

**SOUTH DAKOTA  
FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN  
2007 REVISION**



Prepared  
by the  
South Dakota Department of Agriculture  
Resource Conservation and Forestry Division

January 2007



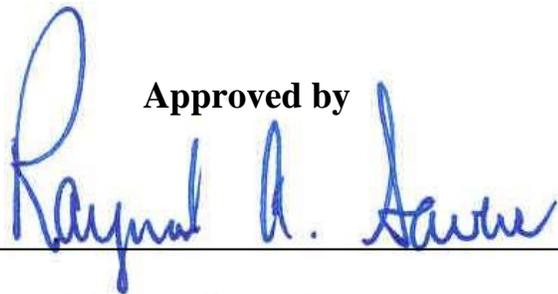


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**Approved by**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Raymond A. Lawrence", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and includes a large initial "R".

**Director/State Forester  
Resource Conservation & Forestry Division**



## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE APPROVAL

The following members of the Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (FSCC) have reviewed the *South Dakota Forest Stewardship Plan* prepared by the State Forester and concur with the general direction and objectives outlined in the plan.

Signature on file

Craig Bobzien, Forest Supervisor  
Black Hills National Forest

Signature on file

Steven Cutler, State Executive Director  
USDA Farm Services Agency

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Janet L. Oertly, State Conservationist  
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

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Dan Buehler  
Industry Forester

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Jeff Vonk, Secretary  
SD Dept. Game Fish & Parks

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Steven M. Pirner, Secretary  
SD Dept. Environment and Natural Resources

Signature on file

John Ball  
SD Cooperative Extension Service

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John Majeres, President  
SD Association of Conservation Districts

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Bob Gab, Chair  
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Leonard Wood  
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Aaron Everett  
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Larry Baesler  
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Pete Schaefer, Chair  
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Paul Schipke, Chair  
Keep South Dakota Green Association

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Bill Coburn  
Industry Forester

Signature on file

Dean Rasmuson  
Consulting Forester



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## **List of Acronyms Used in This Plan**

BHFRA	Black Hills Forest Resource Association
BHNF	Black Hills National Forest
BHWIT	Black Hills Women in Timber
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
DENR	SD Department of Environment and Natural Resource
DBH	Diameter Breast Height
FIA	Forest Inventory Analysis
FSA	Farm Services Agency
FSCC	SD Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee
FSP	Forest Stewardship Program
GIS	Geographic Information System
GF&P	SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks
KSDG	Keep South Dakota Green Association
NIPF	Non-Industrial Private Forest
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
RC&F	SD Department of Agriculture, Resource Conservation and Forestry Division
S&PF	USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry
SD	South Dakota
SDCD	South Dakota Conservation Districts
DSAF	Dakotas Society of American Foresters
SDSU	South Dakota State University
SDTF	South Dakota Tree Farm Committee
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
WFS	SD Department of Agriculture, Wildland Fire Suppression Division

# **SOUTH DAKOTA FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN**

## **INTRODUCTION**

South Dakota's forests have a significant influence on our state's economic well being. Although forests occupy less than four percent of the total land area in the state, they provide a premier destination for tourism in the region. Tourism and outdoor recreation is the second largest sector of our state economy, surpassed only by agriculture.

The Black Hills is the most popular vacation area in the State. This region is unique because of Mount Rushmore and the beautiful forests and hills that led to its name. Forests play a major role in the local economy within the Black Hills. Without the forests, Mount Rushmore, and the Black Hills would lose much of their glamour and attraction. Forest management activities in the Black Hills directly and indirectly affect all land ownerships due to the juxtaposition of federal, state, and private lands. Forest based wood industries, one of the largest year-around industries in the Black Hills, help stabilize the seasonal tourist trade and recreational industries. Wood products manufactured by forest industries in the Black Hills include rough and finished lumber, treated posts and poles, hobby wood, particle board for cabinetry, wood pellets, fire wood, landscape bark, mulch, chips for pulp, timber bridges, and log homes. Many primary wood processors in the Black Hills utilize 100% of the wood that arrives at the mill. The amount of wood waste left in the forest after commercial harvest is still substantial, but is decreasing as markets develop for chips.

The prairie portion of our state supports another important natural resource. Shelterbelts, native woodlands, and wooded draws are important habitat for game species. Recreational hunting is very popular among South Dakotans, and it attracts hunters from across the country. Revenues generated by recreational hunting are important to local economies. While many farmers and ranchers do not charge fees for hunting access, hunting preserves and fee hunting supplement a growing number of farm incomes. Farmers are realizing the economic benefit of primary and secondary incomes from non-traditional farm practices. Without trees to provide thermal and escape cover, there would be less habitat for game animals and birds. Consequently, farmers would lose their supplemental income, local motels, restaurants and merchants would lose business, and the state would lose an important economic resource.

The Forest Stewardship Plan for South Dakota addresses the need for better management of forests in private ownership. It provides the Resource Conservation and Forestry Division and other natural resource managers with a focal point for plotting the future course of resource management and the services provided to private landowners. It allows an opportunity for coordinated forest management activities among federal, state, and private lands. Effective implementation of the plan will require a coordinated effort by all natural resource agencies, private forestry consultants, forest industries, landowners, and interested citizens.

## **PURPOSE**

The stewardship program began in 1990 with a mission to increase and accelerate proper management of non-industrial private forest lands (NIPF). There are three reasons for increasing assistance to forest landowners:

1. To encourage more active management of forest and related resources by private landowners;
2. To keep private forest lands in a productive and healthy condition for present and future owners; and,
3. To increase environmental and economic benefits derived from private forestlands.

Congress established a national goal for the Forest Stewardship Program to place 25 million acres of NIPF lands under forest stewardship management plans within five years. Since the beginning of the program, South Dakota has written stewardship plans covering 54,506 acres.

## **FOREST RESOURCES OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

The forests of South Dakota are diverse. They range from black walnut groves in the southeast corner of the state, to cottonwood bottomlands along the James and Big Sioux Rivers, to upland hardwood forests of ash and elm, to oak forests along the Missouri River breaks, to juniper breaks along the Cheyenne River, to the well known ponderosa pine forests of the Black Hills. These forests cover almost 1.7 million acres of South Dakota; this is less than four percent of the total land area in the state. The ownership of these forest lands is displayed in Figure 1.

Almost 1.6 million acres of the State's forest land lie west of the Missouri River. Of the 1.5 million acres of timberland in the state, 94 percent are in western South Dakota. Traditional forestry efforts are most prevalent in the Black Hills because of the large expanse of forestland. There are 974,178 acres of timberland on the Black Hills National Forest of South Dakota, and 177,331 acres of private timberland in the Black Hills. The majority of this timberland is ponderosa pine forest.

The eastern forests also require management, especially the agroforestry resources, although they are widely dispersed and less noticeable. There are about 1.3 million acres of nonforest land with trees that include 103 thousand acres of urban forests and almost 1.2 million acres of wooded strips, windbreaks, pastures with trees, and other areas that make up South Dakota's agroforestry resource. Forest management efforts in these areas improve native hardwood forests. These forests provide a variety of benefits when successfully managed even without timber production as a primary goal. Some timber harvest opportunities exist in the southeastern part of the State where saw mills exist.

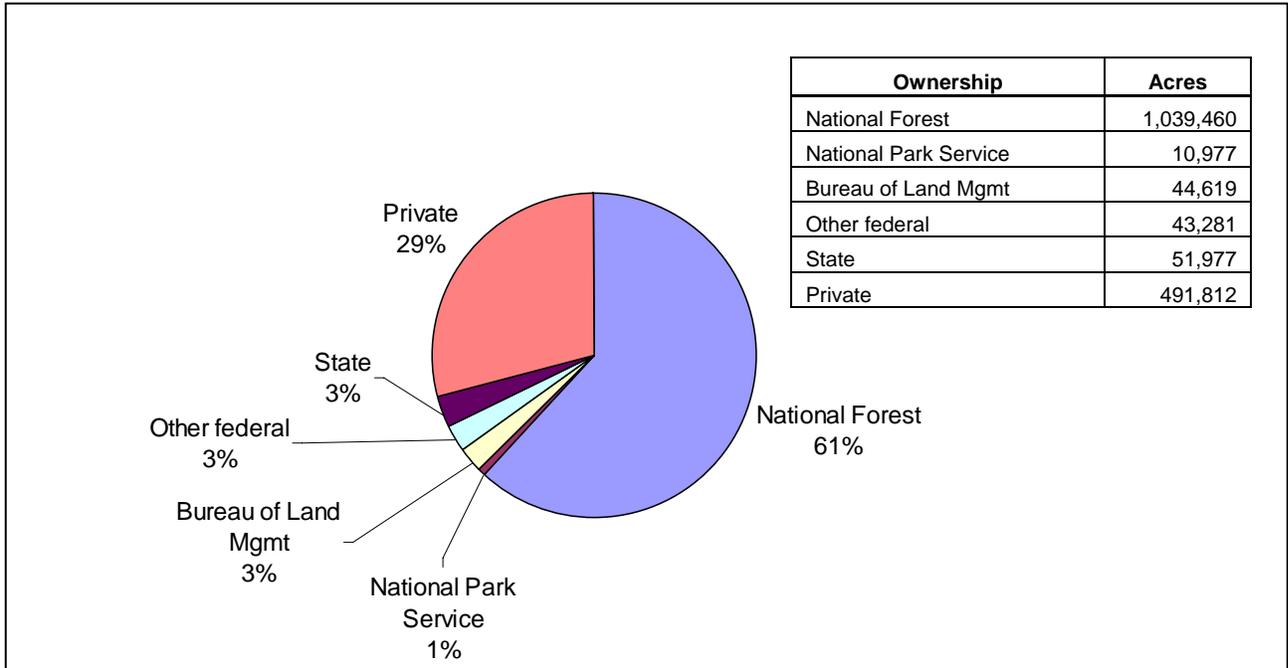


Figure 1: Forest land ownership in South Dakota. (Source: USDA Forest Service Mapmaker V2.1, 2005 data)

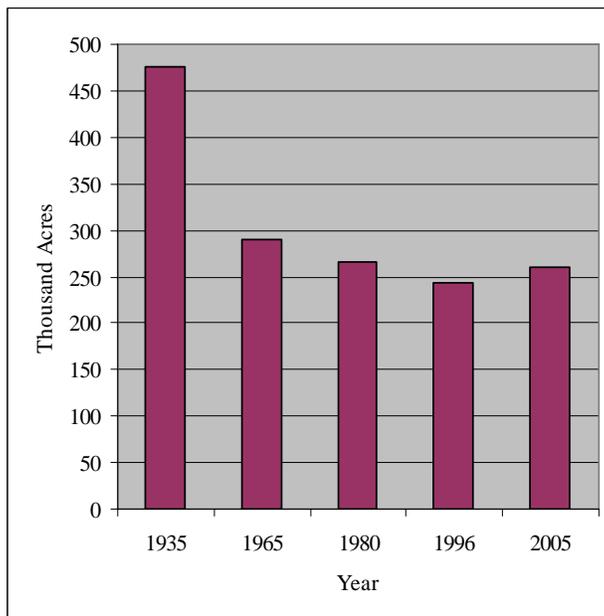


Figure 2. Hardwood forest changes in South Dakota.

The area occupied by hardwood forests in eastern South Dakota has changed dramatically over the past 70 years (Figure 2). In 1935, there were close to 475,000 acres of hardwood forest. By 1965, the forest area had been reduced to about 290,600 acres. Much of this loss is due to the construction of major dams on the Missouri River and the subsequent flooding of large portions of bottomlands along the river and its tributaries. A survey conducted just prior to the flooding indicates that approximately 86,000 acres of bottomland forests were lost. Inventories completed prior to 2005 assessed hardwood acres east of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Meridian. In 2000, annualized inventories began state-wide, so for the first time the 2005 report revealed hardwood acres over the entire State. The increase of hardwood acres from 1996 to 2005 can be explained by the inclusion of hardwood acres west of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Meridian.

2005 inventory data reveal an absence of native hardwood stands less than 20 years old. Cottonwood is an example of how hardwoods in the state are getting older and not regenerating. One hundred percent of the cottonwood growing-stock volume is in stands older than 40 years. In 1935 there were an estimated 94 thousand acres of cottonwood in South Dakota. By 1996, land in the cottonwood type had declined to 36 thousand acres. In 2005 that number has shrunk to 33 thousand acres. Cottonwood proliferation needs the type of disturbance caused by periodic flooding that creates moist, sandy soils exposed to the sun. Dam construction has severely limited periodic flooding events. As the cottonwood stands mature, more shade tolerant species have become established beneath their canopy such as eastern redcedar, green ash, hackberry and box elder. If the species continues to decline, there could be profound ecological consequences because cottonwood and the riparian forests are key habitats for a variety of animal species and are especially important for maintaining biological diversity in a prairie environment.

Eastern redcedar has a significant presence on about 17 thousand acres in South Dakota; this is up from about 14 thousand acres in 1996. The species is desirable for wildlife habitat, soil protection, livestock protection, and right-of-way protection. However, the natural expansion of eastern redcedar has made livestock handling more difficult, reduced forage production, and degraded native prairies.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

RC&F adopted the Spatial Analysis Project recommended by the USDA Forest Service State & Private Forestry (S&PF) for Geographic Information System (GIS) based forest resource analysis. The process involved the development of 12 spatially represented data layers that identify areas of resource richness and threats to forest resources. The focus of these layers is consistent from State to State; however, States are allowed to choose the best available data set for creating their layers. A data layer was created to mask out municipal lands, public lands, and water which are not eligible for forest stewardship program benefits. South Dakota also developed an agroforestry layer to describe resource richness due to the importance of agroforestry in the State. The process used for development of these layers is described in the document "South Dakota Spatial Analysis Project Methodology."

The following analysis discusses the features and management issues associated with these data layers. Not all of the layers are illustrated in this discussion, because some of the map features



Figure 3. Riparian Corridor data layer.

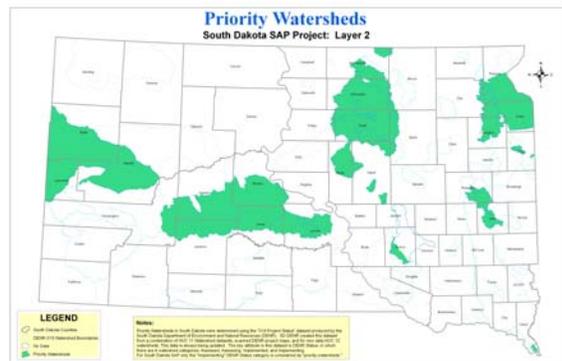


Figure 4. Priority watersheds data layer.

are too fine to be visible at the scale required for this plan. All maps are presented in a larger scale in the project methodology report.

**Riparian Corridors.** Riparian corridors are being emphasized for protection of water quality in stream courses and lakes (Figure 3). Woody riparian buffer strips can filter nutrients from fertilized row crops and Confined Animal Feeding Operations that would otherwise increase the nutrient load in stream courses. They also slow overland flow thus helping to prevent sediment from getting into streams. Opportunities for establishing buffer strips exist state-wide.

**Priority Watersheds.** Watershed assessments are on-going in South Dakota to determine water quality problems and opportunities for improvements. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is targeting priority watersheds for improvement efforts (Figure 4). RC&F will coordinate efforts with DENR to focus agroforestry and riparian buffer projects in priority areas.

Implementation and monitoring of forestry best management practices (BMPs) is the best approach to protecting water quality during silvicultural activities in the Black Hills. In South Dakota, forestry BMPs are voluntary. To adequately protect water quality, the people who implement forestry activities must be educated in the proper application of BMPs, the BMPs must be installed where needed, and BMPs must be monitored for effectiveness. Opportunities for BMP education are being offered through the Central Rockies Sustainable Forestry Education Program. Monitoring is being done via a cooperative effort between The Black Hills Forest Resource Association and the SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Monitoring results are being used to target BMP training to improve implementation and evaluate BMPs for possible changes.

**Forest Patches.** The forest patches data layer focuses attention on private forest land areas greater than 50 contiguous acres in size. While continuing subdivision of forest lands creates more small tracts, the larger tracts often have the best potential for realizing program benefits because it is easier to work with single landowners vs. multiple landowners, and often multiple resource benefits can be realized from working with larger properties.

Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species. There are no known threatened or endangered species on private forest lands in South Dakota. However, there may be sensitive species or species of local concern that require special activities to mitigate effects of management practices. Forestry and agroforestry practices will be reviewed to prevent negative impacts to important species. RC&F will use the Natural Heritage Database to determine if practice sites contain important species, and work with database managers and biologists to mitigate detrimental effects or design practices that are beneficial to the species.

Public Drinking Water Supplies. The public drinking water supply data set includes areas that are suspected of contributing water to the source; for example, a well. By themselves, these areas do not have a high priority; however, when combined with priority watersheds and other datasets they become more important.

Private Forest Lands. Private forest land data set was given the highest priority because management assistance to non-industrial private lands is a legislated priority of the Forest Stewardship Program. Most private forest lands are located in the Black Hills area, although large expanses are also found on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian Reservations, and in the Missouri River breaks area of south central South Dakota (Figure 5). Other areas of forest land



Figure 5. Private forest lands data layer.

include the Coteau in the northeast corner of the state, the short pines area of Harding County, and scattered riparian forests across the state. Forests of the Black Hills and Indian Reservations are primarily ponderosa pine. Black Hills spruce, quaking aspen, and birch are found in the wetter, cooler areas of the northern and central Black Hills. Rocky Mountain Juniper is found in the southern Black Hills and along the river breaks of western South Dakota. Hardwoods are found in draws and bottomlands along rivers throughout the State, on some upland sites on the Coteau, and in the southeast corner of the State.

Overstocked stands of ponderosa pine trees in the Black Hills are susceptible to diseases, insect infestations, and catastrophic fires. One way to ensure sustainable supplies of timber, improve forest health, and reduce fire risk is to manage them for optimum growth.

The Division has identified the need to thin approximately 2800 acres of precommercial forest stands each year on state and private lands in order to achieve optimum growing conditions. The Division has provided technical assistance through cost-share programs to accomplish thinning on about 175 acres per year. This is down from 425 acres per year 10 years ago. The funded programs that are currently available to help defray the cost of thinning include the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program and the Environmental Quality Incentive Program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and wildfire hazard mitigation programs administered by the Wildland Fire Suppression Division (WFS). These programs can provide financial incentives to thin trees, but for reasons other than timber production.

Since 1993, there has been a market in the Black Hills for chips from in-woods chipping operations. The source of the chips is tops and limbs from commercial timber harvest, and sapling and post/pole size trees. Industry has been able to harvest trees 1" to 8.9" diameter breast height (DBH) for chipping when working on commercial timber sales on private lands. Small diameter thinning is only feasible if the landowner accepts a reduced price for commercial stumpage; the reduced price offsets the cost to harvest and process the small pieces. All harvesting, skidding and chipping is done mechanically. About 1,000 acres of 1" to 5" DBH trees and another 1,000 acres of 6"-8.9" DBH trees are thinned each year. The minimum diameter that can be harvested is one inch. Geography and volume constraints can limit thinning operations for chips. Quality control limits the volume of "dirty" chips that can be utilized, and transportation costs can limit the distance chips can be feasibly hauled.

Landowners like in-woods chipping because it reduces fire danger by thinning stands and removing fuels, it leaves an aesthetically pleasing residual stand, and grass production is increased for grazing. Unfortunately, professional foresters have little input into stand treatment prescriptions. Operators are instructed to remove the worst trees (forked, sweep, diseased) in the stand and leave trees with the best form, but spacing requirements are based more on operability than maximizing growth or planning for future commercial entries. The appearance, health, and future productivity of private forestlands in the Black Hills are largely being determined by today's in-woods chipping operations.

In-woods chipping has the potential to address overstocked stands and fuel loading on private lands in the Black Hills. However, it is not a panacea. Harvest and processing of small diameter wood is not economically viable as a stand-alone activity. It must be subsidized by sale of commercial timber at a reduced stumpage price. If this is not done the practice will require payment by the landowner in order to be viable. Landowners continue to contact the Division seeking cost-share for precommercial thinning on properties that are devoid of commercial timber. Also, mechanical thinning operations are limited by slope, have minimum residual stand spacing requirements for operability, and sufficiently disturb the site to provide an excellent seedbed for regeneration. Regeneration is not particularly desirable in a sapling or pole size stand because it reintroduces competition before the residual trees can fully occupy the site, and may necessitate another pre-commercial thinning.

Proximity to Public Lands. Private lands in close proximity to public lands have the potential for complementary management practices. There exists a potential for a landscape approach to management activities when private ownership objectives are similar to public land management objectives.

Forested Wetlands. There are 49,538 acres of forested wetlands in South Dakota. These acres are located in close proximity to riparian corridors, and their coverage is duplicated in the privately owned forested lands data layer.

Topographic Slope. The topographic slope layer includes all areas of the State with 60 percent slope or less because this is the upper limit of operability for conventional logging equipment. This includes most areas of the State with the exception of some steep ground in the Black Hills.

Cable yarding capabilities are available in the Black Hills; however, opportunities are limited to sites that are economically feasible for covering the higher cost of this harvesting system.

**Forest Health Issues.** Mountain pine beetle continues to be a significant threat to high density ponderosa pine forests in the Black Hills (Figure 6). Epidemic infestations are occurring across ownership boundaries on National Forest, State, and private lands. Opportunities exist for cooperative efforts, particularly between the BHNF and private landowners.

Cooperation between landowners will be pursued whenever possible when infestations cross ownership boundaries.

Pine engraver outbreaks continue to occur, but on a smaller scale than past years, in part due to the absence of large wildfires in the Black Hills in the last two years. Isolated outbreaks continue to occur when green slash is left on the ground during the breeding season, or when trees are weakened such as after fire or in and around construction sites. Pheromone trapping has successfully prevented pine engraver beetle outbreaks in proximity to sawmills around the Black Hills.

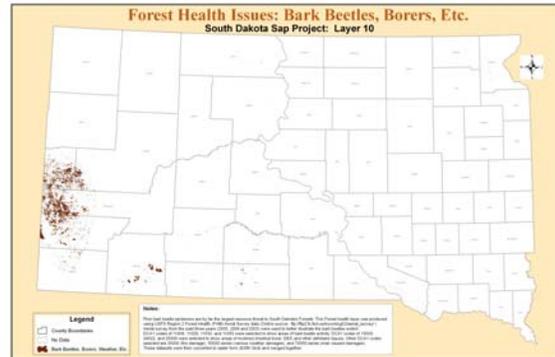


Figure 6. Forest health issues data layer.

Other threats include bur oak mortality caused by the two-lined chestnut borer which attacks the cambium of oaks. The continuing drought across South Dakota, now beginning its seventh year, contributes to forest health problems by placing additional stress on native trees. The data layer is based on aerial survey data collected by the Forest Health Monitoring group of USFS S&PF. These surveys are limited to National Forest System lands, public and private forest lands adjacent to National Forest lands, and Indian reservation forest lands. Therefore, it does not give a State-wide view of forest health issues, but captures those issues affecting native forest lands.

**Developing Areas.** Development pressures exist in all areas of the State that are in close proximity to larger communities; especially, around Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, Watertown, Mitchell, Brookings, Huron, Pierre, and Rapid City (Figure 7). Fragmentation of forest lands due to development pressure is becoming more prevalent, especially in the Black Hills area. Of particular concern is that all of the private forest land in the Black Hills has been identified as having high potential for development.



Figure 7. Developing areas data layer.

Ironically, the subdivision of forest lands in the Black Hills has had both positive and negative effects. The negative effects include the fragmentation that goes along with subdivision,

road construction, home building, fencing, and varying ownership objectives. Also, more ownerships mean more landowners to work with to manage large areas; this places more demand on service foresters that are trying to deliver programs and encourage on-the-ground management activities.

The positive side to the subdivision of forest lands is that some counties in the Black Hills require forest property owners that are not raising livestock to have forest stewardship plans as part of their qualification for reduced property taxes. State law requires landowners to satisfy two out of three requirements in order to qualify for lower property taxes under the agricultural tax status: The principle use of the land must be devoted to raising and harvesting crops, livestock, etc.; they must meet a minimum contiguous acreage requirement, and/or they must derive at least thirty-three and one-third percent of their gross annual family income from agricultural activities (SDCL §10-6-31.3). Smaller parcels in the Black Hills cannot satisfy the income qualification, so most landowners opt for meeting the minimum acreage and agricultural crop requirements. Trees are accepted as an agricultural crop when managed for timber production. Some counties require landowners to have a forest stewardship plan as proof that the landowner is managing for timber as a crop. This requirement has increased the demand for forest stewardship plans in these counties. Not only have requests for plans increased for RC&F service foresters, but demand has also increased for consulting foresters. The Division refers many landowners to its Register of Private Professional Foresters for plan preparation.

There is a potential conflict between the law qualifying property for agricultural status and program requirements for forest stewardship plans. The Forest Stewardship Program does not require landowners to manage for timber production to have a qualifying plan. The ability of a plan to satisfy the agricultural crop requirement is questionable if a plan does not contain management guidance for timber production, or if landowners do not follow timber management recommendations in their plan. Counties need to review plans carefully to be sure that the landowners are complying with state law before granting them agricultural status.

Wildfire Assessment. Wildland fire is a significant threat to rural developments across South Dakota anytime vegetation is allowed to grow unmanaged in close proximity to buildings. This situation is exacerbated in years of drought or when the vegetation has cured in the late summer and fall. The western half of the State is particularly susceptible to fire due to the absence of cultivation and the low relative humidity.

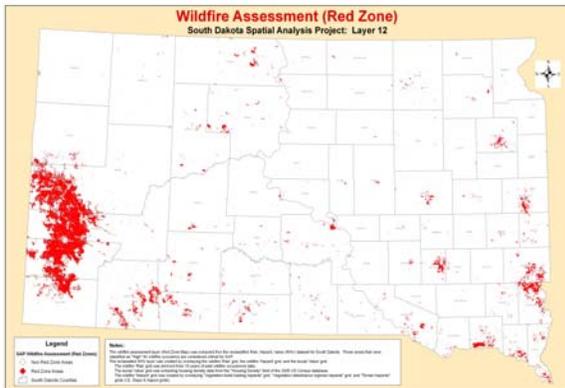


Figure 8. Wildfire Assessment data layer.

In eastern South Dakota the Wildfire Assessment map shows areas of greatest threat are near the urban centers of Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, Watertown, Mitchell, Brookings, Huron, and Pierre where the population is expanding into the rural areas around the city boundaries (Figure 8). In western South Dakota the areas of high risk are in the forests of the Black Hills and adjacent plains, the forested areas of the Pine Ridge Reservation, and communities on the prairie.

Almost every forest fire in the Black Hills has the potential of becoming a threat to people and property. Forest stand structure, density and fuel load in urban-interface areas can be manipulated through proper forest management to help minimize, but not eliminate, threats from wildfire. Forest management must be combined with good access, fire resistant construction materials, defensible space and other attributes to maximize its effectiveness. The ownership mosaic of western South Dakota places private lands in close proximity to the Black Hills National Forest and the National Grasslands of the Nebraska National Forest. Wildland fires threaten all property regardless of ownership. Efforts to reduce wildfire hazards will be accomplished in conjunction with the implementation of fuel hazard reduction programs administered by the WFS, and Community Fire Protection Plans as developed by the Counties and local communities. RC&F will work with WFS, the National Forests, and private landowners to coordinate fuel hazard reduction activities on private lands in close proximity to federal lands that are scheduled for fuel hazard reduction activities.

Agroforestry Suitability. South Dakota's agroforestry resource includes windbreaks that perform a variety of functions, and riparian buffer strips. Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) data from 1996 indicate there are 1.3 million acres of land with trees in the state in addition to the 1.6 million acres of forestland. The area of the State identified for agroforestry potential includes those soils that are capable of growing trees as identified by NRCS Tree and Shrub groups 1-5 (Figure 9).

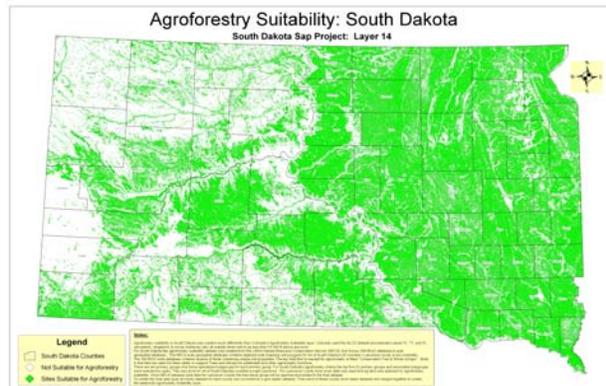


Figure 9. Agroforestry suitability data layer.

Many of South Dakota's windbreaks planted in the 1950's and earlier are deteriorating and in need of renovation. A survey of 27 counties conducted in 1987 revealed 61% of South Dakota's windbreaks were missing 30% or more of their canopy and were in need of renovation. A survey conducted in 1997 across the northern two-thirds of the state indicated 87% of windbreaks surveyed were in need of some form of renovation. Renovation can be anything from grass control in mature windbreaks to complete tree and shrub removal and replanting. There are few incentives to support renovation, which can be a costly practice. Removal and replacement can cost \$1,000 per acre for tree removal followed by \$300 per acre for replanting; other costs include weed control and fencing.

## FOREST STEWARDSHIP POTENTIAL

After completion of the data layers, RC&F personnel worked with the FSCC to determine the forest stewardship potential lands in South Dakota. An iterative process was used to rank data layers by priority. FSCC members suggested a number of priority rankings, which were eventually combined and averaged to develop a recommended ranking to the State Forester. Their recommendation was modified slightly to give more emphasis to riparian corridors. The final data layer priority ranking is presented in Table 1.

<b>Spatial Analysis Layer</b>	<b>Priority Rank (percent)</b>
Riparian Corridors	13.5
Priority Watersheds	8.4
Forest Patches	10.7
Threatened & Endangered Species	3.8
Public Drinking Water Supply Sources	5.0
Private Forest Lands	14.6
Proximity to Public Lands	4.4
Forested Wetlands	4.9
Topographic Slope	2.0
Forest Health Issues	10.2
Developing Areas	5.4
Wildfire Assessment	7.5
Agroforestry Suitability	9.6
Analysis Mask (municipalities, public land, & water not ranked)	----
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 1: Spatial layers created for analysis of resource richness and threats to forest resources, with priority ranking for analyzing stewardship potential.

The data layers were combined to develop a map of forest stewardship potential for South Dakota. Figure 10 illustrates forest stewardship priority areas with red indicating high forest stewardship potential, yellow indicates moderate forest stewardship potential, and white indicates low potential. Grey areas represent federal lands that are not qualified for FSP participation.

<b>Forest Stewardship Potential Forest and Non-Forest</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Forest land - High potential	328,612
Forest land - Medium potential	203,195
Forest land - Low potential	219,293
Non-Forest land - High potential	484,988
Non-Forest land - Medium potential	11,532,920
Non-Forest land - Low potential	31,811,483

Table 2. Forest stewardship potential of forest and non-forest land capable of growing trees in South Dakota.

Acreage of land with high, medium, and low forest stewardship potential is shown in Table 2. The acreage of private forest land derived from GIS analysis suggests a much larger area of forest land -751,100 acres - than forest land area obtained from FIA data – 491,812 acres. The difference can be explained by the methods used for calculating each figure. The data from the

## South Dakota Forest Stewardship Priority Areas Spatial Analysis Project

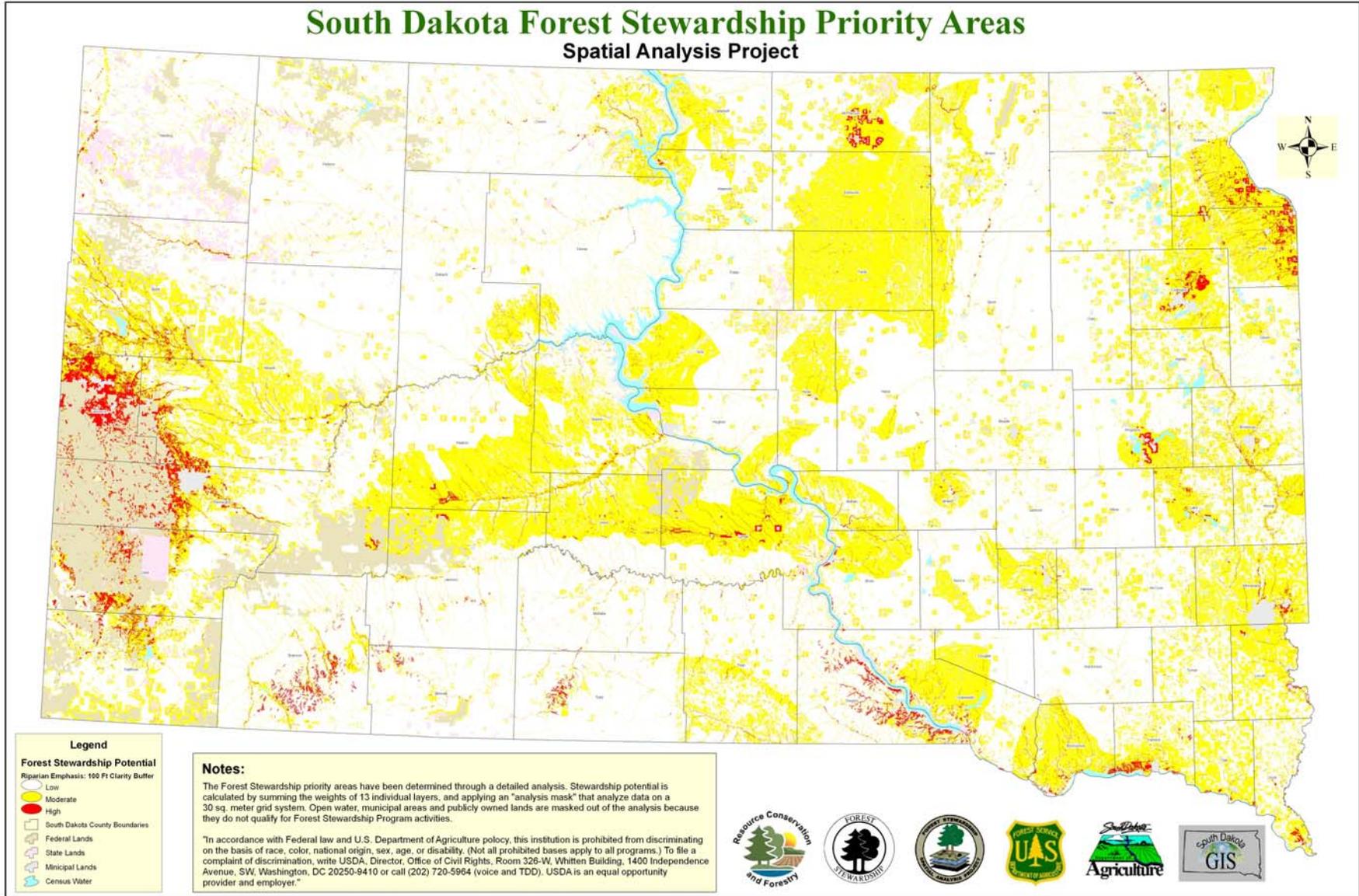


Figure 10. Forest stewardship potential in South Dakota; red indicates high potential, yellow indicates moderate potential, and white indicates low potential. Other colors represent public land and water bodies.

GIS analysis comes from National Land Cover Data 2001, which estimates land cover using canopy coverage. FIA data uses a much more precise definition of 10 percent stocking, at least one acre in size, and at least 120 feet wide. Many areas with trees do not qualify for the FIA definition of forest land, but fall into another classification referred to as non-forest land with trees.

The distribution of forest land between different potentials can be explained by the 50 contiguous acre minimum forest patch size. Due to the scattered juxtaposition of private bottomland and upland hardwood forest lands outside of the Black Hills, many of these acres were reduced to a lower forest stewardship potential classification.

Private forest lands in the Black Hills area, Harding County, the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Indian reservations, along the Missouri breaks in South Central and South Eastern South Dakota, and certain riparian corridors have high potential for FSP benefits. Forest health issues are ranked high in the priority scheme and serve to bolster native forest potential on the composite map. High fire hazard areas from the wildfire assessment data is also closely aligned with private forest land. High priority areas in the rest of the State reflect combinations of agroforestry suitability, riparian corridors, priority watershed areas, proximity to public lands, public drinking water supply sources, and T&E species. The central theme for high potential stewardship areas is to encourage management of non-industrial private forest lands for forest health, reducing wildfire hazards, and improving and/or protecting water quality.

Moderate stewardship potential areas reflect combinations of agroforestry potential, riparian corridors, priority watersheds, public drinking water supply sources, proximity to public lands, and in some areas T&E species. Agroforestry ranks high in the prioritization scheme, but doesn't show up with moderate or high potential unless combined with other priorities. The central theme here is to use forestry practices where appropriate to improve water quality.

Low stewardship potential areas will also receive attention from RC&F. Requests for assistance from these areas will be evaluated for stewardship benefits. If FSP participation is not warranted for individuals, RC&F will try to guide the landowner to agencies where they can obtain assistance. Where FSP participation is warranted, landowners will receive assistance from RC&F.

The presence of T&E species could have a positive or negative effect on forest stewardship plan implementation. In all practices, the possible presence of T&E species will be evaluated. In cases of potential presence of T&E species, practices will be designed to enhance T&E species habitat or modified so there is no negative impact.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

RC&F has established the following goals and objectives to implement the Forest Stewardship Program over the next five years. Targets are summarized in Appendix B.

Goal 1: Implement federal program guidelines and complete reporting requirements within required time frames.

Objectives:

- A. Maintain at least one full-time qualified Forest Stewardship Specialist and one Agroforestry Specialist on staff.
- B. Complete and keep current a “*Forest Stewardship Plan for South Dakota.*”
  - (i) Revise and reprint the plan every 5 years.
  - (ii) Review and adjust targets annually.
  - (iii) Utilize the South Dakota Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (FSCC) to advise the State Forester while setting statewide goals for the FSP plan.
- C. Report accomplishments through the established federal Performance Measurement Accountability System (PMAS) annually.
- D. Host a federal review of South Dakota’s program and participate in one program review in another state every five years.

Goal 2: Focus Forest Stewardship Program delivery on identified areas of need to maximize program effectiveness and efficiency.

Objectives

- A. Implement the USDA Forest Service sponsored Spatial Analysis Project as an on-going practice.
  - (i) Monitor data used to develop the 14 data layers that are used in the spatial analysis process. Update the data layers annually to reveal program emphasis areas.
  - (ii) Rank and prioritize data layers with input from the Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee for annual development of a State Forest Stewardship Potential data layer.
  - (iii) Input historic program accomplishment data into WebDET geodatabase by September 2007.
  - (iv) Implement the WebDET data entry tool by October 2007.
  - (v) Train qualified resource professionals in the use of the data entry tools by December 2007.
- B. Meet with program partners regularly to identify areas of opportunity.
- C. Understand complementary program requirements, and direct landowners to programs that help them meet their forestry related ownership objectives.
- D. Attend Conservation District Work Group meetings to identify forestry needs for program prioritization.

Goal 3: Improve awareness and support for forestry and proper management of South Dakota’s forest resources among the general public and other natural resource professionals.

Objectives

- A. Recognize at least 30 Forest Stewards each year.
- B. Develop and distribute new brochures and booklets promoting proper forest management and good forest stewardship.
- C. Develop and implement windbreak renovation demonstration sites that deal with various renovation practices.
- D. Provide educational brochures, workshops, etc dealing with hardwood forest management or windbreak management.
- E. Promote the use of approved Forestry Best Management Practices when implementing silvicultural practices on private forest lands.

Goal 4: Use trees, where they provide the most benefit, to conserve and protect the natural resources of South Dakota.

Objectives

- A. Continue to provide technical support to the Department of Game Fish & Parks for the Private Lands Woody Habitat Program tree planting enhancement project.
- B. Assist landowners to design and plant 45 tree plantings per year.
- C. Each field office will prepare 3 new windbreak or shelterbelt renovation projects for a statewide total of 9 prescriptions per year.
- D. Develop and implement at least two tree planting projects, one east and one west of the Missouri River, that utilize trees to capture snow for added run-off into dams and water catchments for livestock and wildlife.

Goal 5: Improve and expand the management of forests, woodlands, and other non-forest areas that can support trees throughout the state.

Objectives

- A. Increase forestry and agro-forestry assistance by each field office to an average of one viable and documented assist each week (50 assists/field office/year).
- B. Prepare or approve stewardship plans for 45 landowners each year covering 2500 acres of forests/woodlands.
- C. Prepare or approve at least fifteen prescriptions per field office each year.

### **EMPHASIS AREAS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

RC&F is a small agency. Project level accomplishments are often a result of efforts coordinated through a team of resource professionals representing local, state, and federal agencies, universities and the private sector. The loss of cost-share programs specific to NIPF landowners underscores the need to convince administrators of other cost-share programs of the importance of forestry projects. Appendix C presents program, project, and activity areas that will receive emphasis, and partner agencies, groups, and organizations that will play a roll in completing associated tasks.

### **FUNDING SOURCES**

Funding sources for Resource Conservation and Forestry activities come from a variety of sources. Appendix D provides a breakdown of anticipated federal and state funding sources for the next five years.

### **LANDOWNER FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLANS**

The criteria for preparing a landowner forest stewardship plan is presented in Appendix A. When the WebDET data entry tool is available, RC&F will implement the program and use it for preparation of forest stewardship plans.

## **MONITORING AND RECOGNITION OF STEWARDSHIP FORESTS**

RC&F will adopt the national standard for monitoring implementation of landowner forest stewardship plans when the protocols are finalized.

Criteria for recognizing a property as a Stewardship Forest shall be an approved Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan and completion of at least one practice recommended in the plan.

A single form (Appendix D) will be used to serve the purpose of recognition. The information may be submitted in a letter or on the form provided. Letters must contain the information required on the form.

A copy of the approved form will be sent to the stewardship coordinator who will obtain a signed certificate of recognition from the State Forester. The certificate will be returned to the division representative who may present the certificate and Forest Stewardship sign to the landowner. A preferred option is to have the resource professional working with the landowner present the certificate and Forest Stewardship sign. Stewardship forests 10 acres or larger in size will receive the 18" x 24" Stewardship Forest signs; landowners with forests smaller than 10 acres will be presented the 7 1/2" x 11 1/4" sign. Landowners with forests smaller than 10 acres may be given the larger sign if they ask for it. Whenever possible, sign posting should follow these guidelines:

- Erect the sign on Stewardship Forest property.
- Erect on roadside at right-of-way line.
- Sign should be straight and post tamped firmly.
- Clean brush, weeds, and trash from base of sign.
- Recommend the sign is NOT nailed to a fence, tree or side of building.
- Assist the landowner with sign placement.

Stewardship Forests should be re-visited at least every five years. The visit is intended to provide professional technical assistance to the landowner, determine if the plan is being implemented, and modify the plan. A new recognition form should be completed and sent to the stewardship coordinator.

A stewardship forest will be considered inactive if after 10 years there is no evidence of recommended forest management activity on the property, and no record of visitation by a resource professional. Inactive properties will not be removed from the database, but can be considered active again if evidence of continuing management is received.

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**APPENDIX A**  
**Criteria For Writing A**  
**Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan**  
**In South Dakota**

Stewardship Management Plans are developed to guide and assist landowners in actively managing their forest and woody vegetation resources. Active management will keep these lands in a productive and healthy condition for present and future owners as well as increase the economic and environmental benefits of these lands.

The management plan should cover a ten year period and be written for all land managed as a unit. All forest resources on a property should be included in the plan and may include blocks of land that are not necessarily contiguous. A stewardship plan may cover more than one landowner's property if the combined properties are to be managed as a unit.

The plan is intended to be a working document; it should be reviewed and amended as necessary at least every five years. The landowner and preparing resource professional should review the plan together and consider goals and objectives, dynamic biological conditions, biological diversity, productive capacity, health and vigor of the forest, soil and water resources, markets, disasters, program practice updates.

The plan should be written to guide the landowner and the resource professional in the implementation of practices designed to manage and protect the resources of the forest in a manner compatible with the landowner's objectives. The plan must consider the multi-resource aspects of forest stewardship by addressing fish and wildlife, endangered species, water and soil, wetlands, recreation and aesthetics, cultural resources, and timber. The Natural Heritage Program database will be referenced to determine if any history of endangered species or habitat exists in the planning area.

The plan should be written so that it is easy to read and be understood by the landowner. It should document the landowner objectives, describe the natural resources, list management decisions made by the landowner to achieve the objectives, recommend activities, provide a schedule for activity implementation, and a record of completed activities.

Each practice must have a prescription, or project plan, which will provide the specifications and standards for completion of that practice. The project plan should include any restrictions or special requirements, design, timing, species, spacing, placement, materials, and any other information needed to complete the practice, protect the resources, and satisfy the landowner's objectives.

Project plans will not be needed as part of the original forest stewardship management plan, but may be required when applying for cost share. When a practice is begun the project plan is added to the landowner's forest stewardship plan as an addendum.

**STEWARDSHIP PLAN CONTENTS FOR  
SOUTH DAKOTA LANDOWNERS**

- A) Document title and signature page including:
  - 1) Landowner's name, address and phone number - list multiple landowners if appropriate.
  - 2) Date plan prepared.
  - 3) Plan preparer's name, address, and phone number.
  - 4) Landowner statement of intent and approval with signatures of Landowner, plan preparer, and State Forestry representative.
- E) Landowner's management goals and objectives.
  - 1) Primary objectives.
  - 2) Secondary objectives.
- F) Acreage affected.
- G) Site Description should include but is not necessarily limited to:
  - 1) Location of property and resources.
  - 2) Size.
  - 3) Existing vegetation data: stocking, age, species, site index, condition (insects and diseases).
  - 4) Physical data: soils, capability classification, topography, wetlands, accessibility, fire risk, windbreak suitability group.
  - 5) Features: fences, roads, wells, power lines, etc.
  - 6) Land use history
- H) Describe resource values: their presence, condition, potential, and protection as they relate to the landowner's objectives. Absence of specific values should be noted as such.
  - 1) Fish and wildlife.
  - 2) Endangered species.
  - 3) Water and Soil.
  - 4) Wetlands.
  - 5) Recreation and aesthetics.
  - 6) Forest management and timber harvest.
  - 7) Cultural resources.
- I) Duration of planning period - 10 years with review and updates every 5 years.
- J) Recommended management practices. Describe how the practice satisfies the landowner's objectives, fits the site, and protects or enhances applicable resource values.
  - 1) Short term treatments (1-5 years) and implementation schedule.
  - 2) Future treatments (5+ years) and implementation schedule.
  - 3) Inform of any state laws or regulations applicable to recommended practices.
  - 4) Inform of any permits required to implement recommended practices and how to obtain them.
  - 5) Inform of available cost-share programs that can help with the recommended treatments (details can be placed in appendix).
- K) Implementation record.
- L) Maps must have a legend and may include, but are not necessarily limited to:
 

1) Ownership	4) Accessibility
2) Area covered by plan	5) Location of recommended treatments
3) Vegetation types	6) Soils
- M) Appendix (as applicable)
  - 1) List of definitions for technical terms.
  - 2) Descriptions of cost-share programs.

- 3) Brochures and fact sheets (BMPs, insects and diseases, wildlife, weed control, drip irrigation, etc).
  - 4) Sample contracts.
  - 5) Inventory data.
  - 6) Growth and yield calculations.
  - 7) Other
- N) Addenda
- 1) Project plans for recommended practices (thinning Rx, tree planting designs, harvest Rx, etc.)
  - 2) Project completion reports (residual stand description, sale volumes, summary of receipts, problems, etc.)

**FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN**  
**For**  
**JOHN AND JANE FORESTAL**  
100 Spruce St.  
Tree City, SD 57000  
605-123-4567

Prepared June 26, 2005

Prepared by:

Joe Forester  
Trees Forever, Inc.  
123 Poplar St.  
Tree City, SD 57000  
605-765-4321

Having read the attached Forest Stewardship Plan, I agree that the plan reflects my objectives for managing my forest lands, and that the practices described will help me accomplish those objectives. I intend to initiate the practices recommended by this plan, and follow the plan's direction with the understanding that the plan can be modified at any time, with the assistance of a resource professional, to meet changing objectives.

Landowner Approval:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

This plan satisfies the criteria of the South Dakota Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee.

Prepared by:

SDDA Resource Conservation and  
Forestry Division Representative:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## APPENDIX B: Five-Year Targets

Reporting Items			Targets					Total
			1 <sup>st</sup> Year	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	4 <sup>th</sup> Year	5 <sup>th</sup> Year	
A. Landowners Assisted								
1.	Individual landowners assisted	(#)	150	150	150	150	150	750
2.	Certified Stewards	(#)	45	45	45	45	45	150
B. Stewardship Plans								
1.	New Stewardship Plans	(#)	45	45	45	45	45	225
		(acres)	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	12,500
2.	Converted Plans	(#)	3	3	3	3	3	15
		(acres)	100	100	100	100	100	500
3.	Updated Plans	(#)	10	10	10	10	10	50
		(acres)	100	100	100	100	100	500
C. Tree Planting Activities								
1.	New Tree Plantings	(#)	45	45	45	45	45	225
		(acres)	100	100	100	100	100	500
2.	Renovations	(#)	9	9	9	9	9	45
		(acres)	20	20	20	20	20	100
3.	Trees planted	(#)	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	375,000
D. Forest Management Activities								
1.	Thinnings Completed	(#)	5	5	5	5	5	25
		(acres)	90	90	90	90	90	450

**APPENDIX C: Activities And Partnerships**

	Project / Activity	Resource Emphasis					Partnerships / Cooperating Agencies	Status
		F&WL	R&E	S&W	TMBR	OTH		
1.	Private Lands Woody Habitat Program	x	x	x			GF&P	Continuing
2.	CRP - Wildlife & windbreak projects	x	x	x			GF&P, NRCS, FSA, SDCD	Continuing
3.	National Fire Plan		x		x	x	BHNF, S&PF, WFS, communities with high fire risk	Continuing
4.	Mountain Pine Beetle			x	x		BHNF, SDSU, S&PF	Continuing
5.	Project Learning Tree	x	x	x	x	x	SDTF, DSAF	Continuing
6.	Coordination of FSP with Tree Farm Program	x	x	x	x	x	SDTF, KSDG, DSAF	Continuing
7.	Development of Annual FSP Plan	x	x	x	x	x	Forest Stewardship Coor. Committee	Annual
8.	Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan Preparation	x	x	x	x	x	Consulting Foresters, SDTF	Continuing
9.	State Stewardship Cost Share Program	x	x	x	x	x	S&PF	No Action
10.	Recognition of Stewards	x	x	x	x	x	SDTF, S&PF	Continuing

Abbreviations:	Resource Emphasis	Agencies and Organizations			
	F&WL Fish & Wildlife	BHFRA	Black Hills Forest Resource Assn.	NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
	R&E Recreation & Aesthetics	BHNF	Black Hills National Forest	SDCD	SD Conservation Districts
	S&W Soil & Water	BHWIT	Black Hills Women in Timber	DSAF	Dakotas Society of American Foresters
	TMBR Timber	DENR	SD Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources	SDSU	SD State University
	OTH Other	FSA	Farm Services Agency	SDTF	SD Tree Farm Committee
		KSDG	Keep SD Green	S&PF	USFS State & Private Forestry
		GF&P	SD Game Fish & Parks Dept.	WFS	Wildland Fire Suppression

**ACTIVITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS (cont.)**

Project / Activity	Resource Emphasis					Partnerships / Cooperating Agencies	Status
	F&WL	R&E	S&W	TMBR	OTH		
11. Forestry BMPs			x			BHNF, SDSU, BHFRA, SDTF, BHWIT, BHNF, NRCS, DENR, GF&P	Continuing
12. GIS Mapping Projects	x	x	x	x	x	BHNF, SDCD, DENR, GF&P, S&PF	Continuing
13. Stewardship Staff Forester	x	x	x	x	x	S&PF	Continuing
14. Technical Assistance for Landowners	x	x	x	x	x	SDCD, GF&P, DENR, FSA, NRCS, S&PF, consulting foresters	Continuing
15. Forest Health	x	x	x	x	x	BHNF, GF&P, DENR, SDTF, KSDG, S&PF	Continuing
16. Travel Expenses for Committee	x	x	x	x	x	Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee, S&PF	Continuing
17. Grants for FSP projects	x	x	x	x	x	S&PF	Continuing
18. Stewardship Staff Forester	x	x	x	x	x	S&PF	Continuing
19. Technical Assistance for Landowners	x	x	x	x	x	SDCD, GF&P, DENR, FSA, NRCS, S&PF, consulting foresters	Continuing
20. Forest Legacy Program	X	X	X	X	X	S&PF, Land Trust Organizations	Pending

Abbreviations:	Resource Emphasis	Agencies and Organizations			
	F&WL Fish & Wildlife	BHFRA	Black Hills Forest Resource Assn.	NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
	R&E Recreation & Aesthetics	BHNF	Black Hills National Forest	SDCD	SD Conservation Districts
	S&W Soil & Water	BHWIT	Black Hills Women in Timber	DSAF	Dakotas Society of American Foresters
	TMBR Timber	DENR	SD Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources	SDSU	SD State University
	OTH Other	FSA	Farm Services Agency	SDTF	SD Tree Farm Committee
		KSDG	Keep SD Green	S&PF	USFS State & Private Forestry
		GF&P	SD Game Fish & Parks Dept.		

### APPENDIX D: Funding Sources

Project / Activity	5-Year Funding	Funding Source			Average Annual Funding
		State	Federal	Other	
1. Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program	\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000	\$ 2,000
2. CRP - Wildlife Windbreak Projects	\$ 180,000			\$ 180,000	\$ 36,000
3. Mountain Pine Beetle Project	\$ 400,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000		\$ 80,000
4. Environmental Quality Improvement Projects	\$ 150,000		\$ 150,000		\$ 30,000
5. Living Snowfence Program	\$ 150,000		\$ 150,000		\$ 30,000
6. Conservation Grant Program	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000			\$ 20,000
7. Stewardship Brochures	\$ 8,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000		\$ 1,600
8. Project Learning Tree	\$ 80,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000		\$ 16,000
9. Coordination with Tree Farm Program	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000		\$ 800
10. State Stewardship Cost-share Program	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 20,000
11. Signing and Certification of Stewards	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500		\$ 1,000
12. BMP Monitoring and Evaluation	\$ 3,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500		\$ 600
13. Forest Inventory Analysis	\$ 585,000	\$ 210,000	\$ 375,000		\$ 117,000
14. GIS Mapping Projects	\$ 25,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
15. Noxious Weed BMPs	\$ 15,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500		\$ 3,000
16. Agroforestry Specialist	\$ 270,000	\$ 135,000	\$ 135,000		\$ 54,000
17. Stewardship Staff Forester	\$ 270,000	\$ 135,000	\$ 135,000		\$ 54,000
18. Technical Assistance to Landowners	\$ 800,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000		\$ 160,000
19. Travel Expenses for Committee	\$ 5,000	-	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,000
20. Open Grants for FSP Projects (logger education, etc.)	\$ 25,000	-	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500	\$ 5,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 2,785,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,147,500</b>	<b>\$ 1,377,500</b>	<b>\$ 260,000</b>	<b>\$ 557,000</b>

**APPENDIX E**  
**Forest Stewardship Program**  
**Recognition Record**

LANDOWNER INFORMATION (As it appears on the forest stewardship plan)

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_ LASTNAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

STEWARDSHIP FOREST INFORMATION

STEWARDSHIP  
 FOREST ACREAGE: \_\_\_\_\_ INITIAL RECOGNITION: \_\_\_\_\_  
 COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_ PREVIOUSLY RECOGNIZED: \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner has an approved plan and has completed at least one practice recommended in the plan	True	False
Landowner is no longer managing the property according to the stewardship plan or has sold the property	True	False

INSPECTING RESOURCE PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_ LASTNAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF VISITATION: \_\_\_\_\_

**INSPECTORS' SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
 DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES' SIGNATURE DATE

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FSP RECOGNITION RECORD

### LANDOWNER INFORMATION

FIRST NAME, MI AND LAST NAME: Enter the landowner's first name, middle initial, and last name printed exactly the same as on the forest stewardship plan.

COMPANY: Enter the company name if applicable.

ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP, PHONE, EMAIL: Enter the landowner's current mailing address, phone and electronic mail address.

### STEWARDSHIP FOREST INFORMATION

STEWARDSHIP FOREST ACREAGE: Enter the number of acres affected by the stewardship plan.

COUNTY: Indicate the principal county in which the stewardship forest is located.

INITIAL RECOGNITION: Place an "X" in the space provided if this is the first time the property will be recognized as a stewardship forest.

PREVIOUSLY RECOGNIZED: Place an "X" in the space provided if the property has been recognized as a stewardship forest in the past.

LANDOWNER HAS AN APPROVED PLAN AND HAS COMPLETED AT LEAST ONE PRACTICE RECOMMENDED IN THE PLAN: Place an "X" in the True or False box.

This information is used to determine if the property is qualified to be recognized as a stewardship forest.

LANDOWNER IS NO LONGER MANAGING THE PROPERTY ACCORDING TO THE STEWARDSHIP PLAN OR HAS SOLD THE PROPERTY: Place an "X" in the True or False box. This information is used to determine if the stewardship forest should be considered inactive.

### RESOURCE PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

FIRST NAME, MI AND LAST NAME: Enter the first name, middle initial, and last name of the resource professional that is recommending recognition.

ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP, PHONE, EMAIL: Enter the resource professional's current mailing address, phone and electronic mail address.

DATE OF VISITATION: Enter the month, day and year that the property was visited.

RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS' SIGNATURE: The resource professional must sign and date the form.

### APPROVAL

The division representative must sign and date the form.

FORWARD completed forms to the forest stewardship program coordinator.