

“Technology Bridging the Conservation Generation Gap”

Like many, I look around at beautiful places in South Dakota, the sunflower fields in the summer, the pumpkin patches in the fall, the stocks of corn growing taller than you and I, or the 1.7 million acres of forest land. But in society today we're so engrossed posting instagram pictures of it, or tweeting about the sights we see. We don't think of the work that is behind these beautiful and productive places in our home state. We're too buried in the technology of today to really understand the conservation practices that are happening in the world around us making all the beauty possible, instead we just use technology as something to distract us on car rides.

But it's not just a distraction Technology is also Bridging the Conservation Generation Gap, for years now, we can see conservation practices, much like farming, has become a very high tech endeavor. Today, we will do a little research, to first look at the technology advancements throughout the years that has helped save the landscape of South Dakota, secondly we will read up on twitter to see how it has increased our knowledge and education and lastly post status on facebook about how technology raises conservation awareness.

Let's first go to our search engine and find out about the technology advancements through the years, like farms, conservation has been passed on from generation to generation. Last year in South Dakota there were 42 century farms and twenty seven quasenecieninal farms which is a 125 years. Seeing that not only are traits passed down but also skills and techniques like crop rotation and contour farming. Even things such as conservation tillage which is a practice used to protect the upper soil layer from water and wind erosion. Technology advancements passed on through these generations, such as clean technology which includes recycling, renewable energy (wind power, biomass, hydropower, and biofuels) or even simple things such as windmills pumping water, all used in the 1920's and still in use today, all of these have seen great advancements that has help pass our environment on to the next generation.

Next lets go and read up on twitter on how technology increases our knowledge and education. Conservation using technology is much needed, it allows for conservation seminar programs to be held, online certification classes or applicator training courses. It is used by the South Dakota Game Fish and Parks to host educational programs to youth such as Junior Naturalist or Growing Up Wild. But it doesn't stop there technology allows for articles to be read online about things like Surviving Black Hills Wildfires, First Aid for Storm Damaged Trees or Problems with The

Eastern Red Cedar. All of things giving people access to information, without digging too deep. It also increases our knowledge of personal and social responsibility, including a duty to learn about and improve natural resources as we use them wisely, leaving a rich legacy for future generations. Technology can be used in many ways, whether is just checking up on the latest from the South Dakota Department of Agriculture or reading up on Lucas Lentsch tweets. Such as when he tweeted back in January that South Dakota is the leading sunflower state for the past two years. Crazy huh!

Now using our new found background knowledge we can post a facebook status about how technology raises awareness of conservation, bridging the gap between generations by The Department of Agriculture, Forestry Department, Conservation Districts, Fish and Wildlife services and many more, they have embraced technology to reach a larger and more diverse audience. Technology helps each and every one of these departments by allowing them to tell people about things such as pest control or fertilizer conservation. In the black hills one of the largest problems they are fighting is the pine beetle, technology has allowed for tracking and monitoring systems, also they don't have to rely on brochures anymore or letters, they can post it, tweet it, and email it. Allowing for a quicker warning system so we can protect the resources we have today. Technology allows everyday people to be educated in great things such as conservation without having to leave the comfort of their chairs.

Now here in South Dakota, there is beauty all around us that we never stop to think what is behind the scenes. Technology is a big part in helping us learn about the things that make up the beautiful sunflower fields, the tall stocks of corn, and the zig zags in the soil. Today we looked at technology advancements through the years, secondly we saw how it has increased our knowledge and education and lastly how technology raises awareness of conservation. Technology is growing, and as for South Dakota we're moving forward and success will take care of itself as we bridge the conservation generation gap.