishes them.

Corporate Foundations: Corporate foundations are created and funded by companies as separate legal entities. They usually operate under the direction of a board of directors comprised of company officials.

Community/Public Foundations: Community and other public foundations are publicly supported foundations operated by, and for the benefit of, a specific community or geographic region.

Operating Foundations: Operating foundations generally do not make grants. They have many of the same attributes as other types of foundations including planned giving programs, endowments, and administrative organization. However, a majority of the operating foundation's funds are expended to operate its own charitable or specific purpose programs, which are designed to serve the common good – benefit the general public.

Any of these types of foundations may be a source of financial assistance. However, the best opportunities are with local community/public foundations or with family or corporate foundations that have a tie to the project area. Bank personnel, librarians, county auditors, and city finance officers are good local contacts. Information about a specific foundation can often be found on the Internet. Local managers of corporations or large family businesses may have access to foundation funding. Many of the larger banks manage foundation funds and will have information on how to apply.

GOVERNMENTAL

SOURCES

OF

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical assistance can help move projects from a concept to a plan that will bring the project to completion. Technical assistance is a combination of planning, engineering, design, assessment, surveying, and investigation steps that result in writing a project plan.

Some agencies have personnel available to assist with developing conservation plans, grazing management systems, animal waste management systems, etc. Other agencies have funding programs that help the project sponsor employ specialists to design, assess and plan NPS projects. Often the agency has specialists that assist with developing the initial project that will provide part of the funding needed to gather data to complete an assessment or a study. Agency specialists will also often help the sponsor's employees gather and evaluate the needed data.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Technical assistance programs provide a base for the nonpoint source program. Valuable decision-making, problem solving, and critical information is provided through these programs. This section lists mostly State and Federal technical assistance programs but additional assistance can often be obtained from other organizations such as special interest groups.

**SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501**
<http://www.state.sd.us/denr>
Telephone: (605) 773-3151
Fax: (605) 773-4068

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is divided into two Divisions:

- Division of Financial and Technical Assistance
- Division of Environmental Services.

The **Division of Environmental Services** has seven sections:

- Air Quality
- Drinking Water
- Ground Water Quality
- Minerals and Mining
- Surface Water Quality
- Waste Management
- Water Rights

While all of the sections have predominately regulatory responsibility, however they can provide beneficial information in their area of expertise if a project is dealing with any of these subjects. The Surface Water Quality Program has feedlot responsibilities. The Water Rights Program maintains stream flow data and is responsible for managing the appropriation and use of the state's water resources.

The **Division of Financial and Technical Assistance** has three sections:

- Fiscal Management
- Geological Survey
- Water Resources Assistance

The Fiscal Management Section provides financial support for all department programs. This is accomplished through financial statements and reports to federal and state agencies. The department's budget is prepared and tracked by this office. Inventory, purchasing, travel coordination, and day-to-day financial transactions such as payments and cash receipts are the responsibility of this section. The [Fiscal Management](#) section reviews and processes all vouchers.

The South Dakota Geological Survey Section is located at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, South Dakota. The [SD Geological Survey](#) conducts geologic studies, hydrologic studies, and research; and collects, correlates, preserves, interprets, and disseminates information, leading to a better understanding of the geology and hydrology of South Dakota. Special emphasis is placed on ground-water quantity and quality and other natural resources of economic value. The Survey has no regulatory authority. It provides information and interpretations on natural resources and related issues, and assists agencies and individuals in making well-informed decisions.

Geological Survey

Akeley-Lawrence Science Center, USD
414 East Clark Street
Vermillion, SD 57069-2390

<http://www.sdgs.usd.edu/>
Telephone: (605) 677-5227
Fax: (605) 677-5895

Water Resources Assistance Section has two Programs:

- Water and Waste Funding
- Watershed Protection

Water and Waste Funding Program staff conduct financial and technical reviews of projects requesting funds through the [Board of Water and Natural Resources](#). Program staff serves the board as it carries out its duties regarding the State Water Plan. The South Dakota Legislature established the State Water Plan in 1972. The State Water Plan guides implementation of state policy on water resources management, serves as the principal guide for state policies and priorities, and identifies areas for project assistance. Additional information on the State Water Plan can be found in the [State Water Planning Process Guide \(word\)](#).

Sponsors requesting funding must be on the [State Water Facilities Plan](#). Sponsors must have completed a preliminary engineering study or a watershed assessment and be able to initiate construction within two years. [Water and Waste Funding](#) staff conduct site visits and discuss the proposed project and alternatives with the applicant and its engineer. The project is then presented to the board with a staff recommended funding level. The board is responsible for several funding programs.

The purpose of the Watershed Protection Program is to improve, restore and maintain the water quality of the state's lakes, streams, wetlands and ground water in partnership with citizens. The program adheres to the ideology that project success depends on watershed based strategies, local initiative and commitment.

To accomplish this goal, program staff provides information, planning and technical assistance to local groups and resource management agencies for watershed assessments, water quality reports, total maximum daily loads (TMDLs), pollution prevention, watershed restoration, water quality information & education, and lake and wetlands protection efforts.

Watershed Protection staff provides guidance and assistance to project sponsors for the development of watershed assessment and project implementation grants provided through the

Environmental Protection Agency. The Nonpoint Source Task Force provides guidance to the program.

The Watershed Protection Program has developed four statewide technical assistance projects. These projects are funded primarily through the EPA Section 319 grants.

The projects are:

- Buffer Assistance Project
- Nutrient Management Team Assistance Project
- Grazing Management and Planning Project
- Water Quality BMP Technical Assistance Project

BUFFER ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Conservation buffers are a common-sense way to protect the state's most valuable asset, land, and demonstrate the producers or landowner's personal commitment to conservation. The South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts has an informative web site on buffers. Visit:

<http://www.sdconservation.org/cropland/buffers.html>

Two Buffer Assistance Project technicians located in eastern South Dakota to provide buffer planning assistance. Visit the following website for contact information:

:

http://sd.nacdnet.org/emp_a_d.html

Assistance can also be obtained by contacting a [local conservation district](#) or [NRCS staff](#) for help with planning buffer practices and financial assistance to implement those practices.

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT TEAM ASSISTANCE PROJECT

The Nutrient Management Team has offices at:

1820 N. Kimball, Suite 4
Mitchell, SD 57301-1114
Telephone: (605) 996-1564 ext. 5
Fax: (605) 996-6930

520 Third Avenue, P.O. Box 626
Brookings, SD 57006-0626
Telephone: (605) 692-2344 ext. 3
Fax: (605) 697-5374

The nutrient management team gives priority to waste management systems located in NPS project areas. The team has a heavy workload. Project assistance can be obtained by contacting and scheduling with the team or by contacting the [local conservation district](#) or NRCS. The team provides services for waste management system design, construction oversight, design surveys, some of the soil investigation, and nutrient management planning.

Technical assistance and free publications for nutrient management are available from several state and federal agencies. Visit the following web sites: Natural Resource Conservation Service <http://www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov>, South Dakota State University Cooperative Extension Service <http://www3.sdstate.edu/CooperativeExtension/Index.cfm>, SD Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources <http://www.state.sd.us/denr/denr.html>, and the SD Dept. of Agriculture <http://www.state.sd.us/doa/doa.html>.

GRAZING MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING PROJECT

The South Dakota Grazing Management & Planning Project was initiated during July, 1999. Through the project, grassland managers, grassland and livestock organizations, and local, state, and federal agencies are working together to design, implement, and monitor "management intensive" grazing systems. In addition, information learned from the on-ranch demonstrations and other producers is being shared with other grassland managers, researchers, agency specialists, and the public. For information visit:

<http://www.sdconservation.org/grassland/managing/gmd/index.html>

"Management intensive" grazing focuses on a high (intensive) level of management. It does not mean that the grassland vegetation is grazed intensely, i.e. short. Management intensive grazing involves periodic grazing of multiple paddocks for short periods of time.

The challenge to the project partnership is to "manage grasslands through methods that increase profits while producing the desired vegetation, clean water, and a healthy and more diverse wildlife population." [Technical assistance](#) is available through this project for ranchers interested in exploring ways to improve their operation.

WATER QUALITY BMP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

This project was funded during May 2003. The project has nine technicians stationed throughout most of South Dakota. The technicians provide technical assistance for planning and implementing water quality best management practices (BMPs). Further information can be obtained from the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts by visiting <http://www.sdconservation.org/>.

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501**

www.state.sd.us/doa
Telephone: (605) 773-3375
Fax: (650) 773-3481

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture promotes the interests of agriculture in the state. The Department is divided into four divisions. Each division has several sections.

Office of the Secretary Telephone: (605) 773-3375

The Secretary of Agriculture, appointed by the Governor, is responsible for the development, implementation and oversight of agricultural policy within state government.

The Office of the Secretary facilitates:

- Department Administration, Budget and Policy
- Information Dissemination
- Legislative Support

Division of Agricultural Development Telephone: (605) 773-5436

The Division of Agricultural Development has eight sections. The sections and their purpose are listed below.

[Ag Finance Counseling](#): Ag counselors provide one-on-one assistance to farmers and ranchers in financial management.

[Assistance Programs](#): The Ag Hotline is an in-state toll free number to the Department of Agriculture. Use the Feed Finder and Harvest Hotline to find feed and custom harvesters.

[Business Development](#): Assist the state's producers in identifying and developing appropriate opportunities for South Dakota.

[Dairy Retention & Enhancement](#): A one-stop shopping center for information and education for producers, lenders and the public on value added dairy production.

[Farm Loan Mediation](#): Mediation brings lenders and borrowers together in a confidential setting to resolve their financial disputes.

[Livestock Development & Marketing](#): Offers marketing assistance to South Dakota livestock producers.

[Loan Programs](#): A wide variety of loan programs are available to producers in the state of South Dakota.

[Value Added & Crop Marketing](#): Assist the state's producers and processors with marketing products both domestically and internationally.

Division of Agricultural Services

Telephone: (605) 773-3724

The principal responsibility of this division is regulatory. This Division has ten sections:

[Apiary](#)

[Dairy](#)

[Fertilizer/Soil Amendment](#)

[Feed/Animal Remedy](#)

[Egg](#)

[Nursery](#)

[Pesticide](#)

[Plant Protection](#)

[Rodent Bait Manufacturing](#)

[Seed](#)

Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry

Telephone: (605) 773-3258

Services provided by the Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry are divided into two major program areas. Each of the programs concentrates on a specific aspect of resource management.

The South Dakota Coordinated Soil & Water Conservation Fund primarily supports conservation programs.

Funding from the United States Forest Service primarily supports forestry programs. The Cooperative Forest Management Act provides the basis for these programs.

The service forestry programs are designed to provide direct technical assistance and advice to private landowners concerning forests and trees. Service foresters work with farmers, ranchers, rural homeowners and urban dwellers to resolve problems with trees and to provide a better and safe habitat for all citizens. Service foresters are located in several cities around the state. They are available to provide onsite forestry advice, develop a forest stewardship plan, provide tree planting assistance, or assistance with identifying forest pest problems.

Division of Wildland Fire Suppression

Telephone: (605)-393-8011

The program's mission is to protect South Dakota's natural resources from wildfire. Program staff works primarily with the Black Hills Area.

For information contact:

Wildland Fire Suppression
4250 Fire Station Road, Suite 2
Rapid City, SD 57703
Telephone: (605) 393-8011
Fax: (605) 393-8044

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH & PARKS

**523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501**

www.state.sd.us/gfp

Telephone: (605) 773-3485

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) oversees the state's parks, fish and wildlife. GFP has several programs that provide technical assistance to landowners and operators. Conservation officers are an excellent contact for local resource information.

The Department is divided into four divisions. Programs and services available by division are listed below.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION

Telephone: (605) 773-3485

www.state.sd.us/gfp

- Office of Secretary
- Engineering
- Fiscal
- Legal Services
- Licensing
- Personnel
- Property Management
- Public Relations

DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION

Telephone: (605) 773-3391

<http://www.state.sd.us/gfp/sdparks/index.htm>

- Activities associated with the state parks and recreation areas.
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (see Financial Assistance Section)
- Planning
- Trails

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE

Telephone: (605) 773-3381

<http://www.state.sd.us/gfp/DivisionWildlife/WildlifeHomePage.htm>

- Animal Damage Control
- Conservation Officers
- Federal Aid (see Financial Assistance Section)
- Fisheries Reservoir Research
- Fisheries Technical Assistance
- Game Technical Assistance
- Hunting/Boating Safety
- Natural Heritage Program

Visit: <http://www.state.sd.us/gfp/DivisionWildlife/Diversity/index.htm> for information about the Natural Heritage Program and Technical Assistance for Lands programs.

- Technical Assistance for Lands
- Law Enforcement
- Resource Data Management
- Turn-In-Poachers Service
- Waterfowl Technical Assistance

DIVISION OF CUSTER STATE PARK

Telephone: (605) 773-4515

<http://www.state.sd.us/gfp/sdparks/index.htm>

- Custer State Park

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

The Corps of Engineers regulates the navigable waters in the state as well as provides technical assistance on matters related to those waters. This includes such assistance as helping applicants with permit requirements (see the section on regulations) and providing scientific information and expertise on water resources, land boundaries and easement lines.

Further information can be obtained from the following:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 5
Omaha, Nebraska 68101-0005
Telephone: (402) 221-4133

Program Manager
Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Office
28563 Powerhouse Road, Room 118
Pierre, SD 57501
Telephone: (605) 224-8531

Real Estate Office
28563 Powerhouse Road
Pierre, SD 57501
Telephone: (605) 224-8618

SOUTH DAKOTA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

P.O. Box 2207-D

Brookings, SD 57006-0093

<http://www3.sdstate.edu> (Cooperative Extension)

Telephone: (605) 688-4187

The Cooperative Extension Service provides the citizens of South Dakota with educational programs that help them improve their lives by applying unbiased, scientific knowledge focused on issues and needs. Visit the [Cooperative Extension Service](http://www3.sdstate.edu) website for more information.

Extension educators are located in every South Dakota County. The educators find answers to questions and suggest how to best apply the information. The Cooperative Extension Service is the principal source of information on:

- Soil and manure testing
- Tillage and crop production
- Grazing and native vegetation
- Animal waste management

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE

<http://www.fs.usda.gov> (South Dakota)

Established during 1905, the Forest Service (FS) is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The FS manages public lands in national forests and grasslands. National forests and grasslands encompass 191 million acres (77.3 million hectares) of land, an area equivalent to the size of Texas.

The Forest Service provides technical assistance to other agencies and individuals to address matters related to nonpoint source pollution for the lands they manage.

FOREST SERVICE OFFICES

There are three National Forests in South Dakota. Each of these the National Forests is further separated into districts.

The Black Hills National Forest covers the Black Hills region of South Dakota.

BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST

25041 N. Highway 16
Custer, South Dakota
Telephone: (605) 673-9200

The Nebraska National Forest covers parts of Nebraska and the Buffalo Gap National Grassland which runs from south of Hot Springs, South Dakota to South of Wall, and west of Kadoka, South Dakota. The Fort Pierre National Grassland south of Fort Pierre, South Dakota is also in the Nebraska National Forest. Contacts for these areas are:

NEBRASKA NATIONAL FOREST

125 North Main Street
Chadron NE 69337-2118
Telephone: (308) 432-0300

FT. PIERRE NATIONAL GRASSLAND

124 S. Euclid Ave. - box 417
Pierre, SD 57501-0417
Telephone: (605) 224-5517

FALL RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

WEST HALF BUFFALO GAP NATIONAL GRASSLAND

209 N. River
Hot Springs, SD 57747-1625
Telephone: (605) 745-4107

**WALL RANGER DISTRICT
EAST HALF BUFFALO GAP NATIONAL GRASSLAND**

708 Main ST. - Box 425
Wall, SD 57790-0425
Telephone: (605) 279-2125

The Custer National Forest covers parts of Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. The Sioux District is near Camp Crook, South Dakota. The Grand River National Grassland is near Lemmon, South Dakota. Contact points are:

**CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST
FOREST SUPERVISOR**

1310 Main Street
Billings, MT 59105
Telephone: (406) 657-6200

GRAND RIVER RANGER DISTRICT

PO Box 390
Lemmon, South Dakota 57638
Telephone:(605) 374-3592

SIOUX RANGER DISTRICT

Box 37, Main & First
Camp Crook, SD 57724
Telephone: (605) 797-4432

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE

200 Fourth St SW, Federal Building, Room 203

Huron, SD 57350

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

<http://www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov>

Telephone: (605) 352-1200

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the federal agency that helps private landowners protect their natural resources. The agency emphasizes voluntary, science-based assistance, partnerships, and cooperative problem solving at the community level through the locally led conservation process.

NRCS conservationists spend most of their time on agricultural land-cropland, and grazing land-the predominant use of private lands in South Dakota. The conservationists work in close cooperation with conservation districts through field offices that serve every county in the state. NRCS provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, improve, and sustain our natural resources including soil, water, air, plants, and animals.

American Indian tribes work with NRCS on a variety of initiatives that include resource inventories and the adaptation of our conservation programs to fit the special needs of their people and their land.

NRCS provides technical assistance for the following programs. In some instances Technical Service Providers (TSPS) may provide the assistance. For more information about the following programs visit: <http://www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov/programs> .

Conservation Technical Assistance

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Soil Survey Program

Wetlands Reserve Programs (Including Emergency Operations)

Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Plant Materials Program

Forestry Incentives Program

Watershed Surveys and Planning

Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Operation (Including Emergency Operations)

Resource Conservation and Development

Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative

Outreach for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

Stewardship Incentive Program (Forest Service)

Conservation Reserve Program

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Farmable Wetlands Pilot Program

Flood Risk Reduction Program (Farm Service Agency)

RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The purpose of the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program is to accelerate the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in designated RC&D areas. Rural and urban communities seek RC&D technical assistance in curbing erosion, conserving and protecting water, and solving other resource problems. The program improves the capability of State, tribal and local units of government and local nonprofit organizations in rural areas to plan, develop and carry out programs for resource conservation and development. RC&D areas are locally sponsored areas designated by the Secretary of Agriculture for RC&D technical and financial assistance program funds.

RC&D Council programs are “grass roots”. Each council’s program is locally controlled. Each council establishes its own governing policies and develops its own projects to fit local needs. Council members are usually representatives from county boards, conservation districts, tribes, and municipalities. Many RC&D councils are opening up their membership to special purpose districts, other nonprofits, and individuals.

Resource Conservation and Development Councils help local individuals and groups to identify and solve human, economic, and environmental problems. RC&D Councils and their projects are funded by a variety of sources. Each sponsoring organization makes a small annual contribution to help defray operating expenses. NRCS provides technical support, through an RC&D coordinator, and financial support. The bulk of the budget for projects comes from federal, state, local, corporate, and foundation grants.

There are currently seven approved RC&D areas in South Dakota. They are:

Badlands RC&D Office

(Counties: Bennett, Haakon, Jackson, Shannon)
209 Main Street
P.O. Box 314
Martin, SD 57551-0314
Telephone: (605) 685-6629

Black Hills RC&D Office

(Counties: Butte, Custer, Fall River, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington)
1530 Samco Road, Suite 4
Rapid City, SD 57702-8007
Telephone: (605) 348-2611

Lower James RC&D Office

(Counties: Aurora, Davison, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Sanborn, Yankton)
1820 North Kimball, Suite 4
Mitchell, SD 57301-1114
Telephone: (605) 996-1031

North Central RC&D Office

(Counties: Campbell, Hughes, Hyde, Lyman, Potter, Stanley, Sully, Walworth)
314 S. Henry Street, Suite 300
P.O. Box 1258
Pierre, SD 57501-1258
Telephone: (605) 224-1818

Randall RC&D Office

(Counties: Bon Homme, Brule, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Douglas, Gregory)
276 Main Street
P.O. Box 247
Lake Andes, SD 57356-0247
Telephone: (605) 487-7077

South Central RC&D

Counties: Jones, Mellette, Todd, Tripp
Mellette County Courthouse
P.O. Box 231
White River, SD 57579-0231
Telephone: (605) 259-3547

Tatanka RC&D Office

(Counties: Corson, Dewey, Harding, Perkins, Ziebach)
604 Coleman Avenue
P.O. Box 68
Bison, SD 57620-0068
Telephone: (605) 244-5222

Formation of an eighth RC&D is moving through the organization and approval process. Questions for projects in the new RC&D's service clarekarea should be directed to the North Central RC&D Office located in Pierre.

Dakota Central RC&D

(Counties: Beadle, Brown, Edmunds, Faulk, Hand, McPherson, Spink)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Four agencies of the US Department of Interior have a presence in South Dakota. The agencies are:

- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Geological Survey

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages 264 million surface acres of public lands located primarily in the 12 western states, including Alaska. The agency also manages an additional 300 million acres of below ground mineral estate located throughout the country. Originally, these lands were valued principally for the commodities extracted from them. Today, the public also prizes them for their recreational opportunities and their natural, historical, and cultural resources they contain.

BLM manages about 280,000 acres in South Dakota. Most of this land is located west of the Missouri River, primarily in the far western counties of the state. BLM personnel provide technical assistance on the lands that they manage. Further information about assistance available from BLM can be obtained at:

Bureau of Land Management
Montana/Dakotas State Office
5001 Southgate Drive
P.O. Box 36800
Billings, Montana 59107
<http://www.mt.blm.gov>
Telephone: (406) 896-5000

Bureau of Land Management
310 Roundup Street
Belle Fourche, South Dakota 57717
<http://www.mt.blm.gov/sdfo>
Telephone: (605) 892-7000

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Established during 1902, the Bureau of Reclamation is best known for the dams, powerplants and canals it constructed in the 17 western states. These water projects led to homesteading and promoted the economic development of the west. The Bureau of Reclamation is the largest wholesaler of irrigation water in the nation and is the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the western United States. Reclamation is a contemporary water management agency with a strategic plan outlining numerous [programs, initiatives and activities](#) that will help the western states, Native American Tribes and others meet new water needs and balance the multitude of competing uses of water in the west. For further information contact:

Bureau of Reclamation
209 Dartmouth Avenue
Newell, SD 57760
www.usbr.gov
Telephone: (605) 426-2695

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

www.fws.gov

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) is primarily responsible for protecting the nation's fish and wildlife and fostering the wise use of natural resources. Technical assistance and information is available for a number of matters including: fisheries research, environmental contamination evaluation, wetlands, sport fisheries, wildlife ecology research, and general information and educational materials about fish and wildlife. The service also participates in various public meetings as well as scientific symposia. Publications are prepared and are available upon request or may be found in some libraries. The partners program provides assistance in planning and constructing program practices. The Services participates in environmental education through school visits and lectures, wildlife displays, weekend outings, and public service announcements. Further information can be obtained from:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Field Office
420 South Garfield Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
Telephone: (605) 224-8693
<http://southdakotafieldoffice.fws.gov>

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

www.usgs.gov

The United State Geological Service (USGS) provides maps, reports, and information to help others manage, develop, and protect America's water, energy, mineral, biological, and land resources. USGS helps find the natural resources needed to build tomorrow and supply the scientific understanding needed to help minimize or mitigate the effects of natural hazards and environmental damage caused by natural and human activities.

Technical service and information is available from the USGS on a request basis. Numerous USGS publications are available on the Internet, by request or at libraries. The most applicable nonpoint source activities and information available from the Survey are: Geologic and Mineral Resource Surveys and Maps; Cartographic Information; Topographic Surveys and Maps; and Water Resource Investigations. Further information can be obtained at:

United States Geological Survey
1608 Mt. View Road
Rapid City, SD 57702
Telephone: (605) 394-1780

United States Geological Survey
111 Kansas Ave SE,
Huron, SD 57350
Telephone: (605) 353-7176

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

www.epa.gov

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency provides technical assistance on many environmental issues, including nonpoint source pollution. Seminars, training sessions, workshops, symposiums, educational and informational materials, publications and direct contact with personnel having expertise in a variety of environmental fields are made available to the public or to state, federal, and local agencies and organizations.

South Dakota is located in EPA Region 8. The other states in Region 8 are Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, Utah and Wyoming

Further information can be obtained from:

Environmental Protection Agency
Region 8 (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)
999 18th Street Suite 500
Denver, CO 80202-2466
<http://www.epa.gov/region08/>
Telephone: (303) 312-6312
Fax: (303) 312-6339
Toll free: (800) 227-8917

SOUTH DAKOTA PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

Under SDCL1-24, the “Joint Power Act”, local units of government are allowed to enter cooperative agreements for planning purposes. The districts provide small units of government with assistance that may not have been affordable on an individual basis. Planning districts typically produce short and long range planning guides for area development, and grant applications for local, state and federal funding assistance. There are six active Planning and Development Districts in South Dakota. Planning assistance may be available from the districts. Project sponsors should contact the district in their area to obtain further information.

First Planning & Development District

P.O. Box 1207
Watertown, SD 57201-1207
Telephone: (605) 882-5115
Fax: (605) 882-5049
lstdist@dailypost.com

Central South Dakota Enhancement District

222 East Capitol, Suite 16
Pierre, SD 57501
Telephone: (605) 773-2780
Fax: (605) 773-2784
enhancement@csded.org

Southeastern Council of Governments

1000 N. West Avenue, Suite 210
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-1332
Telephone: (605) 367-5390
Fax: (605) 367-5394
lynne@secog.org

Northeast Council of Governments

P.O. Box 1085
Aberdeen, SD 57401-1985
Telephone: (605) 626-2595
Fax: (605) 626-2975
fkann@midco.net

Third Planning & Development District

P.O. Box 687
Yankton, SD 57078-0687
Telephone: (605) 665-4408
Fax: (605) 665-0303
distiii@willinet.net

Black Hill Council of Governments

P.O. Box 9686
Rapid City, SD 57709-9686
Telephone: (605) 394-2681
Fax: (605) 394-2684
vlindqst@dtgnet.com

SOUTH DAKOTA CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

South Dakota's Conservation Districts have provided technical assistance and information directly to the landowners since the early 1930's. There are 69 districts in South Dakota. Nearly all the districts were developed within county boundaries. The districts primarily focus on soil conservation and the proper protection and management of the land. Many districts sponsor nonpoint source projects. The appropriate district should be contacted for further information. Visit [local conservation district](#) for a complete listing of the conservation districts in South Dakota

The Districts coordinate efforts through the South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD). The association's mission is to assist, lead and coordinate conservation districts in their efforts to promote sensible, voluntary, self-governed conservation management and development of South Dakota's natural resources for ourselves and our posterity. SDACD may be contacted at:

South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts

P O Box 515

Presho, SD 57568

Telephone: (605) 895-4099

Fax: (605) 895-9424

Toll free: 800-729-4099

<http://www.sdconservation.org/>

SOURCES

OF

REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

REGULATORY ASSISTANCE

Many state and federal agencies have regulatory responsibility over the use and management of natural resources. These agencies may be able to provide assistance, guidance, and in some cases funding for some resource conditions that may be contributing to nonpoint source problems for the project. For example, a Section 319 funded project is a voluntary program and does not have any regulatory authority, however, when a resource condition exists that falls under regulatory responsibility; this may be the means of solving that portion of the project's problem.

REGULATORY PROGRAMS

Several regulatory programs that may be useful in controlling nonpoint source pollution exist in South Dakota. While only a few of these programs were specifically designed with nonpoint source pollution in mind, many have regulations that can be used to control nonpoint source pollution problems.

**SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**523 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501
<http://www.state.sd.us/denr>
Telephone: (605) 773-3151**

AIR QUALITY

The goal of the Air Quality Program is to achieve and maintain reasonable levels of air quality to protect human health, safety and welfare and the [National Ambient Air Quality Standards](#) established through the Federal Clean Air Act. The department implements this goal through the ambient air monitoring and permitting sections. Contact:

Telephone: (605) 773-3151
Visit <http://www.state.sd.us/denr/des/airquality/airprogr.htm>

DRINKING WATER PROGRAM

The South Dakota Drinking Water Program develops and enforces the [South Dakota Drinking Water Standards](#) that apply to public water systems in the state. Approximately 697 public water systems (PWS) currently exist in South Dakota. The Drinking Water Program is located in Pierre, also has personnel located in Watertown, Vermillion, and Rapid City. Contact:

Telephone: (605) 773-3754
Visit <http://www.state.sd.us/denr/des/drinking/dwprg.htm>

GROUND WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

The Ground Water Quality Program is responsible for managing South Dakota's ground water resources. Program activities include directing the cleanup of all spills and Superfund projects, regulating above ground and underground storage tanks, overseeing the SARA Title III program, issuing ground water discharge permits, implementing Underground Injection Control program, and helping to protect the ground water resources through the source water assessment and protection program. Contact:

Telephone: (605) 773-3296
Visit <http://www.state.sd.us/denr/des/ground/groundprg.htm>

MINERALS AND MINING PROGRAM

The Minerals and Mining Program is responsible for ensuring that the impacts to the environment from mineral exploration, mining, and oil and gas production in South Dakota are minimized and that affected lands are reclaimed and useable after the resources have been extracted. The regulatory process includes issuing exploration permits, mining permits, mining licenses, and oil and gas permits in accordance with the requirements of state law and rules and then, inspecting and monitoring development activities to ensure compliance with permit requirements. Contact:

Telephone: (605) 773-4201

Visit <http://www.state.sd.us/denr/des/mining/mineprg.htm>

SURFACE WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

The primary responsibilities of the Surface Water Program are wastewater discharges, surface water quality standards, and monitoring the ambient surface water to determine if the public health and uses of the state's natural resources are protected. This Section has the responsibility for concentrated animal feeding operation permits. Contact:

Telephone: (605) 773-3351

Visit <http://www.state.sd.us/denr/des/surfacewater/surfwprg.htm>

WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Waste Management Program is responsible for of solid waste, hazardous waste, asbestos, and PCBs. The program is also responsible for coordination of the state's solid waste recycling efforts. Contact:

Telephone: (605) 773-3153

Visit <http://www.state.sd.us/denr/des/wastemgn/wasteprg.htm>

WATER RIGHTS

The Water Rights Program is primarily responsible for managing the appropriation and use of the state's water resources. In order to complete this responsibility, the program monitors over 1,600 observation wells to track fluctuations in ground water levels and cooperates with the US Geological Survey in maintaining 47 stream gauging stations to monitor stream flows. This ground and surface water data, coupled with water use data obtained from the annual irrigation water use questionnaire, enables the program to manage water usage in South Dakota. Management of the state's water resources is especially critical for those water sources that are fully appropriated as well as during drought periods.

The Water Rights Program also oversees dam safety, well driller and well pump installer licensing, well construction/plugging standards, control/plugging of flowing wells, ordinary high and low water marks and outlet elevations on public lakes, flood control permits, chemigation, stream fencing, and weather modification. The Water Rights Program also investigates flooding problems along the state's rivers and lakes and serves as the point of contact for Missouri River issues involving operation of the mainstem reservoirs by the US Army Corps Engineers. Contact:

Telephone: (605) 773-3352

Visit <http://www.state.sd.us/denr/des/waterrights/waterprg.htm>

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FERTILIZER PROGRAM

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture fertilizer program enforces the state Commercial Fertilizer Law (SDCL 38-19), Soil Amendment Law (SDCL 38-19A), Anhydrous Ammonia Storage Rules (ARSD 12:44:03), and Bulk Commercial Fertilizer Storage Rules (ARSD 12:44:05). For additional information visit:

<http://www.state.sd.us/doa/das/hp-fert.htm>

PESTICIDE PROGRAM

The SD Department of Agriculture, by agreement with the [US Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#), is responsible for enforcing the [Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act \(FIFRA\)](#). FIFRA relates directly to the manufacture, distribution, sale, use and disposal of pesticide products.

The Department is also responsible for the state pesticide law ([SDCL 38-20A](#)), the agricultural pesticide application law ([SDCL 38-21](#)), and pesticide administrative rules ([ARSD 12:56](#)). For additional information visit:

<http://www.state.sd.us/doa/das/hp-pest.htm>

PLANT PROTECTION PROGRAM

This Plant Protection Program deals with noxious weeds, farm related pest control, plant quarantines, and export certifications. For additional information visit:

<http://www.state.sd.us/doa/das/hp-w&p.htm#weed>

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**900 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501**
Telephone: (605)-773-3458
www.sdhistory.org

The South Dakota State Historical Society is located within the [Department of Tourism and Economic Development](#). The Society manages five programs: [archaeology](#), [archives](#), [historic preservation](#), [museum](#), and [research and publishing](#). All the programs are located at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre, with the exception of the State Archaeological Research Center which is located in Rapid City.

The State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) is located at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. SHPO is responsible for approving locations where project practices will be applied if cultural resources are present or known to be in the area.

All practices that receive federal funding must have a cultural resources review of the area prior to any land disturbing activities taking place. A trained archeologist or other trained technicians must do this review. Most federal agencies have cultural resource specialists on staff. NRCS has both archeologists and trained technicians. Talk to the local NRCS office about the cultural resource needs for project practices or contact:

S.D. State Archaeological Research Center
P.O. Box 1257
2425 East Saint Charles Street
Rapid City, SD 57709-1257
Telephone: (605) 394-1936
Fax: (605) 394-1941

S.D. State Historical Society
900 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501
Telephone: (605) 773-3458
www.sdhistory.org

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

SECTIONS 401 and 404 of the CLEAN WATER ACT

Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to review projects and federal permits issued by the Corps of Engineers to ensure that a project will not impact stream quality or violate our Surface Water Quality Standards. Section 404 of the act prohibits the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States without a permit from the Corps of Engineers. A formal application procedure has been established to obtain Section 401 and 404 permits. Necessary application materials can be obtained from District Corps of Engineers offices. Any project practice installation that involves dredging or shoreline stabilization must have these permits. Any practice that involves wetlands must also be review by the Corps.

If public notices are required, the permitting process is usually completed within four months. A number of factors are evaluated prior to approval for a permit, these include the relative need for the proposed activity, an analysis of alternative activities to accomplish the same goals, and the extent or permanence of the beneficial and/or detrimental effects that the activity is likely to have on the uses of the area.

The DENR Surface Water Quality Section has the lead responsibility to review Section 401 and 404 permits. Telephone: (605) 773-3351 or visit:

<http://www.state.sd.us/denr/des/surfacewater/surfwprg.htm>

The SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Environmental Protection Agency also review these permits.

Further information can be obtained from:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 5
Omaha, Nebraska 68101-0005
Telephone: (402) 221-4133

Program Manager
Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Office
28563 Powerhouse Road, Room 118
Pierre, SD 57501
Telephone: (605) 224-8531

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE**

SPECIAL USE PERMITS

The United States Forest Service (USFS) provides special use permits to individuals or other entities for activities on Forest Service lands. Special use permit application materials can be obtained from district USFS offices. The application usually requires a complete description of the proposed activity, the reasons why Forest Service lands are needed as opposed to other lands, and any necessary mitigative measures that will be implemented. The Forest Service provides short or long-term (10 year) permits that may be renewed. The USFS can also include language in the permit to ensure that nonpoint source pollution is prevented or minimized.

For more information, contact:

BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST

25041 N. Highway 16
Custer, South Dakota
Telephone: (605) 673-9200

NEBRASKA NATIONAL FOREST

125 NORTH MAIN STREET	
Chadron NE 69337-2118	Telephone: (308) 432-0300
Ft. Pierre National Grasslands	Telephone: (605) 224-5517
Fall River District	Telephone: (605) 745-4107
Wall District	Telephone: (605) 279-2125

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

FOREST SUPERVISOR	
1310 Main Street	
Billings, MT 59105	Telephone: (406) 657-6200
Sioux District	Telephone: (605) 797-4432
Grand River National Grasslands	Telephone: (605) 374-3592

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issues grazing leases for BLM lands. BLM can, if necessary, decrease the amount of grazing that is leased if it determines that other public beneficial uses need to be protected. Applications for grazing leases can be obtained from BLM offices.

Further information from BLM can be obtained at:

Bureau of Land Management
Montana/Dakotas State Office
5001 Southgate Drive
P.O. Box 36800
Billings, Montana 59107
<http://www.mt.blm.gov>

Bureau of Land Management
310 Roundup Street
Belle Fourche, South Dakota 57717
Telephone: (605) 892-7000

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Most of South Dakota's conservation districts have adopted written standards pursuant to SDCL 38-8A. This law regulates land-disturbing activities which may result in soil erosion and sediment damage. The soil erosion can be the result of either water or wind. Most districts respond to complaints of land-disturbing activities and conduct an investigation. If damage has occurred, the district notifies all parties about the results of the investigation and recommends corrective action. The land disturber then has six months to prepare an erosion and sediment control plan and have it approved by the district and an additional six months to implement the plan. If the plan is not developed or implemented within the specified time period, the district may initiate action in a circuit court for an injunction or other appropriate actions.

For further information, contact a local conservation district or visit:

<http://sd.nacdnet.org/alphadist.html>

South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts

P O Box 515

Presho, SD 57568

Telephone: (605) 895-4099

Fax: (605) 895-9424

Toll free: 800-729-4099

<http://www.sdconservation.org/>

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

THAT

PROVIDE ASSISTANCE

IN

SOUTH DAKOTA

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS ASSISTANCE

Special interest groups can provide valuable assistance to projects related to the group's area of interest. The type of assistance varies from lobbying to financial assistance. Contact the individual groups to obtain information about the services each offer.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The following special interest groups have a presence in South Dakota and may be able to assist with nonpoint source pollution projects.

AUDUBON SOCIETY

<http://www.audubon.org/>

The Audubon Society's mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

The society's national network of community-based nature centers and chapters, scientific and educational programs, and advocacy on behalf of areas sustaining important bird populations, engage millions of people of all ages and backgrounds in positive conservation experiences. Activities related to nonpoint source pollution include supporting local conservation efforts and sponsoring local youths to wildlife or conservation camps. South Dakota Chapters of the Audubon Society are:

[Missouri Breaks Audubon Society](#)

P.O. Box 832,
Pierre, SD 57501

Prairie Hills Audubon Society of Western South Dakota, Inc
P.O. Box 792,
Rapid City, SD 57709

DUCKS UNLIMITED

<http://www.ducks.org/>

Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people. Technical and financial assistance may be available for projects dealing with wetland, wildlife, or practices that improve waterfowl nesting habitat. For information contact:

Great Plains Regional Office

2525 River Road, Bismarck, ND 58503-9011
Main Line: 701-355-3500 / Fax: 701-355-3575
Land Protection: 701-355-3500 / Fax: 701-355-3575
Administration: 701-355-3511 / Fax: 701-355-3512
Biology: 701-355-3533 / Fax: 701-355-3547
Engineering: 701-355-3556 / Fax: 701-355-3557

GREAT LAKES OF SOUTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION

<http://www.sdgreatlakes.org/>

The Great Lakes of South Dakota Association is a private, nonprofit corporation dedicated to promoting tourism and the best interests of the public for fishing and hunting along the Missouri River in Central South Dakota. The association is made up of small businesses working together to increase visitation, and visitor spending, along the Missouri River.

Great Lakes of South Dakota Association.

PO Box 786

Pierre, SD, 57501

Telephone: (605) 224-4617

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

<http://www.iwla.org/>

The Izaak Walton League is dedicated to protecting the nation's soil, air, woods, waters and wildlife. The league's strength lies in its grassroots, commonsense approach to solving local, regional and national conservation issues. League interests span the spectrum of outdoor recreation and conservation activities, from angling and birding to stream monitoring, wildlife photography and hunting. But all league members share one major goal: to protect and use sustainably America's rich resources to ensure a high quality of life for all people, now and in the future. In South Dakota contact:

Mike Williams

728 S. Lake Drive

Watertown, SD 57201

www.sdikes.org

(605) 886-0701

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

<http://nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/southdakota/contact/>

Since 1951, the Nature Conservancy has worked with communities, businesses and people to protect more than 98 million acres around the world. The organization's mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The Conservancy finds, purchases and manages lands that are the best example of its mission. Together with its members and conservation partners, the Nature Conservancy has protected more than 12,300 acres of critical natural lands in South Dakota.

The Nature Conservancy
2601 South Minnesota Avenue, Suite 105-319
Sioux Falls, SD 57105-4730
Telephone: (701) 222-8464

SIERRA CLUB

The Sierra Club's mission is explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and use all lawful means to carry out these objectives. Contact the Sierra Club at:

East River Office
300 N. Dakota Avenue, Suite 505
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Telephone: 605-331-6001
<http://southdakota.sierraclub.org/>

South Dakota Chapter
PO Box 1624
Rapid City, SD 57709
Voice: (605) 348-1345
<http://southdakota.sierraclub.org/>

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

<http://www.swcs.org>

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) fosters the science and the art of soil, water, and related natural resource management to achieve sustainability. The society promotes and practices an ethic recognizing the interdependence of people and the environment.

SWCS is recognized and respected as an effective advocate for the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources, particularly on private lands. SWCS promotes demonstration projects related to conservation, conferences, has a newsletter, provides scholarships, and offers books at a discount. All states have at least one chapter. Contact SWCS at:

SWCS
945 SW Ankeny Road
Ankeny, Iowa 50021-9764
Telephone: 515-289-2331
<http://www.sdswcs.org/>

SOUTH DAKOTA AG IN THE CLASSROOM

<http://www.sdagclassroom.org/>

SD Ag in the Classroom provides information to students and teachers about the role of agriculture in society.

Lisa A. Dorschner, Executive Director
106 W. Capitol Ave. Suite 4
PO Box 577
Pierre, South Dakota 57501
Telephone: (605) 945-2306
Toll free: 1-800-573-2482

SOUTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/sd/>

The South Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service (SDASS) is the main agricultural data-gathering agency in the state. SDASS collects, compiles and provides current agricultural statistics. The service is provided in cooperation with the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and South Dakota State University. The primary goal of SDASS is to provide agricultural commodity producers with unbiased and reliable information to assist them in making production and marketing decisions. Other important data users are farm organizations, agribusiness and transportation firms, state and national policy-makers, and foreign buyers of agricultural products. For more information contact:

S D Agricultural Statistics Service
PO Box 5068
Sioux Falls, SD 57117
Voice: (605) 330-4235 or (800) 338-2557

SOUTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

<http://www.sd.nacdnet.org/>

The South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD) is an association that represents all of the conservation districts of South Dakota. The Association's mission is to assist, lead and coordinate conservation districts in their efforts to promote sensible, voluntary, self-governed conservation management and development of South Dakota's natural resources for ourselves and our posterity. Contact SDACD for additional information at:

P O Box 515
Presho, SD 57568
Telephone: (605) 895-4099
Toll free: 800-729-4099

SOUTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF COOPERATIVES

The South Dakota Association of Cooperatives (SDAC) is a statewide organization that welds all types of cooperatives into a united force. The primary purpose of SDAC is to organize, coordinate and promote programs and ideas that will develop a favorable political, public, administrative and economic environment to enable cooperatives to serve their members. For more information contact:

Huron Offices

351 Wisconsin S.
P.O. Box 102
Huron, South Dakota 57350
Telephone: 605-352-9492
Fax: 605-352-8718

Pierre Offices

222 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 1
Pierre, South Dakota 57501
Telephone: 605-945-2548
Fax: 605-945-2269
<http://www.sdac.coop/>

SOUTH DAKOTA NO-TILL ASSOCIATION

<http://www.sdnottill.com/>

The mission of the South Dakota No-Till Association is to promote, advance and improve agriculture through the utilization of no-till farming methods and to encourage, aid and conduct research of no-till farming practices and disseminate educational information to producers using or wanting to use no-till cropping systems. For more information contact:

South Dakota No-Till Association
PO Box 2
Pierre, SD 57501
Telephone: (605) 224-6114

SOUTH DAKOTA LAKES AND STREAMS

<http://www.sdlakesandstreams.com/>

South Dakota Lakes and Streams Association (SDL&SA) is actively involved with the conservation of South Dakota's lakes and streams by operating a fully bonded contractor service. The association's main service is hydraulic dredging. The association is also involved with shoreline stabilization, tree removal from shorelines, grass waterways and agricultural waste management systems. The association takes a leadership role in water quality monitoring. They sponsor the Citizens Monitoring Program.

The citizen's monitoring program is part of SDL&SA's Special Projects Program. Individuals learn more about their lakes while helping to monitor lake quality. Contact SDL&SA for information, materials, and training.

Volunteer monitors choose a lake or stream to sample twice each month from April to September. The South Dakota State Health Laboratory analyzes the samples and the sample analysis is sent to SDL&SA. An annual report of the monitoring activities is posted on the SDL&SA Website and is presented at the Association's Annual Conference held during May.

SDL&SA provides materials and training, keeps long-term test results for all monitored sites, notifies DENR if adverse results are consistently noted at a particular site. The association also publicizes the efforts of volunteers.

For more information contact:

South Dakota Lakes & Streams Association
P.O. box 95, 108 S. School St.
South Shore, SD 57263
Telephone: (605) 756-4195
<http://www.sdlakesandstreams.com/>

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The following is a list of other organizations within South Dakota that may be of benefit or assistance in planning and implementing nonpoint source pollution projects.

Black Hills Badlands & Lakes Association

1851 Discovery Circle
Rapid City, SD 57701
Telephone: (605) 355-3600
<http://www.blackhillsbadlands.com/go.asp?ID=161>

Glacial Lakes Tourism Assn

1200 33rd St SE
Watertown, SD 57201
Telephone: (605) 886-7305

Keep South Dakota Green

P.O. Box 3
Pierre, SD 57501-0003
Telephone: (605) 778-6939

South Dakota Beef Industry Council

PO Box 1037
106 W. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Telephone: (605) 224-4722
<http://www.sdbeef.org/>

South Dakota Corn

3801 South Western Avenue, Suite 100
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
Telephone: (605) 334-0100
<http://www.sdcorn.org/>

South Dakota Crop Improvement Association

2207A SDSU,
Brookings, SD 57007-1096
Telephone: (605) 688-4604
sdsu_sdcia@sdstate.edu

South Dakota Farm Bureau

PO Box 1426
Huron, SD 57350
Telephone: (605) 352-6731
<http://www.sdbeef.org/Member%20Organizations/farmbureau.htm>

South Dakota Farmers Union

P.O. Box 1388, 1410 Dakota Ave. S.
Huron, SD 57350-1388
Telephone: (605) 352-6761
<http://www.sdfu.org/>

South Dakota Cattleman's Association

P.O. Box 314, 114 South Main Street
Kennebec, SD 57544-0314
Telephone: 605-869-2272
<http://www.sdcattlemen.org/>

South Dakota Land Improvement Contractors Association

PO Box 488
300 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
Telephone: (605) 224-8689
1-800-242-6373

South Dakota Municipal League

214 East Capitol Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

Telephone: (605) 224-8954

<http://www.sdmunicipalleague.org/>

South Dakota Pork Producers Council

1404 W Russell

Sioux Falls, SD 57104-1328

Telephone: (605) 332-1600

Toll Free: 800-830-7675

<http://www.nppc.org/state/>