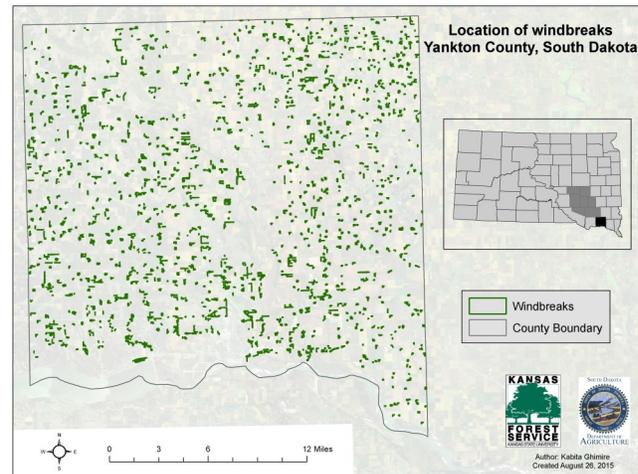




Windbreak Condition Project

South Dakota Department of Agriculture
Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry
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The Windbreak Condition Project will utilize Geographic Information System (GIS) and remote sensing Techniques and field survey methods to identify windbreak locations and assess the primary function and condition of the windbreaks in eight different counties in South Dakota. Sites that are small blocks of trees within maintained lawns, naturally forested riparian areas, ditch/road banks and fence lines will be excluded from this project.



Windbreak Condition Strategies

Yankton County Windbreak Ground Check
North of Yankton City Area

The Windbreak Condition Project supports the South Dakota Forest Action plan by utilizing 16 strategies and address all three national themes (Conservation Rural Forest, Protect Forest from Harm, & Enhance public benefits from trees and forest) outlined by the state and private forestry (S&PF) National Priorities and Objectives. The strategies used addresses 10 threats identifies in the forest Action Plan.

Examples of the strategies are as followed:

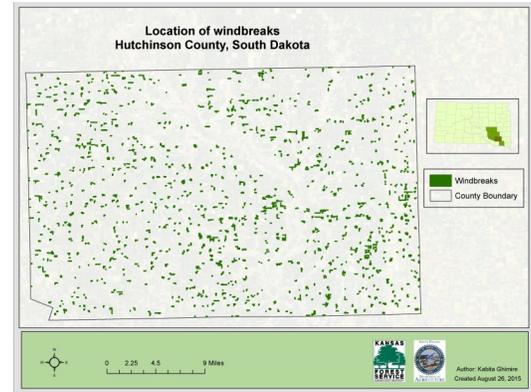
- Encourage the planting of a diverse mix of trees species in a windbreak
- Develop rehabilitation and restoration strategies for using native and non-native species for restoration
- Support and promote practices that improve resilience of forested landscapes
- Promote renovation of windbreaks that are becoming ineffective.



Windbreak Condition Project Counties

The Windbreak Condition Project will include the following counties in South Dakota: Aurora, Davison, Douglas, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Sanborn, and Yankton. The Kansas State University, Kansas Forest Service (KFS) will provide imageries from the 2014 National Agriculture Imagery program to identify windbreak locations. The following criteria's where used to select the windbreaks for ground truthing.

- Geographic stratification
- Common vs. uncommon windbreak designs
- Minimum sample allotment and priority for substitute units
- Maps for locating sample units



Windbreak Condition Project Ground Truthing



The windbreak condition project will sample a minimum of 30 shelterbelts per county. If there is time up to 50 shelterbelts will be sampled.

Each shelterbelt will have a unique identifier and be recorded by county. The type of planting will be recorded along with the length and any geographic identifiers. These five attributes will help identify each shelterbelt. A plot will be used to gather all additional data. The plot will be determined by walking one chain (66 feet) from either the north or west end of the belts. The plot size will be 48.1 feet in circumference and all additional data will be collect within this circumference. The plot size and data collected will correlate with the sampling method used in the Great Plains Initiative.

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