

2015 Goals and Objectives – State Conservation Commission

Vision: Everyone has safe and clean air, water, and food.

Mission Statement: To conserve and develop South Dakota's natural resources by leading, promoting and assisting our citizens to achieve clean air, water, soil, wildlife, and food.

Goal # 1. Advocate for additional funding for conservation programs.

- a. Continue to explore opportunities to increase base funding from a baseline of \$500,000 by emphasizing the benefits of conservation practices.
- b. Survey the districts for existing financial support from the counties for natural resource conservation. Inform districts about the state statutes regarding mill levy potential and support them in meetings with the counties for conservation funding.

Goal # 2. Implement the SD Coordinated Plan for Natural Resources Conservation

- a. Revise and update the state conservation plan that is accepted by the administration and the legislature. Strive for citizen input into the planning process.
- b. Establish state priorities annually to guide state agencies in targeting natural resource conservation efforts.
- c. Continue to participate with partners in the state interagency workgroup that will develop and/or revise policy and procedures annually.
- d. Be actively engaged in addressing Missouri River issues.

Goal # 3. Provide the opportunity for all citizens to have an understanding of the benefits of conservation.

- a. Establish an increased visibility on electronic media.

- b. Educate the public on how farm and ranch conservation practices improve their quality of life.
- c. Establish a portion of the conservation grant fund to assist the districts and SDACD with conservation education.

Goal #4. Assist conservation districts in carrying out their responsibilities.

- a. Assist conservation districts to apply for grants according to the Conservation Commission priorities.
- b. Accelerate the existing statewide training program for district supervisors and employees.