

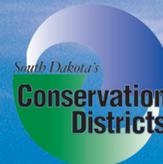
South Dakota prairie and sky

PHOTO COURTESY OF USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

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*South Dakota has a history rich in agriculture, ranching, and land preservation. With great pride in their land, their work and their resources, South Dakotans have embraced conservation with energy and enthusiasm.*

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State of South Dakota  
**COORDINATED PLAN  
for NATURAL RESOURCES  
CONSERVATION**

South Dakota Department of Agriculture  
Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry

January 2007

*Great achievements are not born from a single vision,  
but from the combination of many distinctive viewpoints.*

**The South Dakota Legislature** was one of the first to respond to President Franklin Roosevelt's call for the establishment of soil conservation districts. With similar foresight, South Dakota has created a wide array of conservation programs to protect, manage, and develop its natural resources, including water, soil, air, wildlife, and recreation areas. Still other programs increase public awareness of the benefits of conservation and develop funding sources for conservation implementation.

With the partnership of state, federal, and local programs, South Dakota has experienced the rewards of proactive conservation. By maintaining clean water, productive soil, abundant wildlife and a healthy environment South Dakotans have added value to the agriculture-based economy, developed resources for local industries, and created more opportunities for recreation and leisure. Since the implementation of the Coordinated Soil and Water Conservation Plan in 1991, South Dakota has achieved some remarkable gains, including:

- Reduction of cropland erosion on over 3.8 million acres to tolerable levels, with topsoil erosion cut by 28 million tons resulting in:
  - 5.5% Increase in crop industry output
  - 1,769 New full and part time jobs
  - \$213 Million increase in state industrial output
- Improvement of rangeland in poor to fair condition by one condition class on 1.7 million acres, resulting in:
  - 0.72% Increase in cattle production
  - 478 New full and part time jobs
  - \$53 Million increase in state industrial output
- Improvement of water quality in 35 water bodies in the State.



Since the 1991 plan was adopted, changes in agricultural methods, new uses for agricultural products, and improved understanding of conservation benefits and methods impel us to revise and expand the old plan. Through solicitation of public input via surveys and public meetings around the State, the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and its partners developed their goals for this Coordinated Plan for Natural Resources Conservation. By working towards these goals, South Dakotans will continue to enhance their natural resources and their quality of life.

**WATER**— Nothing is more essential to life on earth than water. Its uses include drinking, fishing, swimming, irrigation, wildlife habitat, industrial, hydro-electric and livestock watering. Not only must the water be of high enough quality to meet these purposes, there must also be enough of it. Everyone lives in a watershed and has a stake in water quality, and everyone has a role to play in its protection and improvement.

**GOAL #1**— All Missouri River watersheds in South Dakota will achieve their environmental, social, and economic values.

**GOAL #2**— All South Dakota waters will provide sufficient quantities of quality water to meet their beneficial uses.

**SOIL**— Soils are the base of our agricultural economy and rural lifestyle. The health of a soil affects its ability to support plant and animal life, maintain or enhance water and air quality, and support human health and survival.

**GOAL #3**— All lands in South Dakota will have quality soils appropriate for their capability.

**AIR**— South Dakota is blessed with very good air quality, except when occasional dust, smoke or odor intrudes into our lives. Air quality affects both our health and our economy.

**GOAL #4**— All of South Dakota will meet air quality standards.

**RECREATION AND WILDLIFE**— South Dakotans treasure their wildlife and recreation. Opportunities to protect and enhance these resources contribute to tourism and industry in our State.

**GOAL #5**— Enhance recreation opportunities and wildlife habitats.

**PUBLIC AWARENESS**— Change requires motivation. Investment requires some assurance of a return. And education is key to continued progress in conservation.

**GOAL #6**— Every South Dakota citizen will have an awareness and understanding of the benefits of natural resource management.

**FUNDING**— At public meetings around the State the number one concern was that funding for conservation programs would not keep up with the demand. Development of new funding sources is crucial to continued success in conservation in South Dakota.

**GOAL #7**— Secure stable funding and financial opportunities for natural resource management.