

Conservation Commission

www.state.sd.us/doa/forestry

The State Conservation Commission is composed of nine members appointed by the Governor. Four are farmer members, one represents urban interests, one represents water development districts, two represent the forest industry, and one is appointed at-large. The farmer members must be or have been conservation district supervisors. The Commission is attached to the Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry for administrative purposes. It meets on a regular basis to conduct its business.

Duties:

- review and make recommendations on all, natural resource development programs proposed or planned by local, state, and federal agencies and subdivisions.
- act regarding the organization, dissolution, boundary, or name changes for conservation districts or watershed districts.
- appoint the board of supervisors for a new conservation district. These supervisors remain in office until the next general election.
- act to remove conservation district supervisors from office for neglect of duty or malfeasance in office.
- allocate grants from the Coordinated Soil & Water Conservation Grant Fund to conservation districts and has rule-making authority for the grant fund.
- approve loans to conservation districts from the Conservation District Revolving Loan Fund.
- recommend approval of conservation district loans made from the Rural Development Loan Fund in the SD Department of Agriculture.
- require, jointly with the Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry, the conservation districts to prepare proper financial records and reports. The Commission has approved a standard fiscal year for all conservation districts, from January 1 through December 31.
- review and recommend any changes the Commission deems necessary to the success of the conservation district program.
- keep a record of supervisors elected in each conservation district, appointments to fill vacancies, and the expiration date of each supervisor's term of office.
- allocate and distribute to participating conservation districts any funds, grants, supplies, or staff assistance which are available for that purpose, consistent with any restrictions.
- provide newly elected supervisors with an oath of office form.

South Dakota Department of Agriculture
Division of Resource Conservation & Forestry

www.state.sd.us/doa/forestry

Service Forestry

The Division's service forestry programs are designed to provide direct technical assistance and advice to private landowners concerning their forests and trees. They 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 visit producer's property if they need forestry advice, a forest stewardship plan, tree planting assistance, or assistance in determining forest pest problems. Staff is also available to help with the diagnosis and treatment of forest insect or disease problems.

State Conservation Mission

The mission of the state conservation program is to:

- Provide for the conservation of the soil and soil resources
- Control and prevent soil erosion
- Prevent flood water and sediment damages
- Further the conservation development, utilization and disposal of water
- Preserve natural resources, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers and harbors, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base, protect public lands, and protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of this state.

The Division is the direct link between conservation districts and state government. By law, the principal duties of the Division are:

- represent the state's conservation districts
- develop and implement state policy for land conservation and development
- coordinate the programs of the various conservation districts by advice and consultation
- secure the cooperation and assistance of state and federal agencies for the districts
- provide assistance to district supervisors in carrying out their responsibilities and developing their programs
- keep district supervisors informed of the activities and experiences of all other districts and to facilitate an interchange of information between them
- keep districts informed of changes in the law, operational policies and procedures and other matters of importance to the districts
- provide funds, grants, supplies and staff assistance to conservation districts as appropriations allow
- require proper accounting and financial procedures by conservation districts.

South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources

www.state.sd.us/denr

The mission of the SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is to protect public health and the environment by providing natural resources assessment, financial assistance, and regulation in a manner that promotes a good business climate and exceeds the expectations of our customers. The Department has two divisions.

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 following programs are under the Division of Financial and Technical Assistance:

Fiscal Management	Information Services
SD Geological Survey	Water Resources Assistance Program
Water and Waste Funding	Watershed Protection

The mission of the Division of Environmental Services is to provide environmental services in a customer-oriented manner that promotes economic development, conserves natural resources, helps municipalities, industry, and citizens comply with regulations, and protects public health and the environment.

The following regulatory programs fall under the Division of Environmental Services:

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

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish & Parks

www.state.sd.us/gfp

The mission of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks is to perpetuate, conserve, manage, protect, and enhance South Dakota's wildlife resources, parks, and outdoor recreational opportunities for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people of this state and its visitors, and to give the highest priority to the welfare of this state's wildlife and parks, and their environment, in planning and decisions.

The Division of Wildlife manages South Dakota's wildlife and fisheries resources and their associated habitats for their sustained and equitable use, and for the benefit, welfare and enjoyment of the citizens of this state and its visitors.

The Division of Parks and Recreation is committed to providing diverse outdoor recreational opportunities, acting as a catalyst for a growing tourism economy and preserving the resources with which they are entrusted. They accomplish this through efficient, responsive and environmentally sensitive management, and constructive communication with those they serve.

The Custer State Park manages and protects the park's natural, cultural, and geological resources; provides for public use of the park in a manner that is consistent with current standards and compatible with the perpetuation of the park's resources; develops and promotes the park to its potential as a tourism destination for South Dakota; and provides an adequate funding base to enable continued park operations.

South Dakota Department of Revenue

www.state.sd.us/drr2/revenue.html

The Department of Revenue and Regulation is comprised of nine divisions: Administrative Services, Audits, Business Tax, Financial Services, Insurance, Legal, Lottery and Gaming, Motor Vehicles, Professional and Occupational Boards, and Property and Special Taxes. The Department administers the sales tax collections. Conservation districts must collect sales tax when appropriate, such as the sales of trees for hand planting.

South Dakota Department of Transportation

www.state.sd.us/dot

The Department of Transportation administers state highways. It cooperates with the US Department of Transportation and local road building agencies. The conservation districts work with these agencies when resource issues involve roadways.

South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts

www.sdconservation.org

When was this Association founded? What conditions or factors influenced its creation? Conservation districts began forming in South Dakota in 1937 following the passage of the conservation district enabling law. By 1941, twelve conservation districts had been formed - Tri-County, Brown-Marshall, Brule-Buffalo, Clearfield-Keyapaha, American Creek, Silver Creek (now Sanborn), Emanuel Chateau Creek (now Bon Homme), Clay, Sioux Brule (now Union), Pennington, Custer, and Haakon. The original twelve conservation districts met February 1941 in Mitchell to form an organization which would identify ways and means to obtain better cooperation between agencies and to assist the local conservation districts in carrying out their programs. A meeting February 1942 in Pierre with all conservation district supervisors present

resulted in the permanent formation of the Association.

The Association became a member of the National Association of Conservation Districts in 1946 and sent its first delegate in 1948. The Association has been, since 1948, represented at national meetings by one or more delegates.

Who founded this Association? The original twelve conservation districts (see list above). The Association's first governing officers were E. B. Dwight of Springfield and Horace Wagner of Reliance. The first board of directors were chair E. B. Dwight, vice-chair Horace Wagner, secretary Ralph Hansen, treasurer Joe Heimer, Frank Feser, Henry Abild, Clyde Sargent, and J. J. Cowan.

Why was it founded? To facilitate discussion among the conservation districts and to provide one voice for the conservation districts.

When did major growth take place (new programs, expansions, building projects)? Major growth occurred in 1990 as the Association moved into an extensive grant sponsorship mode. Since 1990, the Association has sponsored on behalf of one, some or all conservation district(s) multiple grants to facilitate natural resource conservation.

How does this Association function now? The Association's mission is to lead, represent, and assist conservation districts in promoting a healthy environment.

Our vision is that the Association needs to remain in the forefront of conservation and to be regarded as a "leader" in the field. Areas of concern include wind and water erosion, water quality and quantity including the preservation of the Missouri mainstem dams, air quality, forestry, rangeland, wildlife and recreation.

The Association employs the executive director and several staff members. Only the executive director is funded through the general fund; all other employees are hired as part of grant funding. Programs providing services include tree research, education, natural resource management technical assistance, building district capacity, and wetlands conservation.

South Dakota Association of Conservation District Employees

The South Dakota Association of Conservation District Employees (SDACDE) was organized October 8, 1973, with the approval of the district supervisors attending the business session of the SDACD annual meeting. By-laws were approved, and directors elected that same day. The by-laws are included in the Handbook for Conservation District Employees and list the purpose, policies, activities and membership requirements for the organization. A copy of the handbook is available in each conservation district office in the state.

The SDACDE was formed to encourage more efficient, better informed and motivated district employees. To do so, it sponsors annual training workshops, leadership conferences, informational materials, and improved communications between districts. It coordinates its activities with training provided by partner agencies. The organization selects members to serve in advisory positions on SDACD's standing committees. It assists other state associations, when requested, in establishing similar employee organizations.

SDACDE strives to be an effective building force for the employees in promotion and education of conservation. The Association sponsors three (3) Dave Karst Memorial Scholarships named in honor of one of the founders of the Association who passed away preparing to attend an SDACDE meeting. SDACDE also publishes a regular newsletter, "Contour Lines," for its members. The SDACDE has officers and a board of directors who meet regularly to conduct the business of the Association.

South Dakota Association of Conservation Districts Auxiliary

The SDACD Auxiliary was organized in 1952. Its members are spouses of conservation district supervisors and staff. The Auxiliary promotes the principles and democratic methods of the conservation districts.

Their top priority is conservation education for youth. They recognize that a child who understands our natural resources will want to use them carefully as an adult.

The Auxiliary works with schools by providing materials such as books, pamphlets, and Arbor Day packets. They also developed the Sammy Soil Saver mascot and puppet kits, then gained national prominence with the promotion of these through the NACD. The Auxiliary works with the US Fish & Wildlife Service to promote the state's conservation speech contest. The Auxiliary sponsors a scholarship offered through the South Dakota State University Foundation.

National Association of Conservation Districts

www.nacdnet.org

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) is the non-profit organization that represents America's 3,000 conservation districts and the 17,000 men and women who serve on their governing boards throughout every state in the U.S. and its seven territories.

NACD's mission is to serve conservation districts by providing national leadership and a unified voice for natural resource conservation.

NACD is a grassroots organization with all conservation districts eligible to utilize and receive its services and to propose policies through their state/territory association to address natural resource conservation issues and concerns. It is governed by a Board of Directors with representation from each of the 50 states and 7 territories. These states and territories are

grouped into 7 regions to provide the leadership and cooperative efforts needed to address the resource concerns in environmentally similar areas of the US. Each region has one member to represent them on the Executive Board. In addition to these governing boards, the Association has a 5-person officer team consisting of a President, 1st Vice-president, 2nd Vice-president, Treasurer, and immediate Past President to provide the oversight and direction to the full-time staff and represent NACD in meetings, public forums, testifying on Capitol Hill, etc.

There are 5 standing committees and 3 resource policy groups comprised of members of the Board of Directors that are responsible for recommending actions to the full Board of Directors in implementing adopted policies for the Association as well as providing services to districts. Membership of each committee consists of approximately ten NACD board members, with each state and territory serving on one committee. Committee chairs and members serve two-year terms in conjunction with the NACD President. Each committee may establish subcommittees and task forces to assist with special projects or issues. The Natural Resources Policy Committee may also set up Resource Policy Groups (RPGs) to tackle special interest issues. Membership of subcommittees, task forces and RPGs are at the discretion and appointment of the NACD President.

The 15 NACD staff provide the services and labor to assist the Association in representing and supporting its member districts. They provide the administrative support for the governing bodies (boards and committees); they plan and organize NACD events (annual and summer board meetings, legislative fly-ins, region meetings); provide outreach through publications, website and representation at national meetings; and most importantly, they represent the Association and districts on Capitol Hill and with the Administration.

National Conservation District Employees Association

www.ncdea.org

District employees are responsible for much of the implementation of local district programs, at the direction of their boards. District employees represent their boards as the first line of contact with: the public they serve, agencies they work with and the programs they offer. District employees are often the contact person for the local, state and federal legislators and many times serve as the spokesperson for the District. As such, district employees offer a unique interactive perspective on programs, policies and relationships affecting districts.

Vision: A professionally accepted and integrated work force dedicated to the cause and implementation of conservation.

Mission: To strengthen and promote the conservation district programs by providing assistance, information, and representation and by supporting the professionalism of conservation district employees.

Objectives:

- to strengthen the conservation district programs of the United States and its territories

- to provide assistance, information and support to conservation districts, employees, and their governing boards
- to promote the professional development of conservation districts and their employees
- to assist any agency, association, organization, municipality, group, or individual who supports the conservation organization. Its function will be to develop, strengthen, and promote conservation district programs within the United States.

National Association of State Conservation Agencies

www.nascanet.org

The National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) is an organization of state agencies responsible for the administration of soil, water and natural resource programs.

There are 55 NASCA agencies nationwide. Responsibilities vary from state to state; however, member agencies may be responsible for one or more of the following activities:

- Land management
- Parks and natural areas
- Urban erosion and sediment control programs
- Agricultural nonpoint source control
- Technical, administrative, and financial assistance to conservation districts
- State-funded agriculture conservation cost-share programs
- State regulatory programs for water quality.

National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils

www.narcdc.org

The National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils (NARC&DC) coordinates the efforts of member RC&D Councils at the national level. It acts as a liaison between Councils, foundations and the government in legislative and inter-governmental activities. Members of the National board, volunteers and staff provide training and help solve challenges that RC&D Councils face in their efforts to sustain and improve the quality of life in their communities. Local RC&D Councils are grass-roots community leaders working collectively on behalf of conservation and sustainable development.

MISSION and VISION: The mission of the South Dakota Association of RC&D Councils (www.sdrccd.org) is: serving the people of South Dakota by the transfer of information and communicating the identity of Resource Conservation and Development Councils. Their vision is to be a self-governing organization that promotes RC&Ds, shares information by networking, increases community involvement, and to provide assistance to councils.

South Dakota State University

www.sdstate.edu

The following information about SDSU, Extension, and SDAES is current as of 2016.

As South Dakota's Morrill Act land-grant university, SDSU was founded in 1881, authorized by the Dakota Territorial Legislature, and is governed by the South Dakota Board of Regents. South Dakota State University is the state's largest, most comprehensive higher-education institution. As of 2016, students can choose from 73 majors, 36 specializations, 75 minors, 33 master's degree programs, 15 Ph.D. programs and two professional doctorates. The university also offers courses at various off-campus sites as well as undergraduate and graduate programs online through the Office of Continuing and Extended Education. Experiential learning reaches beyond the classroom and prepares students for future careers – as teachers, engineers, journalists, pharmacists, bankers, nurses and more. They will graduate globally aware, ready to become citizens of the world and the leaders of tomorrow.

South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service

www.sdstate.edu/sdsuextension

South Dakota State University is home to SDSU Extension, the outreach arm for South Dakota's land-grant university. In 1914 the SDSU Extension was added by the Smith-Lever Act to "provide information to the people of the State." Both the Agricultural Experiment Station and SDSU Extension are administered by the College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences.

SDSU Extension strives to serve as the indispensable outreach link to the citizens of South Dakota by providing solutions, creating entrepreneurial opportunities and providing educational processes that use scientific knowledge. Core educational programs are offered in the areas of:

- Competitive Crop Systems
- Competitive Livestock Systems
- 4-H Youth Development
- Community Development
- Food and Families
- Rural and Urban Initiatives
- Native American Programs

Extension faculty, field specialists and 4-H advisors are based on the campus of SDSU, at the West River Ag Center in Rapid City, at one of eight Regional Extension Centers (Aberdeen, Lemmon, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Watertown or Winner), at one of the tribal Extension offices on the Rosebud, Pine Ridge or Cheyenne River Indian Reservations or at county Extension offices throughout the state. The virtual office of SDSU Extension can be accessed at www.igrow.org.

Agricultural Experiment Station

www.sdaes.sdstate.edu

Created in 1887 through the Hatch Act as part of South Dakota's land-grant institution, SD Agricultural Experiment Station (SDAES) has a mission to conduct research to enhance quality of life in South Dakota through the beneficial use and development of human, economic, and natural resources.

SDAES has seven field stations and more than 17,000 acres of land across the state devoted to scientific exploration and it is the largest public and privately funded research organization in the state. With an enduring mission of fundamental and applied research that is responsive to changing needs, SDAES's current research priorities are based on continuous engagement with stakeholders. Research often starts on the SDSU campus. But for the science to ultimately reach out to real-life needs, researchers also work on SDSU research stations strategically located across the state.

- Antelope Range and Livestock Research Station, Buffalo, SD
- Cottonwood Range and Livestock Field Station, Philip, SD
- Oak Lake Field Station, Hendricks, MN
- SDSU Dakota Lakes Research Station, Pierre, SD
- SDSU Northeast Research Station, South Shore, SD
- SDSU Southeast Experiment Station, Beresford, SD
- SDSU West River Ag Center, Rapid City, SD

Research programs in SDAES directly support the teaching programs offered in the Colleges of Agriculture & Biological Sciences and Education & Human Sciences and the educational programs delivered by the South Dakota State University Extension.

United States Department of Agriculture

www.usda.gov

The following information about the USDA agencies is current as of 2016.

South Dakota Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov

The NRCS has been a pioneer in voluntary conservation, working with landowners and operators, local and State governments, and other Federal agencies to maintain healthy and productive working landscapes for over 80 years. The agency's professionals are guided by a conservation philosophy instilled from experience: assess the resources on the land, evaluate the conservation problems and opportunities, look to different sciences and disciplines for solutions, and integrate all into a conservation plan for the property suited to the landowner or operator.

The NRCS' vision is "Productive Lands – Healthy Environment." The vision statement describes the balance of sustaining economic viability of working lands with ensuring a healthy environment that results from the Agency's work. Productive use of privately owned cropland, rangeland, pastureland, and forestland is essential to the Nation's security and the health and well-being of its citizens. Those lands form the foundation of a substantial and vibrant agricultural economy that provides food, fiber, forest products, and energy. Those lands can also produce environmental benefits that people need – clean and abundant water, clean air, and healthy ecosystems.

The agency's mission is "Helping People Help the Land." This statement recognizes that NRCS' mission is to develop and deliver high quality products and services that enable people to be good stewards of soil, water, and related natural resources on non-Federal lands. "Helping people" connotes that NRCS is customer focused and develops and delivers products and services that meet customer needs, are technically sound, and provide solutions to identified natural resource problems. "Helping the Land" connotes that technical and financial assistance begins with an understanding of the land, the landscape as a whole. This technical and financial assistance helps customers care for the land. This technical and financial assistance is delivered through conservation planning and technical consultation; conservation implementation; inventory and assessment; technology transfer; and financial assistance. The result is a landscape where working farms and ranches are in balance with a healthy environment.

Three fundamental principles guide how NRCS conducts business:

1. Service – Giving customers the best products and service NRCS employees can provide; customer needs are as important to conservation as our understanding of natural resources.
2. Partnerships – Building effective relationships with other agencies and organization that share NRCS objectives.
3. Technical Excellence – Delivering up-to-date and easily accessible science-based information and technology.

South Dakota Farm Services Agency (FSA)

www.fsa.usda.gov/sd

The Mission of Farm Service Agency

Farm Service Agency is equitably serving all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans. FSA is a customer-driven agency with a diverse and multi-talented work force, dedicated to achieving an economically and environmentally sound future for American Agriculture.

Values

The foundation of FSA's mission and vision rests upon the USDA's long-standing core values of:

- Strong Ethics;
- Customer Service,
- Team Work;
- Inclusive Decision-Making; and
- Fiscal Responsibility.

Organizational Structure

The organizational structure of FSA is laid out by Congress and overseen by the Secretary of Agriculture. The FSA administrator reports to an undersecretary of agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services (FFAS).

As of 2016, more than 2,346 state and county offices are the primary distributors of FSA programs in the 48 continental states. FSA is also represented in Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Farmer county committees replaced the New Deal AAA committees in the 1950s. By 2005, more than 8,000 farmers were elected by their peers to be county committee members.

Committee members are the local authorities responsible for fairly and equitably resolving local issues while remaining dually and directly accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture and local producers through the elective process. They operate within official regulations designed to carry out Federal laws and provide a necessary and important voice in Federal decisions affecting their counties and communities.

Committee members make decisions affecting which FSA programs are implemented county-wide, the establishment of allotment and yields, commodity price support loans and payments, conservation programs, incentive, indemnity, and disaster payments for commodities, and other farm disaster assistance.

South Dakota Rural Development Agency

www.rd.usda.gov/sd

USDA Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. To accomplish this, staff coordinates and administers more than 40 federal guaranteed loan, direct loan, technical assistance and grant programs in rural areas of the state to support essential services such as housing, economic development, health care, first responder services and equipment, and water, electric and communications infrastructure.

Mission & History

Welcome to USDA Rural Development. We are committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. Through our programs, we help rural Americans in many ways. **Learn More** > <http://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/mission-history>

Farm Bill

The Agricultural Act of 2014 is important legislation that provides authorization for services and programs that impact every American and millions of people around the world. **Learn More >** <http://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/farm-bill>

Leadership

USDA Rural Development is headed by an Under Secretary who is directly appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the U. S. Senate. **Learn More >** <http://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/leadership>

Offices

As of 2016, USDA Rural Development has a current loan portfolio of more than \$212 billion to help carry out its mission to bring enhanced economic opportunity to the Nation's rural communities. **Learn More >**<http://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/offices>

Agencies

USDA Rural Development is divided into 3 agencies with unique missions to bring prosperity and opportunity to rural areas. **Learn More >** <http://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/agencies>

Initiatives

USDA Rural Development prioritizes funding toward projects under the following initiatives: **Learn More >**<http://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/initiatives>

It is USDA Rural Development's intention to ensure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy. By providing technical assistance and financial programs to rural Americans, a stronger economy will emerge and there will be a higher quality of life for rural citizens.

USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. USDA Rural Development in South Dakota has eight offices in the state that assist rural communities. Office locations and telephone numbers include a state office in Huron (605) 352-1100, along with area offices in Aberdeen (605) 226-3360, Ext. 4; Mitchell (605) 996-1564, Ext. 4; Pierre (605) 224-8870, Ext. 4; Rapid City (605) 342-0301, Ext. 4; Sioux Falls (605) 330-4515, Ext. 4; Watertown (605) 886-8202, Ext. 4; and Yankton (605) 665-2662, Ext. 4.

Forest Service

www.fs.fed.us

Established in 1905, the Forest Service manages public lands in national forests and grasslands. The Forest Service is also the largest forestry research organization in the world, and provides technical and financial assistance to state and private forestry agencies. Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the Forest Service, summed up the purpose of the Forest Service -- "to provide the greatest amount of good for the greatest amount of people in the long run."

National forests and grasslands encompass 193 million acres of land, which is an area equivalent to the size of Texas. In South Dakota, the Forest Service manages the Black Hills National Forest, Custer Gallatin National Forest, Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, Fort Pierre National Grasslands, and Dakota Prairie Grasslands.

Motto: Caring for the Land and Serving People

Mission: sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

As set forth in law, the mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people. It includes:

- advocating a conservation ethic in promoting the health, productivity, diversity, and beauty of forests and associated lands.
- listening to people and responding to their diverse needs in making decisions.
- protecting and managing the National Forests and Grasslands so they best demonstrate the sustainable multiple-use management concept.
- providing technical and financial assistance to state and private forest landowners, encouraging them to practice good stewardship and quality land management in meeting their specific objectives.
- providing technical and financial assistance to cities and communities to improve their natural environment by planting trees and caring for their forests.
- providing international technical assistance and scientific exchanges to sustain and enhance global resources and to encourage quality land management.
- helping states and communities to wisely use the forests to promote rural economic development and a quality rural environment.
- developing and providing scientific and technical knowledge aimed at improving their capability to protect, manage, and use forests and rangelands.
- providing work, training, and education to the unemployed, underemployed, elderly, youth, and disadvantaged in pursuit of their mission.

USDI-Fish & Wildlife Service

www.mountain-prairie.fws.gov/sd.html

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Specifically, the USFWS is responsible for carrying out federal laws and programs that conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats. The USFWS's major responsibilities are for migratory birds, endangered species, some marine mammals, and freshwater and anadromous fish. The USFWS manages the National Wildlife Refuge System and operates National Fish Hatcheries. The Service also administers the Federal Aid in Sport Fish and Wildlife Programs, which distribute excise tax revenues from sales of hunting and fishing equipment and motorboat fuels to states for fish and wildlife restoration.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) program is a USFWS program tailored for delivering habitat restoration on private land. Within South Dakota, the PFW program uses a straight forward philosophy to develop partnerships and programs that simultaneously promote wildlife conservation and sustainable agriculture. Learn more on our website <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/refuges/southdakotapfw.php>.

The South Dakota PFW program has utilized this philosophy to voluntarily restore, enhance, and develop tens of thousands of acres of grassland and wetland habitats throughout the state, all with full landowner support and encouragement. A common thread through every South Dakota PFW project is the ability to be flexible and responsive enough to accommodate the site-specific needs and concerns of landowners. Since 1991, this approach has resulted in over 6,000 South Dakota landowners becoming valued PFW participants and the number of new landowner requests for assistance continues to accelerate.

The five, primary restoration and enhancement activities in the South Dakota PFW program include wetland establishment, wetland restoration, managed grazing systems, grassland seeding, and riparian enhancement.

- Wetland establishments typically consist of constructing small impoundments (6 to 8 feet deep and averaging 2 to 3 surface acres) on small drainages (less than 1,000 acres). Wetland establishments generally are constructed in grassland dominated landscapes utilized for livestock grazing.
- Wetland restorations primarily consist of plugging surface ditches with earthen plugs.
- Managed grazing systems are predominately conducted in areas of high wetland densities and native grassland. "Four cells twice over" grazing systems are the most popular systems used. In these systems, grazing units are split into four pastures and each pasture is grazed twice through the course of the grazing season.
- Grassland seedings primarily involve seeding of cropland back to a mixture of native grasses and forbs. Typically, 10-15 species of native grasses and forbs are used.
- Riparian enhancement projects involve the fencing of streams or riparian areas to exclude livestock during sensitive portions of the growing season. These riparian areas usually are utilized for livestock watering, and therefore alternate livestock watering facilities are often created in conjunction with the riparian exclusions. Off-channel livestock watering facilities typically consist of pipeline and tanks.

USDI-Bureau of Indian Affairs

www.bia.gov

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) responsibility is the administration and management of 55.7 million acres of land held in trust by the United States for American Indians, Indian tribes, and Alaska Natives. There are 562 federally recognized tribal governments in the United States. Developing forestlands, leasing assets on these lands, directing agricultural programs, protecting water and land rights, developing and maintaining infrastructure and economic development are all part of the agency's responsibility. In addition, the Bureau of Indian Affairs provides education services to approximately 48,000 Native American students.

There are twelve BIA Regions in the United States. South Dakota is in the Great Plains Region along with Nebraska and North Dakota. The Great Plains Regional office is in Aberdeen, SD. There are eight tribes in South Dakota – Cheyenne River, Crow Creek, Lower Brule, Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Sisseton, Yankton, and Flandreau.

USDI-Bureau of Reclamation

www.usbr.gov

Established in 1902, the Bureau of Reclamation is best known for the dams, power plants, and canals it constructed in 17 western states. These water projects led to homesteading and promoted the economic development of the West. Reclamation has constructed more than 600 dams and reservoirs including Hoover Dam on the Colorado River and Grand Coulee on the Columbia River.

Today, they are the largest wholesaler of water in the country. They bring water to more than 31 million people and provide one out of five Western farmers (140,000) with irrigation water for 10 million acres of farmland that produce 60 percent of the nation's vegetables and 25 percent of its fruits and nuts.

Reclamation is also the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the western United States. Their 58 power plants annually provide more than 40 billion kilowatt hours generating nearly a billion dollars in power revenues and produce enough electricity to serve 6 million homes.

Today, 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. Their mission is to assist in meeting the increasing water demands of the West while protecting the environment and the public's investment in these structures. They place great emphasis on fulfilling water delivery obligations, water conservation, water recycling and reuse, and developing partnerships with their customers, states, and Indian Tribes, and in finding ways to bring together the variety of interests to address the competing needs for limited water resources.

USDI-Bureau of Land Management

www.mt.blm.gov/sdfo/

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), an agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior, administers 261 million surface acres of America's public lands, located primarily in 12 western states. The BLM sustains the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

The South Dakota Field Office manages over 274,000 surface acres and around 1.7 million acres of subsurface mineral estate in South Dakota. The majority of the surface acres are located west of the Missouri River in 13 counties; mineral estate is found in 32 of the 66 counties. Butte County in western South Dakota has the majority of the surface acres with around 145,000 acres. BLM-administered lands throughout the state are used for livestock grazing, mineral extraction, forest management and recreation (especially hunting) where legal public access exists.

Environmental Protection Agency

www.epa.gov

Mission: The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect human health and the environment. Since 1970, EPA has been working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people. EPA leads the nation's environmental science, research, education and assessment efforts.

Duties:

- Develop and enforce regulations that implement environmental laws enacted by Congress. EPA is responsible for researching and setting national standards for a variety of environmental programs, and delegates to states and tribes the responsibility for issuing permits and for monitoring and enforcing compliance. Where national standards are not met, EPA can issue sanctions and take other steps to assist the states and tribes in reaching the desired levels of environmental quality.
- Offer financial assistance: Between 40 and 50 percent of EPA's enacted budgets provide direct support through grants to state environmental programs. EPA grants to states, non-profits and educational institutions support high-quality research that will improve the scientific basis for decisions on national environmental issues and help EPA achieve its goals. EPA also provides other financial assistance through programs such as the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and the Brownfields program. The Agency also offers information for state and local governments and small businesses on financing environmental services and projects.
- Provide research grants and graduate fellowships
- Perform environmental research to assess environmental conditions and to identify, understand, and solve current and future environmental problems; integrate the work of scientific partners; and provide leadership in addressing emerging environmental issues

- and in advancing the science and technology of risk assessment and risk management.
- Sponsor over 40 voluntary partnerships and programs on voluntary pollution prevention programs and energy conservation efforts.
 - Support environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to make informed decisions that affect environmental quality.
 - Further environmental education efforts to develop an environmentally conscious and responsible public and to inspire personal responsibility in caring for the environment.

USDoD-Corps of Engineers

www.usace.army.mil

The US Army Corps of Engineers maintains navigation channels, much like road crews maintain highways, and builds breakwaters or jetties to protect homes and businesses from streambank erosion. Improvements include deepening and widening water bodies so commercial ships and other watercraft can move safely and easily. Dredged material often becomes habitat areas, including wetlands and protected offshore islands.

The Corps builds and maintains dams and reservoirs that hold excess water upstream, releasing the water gradually to prevent or reduce downstream flooding. These structures provide recreation as well as safety. Boating, swimming, fishing and camping come courtesy of Corps reservoirs. Many people get electricity for their homes and businesses from hydroelectric power dams managed by the Corps. Reservoirs provide irrigation for farms, water supply storage for communities and protected ecosystems for fish and wildlife. In cities near waterways, floodwalls, levees and diversion channels all work to keep storm water out of homes, schools and businesses. The Corps also helps reduce flood damage by preventing additional construction in areas most prone to floods. Along coastlines, the Corps erects barriers, builds breakwaters and reinforces dunes and beaches.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires approval from the Corps of Engineers before placing dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 requires authorization from the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Corps of Engineers, for the construction of any structure in or over any navigable water of the United States. In granting or denying permits to developers, the Corps strives to prevent environmental damage. Evaluating public interest, regulatory experts balance the need of economic development with environmental considerations. The Corps forms numerous partnerships with other agencies, state and federal governments, environmental groups and private citizens to help solve ecological problems.

When requested, the Corps provides engineering expertise to other agencies, state and local governments, academia, and foreign nations. The work ranges from constructing wastewater treatment plants and space launch facilities, to other complex engineering tasks. Engineering professionals help remove toxic wastes, and help other nations with the damages caused by disasters and war.

Big Sioux Nursery

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Big Sioux Nursery, located northwest of Watertown, was originally established in 1957 as a state conifer seedling nursery. In 1978, deciduous stock was added to the inventory that was being produced and sold to South Dakota conservation districts. The state of South Dakota sold the nursery to the non-profit corporation of Big Sioux Nursery, Inc. in 1996. The South Dakota Conservation Districts were able to purchase the nursery with grant money provided through the Conservation Commission. Sixty-six out of sixty-nine conservation districts have become members.

Each conservation district that has become a member of Big Sioux Nursery, Inc. elects a voting member to represent their interest in the corporation. A seven-member board of directors, elected from the membership manages the corporation. Each Big Sioux Nursery, Inc. director must be a voting member of the corporation and serves a two-year term from his or her respective area. The areas are divided into the same geographical regions that the SDACD uses throughout the state.

Their mission is to promote conservation using tree and shrub seedlings grown from adaptable seed sources. They also provide educational opportunities for members to increase their knowledge in the areas of marketing, planting, and care of the seedlings being provided.

Big Sioux Nursery, Inc. grows over 80 different varieties of trees and shrubs. The nursery produces conifers and deciduous stock both in bareroot and potted forms, is engaged in tree improvement activities, and has several seed orchards that have genetically improved trees.

U.S. Geological Survey

<http://sd.water.usgs.gov>

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is the Nation's largest earth-science agency and has the principal responsibility within the Federal government for providing hydrologic information and for appraising the Nation's water resources.

The water resources of South Dakota consist of numerous streams, springs, lakes, and aquifer systems. Continuous stream flow is measured at about 150 locations. Continuous water-level data are published for 7 observation wells and measured at 60 additional wells. Water quality is sampled at over 34 locations, and water-use data are collected throughout South Dakota.

These hydrologic and other data are used in research and hydrologic studies to describe the quantity, quality, and location of South Dakota's water resources. The collection, analysis, and interpretation of these data are done in cooperation with other federal, state and local agencies, universities, and research centers.

Water activities in South Dakota are based at USGS offices in Rapid City, Huron, and Pierre.